



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 4th March 2025

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 4) reports Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has announced \$2.6 billion in funding for a pay rise for aged care nurses. "Aged-care nurses are experts in their field and they deserve to be rewarded for the crucial role they play in delivering safe and quality care to older people in Australia", Ms Wells said.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 4) reports the Victorian government has announced a review into the reporting of patient deaths after it was revealed Safer Care Victoria was not informed about child deaths at several hospitals after the hospitals decided there were no issues that would require a sentinel event report.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has responded to calls from retail stores to lower the tobacco excise tax after a reduction in sales, saying "Of course convenience stores would like to make cigarettes cheaper ... We're under no illusions ... We're taking on Big Tobacco on the one hand and organised crime on the other".
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports the Coalition has accused the federal government of pork-barrelling after Labor announced they would build 50 additional urgent care clinics if elected, with Opposition Leader Peter Dutton claiming the clinics are being built in marginal seats. Health Minister Mark Butler refuted the claims, pointing out that "these locations have been chosen according to our

analysis of hospital presentations in local hospitals, bulk-billing data, and a desire to ensure an even geographical spread".

- **The Australian** (page 7) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has sent former Australian of the Year Professor Richard Scolyer his best wishes as the professor undergoes brain surgery. "Professor Scolyer is a fighter and I wish him all the best in his ongoing treatment", Mr Butler said.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 10) reports lawyers leading a class action lawsuit alleging racism against players by the AFL say Nicky Winmar has offered to join as co-lead plaintiff alongside Phil Krakouer, with the lawyers saying they will consider the claim before moving forward with the case. *Also reported by: Australian Financial Review*

MINISTER BUTLER

Labor limbers up for poll with \$2.6bn pay vow

The Australian, General News, 04/03/2025, Noah Yim, Page 4

The Albanese government has announced \$2.6bn to fund pay raises for 60,000 aged-care nurses, in line with a Fair Work Commission decision, in the next step of a health-focused pre-election campaign. [...] "Aged-care nurses are experts in their field and they deserve to be rewarded for the crucial role they play in delivering safe and quality care to older people in Australia," Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online).

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

Illegal smokes 'to lead market'

The Australian, General News, 04/03/2025, Rhiannon Down, Page 6

Australians smoking illicit tobacco will outnumber those using legal products within two years, a report has warned, as new modelling predicts reforming Labor's policy settings could generate \$18.6bn in excise tax. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said hiking tobacco excise was "designed to encourage smokers to quit", as smoking was one of the leading causes of preventable death and disability in Australia.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Geelong Advertiser (Online), Townsville Bulletin (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), NEWS.com.au (Online), Gold Coast Bulletin (Online), Cairns Post (Online), The Mercury (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), Toowoomba Chronicle (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online).

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'He's a fighter': nation awaits result of professor's brain surgery

The Australian, General News, 04/03/2025, Steve Robson & Penny Timms, Page 7

Australians and cancer experts around the world are holding their breath after former Australian of the Year Professor Richard Scolyer underwent exploratory brain surgery on Monday. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler passed on his best wishes on Monday.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online).

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Private health cover on the nose

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/03/2025, Cameron Micallef, Page 12

Millions of Aussies are cancelling their private health insurance policies as prices have their biggest jump in seven years. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler previously told private health insurers to start again on three occasions before coming up with a "justified and proportionate" 3.73 per cent increase.

Also reported by: Northern Territory News (Darwin), Toowoomba Chronicle (Toowoomba), Geelong Advertiser (Geelong), Adelaide Now (Online), Herald Sun (Online), Kalgoorlie Miner (Online), Augusta-Margaret River Times (Online), Perth Now (Online), NEWS.com.au (Online), Cairns Post (Online), Weekly Times Now (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), The Mercury (Online), Gold Coast Bulletin (Online), Yahoo! Finance Australia (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), The Australian (Online), Sky News Australia (Online).

Healthy investment

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/03/2025, Jessica Klein, Page 5

Women's health is no longer cumbersome in the eyes of the government after a major announcement. [...] The decision comes after Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler asked the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee to consider extending benefits to the newer generation of oral contraceptive pills.

Also reported by: [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Bipartisan Medicare help

Ranges Trader Mail, General News, 04/03/2025, Page 2

Each of the two major political parties has backed a major boost to Medicare following the upcoming federal election, with Labor pledging \$8.5 billion in Medicare funding over four years and the Coalition vowing to match it 'dollar for dollar'. [...] "Australia's doctors voted Peter Dutton the worst Health Minister in Medicare history for a reason, Peter Dutton tried to end bulk billing with a GP tax and then started a six-year freeze to Medicare rebates that froze GP incomes and stripped billions out of Medicare," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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LNP backs Medicare move

Mount Evelyn Mail, General News, 04/03/2025, Page 2

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Also reported by: [Mountain Views Mail - Healesville \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Three new Medicare urgent care clinics would be opened in Tasmania if Labor re-elected

Herald Sun, Other, 03/03/2025, Rob Inglis

Three new Medicare urgent care clinics would be opened in Tasmania under a re-elected Labor government, providing free bulk-billed treatment for non-emergency injuries and conditions. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler announced on Sunday that 50 new clinics would be established across the country if the ALP is victorious at the federal election.

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Majority of new urgent care clinics announced in Labor-held or targeted seats ahead of election

The Mercury, Other, 03/03/2025, Clare Armstrong

Half of the 50 extra urgent care clinics promised by the Albanese Government are in Labor-held seats, while another five are in electorates the party hopes to win from the Coalition and the Greens. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Sunday dismissed accusations of pork-barrelling and claimed the distribution of clinics was assessed based on hospital waiting times and were "very proportional spread" across party lines.

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

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Opposition says 'no question' government funding urgent care clinics to woo voters

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has pledged almost \$10 billion in health announcements in recent days, as he seeks to win a second term in office. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler dismissed the pork-barrelling accusation as a "beat up".

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

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Tracking Australia's black-market tobacco from criminal smugglers to cigarette shops

ABC Online, Other, 03/03/2025, Mayeta Clark & Kirsten Robb

It takes less than 30 seconds after entering a store in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs before we have a pack of illicit cigarettes in our hands. [...] We've found them on sale at the Spencer Street Mini Mart metres from Victoria Police headquarters and in the electorates of senior politicians such as Jim Chalmers and Peter Dutton in Brisbane, Mark Dreyfus in Melbourne and Health Minister Mark Butler in Adelaide.

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

[Read More](#)

Swanson matches Liberal pledge to open Maitland Urgent Care Clinic

Newcastle Weekly, Other, 03/03/2025, Rod Thompson

Maitland is likely to have its own Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) no matter what, after Paterson MP Meryl Swanson vowed to match the Liberal's latest pledge. [...] "Australia's doctors voted Peter Dutton the worst Health Minister in Medicare history for a reason," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Increase in health insurance among over-65s despite prices going up

Batemans Bay Post, Other, 03/03/2025, Anthony Caggiano

Private health cover is growing in popularity among Australians aged over 50 despite an increase in premiums, cost of living pressure and research showing people are delaying seeking medical help until it's too late. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler said he wrote to insurers asking them to "sharpen their pencils provide us with an increase that was more in the interests of their members."

Also reported by: [Macleay Argus \(Online\)](#), [The Armidale Express \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The North West Star \(Online\)](#), [Harden Express \(Online\)](#), [The Scone Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Leeton Irrigator \(Online\)](#), [The Hepburn Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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'Everyone gets duddled': Nurses demand slice of health insurance profits

Great Lakes Advocate, Other, 03/03/2025, Damon Cronshaw

Nurses and midwives are calling for a fresh slice of private health insurance profits to boost their wages and conditions. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler approved the premium rises last week.

Also reported by: [Macleay Argus \(Online\)](#), [Hunter Valley News \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Scone Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Muswellbrook Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Singleton Argus \(Online\)](#), [Port Stephens Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Cessnock Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Gloucester Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Manning River Times \(Online\)](#).

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New Medicare Urgent Care Clinic for Nowra

The Bugle Newspaper, Other, 03/03/2025

Australians on the NSW South Coast will get the free urgent care they need, fully bulk billed, without waiting hours in a busy hospital emergency department, if the Albanese Labor Government is re-elected. [...] Quotes attributable to Health Minister Mark Butler: "Australia's doctors voted Peter Dutton the worst Health Minister in Medicare history for a reason."

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Flying garbage, wasted health spending — the spendathon election heats up

Crikey, Other, 03/03/2025, Bernard Keane

The major parties are spending big ahead of the election, throwing taxpayer money at things that aren't tested — or which we know are duds. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler yesterday said there was an independent evaluation of urgent care clinics underway, but it wouldn't report until 2026 (the auditor-general is also considering looking at it).

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Minister says urgent care clinics better for hospitals, patients

MSN Australia, Other, 03/03/2025

Health Minister Mark Butler says urgent care clinics are taking the pressure off emergency departments and hospitals, after the federal government pledged to open 50 more. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese yesterday said the Labor government would spend \$644 million to open the clinics if elected, in the 2025-2026 financial year.

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Out-of-pocket doctor visits reach record high of \$46 under Albanese government after rising 10 per cent year-on-year

Sky News Australia, Other, 03/03/2025, Oscar Godsell

The average out-of-pocket cost for GP visits has more than doubled from \$23.73 in 2005 to a record high of \$46.31 in 2024-25 under the Albanese government. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, however, defended his government's handling of the healthcare system, pointing to efforts made to address the issue.

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Urgent care clinic election promise for Burnie

Sea FM Tasmania, Other, 03/03/2025, Martin Agatyn

Burnie will get a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in the next financial year if the Federal Government is re-elected in the upcoming election. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the Government will commit another \$644 million to fund 50 more urgent care clinics around the country, including Burnie and Sorell and Kingston in the South of the state.

Also reported by: [Sea FM Tasmania \(Online\)](#), [7BU 100.9FM \(Online\)](#).

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No backing for UCCs without evaluation, says RACGP

The Medical Republic, Other, 03/03/2025, Laura Woodrow

On Sunday, the federal government announced that it would invest \$644 million in opening 50 new bulk-billing UCCs during the 2024-26 financial year. [...] Speaking to ABC Tasmania, federal health minister Mark Butler said the data suggested that UCCs were doing what they were meant to.

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Putting election health commitments under the microscope

Croakey, Other, 03/03/2025, Melissa Sweet

The Federal Government continues to roll out pre-election health commitments, with the latest being a pledge to open another 50 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, with more clinics in every state and territory. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the Albanese Labor Government went to the last election promising to open 50 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, and had delivered 87 clinics to date.

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The Zap: a regular update of the latest health and aged care news, plus consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 03/03/2025, Melissa Sweet

A call for clarity in health policy, recommendations for improving access to hospital in the home, a roadmap to improve the health and mental health of autistic people, and the costs of specialist care –

these are among the wide-ranging topics covered in this week's column. [...] In other significant health news, Minister Mark Butler announced that, "after asking [private health] insurers to resubmit their claims three times, and considering their years of record profits", he had approved premium increases for private health insurers of an average 3.73 percent to come into effect from 1 April.

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Tracker - 3 March 2025

NHMRC, Other, 03/03/2025

NHMRC welcomed the announcement of the funding outcomes for the 2025 Investigator Grants round by the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP, on Monday 24 February 2025. The funding announcement of over \$422 million will support 229 outstanding health and medical research leaders across Australia.

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Where will Labor's 50 new urgent care clinics be located?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/03/2025

As Australia prepares to head to the polls in the coming months, the Labor Government has made an election promise to fund an extra 50 urgent care clinics (UCCs). [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said he is 'very confident' that UCCs are a 'new model of care for Australia'.

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AI projects among \$422m NHRMC grants

Pulse+IT, Other, 03/03/2025, Reesh Lyon

Projects harnessing artificial intelligence are among more than 200 recipients sharing over \$422 million in funding from this year's National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) Investigator Grants scheme. Announcing the latest round of grants, Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said 229 high-performing chief investigators and their teams would undertake researcher-led projects.

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Dr Mo Hammoud awarded \$688k grant for LGBTQ+ health research

University of New South Wales (UNSW), Other, 03/03/2025

Dr Mo Hammoud from the Kirby Institute at UNSW Sydney has been awarded a grant of \$688,405 under the highly competitive Investigator Grants scheme by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). [...] The results of the scheme were announced by the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP.

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Labor unveils next step in healthcare overhaul

Aged Care Insite, Other, 03/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Labor has announced a \$644 million bid to open 50 more urgent care clinics, building on Anthony Albanese's centrepiece \$8.5 billion election promise to boost bulk-billing GPs. [...] The clinics are slated to open by July 1, 2026 and once delivered will ensure four out of five Australians live within a 20-minute drive from a clinic, according to Department of Health and Aged Care analysis.

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ABC, Four Corners, 03/03/2025, Dan Oakes

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has warned illicit tobacco is both a criminal and public health threat. He was questioned about whether the world's highest cigarette prices have turbocharged the black market.

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Channel 7, Seven News Qld at 4pm, 03/03/2025, Marlina Whop

PM Anthony Albanese is expected to call the 2025 Federal Election next week. Labor wants Medicare and its plan for more doctors right at the middle of the campaign. The Coalition has matched the

announcement. Today, Labor has announced plans for urgent care clinics. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says they will have a network of 137 clinics if elected.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Newsday, 03/03/2025, Cheng Lei

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler responds to comments from Opposition Leader Peter Dutton about the initiatives for urgent care clinics. He says Dutton ignores the fact that around 15 of the 87 clinics are in the NT and the ACT, and no Liberal holds a seat in those areas.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Eyre Peninsula and West Coast, Country Hour (SA), 03/03/2025, Cassandra Hough & Selina Green

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, has defended the urgent care clinic model. This comes as the Federal Government pledged to open 50 more bulk billed urgent care clinics across Australia if re-elected. The RACGP criticised the model, saying it has not been adequately evaluated.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, 10:00 News, 03/03/2025

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has defended the urgent care clinic model. The Federal Government pledged to open 50 more bulk-billed urgent care clinics around Australia if re-elected. Butler says the feedback they have received has been positive.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, 10:00 News, 03/03/2025

A Four Corners investigation has uncovered the dangerous underworld behind Australia's black market cigarette trade that's costing the Federal Government billions of dollars. Health Minister Mark Butler says until recently, there hasn't been much enforcement.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 03/03/2025, Leon Compton

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, about the Federal Government announcing three more urgent care clinics to be built in Tasmania if they are re-elected. Butler says the money is already provisioned in the Mid-Year Budget Update and flows in the next financial year. He adds they've been able to deliver the 87 that are already open in pretty quick time, so he is confident they'll be open in that next financial year. Butler adds he has kept to his election promise, and the feedback they have received is mostly positive.

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

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, 19:00 News, 03/03/2025

The federal health minister, Mark Butler, has dismissed the opposition leader's accusation that the government has strategically selected locations for its urgent care clinics to win votes. The government says it would spend \$650 million on 50 additional clinics if it wins the next election.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 03/03/2025, Sally Sara

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, about the Federal Government's promise to roll out 50 urgent care clinics costing \$650 million. Butler states the most important indicator of which sites to choose are what's happening in their local hospitals. He adds they looked at the hospitals which have very high presentations of semi-urgent and non-urgent cases, and they also looked at bulk-billing rates and the geographical spread.

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MINISTER WELLS

PM rolls out \$7.4b for aged care pay

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/03/2025, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

The Albanese government will roll out \$7.4 billion for aged care pay rises and public school funding on Tuesday, as expectation builds the prime minister will call an April 12 election straight after Western Australia goes to the polls on Saturday.

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

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Labor limbers up for poll with \$2.6bn pay vow

The Australian, General News, 04/03/2025, Noah Yim, Page 4

The Albanese government has announced \$2.6bn to fund pay raises for 60,000 aged-care nurses, in line with a Fair Work Commission decision, in the next step of a health-focused pre-election campaign. [...] "Aged-care nurses are experts in their field and they deserve to be rewarded for the crucial role they play in delivering safe and quality care to older people in Australia," Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said.

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

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PM's deal a \$4.8b boost for schools

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/03/2025, David Crowe, Page 1

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has cleared another hurdle in the race to the federal election by striking a \$4.8 billion school funding deal that aims to lift results across NSW, bringing Labor within sight of a national agreement on a key issue for voters. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said yesterday this meant registered nurses working in aged care under the award would be \$430 a week better off, and enrolled nurses would be \$370 a week better off.

Also reported by: [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#).

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

Brisbane 2032: Experts demand Brisbane Arena be built

The Courier Mail, Other, 03/03/2025, Hayden Johnson & Rachel Riley

Brisbane Arena must be built now or it never will be – leaving Woolloongabba's Cross River Rail station at risk of becoming a white elephant and the city missing out on huge economic benefits, city leaders say. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells on Friday said Brisbane Arena was on time and on budget, but acknowledged the location of the arena was still being discussed.

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

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Latest round of ACCAP grant opportunities now open

Aged Care Insite, Other, 03/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Applications are now open for the latest round of the federal government's Aged Care Capital Assistance Program (ACCAP). The Department of Health and Aged Care has made a further \$300 million in infrastructure grants available to assist residential aged care facilities in regional, rural and remote areas with upgrades, new builds or staff accommodation.

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Australian Government releases new plan for sporting diplomacy

Australasian Leisure Management, Other, 03/03/2025

The Australian Government's use of sport in its 'soft power' approach in international relations has seen the Federal Government release the Australia's Sports Diplomacy Strategy 2032+. [...] Federal Minister for Sport, Anika Wells added "sport is one of our greatest diplomatic tools as it brings cultures, communities and nations together and now we have the forward plan to ensure we can make the most of our love of sport.

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

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Government announces AN-ACC increase for nurses pay rise the day before the change took effect

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/03/2025, Caroline Egan

The Australian Government is providing the additional funding to support aged care providers to deliver the Fair Work Commission (FWC)'s pay rise for 60,000 aged care nurses, which took effect on that date. [...] Details of the increase were published on the Department of Health and Aged Care (DOHAC)'s website on 28 February 2025, nearly 10 days after the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) provided advice to the Minister for Health and Aged Care on the impact of the FWC nurse pay rise decision on the Residential Aged Care price - leaving aged care providers in the dark about their funding until the day before the changes took effect.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Health forum a success

North Central Review, Other, 04/03/2025, Darraweit Guim

Member for McEwen Rob Mitchell welcomed Assistant Minister for Health, the Honourable Ged Kearney to McEwen late last month for a Women's Health Forum in Mernda. Held at the Mernda Village Community Centre, the forum provided attendees with the opportunity to share their experiences and to be updated on the Federal Government's investment of over \$500 million in women's health.

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Major funding delivers next-generation nurse training

Healthcare Channel, Other, 04/03/2025, Ritchelle Drilon

A major investment in Australia's nursing and midwifery workforce is set to reshape training opportunities nationwide. [...] Since launching in May 2023, more than 800 staff have already started programs at the Academy. Ged Kearney MP, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, welcomed the expansion of resources for professional growth, describing nurses and midwives as "the backbone of our healthcare system."

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Healthy investment

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/03/2025, Jessica Klein, Page 5

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Senate estimates and the public service's 36,000 Reasons Why

Canberra Times, Other, 03/03/2025, Dana Daniel & Connor Pearce

With an election around the corner, we were warned these estimates could get ugly. [...] Health Department secretary Blair Comley echoed these statements.

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Toowoomba GP Sian Edwards says federal government's women's health plan will strengthen women's options

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 03/03/2025, Jessica Klein

Women's health is no longer cumbersome in the eyes of the government after a major announcement. [...] "A new contraceptive pill hasn't been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) in more than 30 years," the department of health and aged care said in a statement.

Also reported by: [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Government commits to opening 50 new Medicare urgent care clinics

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 03/03/2025, Anmj Staff

The Albanese Labor Government has pledged to invest \$644 million to open an additional 50 free Medicare urgent care clinics across the country, if re-elected. [...] Once all clinics are up and running, 4 in 5 Australians will live within a 20-minute drive of a Medicare Urgent Clinics, according to Department of Health and Aged Care analysis.

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\$3M grants to transform workforce challenges with innovation and evidence

Healthcare Channel, Other, 04/03/2025, Ritchelle Drilon

Aged Care Research & Industry Innovation Australia (ARIIA) has launched a \$3 million Aged Care Collaborative which will fund and support projects that provide a unique opportunity for the sector to work together to solve complex, sector-wide workforce challenges. [...] Jacob acknowledged the support of the Commonwealth Government in making these new grants possible and said ARIIA would collaborate closely with the Department of Health and Aged Care and the aged care sector to communicate the progress, impacts and outcomes of these projects.

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Medicare clinics vow: 20 minute drive or less from care

HealthTimes, Other, 03/03/2025

Most Australians could be living within 20 minutes of a bulk billing urgent care clinic, under a federal Labor pre-election promise. [...] Once the new clinics are added, about 80 per cent - or four in five - Australians "will live" within a 20 minute drive of one of 137 facilities, according to Department of Health and Aged Care analysis.

[Read More](#)

Work to do before sharing by default implementation

Pulse+IT, Other, 03/03/2025, Heather Fletcher

The Department of Health and Aged Care is answering questions in preparation for implementation of

Sharing by Default legislation, set to enable faster access to pathology and diagnostic imaging in My Health Record. The government will commence consultation with providers, peak bodies, consumers and software vendors by mid-2025.

[Read More](#)

Prescriber reminder over oral contraceptive PBS changes

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/03/2025

Yaz and Yasmin are now available on the PBS – but existing patients will need a new prescription to access the lower price. [...] In response, the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) has issued a reminder that patients who take the contraceptives via a private prescription and wish to access the new subsidised price 'may be unaware that they require a new prescription from their prescriber'.

[Read More](#)

Government announces AN-ACC increase for nurses pay rise the day before the change took effect

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/03/2025, Caroline Egan

The Australian Government is providing the additional funding to support aged care providers to deliver the Fair Work Commission (FWC)'s pay rise for 60,000 aged care nurses, which took effect on that date. [...] Details of the increase were published on the Department of Health and Aged Care (DOHAC)'s website on 28 February 2025, nearly 10 days after the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) provided advice to the Minister for Health and Aged Care on the impact of the FWC nurse pay rise decision on the Residential Aged Care price - leaving aged care providers in the dark about their funding until the day before the changes took effect.

[Read More](#)

Urgent care clinic for south coast

WEB Fleurieunews.com.au, Other, 03/03/2025

Victor Harbor will get a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic by the middle of next year as part of an Australian Labor Party pre-election commitment. [...] According to the federal health department, the locations of the additional clinics have been determined according to Australian Bureau of Statistics Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3) geographic areas.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Set up to fail? Many carers feel unprepared for new aged care quality standards

HelloCare, Other, 03/03/2025, Jakob Neeland

The landscape of aged care in Australia is set for a major shift with the introduction of the Strengthened Quality Standards on 1 July. These new standards, rolled out alongside the updated Aged Care Act, build upon the existing framework to ensure that aged care providers deliver high-quality, person-centred care.

[Read More](#)

UnitingCare Queensland CEO Craig Barke to quit at end of June 2025

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/03/2025, Ian Horswill

After 14 years at the helm of the conglomerate of household care brands, including BlueCare, UnitingCare, ARRCs, Lifeline in Queensland, The Wesley Hospital, Buderim Private Hospital, St Stephen's Hospital and St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital, Craig will step down at the end of the financial year. Craig served UnitingCare first as a Board member in 2011 and as Chair from 2014, until his appointment as CEO in 2017.

[Read More](#)

6PR, Drive, 03/03/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with CEO of the Companion Animal Network Trish Ennis discussing owning pets in aged care. She says the practice is becoming more common and says the mental health benefits are proven in several studies. She says more aged care providers are allowing the practice.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Smoking hot cigs

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/03/2025, Agnes Gichuhi, Page 12

More than \$2.38m worth of illicit tobacco products and over \$300,000 cash were seized after extensive raids under Operation Eclipse last week, the biggest bust of illicit tobacco in the state's history. Detective Chief Inspector Brett Featherby, commander of the task force, revealed that members of the Serious and Organised Crime Branch and Financial and Cybercrime Investigation Branch searched 14 metropolitan and regional premises between Monday, February 24 and Thursday, February 27.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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DNA, disease and dilemmas: testing genes of newborns

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 04/03/2025, Rachael Ward, Page 14

Hours after giving birth, Tammie Rees made a decision that saved her daughter's life. The mother of three decided to have daughter Ava checked for genetic conditions in a blood spot "heel prick test" and did not think much of it until it came back with a serious diagnosis.

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

'More available and in more flavours than before': The great vape resurgence

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/03/2025, Jon Kaila

Vapes are being sold in record numbers, with more flavours available than ever and the cost as cheap as before the Federal Government banned them. And every single one now exclusively comes from China, a Herald Sun investigation has found.

[Read More](#)

'Easy to slip through': Low-income earners priced out of mental health care

Canberra Times, Other, 03/03/2025, Lucy Arundell

Low-income earners are being told to go to Canberra's emergency departments for mental health aid as the high cost of psychology services prevents them accessing care. [...] More than 870 psychologists were working in the territory in 2022-23, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

[Read More](#)

'Oversize' fee: Australia's burial costs rise as plus-size coffins increase

Ballarat Courier, Other, 03/03/2025, Saffron Howden

Coffins and grave sites are quietly getting larger to accommodate bigger bodies - and cemeteries are having to charge more to cover the extra costs. [...] Heavy lifting In 2022, 66 per cent of adults in Australia were overweight or obese - about 13 million people - according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#),

[Read More](#)

The 'filthy and disgusting' footage that proves we're losing our hopeless war against deadly black market vapes

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/03/2025, Max Aitchison

Footage of dozens of brightly-coloured vapes lying scattered by the side of a road has appalled Aussies, as the illegal e-cigarettes reportedly continue to flood into the country in record numbers. A video filmed on the busiest road in Australia, Melbourne 's West Gate Freeway, exposed how the median strip has become a graveyard for vapes.

[Read More](#)

Prioritising neurological disease research: do our leaders have the nerve?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/03/2025

Putting health first has long been recognised as an ethical imperative by politicians. The Conservative British Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli noted in 1872 that "the first consideration of a minister should be the health of the people." As we shift our focus towards the federal election, it's worth taking a step back to remind ourselves — and our politicians — what is most important to us as a nation.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

'Life-changing' cancer diagnosis

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 04/03/2025, Natalie Croxon, Page 1

Corrimal's Annelise Mortimer was a 29-year-old mother of an 18-month-old and had recently returned to work full-time, while studying a postgraduate degree when she was diagnosed with stage two malignant melanoma. It took a second opinion to discover the cancer, but after dealing with 'overwhelming uncertainty' she's in the clear and taking part in this week's Melanoma March in the hope others will avoid the same situation.

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The medical device more people need

Newcastle Herald, General News, 04/03/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 6

Daryl Holmes was having trouble hearing his wife at home, but didn't think much of it. "I would constantly ask Christine to speak up or repeat things, which was frustrating for both of us," said Mr Holmes, of Elernmore Vale "You don't realise. [...] The 74-year-old came across a Hearing Australia representative offering a free hearing test at a shopping centre.

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

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Rollercoaster ride with rare form of dementia

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 04/03/2025, Melissa Meehan, Page 15

Two years ago, Annette was running a thriving small business and planning her next solo holiday. [...] It is not as well known as Alzheimer's disease but more than 100,000 Australians live with it, according to

Sight preservation should be a national priority: Former NSW MP Jillian Skinner

The Courier Mail, Other, 04/03/2025, Jillian Skinner

As an advocate for the health of Australians, I am deeply concerned about the growing issue of access to treatment for those living with macular disease in this country. I am one of the 1.9 million Australians who lives with a macular disease diagnosis, and I am one of the more than 108,000 Australians with a treatable macular disease receiving anti-VEGF injections to preserve my sight.

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

[Read More](#)

How we are back in driver's seat in fight against ovarian cancer

Northern Territory News, Other, 03/03/2025, Robyn Riley

An Australian-grown discovery has collared the culprit causing deadly ovarian cancer to return and spread after treatment. Hudson Institute of Medical Research scientist Dr Maree Bilandzic was the first to discover the role of these rogue leader cells that she calls the “back seat drivers” of the disease.

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

[Read More](#)

I've never been that sociable but thought it was because I'm an introvert. Then I learned I have a rare type of hearing loss

The Guardian, Other, 03/03/2025, Rachael Groessler

Yes, i frequently asked people to repeat themselves. Yes, I had trouble hearing dialogue on TV. And I often wondered if people were aware that they mumbled. That wasn't the impetus to get my hearing checked though.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 03/03/2025, Peter Mitchell

Researchers at Hudson Institute in Melbourne have had a world-first breakthrough that could change the way doctors battle ovarian cancer. They have identified and targeted potentially deadly cancer cells. Research Head Dr Maree Bilandzic and David Hunt from Ovarian Cancer Research Institute comment on the discovery.

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

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News Late, 03/03/2025, Tracy Vo

A breakthrough in the fight against ovarian cancer, with Australian researchers uncovering how the disease returns and spreads. Victoria's Hudson Institute of Medical Research discovering leader cells which suppress the immune system, making it easier for the cancer to survive.

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PRIMARY CARE

Time to act on hospital deaths

Herald Sun, General News, 04/03/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 4

The government is "seeking advice" on hospital's reporting of patient deaths after conceding it needs to

do more to improve transparency. The Herald Sun revealed on Monday that Safer Care Victoria was left in the dark about several child deaths because the treating hospitals, in a decision at odds with other experts, ruled there were no issues to justify a sentinel event report.

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

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Baby's hospital death a 'horrific' loss

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/03/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 11

The family of a baby girl who died just hours after her birth have spoken publicly for the first time, describing their loss as "incredibly horrific" and welcoming an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the tragedy. Leah Pitman, 34, and Dustin Atkinson, 39, from Fairlight on Sydney's northern beaches, travelled to Northern Beaches Hospital on February 22 after Pitman went into labour with the couple's second child.

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Positive signs for proposed new clinic

West Australian, General News, 04/03/2025, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 9

A new one-stop cancer clinic in WA is a step closer after Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson endorsed the first of a twopart business plan for the \$750 million project in Nedlands. An email from Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research chief executive Peter Leedman to stakeholders confirmed the "significant milestone" had been reached in the development of the WA Comprehensive Cancer Centre.

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

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'We deserve the best': surgical robot arrives

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 04/03/2025, Ben Loughran, Page 6

The lives of Bendigo's cancer patients are about to be transformed with the arrival of a \$2.85 million surgical robot in the city. About 200 people packed the atrium at St John of God Hospital Bendigo for the unveiling of the da Vinci Xi robot on Friday.

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Bulk-billing alone won't fix health cost

Burnie Advocate, General News, 04/03/2025, Anthony Caggiano, Page 7

Bulk-billing promises have been labelled "only a tool" for addressing Australia's healthcare costs as both Labor and Liberal pledge millions of dollars into Medicare ahead of an election. Victoria University's Professor Rosemary Calder wants to see better funding where GPs, specialists and allied health staffwork together for people with chronic and complex medical conditions.

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Dutton Medicare promises doubt

Central Western Daily, General News, 04/03/2025, Crispin Hull, Page 9

Some months ago, I wrote that the original design of Medicare had a fundamental defect. Alas, Labor's \$8.5 billion injection - instantly matched by the Coalition - does not fully address it. A good start but not visionary enough. It is another example of Medicare telling us a great deal about Australian politics and Australian politicians, and it will do so again this election.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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Labor candidate's big maternity push

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 04/03/2025, Glen Humphries, Page 9

The pressing need for a maternity ward at Shellharbour Hospital is clear to Labor's Whitlam candidate Carol Berry. But she stopped short of committing the federal government to help in funding it.

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Allergy health boost goes online

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 03/03/2025, Denika Anderson, Page 4

Doctors in rural and remote areas now have access to an education and advice hub designed to help bridge the gap in allergy healthcare access. The National Allergy Council, in partnership with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine has launched free online platform called "allergy assist", which aims to provide access to online learning modules, diagnostic support, and clinical resources.

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PM's off to Canberra, but only for a party

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 03/03/2025, Page 6

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has ramped up his campaign on Labor's health record ahead of the federal election, amid rising speculation he could call the poll within days. Labor has pledged \$644 million to open 50 new Medicare urgent care clinics by June 2026 if it wins a second term in office, with more centres to open in every jurisdiction.

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Private health is out of favour

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 04/03/2025, Cameron Micallef, Page 10

Millions of Aussies are cancelling their private health insurance policies as prices have their biggest jump in seven years. Policyholders from April will see an average price rise of 3.73 per cent, putting further pressure on household budgets.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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

Healthscope resolves funding dispute with non-profit insurers

Australian Financial Review, Other, 03/03/2025, Michael Smith

The country's second-biggest hospital operator, Healthscope, has agreed a new funding deal with a group of not-for-profit insurers, ending a long-running dispute with health funds which will spare thousands of patients from paying higher hospital fees.

[Read More](#)

KKR writes \$300m cheque for GP clinics chain Family Doctor

Australian Financial Review, Other, 03/03/2025, Sarah Thompson, Kanika Sood & Emma Rapaport

KKR's private credit team is coming for Australia's \$30 billion market for general practice medical services. Street Talk can reveal the private capital juggernaut has agreed terms to invest in Family Doctor, a chain of GP clinics.

[Read More](#)

The family of a newborn girl who died after childbirth complications at the Northern Beaches Hospital break their silence

The Courier Mail, Other, 03/03/2025, Emma Kirk

The parents of a baby who died after birth at the Northern Beaches Hospital have broken their silence, describing their overwhelming grief at the death of "our baby girl Harper". Leah Pitman, 34, went into labour with her second child and was admitted to the Northern Beaches Hospital on February 22.

[Read More](#)

Both major parties commit to build an urgent care clinic in Cairns

ahead of federal election

Northern Territory News, Other, 03/03/2025, Samuel Davis

Cairns is all but guaranteed an urgent care clinic with Labor and the Coalition's candidates both committing to build the new health service, if elected. Labor has matched the Coalition's commitment to open an urgent care clinic in Cairns with the location still yet to be determined, if re-elected.

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

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Livingstone Mayor Adam Belot pushes for more services for Yeppoon Hospital

Cairns Post, Other, 03/03/2025, Phil Buckman

Livingstone Shire Council Mayor Adam Belot has witnessed the service constraints at Yeppoon Hospital firsthand after he suffered a dislocated shoulder while surfing. In between inhaling laughing gas for his painful injury, Cr Belot explains in a video posted to his Facebook on March 2 that "he had a bit of an incident" and he had to wait two hours to be able to be x-rayed.

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

[Read More](#)

Mackay businessman Neil Wallace announced as Dawson Labor candidate in Federal election

Cairns Post, Other, 03/03/2025

A former Mackay Regional Council hopeful has once again tossed his hat in the ring, this time as the Labor candidate up against incumbent Dawson MP Andrew Willcox in the upcoming federal election. Neil Wallace, who was announced this morning, has spent about 40 years working in the insurance industry and has lived in the Mackay region for almost two decades with his wife, raising three children.

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

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Shellharbour maternity ward matters to Whitlam's Carol Berry

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 03/03/2025, Glen Humphries

The pressing need for a maternity ward at Shellharbour Hospital is clear to Labor's Whitlam candidate Carol Berry. But she stopped short of committing the federal government to help in funding it.

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Govt announces 50 new UCCs

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 03/03/2025

The Federal Government has committed \$664 million for 50 new Medicare Urgent Care Clinics throughout Australia by mid-2026 if it is re-elected. The commitment builds on the existing 87 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, many of which include pharmacies, allowing a one-stop-shop for medical care needs.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 03/03/2025, Olivia Caisley

The Opposition has accused Labor of pork barrelling over its proposed urgent care clinics. Labor has committed to spending \$650m to open more Medicare clinics if re-elected.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 03/03/2025, Susannah Carr & Rick Ardon

There are claims PM Anthony Albanese's plan for urgent care clinics need urgent attention. Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has accused Labor of pork barreling. The government has pledged to build 50 new urgent care clinics if elected, the Coalition has committed to building four.

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

SBS, World News Australia, 03/03/2025, Janice Petersen

The RACGP has called for evidence of the effectiveness of urgent care clinics in Australia. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says it will be a fully bulk-billed urgent care. RACGP's Dr Michael Wright says they still don't have evaluation of whether the clinics are providing value for money and keeping people out of hospital.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 03/03/2025, Tom Connell

PM Anthony Albanese has spruiked his latest Medicare plans to his Cabinet. This comes after Albanese made a promise to fund an extra 50 urgent care clinics if re-elected. Meantime, Opposition Leader Peter Dutton claims the existing 87 urgent care clinics have been skewed in Labor's favour.

Also reported by: [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 03/03/2025, Leon Delaney

Low income earners are being told to go to the emergency department to seek mental health support due to expensive psychology consultations. Dr Sarah Quinn, President of the Australian Psychology Society, comments on the issue of mental health care access in Australia.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Feds reach \$4.8bn funding deal with Minns

The Australian, General News, 04/03/2025, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 7

Federal Labor will splash \$4.8bn in additional commonwealth funds on NSW public schools across the next 10 years as it finally reaches a pre-election deal following prolonged negotiations. It makes Queensland the only state in a stand-off with the Albanese government.

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

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Children engineered into believing they are helpless

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/03/2025, Clare Rowe, Page 13

Childhood therapy is no longer just for the few who truly need it it's an industry, driven by well-intentioned but misguided cultural forces. Research by News Corp last week revealed that Australian children are in the midst of a mental health crisis.

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

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Push for session increase

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 04/03/2025, Lucy Crock, Page 3

Liberal candidate for Corangamite Darcy Dunstan says the Coalition will increase Medicare-funded counselling sessions from 10 to 20, following a Geelong psychologist's call to make therapy more affordable. Clinical psychologist at Mind Health Care in Geelong and a former national chair of the Australian Psychological Society College of Clinical Psychologists (APS), Brendan Meagher, said the Labor Party's 2022 move to slash funded counselling sessions from 20 to 10 had made therapy a "privilege for the wealthy".

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

Providing effective treatment for borderline personality disorder

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/03/2025, Gillian Singleton, Josephine Beatson & Sathya Rao

Borderline personality disorder (BPD) is a serious but treatable mental health condition with a good prognosis for those who access appropriate treatment. Early identification, provision of brief interventions and continuity of care aids remission, and is possible without general practitioners (GPs) getting burned out.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 03/03/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Dr Sarah Quinn, President, Australian Psychology Society. Quinn discusses the issue of the price of mental healthcare access in Australia. She says cost is the biggest barrier when it comes to accessing psychology services.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Give us slice of health insurance profits: nurses

Newcastle Herald, Other, 03/03/2025

Health insurance premiums will rise next month, and nurses and midwives want a portion of the profits to boost their wages and conditions. The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association said health fund customers could "rightly expect" rising premiums would cover "decent wages for nurses and midwives".

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News Late, 03/03/2025, Tracy Vo

The Labor party has announced \$2.6 billion to fund pay rises for aged care workers. The aged care industry says it's made recruiting and retaining staff easier. It brings the government's total investment in aged care worker wages to \$17.7 billion, as labor tries to zero in on improvements to the health system to woo voters at the next election.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Slimming surgery odds

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 04/03/2025, Suzan Giuliani, Page 7

Overweight people who have cancer or need a transplant are using weight loss medication before lifesaving surgery to reduce the risk of complications. Specialists are now calling for drugs like Ozempic and Mounjaro to be included on the PBS for use in pre-surgery and pre-transplant patients who are overweight, warning that some people could be at risk of missing out on getting help because they can't afford it.

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

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Medibank takes full control of 'award-winning digital platform'

The Australian, Business News, 04/03/2025, Bridget Carter, Page 14

The \$12bn Australian-listed health insurer Medibank has purchased a 100 per cent interest in healthcare technology business Medinet after investing \$10m in the business in 2022. The move secured Medibank a 3.85 per cent interest in the company at the time by way of a convertible note.

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

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Why Canberra's bureaucrats need to stop being scared of tech

Canberra Times, Other, 03/03/2025, Connor Pearce

The public service risks being captured by large tech firms if it does not immediately take steps to improve its tech skills, the founders of a new, tech policy think tank warn. After well-documented government tech failures, including the My Health Record debacle, the alarm bells have been amplified by the "blatant posing" of Elon Musk alongside recently inaugurated President Donald Trump.

[Read More](#)

Include palliative care in Medicare reform, says peak body

Aged Care Insite, Other, 03/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz

In light of recent announcements made by the major political parties pledging billions of dollars to a major Medicare overhaul, Palliative Care Australia (PCA) is urging the government not to forget about those at the end of life. In calling for a better way to remunerate palliative care in primary care, PCA has released a new report using data collected in its 2024 workforce survey, showing that just 11 per cent of primary care respondents agreed that their practice is adequately funded to deliver end of life care.

[Read More](#)

SafeScript: Victoria's real-time prescription monitoring system

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/03/2025, Malcolm Dobbin

A substantial increase in prescribing and dispensing of high-risk psychoactive medicines, including opioid analgesics and benzodiazepines, has resulted in an increase in serious harm from use and misuse, including non-fatal and fatal overdose. The aim of this paper is to describe the need for real-time information about patients' receipt of high-risk psychoactive medicines and the development of SafeScript, Victoria's real-time prescription monitoring system.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor may or may not be what the Libs ordered

The Australian, General News, 04/03/2025, Paul Garvey, Page 2

Meet Thomas Brough, the man who may be about to become the most controversial MP in the West Australian parliament. During his short time in the public eye, the Liberal candidate for the regional seat of Albany has attacked WA's biggest trading partner, angered the LGBTQI+ community, been reported to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, ignited debate over abortion laws, had a brush with a stalker, and caused major headaches for his leader Libby Mettam.

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

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Medico fails to get findings overturned

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 04/03/2025, Alex Treacy, Page 7

A Gold Coast nurse has failed to overturn a misconduct finding after she failed to adequately monitor an at-risk mental health patient, who attempted suicide during her inattentive watch. Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH) assistant in nursing (AIN) Rena Simitsis (pictured) appealed the two findings of misconduct, and a third of contravening a relevant standard of conduct, to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC).

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Gutting USAID is cruel, and there is a ripple effect here

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/03/2025, Tim Costello, Page 23

In the flurry of executive orders issued by the 47th US president in his first 100 days, none is more devastating than the suspension of USAID. The agency, founded by president John F. Kennedy in 1961, has been dismantled at the behest of Elon Musk, the world's richest man, now imposing misery on the most vulnerable.

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SPORT

'Trailblazer' Nicky Winmar may co-lead AFL anti-racism case

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/03/2025, Emily Woods, Page 14

AFL great Nicky Winmar has "courageously" asked to co-lead a landmark racism class action against the league brought by Indigenous players, lawyers say. Phil Krakouer, who played 141 games for North Melbourne, lodged the case in the Supreme Court.

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Winmar in racism stand 2.0

Herald Sun, General News, 04/03/2025, Laura Placella & Miles Proust, Page 10

Indigenous AFL great Nicky Winmar could become a lead plaintiff in the explosive racism class action against the league. More than 30 years on from Winmar's iconic stand against racism, the Supreme Court on Monday heard "another plaintiff" could help lead the group action brought by North Melbourne legend Phil Krakouer.

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NRL eyes PNG gold mine

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/03/2025, Peter Jenkins, Page 17

Peter V'landys has flown out of Las Vegas with a bold prediction that broadcast revenue from Papua New Guinea might one day surpass the \$400m a year the game generates in Australia. Reflecting on the successes and lessons to be learnt from the NRL's second foray into America, Mr V'landys told The Daily Telegraph the US market was the primary play but only part of a plan to maximise the code's global broadcast rights potential.

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Cook spruiks Optus option for cyclone-threatened AFL game

Roger Cook has offered Optus Stadium for any Queensland AFL games that may be cancelled because of cyclone Alfred. The cyclone is expected to bring gales and flash flooding to heavily populated coastal areas in Queensland on Thursday, the same day the Gabba is scheduled to host an AFL game between Brisbane and Geelong.

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Push for swim events at Suncorp

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/03/2025, Hayden Johnson, Page 28

Brisbane 2032 organisers face losing a tens of millions of dollars in ticket revenue windfall if swimming is not held at Suncorp Stadium and basketball is banished to a small Games venue. The \$5bn cost of running Brisbane's 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be partly offset by ticket sales, which organisers hope will generate \$1.29bn.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 03/03/2025, Spence Denny

Lawyers say former indigenous footballer Nicky Winmar could spearhead a class action racism lawsuit against the AFL He is court reporter Kristian Silva. The picture of Winmar lifting his jumper and pointing at his skin became one of the most iconic images of the sport in 1993.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Evenings, 03/03/2025, Kelly Higgins-Devine

Lawyers have told reporters that Nicky Winmar is willing to become a co-lead plaintiff in a lawsuit brought by other indigenous players against the league. They're seeking damages, claiming the AFL failed to protect them from racist abuse from spectators, players and coaches.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

No Covid-diabetes link

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/03/2025, Page 9

Australian researchers say it appears Covid has not impacted the prevalence of a pre-diabetes condition in Australian children. Researchers, including scientists from The Kids Research Institute Australia, used data from an ongoing study on childhood islet autoimmunity that can develop before onset of diabetes that followed children from birth who were considered at risk of developing diabetes.

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

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Pill to treat diabetes

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/03/2025, Page 7

Chinese researchers believe they have another contender to help people with type 2 diabetes but in pill form. The medicine, called berberine ursodeoxycholate (HTD1801), caused patients to have significantly lower levels of haemoglobin A1c – a test for average blood sugar levels over an extended period – at the end of a 12-week trial.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Dose of reality in first pill test trial

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 04/03/2025, Madeleine Bower, Page 8

Australia's first government-led pill-testing trial was conducted at a music festival in Wollongong over the weekend an event that resulted in 23 arrests for drug possession. More than 100 revellers at the "Yours and Owls" music festival visited the pill-testing site at the Minns government's first pilot, which was announced following recommendations from last year's drug summit.

Also reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Testing hits a snag

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 04/03/2025, Clareese Packer & Duncan Evans, Page 6

New South Wales has launched its very first pill testing trial, but one key issue could be stopping festival goers from participating in the controversial health measure designed to prevent drug overdose disasters. The NSW government trialled pill testing at the Yours and Owls festival over the weekend, but the trial appears to have delivered a much reduced sample size of tested drugs compared to similar trials in Victoria.

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What is melioidosis? The deadly disease spreading in Australia

Adelaide Now, Other, 03/03/2025, Sarah Mitchell

There have been more than 90 confirmed cases and 15 deaths from melioidosis this year alone in Queensland. The bacteria usually live harmlessly in soil and freshwater, so what's behind the outbreak?

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

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New taskforce to tackle impact of 'killer' silica dust on thousands of Sydney workers

ABC Online, Other, 03/03/2025

It's a potentially deadly dust that is thick within the sandstone which lies underneath Sydney. For the better part of the last decade, massive amounts of silica have been churned up underground by giant tunnel boring machines carving a seemingly endless slew of road and rail projects, which have employed tens of thousands of workers.

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Arexvy safety data out

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 03/03/2025

Ausvaxsafety has published the first Australian safety data on Arexvy respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination in people aged 60 years and older, reporting low adverse event rates. The safety surveillance data covered more than 2,000 Arexvy vaccine recipients between 29 Feb 2024, which is when the vaccine became available in Australia through the private market for adults aged 60 years and older, and 27 Sep 2024.

[Read More](#)

6PR, Drive, 03/03/2025, Oliver Peterson

A number of Australian jurisdictions are now considering pill testing trials, including the ACT, Victoria. The trial at Yours and Owls Festival in NSW has been reported as positive, with around 100 people had their drugs tested at the festival.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Breakfast, 03/03/2025, Ben Fordham

The first ever trial of pill testing at a music festival has wrapped up in Wollongong. Nearly 30,000 people attended the two-day event. Attendees had the chance to trial the new service run by NSW Health.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Eucalyptus says weight-loss drug sales surging

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 04/03/2025, Tess Bennett, Page 21

Woolworths-backed telehealth start-up Eucalyptus has made around \$200 million in the past 18 months selling weight-loss services and drugs such as Wegovy, and plans to revive its mothballed men's longevity service in Britain.

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

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Obese patients requiring surgery need more access to weight loss drugs

Northern Territory News, Other, 03/03/2025, Suzan Giuliani

For three years David Fardon missed out on family weddings, holidays and a social life because he had to do dialysis. [...] A Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) spokesman said patients should adhere to the advice of their GP and specialist prior to taking any medication leading up to surgery.

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

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Australian Pharmacist

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 03/03/2025, Chloe Hava

Ozempic has been on the market since 2017. But a 2021 clinical trial, linking Ozempic to significant weight loss, led to an explosion in off-label use of the drug. [...] The injectable glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist (GLP-1 RA) has been on the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) medicine shortage database since April 2022.

[Read More](#)

New PBS listings, TGA meds update

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 03/03/2025

Now in effect as of 01 Mar, new medicines on the PBS include AbbVie's Skyrizi (risankizumab) for severe psoriatic arthritis and Roche's Vabysmo (faricimab) for macular oedema secondary to retinal vein occlusion. With Skyrizi already PBS listed for adults with severe chronic plaque psoriasis, AbbVie has welcomed its listing for severe psoriatic arthritis (PsA) in adults.

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Medical export growing like a weed

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 04/03/2025, Michael Smith, Page 21

David Henn, the founder of Germany's biggest medicinal cannabis importer, says he cannot get enough Australian-grown marijuana. With relaxed cannabis laws tripling demand for medicinal marijuana in the past 10 months, Henn flew into Queensland last month.

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

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'Zombie drug' 1000 times more powerful than heroin hits Sydney streets

The Courier Mail, Other, 02/03/2025, Cydonee Mardon

Super-strength opioids that have turned major US cities into zombie zones have been intercepted at Australian ports. Nitazenes, which can be a thousand times more powerful than heroin, are high on the Australian Border Force watch list, alongside the date rape drug of which the agency has seen a 500 per cent spike in the amount seized in the past 12 months.

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Exploring access to medicinal cannabis through general practitioners in Australia

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/03/2025, Sophia Martin, Sarah Jansen, Annalisa Toole & Aletha Ward

Patient access to medicinal cannabis (MC) is impacted by several factors, despite legalisation of it for medicinal and related scientific purposes in 2016. This scoping review aimed to examine the barriers and enablers to accessing MC through general practitioners (GPs) in Australia.

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FOOD STANDARDS

How do wines get away with not listing ingredients? I have allergies!

The Guardian, Other, 04/03/2025, Kat George

The labelling of alcohol beverages is a contentious issue. There are regular calls for reform, primarily to do with the amount of information required on ingredients, health and nutrition. [...] According to Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (which publishes the Code), in alcohol production some allergens are processed in a way that renders them safe for consumers with allergies.

[Read More](#)

Coles responds to customer concerns over prawn photo: 'Safety is paramount'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 03/03/2025, Sophie Coghill

Coles has moved to ease concerns after a photo of seafood on sale raised eyebrows among shoppers, with many warning others the cheap cost of the produce suggested it was far from fresh. A concerned shopper spotted Queensland Black Tiger Prawns on sale at the Logan store's deli for \$2.13 per kilogram and Vannamei Prawns even cheaper at \$1.25 per kilogram.

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Future use of Truegain site a step closer: MP

Newcastle Herald, General News, 04/03/2025, Jamieson Murphy, Page 2

The future use of the Hunter's most contaminated and polluted site is one step closer, as the next stage of remediation work begins at the former oil refinery in Rutherford. The NSW government has committed \$5.3 million to the second stage of work at the 1.2-hectare former Truegain site, near Maitland.

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Burning issue of chemicals

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/03/2025, Page 4

An Australian-led team of international scientists have shown how synthetic chemicals can be safely destroyed by burning them. Researchers from Australia's national science agency CSIRO, the University of Newcastle, Colorado State University and the National Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory in Hefei, China have for the first time traced the entire chain of chemical reactions as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) break down during incineration.

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