



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 5th March 2025

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

- **[The Australian \(page 2\)](#)** reports the federal government has committed \$20 million to ensure domestic production of intravenous saline fluids, with Health Minister Mark Butler noting the expansion of Baxter's production would not only shore up sovereign manufacturing of saline fluids but also deliver local jobs at the western Sydney plant.
- **[The Australian \(page 4\)](#)** reports the federal government has urged health insurers to pay more for care at private hospitals, with Health Minister Mark Butler threatening regulatory action if he isn't satisfied patients are accessing the care they require.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 16\)](#)** reports a study led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute has found one in three children and adolescents in Australia will be obese by 2050 without major reforms to health programs.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports aged care workers have just received a \$2.6 billion boost in pay, after the Fair Work Commission ordered the increase, which has seen a substantial contribution to addressing the gender pay gap in the agency.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** reports NSW police responding to reports of "men stealing from a truck" have seized four tonnes of illicit tobacco. The 200 boxes of the drug were found inside a truck in Sydney's west.

MINISTER BUTLER

Deal secures saline fluid supply

The Australian, General News, 05/03/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 2

Australia will have onshore manufacturing of IV saline fluids for the first time after the federal government struck a \$40m deal to expand onshore manufacturing of the critical medicine. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the expansion in Baxter's production would not only shore up sovereign manufacturing of saline fluids but also deliver local jobs at its western Sydney plant.

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HMC Capital closes in on Healthscope

Australian Financial Review, General News, 05/03/2025, Michael Smith, Page 1

David Di Pilla's HMC Capital is closing in on Healthscope after Australia's second-largest private hospital operator failed to pay rent due on 11 hospitals his interests own, as Labor seeks to stave off a voter backlash about hospital closures.

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Labor backs Sydney IV fluid maker

Australian Financial Review, General News, 05/03/2025, Michael Smith, Page 7

The Albanese government will invest \$20 million to expand the local manufacturing of IV fluid bags in western Sydney after a worldwide shortage raised concerns about how Australia procures critical medical supplies.

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Do better deal with hospitals ... or else

The Australian, General News, 05/03/2025, James Dowling, Page 4

The Albanese government has threatened regulatory action against health insurers if they fail to deliver a better deal for struggling private hospitals, wading into a feud between funds and service providers ahead of an April 1 premium rise. On Tuesday, Health Minister Mark Butler placed a request through his departmental secretary for the Private Health CEO Forum to take action on payments to private hospitals within the next three months, telling them to increase funding to a greater portion of their benefits.

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Health giants rake in the cash

Herald Sun, General News, 05/03/2025, Page 4

Medibank, Bupa and Nib customers face higher than average health insurance premium hikes, despite the companies earning a combined pre-tax profit of \$1.7bn last year. [...] Last week, Health Minister Mark Butler said he asked insurers to resubmit their claims three times, before agreeing to rises on April 1.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#)

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LNP backs Medicare move

Lilydale Star 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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Urgent care vow

Geraldton Guardian, General News, 04/03/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 1

A Medicare urgent care clinic will be opened in Geraldton if the Albanese Government is re-elected. [...] In a bid to build a "stronger Medicare", Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler on Sunday announced the \$644 million investment, which would see Federal Labor open the facilities in 2025-26 if the party wins a second term.

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

Growing pain: One in two kids will be overweight by 2050

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/03/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 6

A new study says half of all Australian children and adolescents will be obese or overweight by 2050, prompting fresh calls for the Albanese government to act swiftly on the crisis. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said "we want a healthy, active Australia".

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Minister slams Coalition over clinic

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/03/2025, Matthew Kelly, Page 8

Health Minister Mark Butler has accused the Coalition of planning to destroy urgent care clinics, while at the same time selectively announcing new clinics in marginal seats such as Paterson. Mr Butler and Paterson MP Meryl Swanson formally announced yesterday that a new urgent care clinic would be established at Maitland under a re-elected federal Labor government.

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Clinics are 'expensive animals to run'

Western Advocate, General News, 05/03/2025, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 1

As Bathurst grapples with a medical services shortage, news of a potential urgent care clinic in the city has received a mixed response. [...] Bathurst doctor Ross Wilson is hesitant about the idea of Bathurst receiving an urgent care clinic.

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Patient interests 'not put first' in hospital-insurer feud, government warns

The Australian, Other, 04/03/2025, James Dowling

The Albanese government has threatened regulatory action against health insurers if they fail to fork out more to struggling private hospitals, wading into a bitter feud between funds and service providers ahead of the April 1 premium rise. On Tuesday, Health Minister Mark Butler placed a request through his departmental secretary for the Private Health CEO Forum to take action on payments to private hospitals within the next three months, directing they increase funding to a greater portion of their benefits.

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Deal ensures more saline fluid will be manufactured onshore

The Australian, Other, 04/03/2025, Natasha Robinson

Australia will have onshore manufacturing of IV saline fluids for the first time after the federal government struck a \$40m deal to expand onshore manufacturing of the critical medicine. [...] Sky News host Peta Credlin says Health Minister Mark Butler was "warned" a year ago about Australia's imminent IV fluid shortage but "did nothing".

[Read More](#)

'A fighter': Health setback for former Australian of the Year

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/03/2025, Zoe Smith

Professor Richard Scolyer, the former Australian of the Year and renowned melanoma scientist, has undergone exploratory brain surgery. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler gave Professor Scolyer his best wishes as he continues his fight.

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

[Read More](#)

Survey reveals Aussies planning to ditch private health insurance as price hike looms

The Courier Mail, Other, 03/03/2025, Cameron Micallef

Millions of Aussies are planning to cancel their private health insurance policies as prices jump by the largest amount in seven years, a survey has claimed. [...] 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.

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Helpline for grieving Aussies promised it will be able to stay open despite being told funding was cut

9News, Other, 04/03/2025, Sarah Swain

A helpline for grieving Aussies has been told it will be able to continue to operate after the government pledged to continue funding it. As reported by 9news.com.au, after 37 years, the Griefline helpline announced [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said an independently assessed, "open and competitive grant opportunity" for digital mental health services worth \$135m was launched in 2023.

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Local IV fluid production to increase dramatically after government criticised for handling of shortages

ABC Online, Other, 04/03/2025, Stephanie Dalzell

Australian production of IV fluids will ramp-up dramatically under a multimillion-dollar federal government move following months of criticism over its handling of severe shortages of the essential medicine. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the move would shore up Australia's supply of the critical medicine while creating more jobs.

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'It would be funny if it were not so serious': Butler slams Coalition's Maitland urgent care clinic pledge

Newcastle Herald, Other, 04/03/2025, Matthew Kelly

Health Minister Mark Butler has accused the Coalition of planning to destroy urgent care clinics, while at the same time selectively announcing new clinics in marginal seats such as Paterson. Mr Butler and Paterson MP Meryl Swanson formally announced on Tuesday that a new urgent care clinic would be established at Maitland under an reelected Labor government.

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Labor unveils next step in healthcare overhaul

Nursing Review, Other, 04/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Labor has announced \$644 million to open 50 more urgent care clinics, building on Anthony Albanese's centrepiece \$8.5 billion election promise to boost bulk-billing GPs. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said only a re-elected Labor government would ensure urgent care clinics remained open.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today Early News, 04/03/2025, Jayne Azzopardi

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler hopes that the Federal Government's investment boost in Medicare will lead to more bulk billing, more doctors, and more urgent care clinics. Meanwhile, Opposition Leader Peter Dutton boasted the 84% bulk billing rate when he was health minister, compared to the Albanese Government's 77%.

NBN Central Coast, NBN News, 04/03/2025, Natasha Beyersdorf

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced a new bulk-billed Medicare urgent care clinic in Terrigal on Tuesday. The location and opening date of the clinic, one of the 50 promised under a \$227m healthcare election pledge, is yet to be announced. Meanwhile, doctors at the existing clinics in Lake Haven and Umina Beach expressed concern over staffing numbers. Butler acknowledged the restrictions that hold clinics from hiring more doctors, saying he is working to fix it.

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NBN Newcastle Hunter, NBN News, 04/03/2025, Natasha Beyersdorf

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler pledged to open a Medicare urgent clinic in Maitland after local Coalition candidate Laurence Antcliff promised the same. Butler insists Medicare remains a high priority for Labor with over 50 clinics announced over the weekend.

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MINISTER WELLS

4BC, 07:30 News, 04/03/2025

A cyclone watch was issued in Qld as Category Two Tropical Cyclone Alfred heads for the mainland and is forecasted to hit Brisbane or the Sunshine Coast. South-east Qld residents are reporting a shortage in sandbags while Brisbane City Council is opening more depots. Federal Minister Anika Wells is calling for more action from the council, mentioning a shortage of sandbags during the 2022 floods.

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4BC, Breakfast , 04/03/2025, Peter Fegan

Interview with Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, about the Federal Government's \$2.6 billion investment for aged care nurses. Wells says it is now the third year of them delivering the Fair Work-awarded pay rises for aged care nurses. She notes the nurse shortage is the biggest problem when she came to the role of Aged Care Minister. Wells adds when they came to government, the registered nurse workforce gap was about 13,000 nurses, and now it's just under 1500 nurses.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Health forum a success

Whittlesea Review, General News, 04/03/2025, Page 1

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.

ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

Labor launches campaign with major health commitment

Mornington News, General News, 04/03/2025, Page 16

Labor a full house attended the campaign launch of Labor Candidate for Flinders Sarah Race at the Hastings Bowling Club on Sunday. Race was officially introduced by Assistant Minister for Women, Ageing, and Social Security, Kate Thwaites MP, as Labor mounts its biggest-ever campaign for the seat of Flinders.

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DEPARTMENT

'Horrible situation': Calls to overhaul Australia's surrogacy laws

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/03/2025, Tamara Mcdonald

Some couples are moving states while others face costly and complicated journeys abroad to start families using a surrogate. [...] A federal health department spokeswoman said in 2024, the Attorney-General asked the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) to conduct an inquiry into surrogacy laws in Australia.

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

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'These families will be left in a medical abyss'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 05/03/2025, Jessica Howard, Page 1

In the 24 hours after Purnim's Sidney Robinson was born, he was rushed to the Royal Children's Hospital in an emergency helicopter. [...] A spokesman for the Department of Health and Aged Care said through the 2019-20 federal government budget, the Victorian Children's Colorectal Service was funded \$5.9 million.

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Labor unveils next step in healthcare overhaul

Nursing Review, Other, 04/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Labor has announced \$644 million to open 50 more urgent care clinics, building on Anthony Albanese's centrepiece \$8.5 billion election promise to boost bulk-billing GPs. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said only a re-elected Labor government would ensure urgent care clinics remained open.

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Coalition announces end to APS flexible work police

The Mandarin, Other, 04/03/2025, Dan Holmes

The LNP plans to end flexible work for public servants, arguing it undermines productivity and service. The coming election may decide the future of flexible work for Australian Public Servants, following a Coalition announcement they would seek to end the policy if elected. [...] Large agencies ranged from 76% at the Department of Health and Aged Care to 19% at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

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Qld pharmacies delivering free flu vax from 1 March

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 04/03/2025

Queenslanders now have access to free flu vaccinations available through community pharmacies, with the state's program having commenced on 1 March. Announced by the Crisafulli Government in January this year, the initiative is expected to ease pressure on hospital emergency departments by increasing vaccination rates ahead of the flu season.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Wave spooks Straddie

Courier Mail, General News, 05/03/2025, Page 7

Residents in aged care on Stradbroke Island have been evacuated as a massive 7m wave recorded off the island overnight on Tuesday sent a stark warning to coastal communities. Premier David Crisafulli said the wave, measured by an offshore buoy, showed the growing intensity of the storm system.

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'We're closing the gap': Labor invests a further \$2.6 billion into aged care pay rises

4BC, Other, 04/03/2025, Peter Fegan

The Albanese Government has announced it will be investing a further \$2.6 billion into the health sector to deliver another pay rise for 60,000 aged care nurses across Australia. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells told Peter Fegan on 4BC Breakfast, "When we came to government about three years ago, the Registered Nurse workforce gap was about 13,000 nurses and now it's just under 1500 nurses."

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Program: Labor makes \$2.6b aged care pledge after gender review

ABC Online, Other, 04/03/2025, Ian Cutmore

The federal government is talking up its efforts to reduce the gender pay gap ... today announcing \$2.6 billion to fund a pay rise for aged care nurses.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 04/03/2025, Sharyn Ghidella

The Federal Government announced a \$2.6b pay raise for 60,000 aged care nurses across Australia. Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says it is equal to \$430 a week.

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Surprise AN-ACC Increase to Fund Nurse Wages

HelloCare, Other, 04/03/2025, Jakob Neeland

In a significant boost for aged care workers, the Australian Government has announced an increase in the Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) price to support higher wages for registered and enrolled nurses in the sector. [...] "Since we came to government and under Anika Wells' leadership, a lot of work has been done to try and address those failures.

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'Man with the golden arm' who saved more than two million babies dies

SBS, Other, 04/03/2025

James Harrison gave blood and plasma more than a thousand times for six decades. James Harrison,

who donated blood and plasma more than 1,000 times, has died at 88.

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People with dementia can stay at home for longer with help from a new tool

The Senior, Other, 04/03/2025, Desiree Savage

When firefighter Paul Dorin's late mother was diagnosed with dementia, he safe-proofed her home to allow her to stay independent for as long as possible, and now a new tool is available to help all families do the same. [...] Not everyone is a firefighter and knows exactly what to do to keep a loved one safe, but Dementia Australia has just launched a free interactive video guide to help people with dementia to continue to live independently in their home.

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Is this the canary in the coal mine for retirement village operators? The future when care crosses independent living

The Weekly Source, Other, 04/03/2025, Chris Baynes

On 18 February, the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission quietly released an 'Exposure Draft' for the Aged Care Financial and Prudential Standards 2025. In it the Federal Government crossed the line into retirement villages.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Afternoons, 04/03/2025, Michael McLaren

Interview with Palliative Care Australia CEO Camilla Rowland, discussing her organisation's call for improved access to palliative care and for politicians to prioritise end-of-life care ahead of the federal elections. Rowland notes the existing divide between cities and rural areas in terms of palliative care services with three in five Australians unable to receive it. She argues that greater investment in palliative care is essential as more people prefer to receive care at home rather than in hospitals.

Interview continues on: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#).

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POPULATION HEALTH

We can't wait on weight

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05/03/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 16

Study calls for urgent action to save our kids from Australia's obesity epidemic The number of overweight and obese Aussie kids will skyrocket in the next five years without urgent intervention, a new global study has found.

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

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Making a better world for girls and women

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/03/2025, Governor Barbara Baker, Page 18

International Women's Day takes place every year on March 8. You may be planning to attend one of the many events occurring this week around our state to mark the occasion, from breakfasts and dinners to workshops and exhibitions. [...] For women aged 25 to 44, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare statistics show that intimate partner violence contributes to more death, disability and illness than any other preventable risk factor.

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NSW Police seize four tonnes of allegedly illicit tobacco on Ferndell Street, South Granville

Police have seized about four tonnes of allegedly illicit tobacco after finding roughly 200 boxes of it inside a truck in Sydney's west. Officers were called to Ferndell St in South Granville about 7.30am on Tuesday, when they were initially told a number of people were "stealing boxes from a truck".

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Australia's clinical guidelines shape our health care. Why do so many still ignore sex and gender?

Nursing Review, Other, 04/03/2025, Jane Fisher and Maggie Kirkman

You've heard of the gender pay gap. What about the gap in medical care? Cardiovascular diseases – which can lead to heart attack and stroke – are one of the leading causes of death for women in Australia.

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Two thirds of adults at obesity risk

The Australian, General News, 05/03/2025, Page 6

Almost 60 per cent of all adults and a third of all children in the world will be overweight or obese by 2050 unless governments take action, a study has predicted. The research, published in the Lancet medical journal, used data from 204 countries to paint a picture of what it described as one of the great health challenges of the century.

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

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Australian Border Force seize \$1b worth of illegal cigarettes in contraband blitz

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

Australian Border Force officers have seized well over a billion dollars' worth of illicit cigarettes, almost 300 tonnes of loose tobacco and thwarted an attempt by a commercial ship to smuggle in 76 tonnes of contraband cigarettes – all in the last six months of 2024.

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Slash speed limits to 30km/h in areas with children, Victorian infrastructure plan recommends

The Guardian, Other, 04/03/2025, Adeshola Ore

Speed limits would be slashed to 30km/h on streets in Victoria frequented by children under a recommendation by the state's peak infrastructure body. [...] Victoria has the lowest rate of social housing in the country, according to statistics by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 04/03/2025, Max Futchter and Sarah Greenhalgh

The Murdoch Children's Research Institute warns that half of Australian children will be obese by 2050, unless the government introduces taxes on sugary drinks, ban junk food advertising, and pay for healthy meals at school. Lead researcher Prof Peter Azzopardi says political parties must address the problem of childhood obesity. Royal Australian College of General Practice fellow Dr Rebekah Hoffman says the next generation must be motivated to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 04/03/2025, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

The Murdoch Children's Research Institute warns that half of Australian children will be obese by 2050. Lead researcher Prof Peter Azzopardi says the next five years are critical in bringing awareness to obesity as a public health issue.

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ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 04/03/2025, Mark Gibson

Interview with WA Health executive director for environmental health Dr Mike Lindsay, warning residents in Perth's metropolitan areas and the south east against the Ross River virus after it was detected in mosquitoes at Pelican Point in Crawley. He urges the public to use insect repellent, wear protective clothing, and eliminate mosquito breeding sites as there is currently no vaccine or cure for the disease.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 04/03/2025, Chris Bath and Dom Knight

Live cross with ABC News reporter Sarah Gerathy. Authorities closed down the Ketthip Clinic on Sydney's Sussex Street after investigators from the Health Care Complaints Commission found gross violations, including the use of veterinary-marked surgical equipment and expired or illegally imported medications. It is also suspected that unqualified staff impersonated registered medical practitioners and performed procedures such as Botox and breast augmentations. NSW Health urges anyone who has undergone invasive procedures at the clinic to get tested for bloodborne viruses, including hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 04/03/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Monash University Department of Surgery chair Dr Wendy Brown, discussing the growing problem of obesity on World Obesity Day. She calls on systemic solutions, including healthier food environments and better education on nutrition, rather than making the fight against obesity a personal problem. Dr Brown also discussed medical interventions like appetite-suppressing medications and surgical procedures for individuals struggling with obesity.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Breakthrough for MS sufferers

The Australian, General News, 05/03/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 2

Australian scientists have for the first time demonstrated that inflammation in the brain in multiple sclerosis patients appears to drive an accelerated rate of mutations in crucial neurons, opening the way for targeted and regenerative therapies that could prevent severe disease. The research by the Florey Institute and the University of Melbourne, published in the prestigious journal Nature Neuroscience, identifies how inflammation may contribute to MS progression, with neurons contained in lesions within the brains of people who suffer from MS accumulating mutations at a rate 2 times neurons in the brains of people without the disease.

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World-first clinical trial to treat chemo-induced neuropathy

The Australian, Other, 04/03/2025, Joanna Panagopoulos

A team of University of Adelaide researchers is hoping to create a world-first treatment for nerve damage caused by chemotherapy, through magnetic stimulation, which affects more than 80 per cent of bowel cancer survivors. There are no effective treatments for chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy, a form of chronic nerve damage caused when nerves that carry messages between the brain, the spinal chord and the rest of the body are damaged through chemotherapy treatments.

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PRIMARY CARE

Minister slams Coalition over clinic

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/03/2025, Matthew Kelly, Page 8

Health Minister Mark Butler has accused the Coalition of planning to destroy urgent care clinics, while at the same time selectively announcing new clinics in marginal seats such as Paterson. Mr Butler and Paterson MP Meryl Swanson formally announced yesterday that a new urgent care clinic would be established at Maitland under a re-elected federal Labor government.

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Sydney residents can now access free online doctor consultations from home Sydney residents can now access free online doctor consultations from home

7news.com.au, Other, 04/03/2025, Demi Huang

All Sydney residents can now see a doctor for non-life-threatening illnesses from the comfort of their home through a new free virtual healthcare service. The service has been expanded to include Western Sydney, southwest Sydney, Nepean Blue Mountains, Central Coast, and the Illawarra Shoalhaven, NSW Minister for Health Ryan Park announced on Tuesday

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David Di Pilla's HealthCo Healthcare & Wellness REIT threatens to evict Healthscope

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/03/2025, Giuseppe Tauriello

Healthscope has failed to pay rent on 11 facilities owned by David Di Pilla's HealthCo Healthcare & Wellness REIT, leading to threats of replacing the private hospital group with an alternative operator. In an update to the ASX on Tuesday, HCW told shareholders that it had issued breach notices to Healthscope for failing to pay all rent due for March, noting that part payment had been received

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Government called on to fund emergency service

Shepparton News Online, Other, 04/03/2025, Billie Davern

A proposal has been submitted to the Victorian Government seeking a four-year funding commitment to a Royal Flying Doctor Service program. The volunteer-led RFDS Community Transport program was launched in 2018 to provide eligible clients with free transport from home to health appointments.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 04/03/2025, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

Eight new emergency aircraft will soon be added to South Australia's fleet, with hopes they could halve emergency response times. The three planes and five helicopters will come at a cost of \$870 million.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 04/03/2025, Ryk Goddard

Interview with Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia CEO Maria Said, discussing a new program called Allergy Assist that aims to support GPs in managing allergy-related cases, especially in regional and rural areas. Allergy Assist connects GPs to allergy specialists for expert advice. Members of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine can use the service for free.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Unit in doubt after psychiatrists quit

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/03/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

The future of a 12-bed neuropsychiatry unit at Morisset hospital is in doubt due to the dispute between

psychiatrists and the Minns government. The unit, known as the Kaoriki Ward, is for patients with acquired brain injuries and conditions such as severe autism and Huntington's disease.

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Treatments like MDMA and psilocybin to be funded for veterans

ABC Online, Other, 04/03/2025, Lucas Forbes

Australian veterans suffering from PTSD and depression will soon have access to a new and unconventional form of treatment.

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The worst thing you can say to your child during a cyclone

Cairns Post, Other, 04/03/2025, Jill Poulsen

Schools are warning parents to consider their children's anxiety levels during the impending cyclone, with experts advising the best way to protect kids is by preparing with a sense of calm. Letters are being sent out to parents across the southeast advising them of potential school closures, while offering advice on how to keep worries at bay.

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Why society's focus on wellbeing is actually making our kids worse off

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/03/2025, Clare Rowe

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

HIV alert for patients of city cosmetic clinic

The Australian, General News, 05/03/2025, Penny Timms, Page 2

Health authorities have warned patients of a Sydney cosmetic clinic that they may have been exposed to blood-borne viruses including HIV and hepatitis. The warning was issued by the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission and comes after a raid on the Ketthip Beauty Clinic in Sydney's CBD, following a series of complaints.

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Altitude and a bit of attitude

Northern Territory News, General News, 05/03/2025, Thomas McLean, Page 1

Altitude and attitude is delivering vital health education to some of the Top End's most isolated areas, equipping them with the skills and confidence to cope with a variety of emergency situations. With yet another busy 12 months clocked up last year, CareFlight NT is looking forward to more of the same in 2025.

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

Clients of beauty salon Ketthip Clinic in Sydney CBD urged to test for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV after 'unsafe practices'

7news.com.au, Other, 04/03/2025, Hayley Taylor

Unregistered practitioners risked infecting clients when they performed skin-penetrating procedures at Ketthip Clinic. Clients who received any invasive procedures at Ketthip Clinic, in Sydney 's CBD, were urged on Tuesday to see their GP and check for bloodborne viruses.

[Read More](#)

Clients of Sydney cosmetic clinic potentially exposed to hepatitis, HIV

9News, Other, 04/03/2025, Yashee Sharma

A Sydney beauty clinic's clients are being urged to have blood tests after authorities found they may have been exposed to blood-borne viruses, including hepatitis B and C and HIV.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 04/03/2025, Peter Overton

The Federal Government announced a \$2.6b pay raise for 60,000 aged care nurses across Australia. It will amount to as much as \$430 a week, depending on experience.

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4BC, Breakfast , 04/03/2025, Peter Fegan

Interview with Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, about the Federal Government's \$2.6 billion investment for aged care nurses. Wells says it is now the third year of them delivering the Fair Work-awarded pay rises for aged care nurses. She notes the nurse shortage is the biggest problem when she came to the role of Aged Care Minister. Wells adds when they came to government, the registered nurse workforce gap was about 13,000 nurses, and now it's just under 1500 nurses.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 04/03/2025, Sally Sara

Interview with Federal Women's Minister Katy Gallagher, discussing the Federal Government's \$2.6b pay raise for aged care nurses. She hopes the latest pay raise will improve staff retention. The decision follows a Fair Work Commission ruling that recognised aged care workers as "historically undervalued."

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

2CC, Canberra Live, 04/03/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Macular Disease Foundation of Australia CEO Dr Kathy Chapman, discussing calls for the government to reduce the high cost of treatment for age-related macular degeneration, or AMD—the leading cause of blindness in Australia. She says ophthalmologists must be incentivised to bulk bill pensioners and concession card holders. Dr Chapman argues that an \$11m government investment could save \$140 m in long-term healthcare costs by preventing blindness-related issues like falls and early nursing home admissions.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Alarm over vet tools link to cosmetic procedures

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/03/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 10

Health authorities are urging clients of a Sydney cosmetic clinic to get tested for blood-borne infections after alleging staff posing as medical practitioners performed invasive procedures and the discovery of surgical equipment marked "veterinary use only" and dubious medicines. [...] Sheppeard urged the public to check practitioners are registered health providers on the AHPRA website before undergoing any cosmetic procedure.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Gaps in sports drug testing

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/03/2025, Chris Barrett, Page 3

A report into Australia's antidoping watchdog has revealed it did not conduct drug tests in two football codes for four months during the 2023-24 off-season after negotiations with the sports' governing bodies. The review of Sport Integrity Australia by the Australian National Audit Office also showed that cycling was the sport about which most doping intelligence was received, followed by rugby league, athletics and the AFL.

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AFL targets 51 players over drugs

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/03/2025, Michael Warner, Page 1

Revelations of a secret list of 51 AFL players being target-tested for performance-enhancing drugs have blindsided the footy players union. The Advertiser revealed on Tuesday that the league had "provided a target list of athletes" to be tested by Sport Integrity Australia investigators during the 2024 season.

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Jim backs our arena

Courier Mail, General News, 05/03/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 1

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers has backed an inner-city entertainment arena for Brisbane in time for the 2032 Games. But he warned the federal government had no intention of forking out any more cash beyond the almost \$3.5bn already promised for the arena and smaller venues.

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3AW, Afternoons, 04/03/2025, Tony Moclair

At least 51 players were target tested for performance-enhancing drugs last season. The Herald Sun reports the league submitted the names to Sport Integrity Australia investigators.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

CDU-led project aims to revolutionise drone delivery for battlefield

medicine

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 02/03/2025, Taylor Mason

Charles Darwin University (CDU) is leading a groundbreaking project to integrate heavy-fuel cargo drones into battlefield operations, aiming to revolutionise medical supply delivery in war zones. [...] Working alongside Queensland-based drone manufacturer SAIDYNAMICS, researchers will modify a hybrid 2-stroke engine drone to carry medical supplies over long distances while maintaining strict cold-chain requirements.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 04/03/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute neurobiologist Dr Tim Sargeant, discussing new research that found intermittent fasting and exercise may enhance autophagy, which is the body's natural process of recycling damaged cell material. Dr Sargeant's team developed a world-first blood test to measure autophagy in humans, and understand its role in preventing dementia and cardiovascular disease.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Asthma, allergies at Emergency Depts

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 05/03/2025, Page 3

First Nations people are twice as likely to present at hospital with asthma and other allergy-related illnesses compared with other Australians. The University of Queensland researchers, who analysed 813,112 emergency department presentations at 12 public hospitals in Central Queensland, between 2018 and 2023, say the number of First Nations people presenting with asthma and allergies increased over time.

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First Nations people twice as likely to go to ED for asthma, allergies in sign of increasing disease burden

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 05/03/2025, Hannah Cross

First Nations people are twice as likely to present to an emergency department with asthma and other allergy-related illnesses compared to other Australians, new research has found. University of Queensland researchers analysed 813,112 ED presentations at 12 public hospitals across Central Queensland between 2018 and 2023, finding that First Nations people were significantly more likely to go to an ED for illnesses like asthma, anaphylaxis, atopic dermatitis and other allergies.

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Torture protocols in Australia remain incomplete as Indigenous incarceration rates continue to rise

National Indigenous Times, Other, 04/03/2025, Dechlan Brennan

More than seven years after ratifying it, Australia's obligation to the United Nations torture protocols remains unfulfilled. In their second report, the Australian National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) said Australia remains in breach of its international human rights obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) Treaty.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Second Victorian case of Japanese encephalitis recorded in Murray River visitor

ABC Online, Other, 04/03/2025, Charmaine Manuel

Victoria's health department has confirmed a second human case of Japanese encephalitis has been recorded in a person from northern Victoria. Authorities said the resident was likely exposed in the Riverina region of New South Wales along the Murray River.

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Health alert as mosquito virus spreads in three states

Canberra Times, Other, 04/03/2025, William Ton

A deadly mosquito-borne virus is spreading across three states, with a second confirmed case identified in Victoria. Japanese encephalitis has infected a second northern Victorian resident this mosquito season, Chief Health Officer Tarun Weeamanthri said.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

AD drug knocked back

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 04/03/2025

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has confirmed its initial decision from Oct 2024 not to register lecanemab in Australia for use as an amyloid-lowering therapy for the treatment of mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease and mild Alzheimer's dementia (early Alzheimer's disease).

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

ABC, ABC News, 04/03/2025, Nakari Thorpe

Australian veterans suffering from PTSD and depression may soon avail of a government-funded therapy that uses MDMA and psilocybin, the compound found in magic mushrooms.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

4BC, Afternoons, 04/03/2025, Sofie Formica

Well, by now you may have heard the term "Forever Chemicals". It's the nickname that's given to a group of chemicals that were also referred to as PFAS. They're per and polyfluoroalkyl substances. These are man made chemicals that are resistant to heat, water and oil. [...] We are exposed to them

constantly, so much so that they've also now found their way into our waterways, our food systems and our bodies.

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