



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 7th March 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Age** (page 1) reports the rates of Australians undergoing body contouring surgery to remove excess skin after weight loss have risen significantly over the past decade, doctors say, with over 5,400 patients claiming Medicare rebates for the treatment last year and thousands more paying out of pocket.
- The **Canberra Times** (page 1) reports the widower of a former-CSIRO employee has called for a royal commission into the ACT's health industry and the resignation of the territory's health minister following an inquest finding that a Canberra Hospital doctor's "medication error" contributed to her death.
- The **Courier Mail** (page 1) reports a \$500 million nuclear medicine fund should be established to expand the manufacture and research of theranotics in Australia and better manage treatment amidst rising cancer rates, a report by Telix Pharmaceuticals says. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Hobart Mercury](#).*
- The **Hobart Mercury** (page 2) reports more research funding is needed to improve women's healthcare in Tasmania amidst poor health literacy among patients and a lack of understanding about the instance of reproductive conditions like endometriosis, doctors say.

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 6) reports Optometry Australia has called on the federal government to make Medicare-subsidised eye examinations biennial amidst rising rates of chronic eye conditions.
- [ABC Online](#) reports legal bodies have called for the federal government to implement mandatory guidelines for the use of AI in high-risk settings, including doctors' practices, amidst concerns over the safety of patients data.

MINISTER BUTLER

Taxing tobacco fuelling crime lords in deadly blunder

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/03/2025, Caleb Bond, Page 13

The penny has finally dropped on how the federal government has supercharged organised crime through greedy taxation. [...] Four Corners showed Victorian Police Detective Superintendent Jason Kelly the chairman of National Task Force Morpheus to bust bkie gangs raising the tax with Health Minister Mark Butler at a closed-door presentation.

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

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Torquay to get Medicare Urgent Care Clinic under Labor plan

Armstrong Creek Times, General News, 07/03/2025, Angus Smith, Page 3

Labor has announced plans to open a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Torquay if re-elected, following community advocacy for better local healthcare. The clinic will take pressure off University Hospital Geelong, which handled 25,524 non-urgent and semiurgent emergency presentations in 2023-24. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the clinics had been widely supported by medical professionals.

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Labor promises more bulk-billed GP visits in Geelong region

Bellarine Times, General News, 07/03/2025, Angus Smith, Page 28

GP services across Geelong, the Bellarine, and the Surf Coast would see a major expansion in bulk billing under an Albanese Government plan to boost access to free healthcare. If re-elected, Labor has pledged an additional 306,600 bulk-billed visits in the region and an increase in fully bulk-billing GP practices from 22 to around 55. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the investment was the largest in Medicare's history and aimed to reverse funding cuts.

Also reported by: [Armstrong Creek Times \(Victoria\)](#).

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Maternity services in political focus

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 06/03/2025, Page 2

The Central Coast's maternity services are shaping up to be a key issue in the upcoming federal election. This week Labor's Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced a \$10M funding package aimed at bolstering maternity care in our region. This initiative comes in response to the impending closure of Gosford Private Hospital's maternity unit, scheduled for the end of this month.

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What about us? 'We've been ignored'

Daily Advertiser, General News, 07/03/2025, Finn Coleman, Page 5

A labor election promise will see Australia receive 50 new Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, but Wagga will not be one of the lucky locations. With a federal election looming the Labor Government has promised to invest \$644 million into an extra 50 urgent care clinics (UCC) during the 2025-26 financial year. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said of the clinics announced, the Liberal Party has only supported four.

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Election bid for urgent care in Victor

Fleurieu Sun, General News, 06/03/2025, Emma Heidenreich, Page 3

The Albanese Labor Government has made its first big 2025 Federal Election commitment to the Fleurieu - a March 3 announcement that, if re-elected, it will fund a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Victor Harbor. [...] Central to the Victor Harbor earmark for the clinic was advocacy from Federal Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie, who wrote to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on December 12, 2024, pleading Fleurieu residents' case.

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Health minister slams insurers, demands they splash cash

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/03/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 14

Hunter private hospitals are set for a boost after Health Minister Mark Butler directed insurers to hand over more money to cover the rising costs of treating patients. Mr Butler on Wednesday threatened the insurers with "regulatory action", if they did not "ensure patients can access the care they need".

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Health giants rake in cash

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 07/03/2025, Julie Cross, Page 2

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 on an average premium increase of 3.73 per cent, which will apply from April 1.

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Bipartisan support for billions of funding for Medicare

Ranges Trader Mail, Other, 06/03/2025

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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Keeping it real: Why Labor needs a retuned message

Crikey, Other, 06/03/2025, Josh Sunman and Emily Foley

Labor's messaging on economic management doesn't resonate with voters more concerned about their hip pocket. There are already signs it's trying to change tune. [...] Claims by Health Minister Mark Butler and Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong that a Dutton government would cut Medicare have already landed the party in hot water Labor has also made pledges in another area of perceived policy strength — education — including "enduring" fee-free TAFE and apprenticeships.

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Diary Dump: Mark Butler

Crikey, Other, 06/03/2025, Cam Wilson

In Crikey's new series, Diary Dump, we're releasing ministers' diaries. Read Mark Butler's ministerial diary, spanning October 2024.

[Read More](#)

Calls to slash PBS co-payment with 1 in 4 women forced to skip prescribed medicines in cost crisis

Sky News Australia, Other, 06/03/2025, Jessica Wang

More than one in four women have forgone buying their medication, with pharmacists reporting increasing cases of patients scrimping on essential prescriptions for like high blood pressure, diabetes

and asthma. [...] The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has called on Health Minister Mark Butler to lower the maximum PBS co-payment from \$31.90 to \$19.

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Australia's only IV fluids maker gets gov boost

@AuManufacturing, Other, 06/03/2025

The Federal Government is pouring \$20 million into IV fluids maker, Baxter Healthcare, to expand its manufacturing capability. [...] This is significant as Australia began to see an IV fluids shortage in early 2023, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration forecasting a global shortage ahead.

[Read More](#)

Poll: How medicines shortages affect you

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/03/2025, Megan Haggan

The health Minister may have announced a scheme to shield Australia from shortages when it comes to IV fluids, but many other shortages remain. How do they affect you? The AJP recently reported on Royal Pharmaceutical Society research from the UK which found that some pharmacists, unable to supply their patients with the medicines they

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'We will no longer be hostage to overseas supply'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/03/2025, Megan Haggan

Local IV fluid manufacture will help address "crippling" shortages, say leading pharmacists On Wednesday, March 5, federal health minister Mark Butler announced investment in an expansion of Australia's onshore manufacturing capability for intravenous fluids. The decision follows around two years of uncertainty, and calls from Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) among other stakeholders to manufacture these

[Read More](#)

'More bags of IV fluid': Government injects \$20 million to shore up local supply

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 06/03/2025, Anmj Staff

The federal government will invest \$20 million to help Australia's only local manufacturer of IV fluids expand its operations to shore up the country's supply of the critical hospital medicine. [...] Last year, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) added IV fluids to a growing list of medicines in short supply and forecast that global supply issues were likely to continue in 2025.

[Read More](#)

Government partners with Baxter to increase local production of IV fluids

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 06/03/2025

Health Minister Mark Butler has announced that the government will invest \$20 million, which Baxter will match, to expand the company's production of intravenous fluids at its facility in Western Sydney.

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Catholic sector days payouts by private health insurers too low

CathNews, Other, 06/03/2025, Rebecca Comini

Catholic Health Australia has endorsed the Albanese Government's action to ensure private health insurers provide fair funding to patients and hospitals. Health Minister Mark Butler has asked private health insurers to outline steps to increase their payout rate, which has dropped significantly in recent years while their profits have soared.

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Counterfeit LifeVac anti-choking devices for sale on eBay

Choice, Other, 06/03/2025, Andy Kollmorgen

The TGA has its work cut out for it when it comes to policing overseas platforms selling counterfeit medical devices. Need to know In the previous financial year, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) requested the removal of 4800 unlawful ads for therapeutic goods and devices from digital platforms

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Bullwinkel and Hasluck urgent care pledges

Echo News, Other, 06/03/2025

Mundaring and Ellenbrook were both announced as planned sites for urgent care clinics if the federal Labor government is re-elected, but general practitioners say the clinics require further assessment. [...] In the same story, federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said a rigorous, independent evaluation of UCCs was underway with recommendations to incentivise GP clinics opening after hours under consideration.

[Read More](#)

Health minister to receive crash course in GP maths

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/03/2025

Mathematicians are working around the clock to ensure that health minister Mark Butler knows the difference between \$60 and \$90, it has emerged. Labor has promised a much needed and long overdue injection of cash into general practice.

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WA Election: Calls for action on long wait times for trans youth healthcare

OUTinPerth, Other, 06/03/2025, Leigh Andrew Hill

Local LGBTIQ+ advocates and The Greens WA have raised concerns about WA Labor's inaction on extended wait times for trans healthcare ahead of the state election this weekend. [...] The release of the Youth Pride Network (YPN) report, which examines LGBTIQ+ young people's experiences of healthcare in WA, follows federal Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement that the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) will undertake a comprehensive review of the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents in Australia and develop new national guidelines.

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An election looms, but there's no sign of the political boldness needed to fix our healthcare system

Pearls and Irritations, Other, 06/03/2025, John Dwyer

The inequity and inefficiencies in our current health programs and the resulting need for change, have been obvious for decades. Finding the necessary political boldness to change this situation has eluded us to date. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler is convinced that 90% of all GP practices in Australia will bulk-bill because of the additional income to be phased in over five years.

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Aged Care Minister Mark Butler defenceless on radio as negative media abounds

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/03/2025, Caroline Egan

Labor's bipartisan agreement with the Opposition on the Aged Care Bill may have neutralised aged care as a political issue to some extent in the lead up to the Federal Election, but negative media coverage, particularly on talkback radio, could keep the issue on voters' minds. On ABC Hobart radio last week, the Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler was asked about older people waiting 15 months for a Level 4 Home Care Package.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 06/03/2025, Michael Thomson

Children and adults with cancer are set to benefit from a new federal funding commitment of more than

\$143 million. Health Minister Mark Butler announced that most of the funds will be used to extend and expand the Zero Childhood Cancer program, which focuses on targeted and personalised treatment.

Also reported by: [NBN Newcastle Hunter \(Newcastle\)](#), [NBN Lismore \(Lismore\)](#), [NBN Central Coast \(Gosford\)](#), [NBN Tamworth \(Tamworth\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Newcastle, Drive, 06/03/2025, Jenny Marchant

Interview with Professor Jennifer Martin, clinical pharmacologist, and President, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, on Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's \$20 million investment to expand domestic manufacturing of IV fluids. Martin says the initiative will greatly improve the situation, as reliance on overseas supply chains has led to shortages. She argues that other essential medical products, such as antibiotics and anaesthetic agents, face similar supply issues and should be locally produced.

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MINISTER WELLS

Federal government invests \$12.5 million to combat CTE

Local Ipswich News, General News, 06/03/2025, Page 3

Dementia Australia has welcomed the Federal Government's \$12.5 million investment to tackle Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), a preventable form of dementia caused by repeated head injuries. Announced by Minister for Sport Anika Wells, this funding will support a national pilot program offering essential services and an awareness campaign in schools.

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The Power 100: Australian sport's most influential women revealed

Northern Territory News, Other, 07/03/2025, Emma Greenwood

They're some of the biggest names in the country – world champions, powerful executives, perennial winners and the secret stars behind the scenes. Here's our 2025 edition of Australian sport's most powerful women. [...] Anika Wells Last year: 3 Seems like a sharp drop but with a federal election looming, there are plenty of question marks around the future of Wells, who could end up in opposition or with a new portfolio if the government holds power.

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Channel 9, Today , 06/03/2025, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Interview with Federal Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells, on Tropical Cyclone Alfred and staff shortages. Wells notes the difficulty of balancing staff shortages with essential services, such as at airports and supermarkets. She highlights the challenges faced by hospital staff, as many are working while also needing to prepare their homes.

Interview continues on: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Pollies make a play in podcast land

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07/03/2025, Jonathon Moran, Page 26

If you thought Anthony Albanese and Peter Dutton had done their share of podcasts ahead of the election you are wrong. Both leaders have already appeared on Mark Bouris's Straight Talk podcast, while Albanese (pictured) added in a visit to sex-heavy talkfest It's A Lot with reality star Abbie Chatfield. [...] Mamamia also got lucky with a visit from Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney for the launch of a women's health podcast.

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Doctors 'chasing tails' in women's healthcare

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/03/2025, Bridget Clarke, Page 2

Tasmanian doctors have lamented the state of women's healthcare, identifying research as a crucial starting point for improving health outcomes and literacy. [...] On Thursday, federal Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney told the Mercury the government was committed to investing in research, particularly in the areas of pelvic pain and endometriosis.

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Changes to how paracetamol is sold now in effect

Condobolin Argus, Other, 06/03/2025, Melissa Blewitt

Changes to how paracetamol is sold in Australia are now in place. In 2023, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced its decision to alter the way some paracetamol containing products were to be sold and packaged in Australia.

[Read More](#)

Breakthrough for condition affecting one-in-three women

9News, Other, 06/03/2025, Emily Bennett

A new study reveals bacterial vaginosis (BV) is a sexually transmitted infection, paving the way for an overhaul in the approach to treatment. The condition affecting nearly a third of women worldwide can cause infertility, premature births and newborn deaths. [...] Assistant Minister for Health, Aged Care and Indigenous Health Ged Kearney said the Monash study has revealed how a simple change in treatment can make a significant difference for women.

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ABC News, Drive, 06/03/2025

Melbourne researchers have made a breakthrough in treating bacterial vaginosis (BV), a common sexually transmitted infection affecting one in three women. Professor Catriona Bradshaw and her team found that treating both men and women together reduces BV recurrence. Assistant Minister Ged Kearney confirmed the government's commitment to making the treatment accessible. The Melbourne Sexual Health Centre has already updated its practices to treat couples.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

Sky News Live, Newsday, 06/03/2025, Kieran Gilbert

Panel discussion with Assistant Minister for Women Kate Thwaites and Member for Flinders Zoe McKenzie on Cyclone Alfred. Thwaites says that the government's priority, including the Prime Minister, is on helping affected communities in Qld and NSW. She notes the importance of following safety warnings and praises the efforts of local MPs, emergency services, and state governments.

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Proximity joins SPA Australia

Asia Pacific Defence Reporter, Other, 06/03/2025

Proximity , an Australian provider of integrated consulting, legal and commercial services to government, announced that it has joined Systems Planning & Analysis (SPA) Australia, a wholly owned subsidiary of Systems Planning & Analysis, a leading global provider of advisory services in support of critical national security objectives. [...] Clients include the Department of Defence; Industry, Science and Resources; Home Affairs; Veterans Affairs; Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water; Department of Health and Aged Care; National Disability Insurance Agency, and Services Australia.

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

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VACCINES

Big pharmas broke Covid vax patent

Herald Sun, General News, 07/03/2025, Page 19

A German court has found American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and German firm BioNTech violated a patent to make their Covid-19 vaccine. Siding with Moderna, an US pharmaceutical firm that brought the case, the court in Dusseldorf on Wednesday said BioNTech and Pfizer would have to provide estimates of how much they had profited from breaking the patent, as well as provide "appropriate compensation".

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Rollercoaster ride with rare form of dementia

Canberra Times, General News, 07/03/2025, Melissa Meehan, Page 59

Two years ago, Annette was running a thriving small business and planning her next solo holiday. Today she's mostly confined to her aged care facility, unable to go out unchaperoned. She can no longer trust her legs to keep her upright, relying on a four-wheel walker or sometimes a wheelchair to move around.

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#).

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Aged carers' health help

West Australian, General News, 07/03/2025, Page 64

Flinders University research has uncovered a marker that could provide valuable insights into the overall health of older adults in long-term aged-care facilities. The study found that a simple swab from the back of the throat, known as the oropharynx, may offer clues about health challenges they face.

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A helping hand

Border Watch, General News, 07/03/2025, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

Further funding has been secured for In Home Hospice Care Mount Gambier. The Sisters of Charity Foundation has pledged \$10,000 to the local not-for-profit, enabling manager Sandi Elliot and her team to continue their work. In Home Hospice Care supports those in palliative care and elderly support services across the region leading to a reduction in caregiver stress.

Long wait for aged care beds

Border Watch, General News, 07/03/2025, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 7

A long-serving Mount Gambier/Berrin family is feeling frustrated with the aged care system as both parents wait to secure their spot. Barbara and Max Lightbody have been taking residence at the Mount Gambier and District Hospital since before Christmas, waiting for a spot at a local aged care home.

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Breaking ground at Aminya

Murray Valley Standard, General News, 06/03/2025, Jason Irvine, Page 4

Aminya Village in Mannum has commemorated an upcoming extension to the residential aged care facility with a groundbreaking ceremony held on Friday, February 28. The build, set to be carried out over the next 12 months, will include an additional 20 beds, with the expansion increasing the capacity to an 80-bed facility.

Also reported by: [Murray Valley Standard \(Online\)](#).

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Dementia info session on offer

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 07/03/2025, Lewis Nancekivell, Page 9

Mildura will host a dementia information session later this month to help support those affected by the brain condition. Dementia Australia, the organisation hosting the event, provides information, support, and advocacy for people with dementia and their families.

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Union warns wages growth for women must be protected

Canberra Times, Other, 07/03/2025, Maeve Bannister

Workers in aged care and early childhood education, many of whom are women, have seen real wages growth according to new figures released by a peak union body. Ahead of International Women's Day on Saturday, March 8, the Australian Council of Trade Unions has released its wages analysis.

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

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North Stradbroke Island residents evacuated

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 06/03/2025

St Vincent's Care has stepped up to evacuate 11 residents from Nareeba Moopi Moopi organisation before Cyclone Alfred hits. St Vincent's Care in south east Queensland has been busily preparing its 12 aged care facilities at risk of damage from incoming Cyclone Alfred and has also come to the aid of 11 Indigenous aged care residents evacuated from a neighbouring island community in Moreton Bay.

[Read More](#)

Liquidity standard aims to improve viability

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 06/03/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The new Financial and Prudential Standards include a minimum liquidity measurement, category 4 and 5 home care providers and enhanced financial reporting and risk management. On 18 February the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission launched a public consultation on the draft Financial and Prudential Standards.

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Essential tips for aged care providers during severe weather events

HelloCare, Other, 06/03/2025, Jakob Neeland

Extreme weather events like Tropical Cyclone Alfred pose serious challenges for aged care providers, requiring careful planning to ensure the safety and well-being of residents, clients, and staff. Whether

operating a residential aged care facility or delivering home care services, preparedness is key to minimising risks and maintaining continuity of care.

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Waking residents for showers is a form of abuse, not care

HelloCare, Other, 06/03/2025, Jakob Neeland

Imagine being in a deep, restful sleep, only to be jolted awake in the early hours of the morning by a staff member insisting that you must get up for a shower. You are disoriented, exhausted, and have no choice in the matter.

[Read More](#)

Inside ageing and pride aged living

Inside Ageing, Other, 06/03/2025, Kate McKeown

In a memo issued to staff this morning, Group CEO Steve Muggleton outlined the steps the organisation is taking to ensure the safety of residents and staff. "Emergency food and water stocks have been sourced, maintenance teams are checking all homes have access to fully fuelled generators if backup power is needed, and communication channels with PHNs, LHNs, pharmacies and local disaster management teams have been established," Mr Muggleton said.

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From rentals to a redeveloped golf club: What's new in retirement villages

The Senior, Other, 06/03/2025, Desiree Savage and Anthony Caggiano

Whether you're looking for somewhere to downsize or you just like to keep in the know of new dedicated retirement communities around the nation, here's what's new. For more, visit: www.thesenior.com.au/lifestyle/retirement-living/ Green Star Aged Care, Adelaide

[Read More](#)

Support at Home timeline “borders on impossible”: Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/03/2025, Caroline Egan

The head of Australia's peak body for aged care providers has told The SOURCE the challenge ahead for providers implementing Support at Home reforms is "immense" and more time is needed to roll out the changes. "The timelines are so tight they border on the impossible," Tom said.

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Retirement Living Council convinces ACQSC to review proposed retirement village liquidity requirements and extend deadline

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/03/2025, Ian Horswill

Retirement Living Council (RLC) Executive Director Daniel Gannon and his operator members have successfully convinced in a meeting today with representatives of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) that it should rework its Financial and Prudential Standards guidance for providers.

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Funding cuts for metro providers not meeting care minute targets to be based on December quarter data

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/03/2025, Caroline Egan

A Department of Health and Aged Care Fact Sheet has revealed that non-specialist aged care providers in metropolitan areas have just six months until their data on care minute targets will be used by the Government to determine their care funding from April 2026.

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Ageing Australia announces another 2 intakes to Nursing Transition to

Practice Program after 76 graduates accept jobs in aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/03/2025, Caroline Egan

Since graduating from the peak body's Nursing Transition to Practice Program (NTPP) in February 2025, Graduate Enrolled Nurse Edna Odhiambo has been employed at Whiddon Residential Care Kelso in Bathurst, about 200km directly west of Sydney. "Completing this program is an achievement I am proud of," said Edna.

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With wait list at 81,000, Ian Yates AM doubts Govt's home care targets achievable

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/03/2025, Caroline Egan

Ian Yates AM, former Inspector-General of Aged Care and former Chief Executive of Council on the Ageing, has questioned the Albanese Government's ability to meet its self-imposed targets of reducing the wait time to receive a Home Care Package to three months by 1 July 2027.

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Australian Unity's myHomecare acquisition grew revenue 35%: HY25 results

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/03/2025, Caroline Egan

Australian Unity (AU)'s March 2024 acquisition of myHomecare Group helped the company grow revenue by 35% to \$1.3 billion in its HY 2024-25 results, while Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) rose 30% to \$58 million. Net profit after tax was \$11.7 million, compared with only \$1.4 million in the previous corresponding period.

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Stewart Johnston whose advocacy helped spark the Aged Care Royal Commission jailed

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/03/2025, Caroline Egan

Stewart Johnston was sentenced in the Elizabeth Magistrates Court in Elizabeth, 24km north of Adelaide city centre, last Thursday (27 February), after pleading guilty to a charge of possessing child exploitation material. Johnston became well known for exposing the shocking abuse of residents in Makk and McLeay Nursing Home, a part of the South Australian Government's Aged Mental Health Care Service, in Oakden, northeast of Adelaide in 2018.

[Read More](#)

Proposed aged care liquidity standards a blunt instrument to hammer smaller NFPs

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

The days when retirement village profits prop up struggling aged care homes appear to be over. As The Weekly SOURCE reported last Thursday, the Exposure Draft for the new Aged Care Financial and Prudential Standards 2025 has proposed aged care providers which operate independent living units (ILUs) and retirement villages will have to retain 10% of ILU and retirement village refundable amounts.

[Read More](#)

Mel Metz, key driver of aged care law reforms, moves to Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/03/2025, Caroline Egan

As the Assistant Secretary Aged Care Legislative Reform Branch with the Department of Health and Aged Care, Melanie Metz's team was responsible for managing the aged care legislative reform program, including delivery of the new Aged Care Act. Only months before the Act is due to take effect, Metz is moving to the aged care regulator, the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC), where she will be in the role of Deputy Commissioner, Sector Capability and Regulatory Strategy, helping to implement the new rights-based framework and regulatory model.

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The Pure Food Co signs partnership deal with Regis Aged Care

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

The New Zealand-based food and nutrition provider has achieved a major coup in its Australian expansion, announcing a partnership with ASX-listed aged care operator Regis Aged Care. The deal will see The Pure Food Co, which has an 80% market share in its home country and was recognised last year at the Asia Pacific Eldercare Innovation Awards, roll out its Texture Modified meals to Regis' 67 facilities.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Menopause stigma persists

West Australian, General News, 07/03/2025, Dani Barrington, Page 76

A one-size-fits all approach to menopause transition in the workplace is unlikely to benefit the majority of women in our diverse, modern society. Menopause and peri-menopause have been in the spotlight with a Senate inquiry releasing its recommendations, which included more employers around Australia offering paid menopause and reproductive leave, and Federal Government pledging more than half a billion for women's health, including a menopause health assessment.

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

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Home medicines reviews and COPD

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Debbie Rigby, Page 83

Debbie Rigby, advanced practice pharmacist Home medicines reviews (HMRs) can provide clinically and statistically significant improvements in health-related quality of life, health status, smoking abstinence and adherence to treatment for people living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), as well as reduce anxiety and depression. [...] Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Addressing the health impacts of socioeconomic disadvantage

The Health Advocate, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 30

Policy proposals from Getting Australia's Health on Track 2024 The problem... Increasing rates of preventable chronic disease are the major health challenge of the 21st century. [...] AIHW (2024) Australia's health 2024: data insights: The ongoing challenge of chronic conditions in Australia.

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Health alert as factory destroyed in suspicious blaze

Canberra Times, Other, 06/03/2025, Rachael Ward

A suspicious fire has ripped through a factory near Melbourne Airport, destroying a building and sparking a health alert for locals. [...] The blaze sparked a health alert for smoke for residents living up to two kilometres away and locals were told to avoid the area.

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

[Read More](#)

Recommendations on gendered violence inquiry welcomed

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/03/2025, Dechlan Brennan

The federal government has announced more than \$21 million in funding to strengthen support for victims and survivors of sexual violence. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found 67 per cent of First Nations people aged 15 and over who experienced physical harm in the last 12 months reported the perpetrator was an intimate partner or family member.

[Read More](#)

How you can help close the gender health gap

Prevention, Other, 06/03/2025

A call to action on International Women's Day. As we celebrate International Women's Day, it's vital to shine a light on a persistent and pervasive issue: the gender health gap in healthcare. Across Australia and globally, women continue to confront significant disparities in how their health concerns are addressed and understood. Recognising these disparities and advocating for systemic change are crucial steps towards closing the gap and ensuring equitable healthcare for all women.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 06/03/2025, Michael Thomson

The Cancer Council has revealed that one in three WA children have tried vaping, launching a new campaign to warn teenagers of the dangers and help them break the habit or avoid starting. The campaign uses social media and real experiences to connect with young West Australians. Around 21% of Australians aged 18 to 24 vape, with the Cancer Council cautioning that the actual numbers may be higher due to the habit often going undetected.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 06/03/2025, Natalie Forrest

The Cancer Council has launched its Clear the Air campaign to support teens in quitting vaping. The campaign features young Australians sharing their experiences and strategies for overcoming nicotine addiction. Current data indicates that one in three WA teens have tried vaping, and one in five have vaped in the past month.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 06/03/2025, Sally Sara

Interview with Professor John Pierce, UC San Diego, on co-authoring a study that suggests vaping may make it harder for smokers to quit. Price says that, contrary to claims by the tobacco industry, his study found that vaping reduces the success rate of quitting smoking by 5%. He notes health concerns about the unknown substances in e-cigarettes, especially when unregulated products are used.

Interview continues on: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 06/03/2025, Mark Gibson

Interview with Ashley Reid, Cancer Council WA CEO, on its new anti-vaping campaign. Reid says that vapes are designed to be highly addictive, and notes a new study shows that those who vape are five times as likely to start tobacco smoking. He explains that the campaign aims to raise awareness about the harmful chemicals in vapes, as many young people are unaware due to the lack of warnings on illegal products.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Skin surgery rise after weight loss

Age, General News, 07/03/2025, Henrietta Cook, Page 1

Thousands of Australians who have shed significant amounts of weight through diet, medication or surgery are going under the knife to remove up to 10 kilograms of excess skin as body-contouring operations boom. Medicare data reveals that last year more than 5400 Australians had body contouring surgery to remove loose skin on their arms, thighs, stomachs, backs and legs.

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

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

New era of cancer treatment

Courier Mail, General News, 07/03/2025, Elizabeth Pike, Page 1

Thousands of Australian lives could be saved if the country builds the medical infrastructure needed for the "new era of cancer treatment". Report P13 New era dawns in cancer therapy Call to grasp opportunity Tens of thousands of Australian lives could be saved over the next decade if the country builds the medical infrastructure needed for the "new era of cancer treatment", patients and doctors claim.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Free skin checks

Border Watch, General News, 07/03/2025, Page 4

Free skin checks will be accessible to the public this month, thanks to the Lions Clubs of Blue Lake City Lioness and Mount Gambier. The clubs have sponsored the free screening, which will be set up at the Mount Gambier Marketplace on Monday 24, Tuesday 25 and Wednesday, 26 of March from 9am to 3.30pm each day.

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Serious questions on what we're breathing

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/03/2025, Lucy Crock, Page 9

Northern suburbs resident's concern on Viva emissions A man living in the shadow of the Viva refinery is calling for more comprehensive air quality testing as people in Geelong's north battle higher rates of lung conditions, asthma and other health problems. North Geelong's David Dillion has the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to analyse the effect of increasing sulphur dioxide emissions from the Corio refinery over the past seven years.

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A new direction for women's health

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 24

Pharmacy and other health stakeholder groups have given a strong welcome to the Albanese government's announcement that it would invest \$573.3 million in a series of measures to support women's health. [...] The first PBS listing for new oral contraceptive pills in more than 30 years, with the listing of Yaz and Yasmin.

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The true costs of cancer

The Senior - TAS, General News, 01/03/2025, Eileen Wood, Page 13

When Kate Browne's husband asked her for a divorce she was blindsided as are many women faced with this situation. But for Kate, the situation was especially harrowing as she was also struggling with a breast cancer diagnosis and treatment which had stripped her of energy and confidence.

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

Seeing ways to support eye health

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 59

Around one in seven Australians over the age of 50 years has signs of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), which is responsible for half of all blindness and vision loss in the country.

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Clayton's case: what happens when there is no stroke care

The Australian, Other, 06/03/2025, Natasha Robinson

Clayton Skewis was a man whose daily toil on the land contributed in its own small way to the wealth of the nation. A cattle and grain farmer, an alpha male, the salt of the Earth. But when he began to drop things, struggled to focus and then became unintelligible one evening five years ago, the nation did not repay Mr Skewis in kind for his lifetime of hard work.

Lived experience and understanding: Event shines light on regional struggles

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 06/03/2025, Tahlia Sinclair

A new event organiser is hopeful that young women and girls will receive better pain support in the future. Endometriosis has long been underdiagnosed with women being told to simply suck up their pain. Though awareness of the disease is growing, access to diagnosis and support in the regions remains difficult.

[Read More](#)

How to discuss childhood obesity without the shame

ABC Online, Other, 06/03/2025, Grace Pashley

A major new study predicts that half of Australian children and young people will be overweight or obese by 2050. It's a tough topic to broach even with adults, so when it comes to kids it's even more critical to get the message - and the policy settings - right.

[Read More](#)

New clinical definition of obesity is 'much-needed'

Medical Forum, Other, 06/03/2025

A new clinical definition of obesity is a step in the right direction, writes WA lead for the RACGP obesity special interest group Dr Mark Mellor. Obesity is globally prevalent, affecting one in eight people in the world in 2022.

[Read More](#)

Living with macular disease: Retirees choose between sight and savings

The Senior, Other, 06/03/2025, Desiree Savage

Val Nicholson is one of many pensioners forced to scrimp to afford vital eye injections that stop her going blind, but she's joining the fight to call on the government to help out Retired school teacher Mrs Nicholson, 85, was first diagnosed with the degenerative illness macular disease in 2009 and every fortnight since has needed to see an ophthalmologist for specialist injections.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 06/03/2025, Rick Hind

Interview with Dr Danielle Stewart, Northside Health Clinic, on endometriosis. Stewart says that the clinic, the only endometriosis clinic in the NT, has seen hundreds of patients over the past two years and offers a multidisciplinary approach to treatment. She notes the importance of knowledge and expertise in endometriosis care, highlighting the trauma patients often experience from long waits and misdiagnoses.

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PRIMARY CARE

Ocean Grove welcomes new health hub

Bellarine Times, General News, 07/03/2025, Ellie Claringbold, Page 3

Bellarine Community Health (BCH) this week hosted the official launch of its recently completed Child, Youth and Family Hub in Ocean Grove. The hub, which began delivering services in January, aims to streamline access to care for families on the Bellarine, with services such as speech pathology, physiotherapy and children's mental health services now offered at the site.

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Hospice feasibility study for Mount Gambier

Border Watch, General News, 07/03/2025, Page 12

Donations from Key 2 Sale Mount Gambier's Key 2 Kindness Charity Ball have helped launch a feasibility study into the establishment of a dedicated hospice facility in Mount Gambier. Key 2 Sale director Gail Richards said it was an "incredible milestone" for the community to be able to support the initiative as the need for a hospice facility in the region was urgent.

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Major influence in emergency medicine practice

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/03/2025, Allan Mawdsley and Robert Dunn

Dr Edward Brentnall MBE, OAM, KStJ, one of the architects of emergency medicine in Australasia, took advantage of the Victorian voluntary assisted dying legislation to peacefully and gratefully bring his long, active life of service and caring for others, to a close.

[Read More](#)

Brief all candidates? ACT will examine caretaker conventions after health data brawl

Canberra Times, Other, 06/03/2025, Jasper Lindell

Who gets access to government information before an ACT election will be put under the microscope, amid growing angst over the way the Health Minister was alerted to higher-than-expected demand in Canberra Hospital weeks out from election day. The Legislative Assembly on Wednesday backed a Greens' push to establish a select committee to examine caretaker conventions in the ACT, including whether all candidates running in territory elections should have access to public service information.

[Read More](#)

'12 hours in emergency': the John Hunter Hospital crisis that isn't going away

Newcastle Herald, Other, 06/03/2025, Damon Cronshaw

Long waits at John Hunter Hospital 's emergency department are hitting peaks for ambulances and their patients on a monthly basis, paramedics say. Elizabeth Barron, a Health Services Union delegate for the Hunter, said bed block and ambulance ramping were "happening quite frequently".

[Read More](#)

50 new urgent care clinics are on the cards. But are the existing ones working? Here's what we know so far

Aged Care Insite, Other, 06/03/2025, Henry Cutler

Over the weekend the Australian government announced \$644 million to build an extra 50 Medicare urgent care clinics around Australia. This is on top of nearly \$600 million previously committed to establish 87 clinics.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 06/03/2025, Yvonne Yong

Residents in South East Queensland and northern NSW are urged to prepare for Cyclone Alfred and follow evacuation orders. The warning zone stretches from Double Island Point to Grafton, with risks of destructive winds, heavy rain, and flooding. Hospitals have cancelled elective surgeries but remain open for emergencies. The NSW SES has issued evacuation warnings for the Northern Rivers, urging immediate action as heavy rain threatens safe evacuation routes.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 06/03/2025, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

NSW authorities are preparing for Cyclone Alfred, including the state's marine rescue service from Sydney's Hawkesbury area. New Hazardous Area Rescue ambulances arrived in Lismore early this morning, while specialist paramedics equipped with inflatable boats are being deployed in Ballina to navigate floodwaters. The State Emergency Operations Centre has been activated to coordinate the ambulance response.

ABC News, News Breakfast, 06/03/2025, James Glenday and Bridget Brennan

The Australian Medical Association estimates that around one in four GPs are using artificial intelligence to take notes during consultations. Some GPs say it's helping them be more efficient when talking to patients, but there are fears about the risk it may pose to the security of medical data.

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

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 06/03/2025, Rory McClaren

Interview with Professor Marc Russo, deputy chair, Painaustralia, on a petition calling for a permanent home for the pain management unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Adelaide. Russo criticises the SA health minister's proposal to temporarily relocate the unit as the clinic handles complex chronic pain cases and outreach services. [...] Interview with Dr Emma McCann, CEO, Central Adelaide Local Health Network, who confirms the pain management unit will temporarily relocate. McCann outlines plans to maintain services and assures that the health team is working closely with clinicians to minimise disruption.

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

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2CC, Breakfast, 06/03/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Rebekah Hoffman, Chair, RACGP NSW and ACT, on the federal government's plan to establish 50 new urgent care clinics, including a nurse-led walk-in clinic in Canberra. Hoffman raises concerns about the ability of nurse-led models to handle complex medical cases and highlights the lack of evidence on their effectiveness in reducing emergency department visits or wait times. She says that urgent care centres are more expensive to run than GP visits.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

US Army veteran helping tackle suicide

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/03/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 15

A push to reduce suicides in the military has reached Newcastle, with a group of Australia Defence Force members trained to recognise people who need help. US Army veteran Sharon Sutton was in the Hunter yesterday to offer training at LivingWorks, a company that focuses on suicide prevention and intervention.

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Lucy expected many things to change when she had her baby. Her brain wasn't one of them

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/03/2025, Sarah Berry

Giving birth and becoming a mother may be a natural experience, but chaos, bewilderment, and loneliness are as much a part of this transformation as joy, ecstasy and awakening. Lucy Jones felt all this along with awe, despair, shock, isolation and rage.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nurses stalked and victims of carjackings with lack of staff parking to blame

3AW, Other, 06/03/2025

Nurses are concerned about falling victim to carjackings as they say a lack of free staff parking means they're forced to park far away. Melbourne nurse Sarah told 3AW Breakfast there's a waiting list for limited spots which staff have to pay for.

[Read More](#)

'Demoralising': Hobart obstetrician slams maternity funding model

The Mercury, Other, 06/03/2025, Duncan Abey

Respected Hobart obstetrician Dr Irena Nikakis admits to being at her wit's end over what she describes as the chronic underfunding of women's health in Australia. Since the recent decision of private operator Healthscope to cease maternity services at Hobart Private Hospital from August, Dr Nikakis has been on "heart-wrenching" reassessment of her own future in the medical speciality.

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

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 06/03/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Kathryn Zeitz, CEO, Australian College of Nursing, on the college's 2025 Policy Summit. Zeitz says the summit focuses on improving healthcare access and reducing the cost of living pressures for communities. She highlights the nursing workforce shortage as a key issue, adding there is an increasing demand for healthcare due to an aging population and more complex healthcare needs.

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 06/03/2025, Samantha Donovan

As Tropical Cyclone Alfred approaches Queensland's south coast, an estimated four million Australians are bracing for impact. Essential workers, like emergency response teams and hospital staff, are preparing for long shifts. Bec(*), a registered nurse says she is preparing for a 48-hour shift at the hospital while her family handles preparations at home. She says hospital operations will focus on emergency cases, with staff rotating through roles as needed during the cyclone.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Why state's new dental grads jumped across the Tasman

Launceston Examiner, General News, 07/03/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 4

A child's first few trips to the dentist can be intimidating and could make or break their attitude toward future dental visits. One of Launceston's newest dental practitioners has seen first-hand the role they play in influencing a child's relationship to the dentist.

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

Pharmacist receives Australia Day gong

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 12

Decorated New South Wales pharmacist Anna Barwick was recognised for her innovative career with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Australia Day honours list. The 2021 UTS Innovative Pharmacist of the Year was awarded the OAM for "service to the pharmacy profession".

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Administration of vaccines by pharmacists in South Australia

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/03/2025

South Australian pharmacists trained to vaccinate can now administer any vaccine to patients in line with the Australian Immunisation Handbook, with or without a lawful prescription. The administration of a vaccine must be within the pharmacist's individual scope of practice.

[Read More](#)

Locum costs rose 65% between 2020-21 and 2023-34

Health Services Daily, Other, 06/03/2025, Laura Woodrow

The costings were not released due to the need for 'comparative data' relating to the cost of permanent staff, said DoHAC. Locums may be essential to the medical workforce, but we need national collaboration to find a sustainable balance with permanent doctors, finds a Department of Health and Aged Care report, as locum costs rise.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 06/03/2025, Chris Bath

Interview with Dr Pramudie Gunaratne, Chair, Royal College of Psychiatrists NSW, on the state's pay negotiations with public psychiatrists. Gunaratne rejects NSW Premier Chris Minns' claim that the issue is mainly about pay, noting it is also about the state's strained and underfunded mental health system. She argues that NSW has the lowest per capita mental health investment in Australia and that care remains largely crisis-driven.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Look out for forged prescriptions

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 6

Pharmacists need to be on high alert for, and take precautions against, forged scripts. Forged prescription incidents often involve one or more of the following: Schedule 8 or Schedule 4 Monitored Medicines; multiple Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) pack sizes; patient or prescriber from outside the local area; presentation outside business hours and may indicate the supply is urgent (e.g.

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A new direction for women's health

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 24

Pharmacy and other health stakeholder groups have given a strong welcome to the Albanese government's announcement that it would invest \$573.3 million in a series of measures to support women's health. [...] The first PBS listing for new oral contraceptive pills in more than 30 years, with the listing of Yaz and Yasmin.

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Update for Pharmacists in Alfred's path

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/03/2025

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) has extended the Continued Dispensing Emergency Measure it put in place to help flood-affected people in Far North Queensland to include those who may be impacted by Tropical Cyclone Alfred in coming days. Having taken effect from 04 Feb, the measure will be in place until 31 Mar 2025 (inclusive) and allows people to continue to access their PBS subsidised medicines.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Eye issues prompt calls to boost funding

Herald Sun, General News, 07/03/2025, Georgie Kibel, Page 6

The number of Victorians taking eye tests has fallen while the prevalence of chronic eye conditions grows, new findings show, prompting calls to the federal government to increase funding for optical care. Optometry Australia has urged the federal government to increase Medicare subsidised eye examinations for Australians under 65 from once every three years to once every two years, as new analysis of Medicare data revealed that between 2022 and 2024, the number of Victorians accessing eye exams fell by 12 per cent the most significant decline in the country.

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Bulk-billing alone won't fix health cost

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 07/03/2025, Anthony Caggiano, Page 6

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 staff work together for people with chronic and complex medical conditions.

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Women's Sport Livid Bob Katter calls out government for failing to address healthcare crisis

Cairns Post, Other, 06/03/2025, Emma Cam

Member for Kennedy Bob Katter has slammed the federal government for putting women's lives at risk after failing to review the current Medicare rebate rates. Mr Katter welcomed the reinstatement of diagnostic breast imaging in Cairns but said the community continues to suffer.

[Read More](#)

Legal expert warns patients' medical data at risk as GPs adopt AI scribes

ABC Online, Other, 06/03/2025, Anna McGuinness

Your next GP appointment might begin with a surprising question. It is not "how are you?" or "what brings you in today?". But whether you will consent to artificial intelligence (AI) listening in on the consult. Nearly one-in-four GPs nationally are believed to be using AI for note taking, according to the Australian Medical Association (AMA).

[Read More](#)

Which of these four Medicare BB models is right for you?

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/03/2025, Jeremy Knibbs

If you're trying to figure out if the government's new bulk billing incentive will work for you or your practice, there are now a few groups out there trying to help, all with pretty different approaches. Within two weeks of prime minister Anthony Albanese announcing \$8.5 billion of new Medicare money, largely to entice everyone to shift back to doing more bulk billing, we have so far counted four separate models (one not publicly available unfortunately) competing for your attention if and when you sit down to try to do the maths on whether the government's pitch is really worthwhile or not.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Quest for answers

Canberra Times, General News, 07/03/2025, Bageshri Savyasachi, Page 1

A Canberra widower is calling for a royal commission into the ACT public health system after the death of his wife at Canberra Hospital in 2020. Bill Bovill and his family believed Jessica Bovill died of self-harm, but a coronial inquest found a doctor's "medication error" contributed to her death.

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Hospital finds drugs hidden in private parts

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 07/03/2025, Sam Turner, Page 11

A Sunshine Coast man has had his secret stash of drugs uncovered in his foreskin during a medical procedure in hospital. Police say Sunshine Coast University Hospital staff uncovered the suboxone haul under Tallen Steven Hames's body part on December 17, after he was rushed to hospital following an incident with police.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#)

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Labor MP owns share in Key Largo clinic at centre of probe into the death of Sandipan Dhar

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/03/2025, Hamish Hastie

A northern suburbs GP clinic publicly admonished by Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson for not meeting with the family of a toddler who died in March last year after his leukaemia went undetected is partially owned by one of Sanderson's own Labor colleagues. [...] Dhar did not agree with AHPRA's findings and plans to challenge them.

[Read More](#)

Inquest into Sydney detention centre suicides raises questions over missed medication and care routines

The Guardian, Other, 06/03/2025, Jordyn Beazley

Three people who killed themselves in a Sydney immigration detention centre all received appropriate mental health care, an inquest has found. But it was unclear why detainees at Villawood detention centre routinely did not take their medication or attend medical appointments, the inquest said.

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 06/03/2025, Graeme Goodings

Panel discussion with Tim Downie and Caitlin Walkington, Johnston Withers Lawyers. Downie discusses Vili Milisits' widow filing a wrongful death lawsuit against the Royal Adelaide Hospital, claiming medical negligence in the cognitive tests that impacted his eligibility for a lung transplant. He says the lawsuit argues that Vili was hypoxic during the testing, which may have impaired his cognitive function and contributed to a failed test.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Emma's a life saver

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/03/2025, Ruby Stewart, Page 1

Amid unimaginable grief for her son Charlie, Emma Stevens has become a powerful voice for South Australians who have lost loved ones on the roads and an outspoken advocate for organ donation. Last night, her courage was honoured with The Advertiser-Sunday Mail SkyCity Woman of the Year award. Maggie Beer and Anna Meares were also among the winners.

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Equity required for proposed rural loadings

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 10

Funding proposals aimed at addressing the challenges rural pharmacies face in delivering professional services need to be weighted, a remote pharmacy group says. The Remote and Isolated Pharmacist Association Australia (RIPAA) welcomed the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA's) pre-budget submission which called for the implementation of an 11.5% loading on professional services provided by rural pharmacies.

Some questions for the Federal Opposition on health policy (and let us know if you have others)

Croakey, Other, 06/03/2025, Melissa Sweet

What would the election of a Dutton Coalition Government mean for existing health policies and programs – many of which have taken years to develop – and for wider policies affecting health, and particularly for the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people? [...] Will a Coalition Government support and fund the Australian Centre for Disease Control What will be a Coalition Government's commitment to National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030?

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 06/03/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Cath Stone, Executive Director of Donor Experience, Australian Red Cross Lifeblood, on the closure of 22 donor centres in Queensland and northern NSW due to Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Stone explains the need for 1,000 extra blood donors daily to meet national demand, particularly for cancer treatment. She explains while blood supplies were pre-emptively sent to other hospitals, Tasmania's donations will be transported by road or air to affected areas.

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SPORT

Stadium facilities set to pull wide crowd

Border Mail, General News, 07/03/2025, Madilyn McKinley, Page 6

A north East city's expanded sports venue is putting the region on the map, a basketball president says. The \$12.9 million project at Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre was opened last Friday, with the expansion including two new multisport courts marked for netball, basketball and volleyball and new gym facilities.

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Radio National, Life Matters, 06/03/2025, Hilary Harper and Beverley Wang

Interview with Dr Matt Lennon, researcher, Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing, UNSW, on a study that found sports-related concussions do not significantly harm cognition. Lennon says some cases showed improved memory and reasoning, but multiple non-sports-related concussions led to worse cognitive outcomes. He adds that soft helmets do not prevent concussions and may increase the chance of other injuries.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

DNA, disease and dilemmas: testing genes of newborns

Canberra Times, General News, 07/03/2025, Rachael Ward, Page 58

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.

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#).

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Boost for MS researchers

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/03/2025, Bridget Clarke, Page 22

A University of Tasmania research team is paving the way in the development of treatments for people living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), one of the fastest growing neurological diseases. Undertaken in collaboration between the University of Tasmania and the Menzies Institute of Medical Research, the research project aims to regenerate and grow brain cells that are destroyed by MS as a means of slowing the progression of disability.

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Clues to aged care health

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/03/2025, Page 17

New research has uncovered a marker that could offer insight into the health of residents in long-term aged care. A Flinders University study found a swab from the back of the throat, known as the oropharynx, may offer clues to health challenges for aged care residents.

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Researchers drive leading innovations in science

Australian Financial Review, Other, 07/03/2025, Julie Hare

The connection between social media, body image and mental health is now so well established that over the past two years governments across the world, including Australia, have started looking for ways to regulate the megalithic media companies that own ...

[Read More](#)

The pros and cons of a daily polypill

The Australian, Other, 06/03/2025, Peta Bee

Popping a single daily pill from our 50s onwards could prevent thousands of heart attacks and strokes, according to researchers from University College London's institute of Health Informatics. Reporting in the BMJ, Professor Aroon Hingorani, a co-author of the paper, says that taking a four-in-one polypill, which combines a statin to lower cholesterol and three blood pressure-lowering drugs, could replace the NHS's five-yearly health assessment for cholesterol and heart health that targets adults aged 40-74.

[Read More](#)

Aussies help show why calcium score tests are valuable

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/03/2025, Robyn Riley

Coronary calcium score tests are a valuable and potentially lifesaving tool that help identify heart disease risk, a world-first study of Australian adults has confirmed. Published in the journal JAMA, it found the Coronary Artery Calcium Score (CACs) worked well for treating those in the precarious "intermediate risk" zone which represents about half of the population.

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Bacterial vaginosis can be sexually transmitted, less recurrence with partner treatment, study finds

ABC Online, Other, 06/03/2025, Belinda Smith

An infection that affects one in three women and often comes back after treatment can be wiped out in many cases if their male partner is treated too. That's according to an Australian clinical trial which also found the condition, called bacterial vaginosis or BV, can be sexually transmitted — a controversial idea in sexual health circles.

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

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Hugely popular diet linked to colon cancer rising rapidly in young people

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/03/2025, Ishita Srivastava

While the keto may help you lose weight , it could raise your risk of colon cancer , a study suggests. A

group of Canadian researchers found that low-carb diets such as keto may foster the growth of toxic compounds that are linked to colorectal cancer in the intestine.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 06/03/2025, Peter Overton

A major Harvard-led study has found that women experience a faster buildup of the toxic protein tau in the brain, contributing to the greater impact of dementia in women. Associate Professor Michael Woodward, Dementia Australia, notes that nearly two-thirds of Australians with dementia are women, with research indicating that women are more affected than men.

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3AW, Breakfast, 06/03/2025, Ross Stevenson and Russel Howcroft

Interview with Tom Marwick, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, on a world-first study confirming that a simple CT scan of the heart can diagnose potential heart disease risk. Marwick explains that the calcium score is useful for about 50% of people. He notes that while young people may develop coronary disease without calcification, for those aged 40 to 70, it is a reliable marker for coronary disease and can help in prevention.

Interview continues on: [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#).

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Focus on First Nations suicide rates

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 07/03/2025, Allan Murphy, Page 6

Mildura has one of the highest rates of suicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in regional Victoria according to latest data released this week by the Coroners' Court of Victoria. The report, released by the service shows 27 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by suicide in 2024 compared to 22 in 2023 and 19 in 2022.

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NT health groups back National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities

Northern Territory News, Other, 06/03/2025, Fia Walsh

The first national strategy to improve food security in remote Indigenous communities across the country has won the support of local health organisations Here's what it involves. Local health organisations have welcomed the first national strategy to improve food security in remote Indigenous communities across the country.

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Harvey has serious health conditions and needs surgery. His landlord has served him a 'no-grounds' eviction

SBS, Other, 06/03/2025, Rudi Maxwell

When Noongar man Harvey Coyne, 66, finally found a home after years of experiencing homelessness he was overjoyed. Harvey, who has a range of serious health issues including heart problems, emphysema and vision impairment, was given a placement with social housing provider Housing Choices Australia in Perth, where he has lived for the past four years.

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Regression of Closing the Gap targets "deeply concerning"

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/03/2025, Dechlan Brennan

The regression of key targets as part of Closing the Gap is "deeply concerning" and needs a coordinated and meaningful approach, the peak body for Indigenous health organisations has said.

Speaking to the Select Committee on Measuring Outcomes for First Nations Communities, chief executive of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (NACCHO), Pat Turner, highlighted the backwards slide in several metrics, including the placing of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care (OOHC), youth incarceration , and suicide rates

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National Strategy a “critical step forward” in addressing remote community food insecurity

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/03/2025, Dechlan Brennan

A 10-year National Strategy to improve food security in remote First Nations communities has been labelled a "critical step forward" in addressing the food crisis. Launched by federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, Malarndirri McCarthy, in Maningrida in West Arnhem Land on Wednesday, the strategy is the first nationally coordinated approach to address food insecurity and improve health outcomes for remote Indigenous communities.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 06/03/2025, Rick Hind

Interview with Peter Mitchell, ophthalmology program manager, Indigenous Remote Eye Service (IRIS), on providing cataract surgeries in remote Aboriginal communities. Mitchell explains that IRIS, funded by the federal Department of Health and Aged Care, aims to perform 800 cataract surgeries by June 2025. He says the service collaborates with local health organisations and hospitals to bring patients to nearby surgical centres while facing challenges such as seasonal weather and distrust in the healthcare system.

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

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

‘Utterly devastated’: Popular regional festival cancelled at eleventh hour

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/03/2025, Alexander Darling

Thousands of festival-goers have had their hopes of a long-weekend party dashed, restored, then dashed again, with a regional Victorian music festival cancelled at the eleventh hour. [...] The Victorian Department of Health later confirmed an outbreak of Shigella – a highly contagious infection spread through contaminated food and the faecal-oral route, with symptoms including diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps and fever.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Wegovy 2.4 MG (Semaglutide): a new era in weight management and CV risk reduction

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 27

Overweight and obesity affect over 13 million Australian adults, significantly increasing the risk of various health complications, including CVD which is the leading cause of death in this population. 1-3 This finding highlights the urgent need for effective interventions beyond current CV standards of care. [...] 4 This new indication makes Wegovy 2.4 mg the only medication now TGA-approved for both weight management and MACE risk reduction in adults with overweight or obesity and established CVD.

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Navigating conversations about relief of multiple pains, multiple people

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 78

Following the recent changes in access to large-size paracetamol-containing products, we have an opportunity to address the resulting gap. For patients who need pain relief for multiple acute pain episodes or for households with several individuals requiring pain relief, there is a chance to enhance patient counselling services. [...] 2 Following that, a review by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) resulted in modified-release (MR) paracetamol being upscheduled from S2 to S3, due to MR paracetamol being associated with increased harms following overdose.

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Palliative patients going without as med shortages bite

The Senior - TAS, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 12

Palliative care patients are missing out on pain relief as part of a greater medicine supply chain issue. Professor Meera Agar said opioid-based treatments were of most concern, as they were the choice of treatment for pain, particularly for people living with cancer, plus were important for symptom management. [...] As of January 30, 423 medicines were listed on the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) Medicine shortage reports database.

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Psilocybin can tackle brain injuries and binge eating, and these ASX companies are in the game

The Australian, Other, 06/03/2025, Eddy Sunarto

Recent study shows psilocybin can heal brain injuries, boost neural connections ASX-listed Tryptamine tackles binge eating with psilocybin trials Bioxyne pioneers psilocybin production in Australia Psilocybin is the naturally occurring psychedelic compound found in 'magic mushrooms', used in spiritual ceremonies and rituals for thousands of years. [...] In Australia, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) made history in 2023 when it became the first in the world to officially approve the medical use of psilocybin.

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Changes to how paracetamol is sold now in effect

Condobolin Argus, Other, 06/03/2025, Melissa Blewitt

Changes to how paracetamol is sold in Australia are now in place. In 2023, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced its decision to alter the way some paracetamol containing products were to be sold and packaged in Australia.

[Read More](#)

Australia's only IV fluids maker gets gov boost

@AuManufacturing, Other, 06/03/2025

The Federal Government is pouring \$20 million into IV fluids maker, Baxter Healthcare, to expand its manufacturing capability. [...] This is significant as Australia began to see an IV fluids shortage in early 2023, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration forecasting a global shortage ahead.

[Read More](#)

TGA doubles down on rejection of Alzheimer's drug

Aged Care Insite, Other, 06/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz

The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has confirmed its decision not to register Alzheimer's disease drug lecanemab (LEQEMBI). Lecanemab is an antibody infusion therapy, developed by pharmaceutical company Eisai, which has been shown to slow cognitive decline in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

[Read More](#)

'More bags of IV fluid': Government injects \$20 million to shore up local supply

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 06/03/2025, Anmj Staff

The federal government will invest \$20 million to help Australia's only local manufacturer of IV fluids expand its operations to shore up the country's supply of the critical hospital medicine. [...] Last year, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) added IV fluids to a growing list of medicines in short supply and forecast that global supply issues were likely to continue in 2025.

[Read More](#)

Counterfeit LifeVac anti-choking devices for sale on eBay

Choice, Other, 06/03/2025, Andy Kollmorgen

The TGA has its work cut out for it when it comes to policing overseas platforms selling counterfeit medical devices. Need to know In the previous financial year, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) requested the removal of 4800 unlawful ads for therapeutic goods and devices from digital platforms

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Don't be duped by claims of goodness on garbage foods

West Australian, General News, 07/03/2025, Caroline De Mori, Page 76

As someone who has spent decades working to bring affordable, nutritious food to remote Australian communities, I know the power of a balanced diet. Twenty years ago, I started EON Aboriginal Foundation, and a recent cost-benefit analysis on our Thriving Communities Program revealed that the program had reduced the rate of type 2 diabetes in four of six communities involved in the study.

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

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