



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 8th March 2025

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 6) reports those who eat butter more often than plant-based alternatives such as olive and canola oil have a 15 per cent higher risk of dying early, according to researchers from Harvard Medical School. *Also reported by:* [Courier Mail](#), [The West Australian](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#)
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports Blue Mountains residents concerned with PFAS contamination say they are considering a class action lawsuit against the NSW government, stating elevated levels of PFAS found in blood tests amounts to personal injury.
- **[The Toowoomba Chronicle](#)** (page 6) reports the Australian Red Cross is appealing for blood donors as centres in the path of Tropical Cyclone Alfred have had to close, leaving a shortfall of over 1000 donations per day.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has said his government supports all five recommendations of an inquest into the death of Ricky "Dougie" Hampson, who died after being misdiagnosed and discharged from Dubbo Hospital in 2021.
- **[The Guardian](#)** reports chief executives of private hospitals and health insurers have been called on to take "immediate steps" to increase the benefits ratio by Health Minister Mark Butler to ensure access to care for patients, with Mr Butler giving them a three month deadline to

improve the situation before he steps in. "The private hospital sector is facing a number of challenges that can only be managed by hospitals and insurers sitting down together and sorting it out ... If there aren't sufficient actions taken within the next three months, I've asked for advice on regulatory actions that I can take to ensure patients can access the care they need", Mr Butler said. *Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review](#)*

- **[The National Indigenous Times](#)** reports Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Ged Kearney has announced \$3.19 million in funding for five organisations as part of the Government's Closing the Gap Outcomes and Evidence Fund. "Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, loving environment connected to their culture and community. By investing in First Nations led initiatives, we are taking real steps to reduce the number of First Nations children in out-of-home care and ensure families have the support they need to stay together," Ms Kearney said
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 11) reports category two and three elective surgeries have been cancelled at Royal Adelaide and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals as SA Health takes steps to combat ambulance ramping.

MINISTER BUTLER

Insurers propose rescue package to end hospital feud

AFR Weekend, General News, 08/03/2025, Michael Smith, Page 10

Health insurers, under pressure to return more of their profits to struggling hospitals, have offered short-term financial assistance for facilities most in need as part of a rescue package designed to end a bitter feud on private healthcare funding.

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

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Get more rural docs

The Sentinel, General News, 05/03/2025, Marina Gomide, Page 1

Opposition Leader Steven Miles visited the Kilcoy Hospital last Thursday, February 27, asking the State Government to reinstate the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme (WAIS), aimed at attracting more doctors to rural and regional Queensland. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, did not respond to The Sentinel's questions about the WAIS.

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Urgent care clinic pledge

Maitland Mercury, General News, 07/03/2025, Matthew Kelly, Page 3

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 a re-elected federal Labor government.

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

Torquay to get Medicare Urgent Care Clinic under Labor plan

Surf Coast 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. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the clinics had been widely supported by medical professionals.

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

Bullwinkel and Hasluck urgent care pledges

Echo, General News, 07/03/2025, Page 5

Labor has announced plans to open a Medicare urgent care clinic (UCC) in Mundaring and Ellenbrook as part of a \$644 million initiative to establish 50 new clinics across the country. [...] 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.

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Labor promises more bulk-billed GP visits in Geelong region

Surf Coast Times, General News, 07/03/2025, Angus Smith, Page 24

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. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the investment was the largest in Medicare's history and aimed to reverse funding cuts.

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

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Criterion: Health insurers are feeling better after posting hefty premium increases

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/03/2025, Tim Boreham

Listed health insurers Medibank Private and NIB Holdings posted well-received profit rises, accompanied by higher than expected premium increases. But there's a lot going on under the bonnet. [...] But Mark Butler is in his third year.

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

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Mark Butler calls Australia's private hospitals and insurers to urgent meeting amid Healthscope financial crisis

The Guardian, Other, 07/03/2025, Anne Davies

Health minister convenes meeting after reports second-largest private hospital operator risks voluntary administration The health minister, Mark Butler, has convened an urgent meeting with the chief executives of Australia's private hospitals and health insurers amid warnings the second-largest private hospital operator, Healthscope, is facing a financial crisis.

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Nationwide gang war is price you pay for Australian government's extortionate tobacco tax obsession | Caleb Bond

Cairns Post, Other, 07/03/2025, Caleb Bond

The penny has finally dropped on how the federal government has supercharged organised crime through greedy taxation. [...] The former head of the Australian Border Force's tobacco task force, Rohan Pike, told the Nine papers that "the federal Health Department's ideological zealotry in relation to illicit tobacco has caused the problem and continues to fuel it".

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Fighting for trans rights in the era of Trump

Green Left Weekly, Other, 07/03/2025

United States President Donald Trump's far-right program began by attacking trans, nonbinary people and women. [...] However, Labor's Health Minister Mark Butler has since ordered the National Health and Medical Research Council to develop national guidelines for medical treatment, including puberty blockers.

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Australian Government urged to step up for health amid Trump Administration's "swift and unrelenting" disruption

Croakey, Other, 07/03/2025, Melissa Sweet

In a speech to the United States Congress this week, President Donald Trump vowed to keep up his campaign of "swift and unrelenting action". [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler "has an opportunity here to remind the community of the importance of his portfolio for the health and wellbeing of the nation, to reassure us on the importance of medical research, immunisation and equitable access to healthcare for all people", Wylie said.

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Australia invests in manufacturing capability for IV fluids

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 07/03/2025

The Australian Government has announced a \$20 million investment to expand Australia's largest and only onshore manufacturer of IV (intravenous) fluids — the Baxter Healthcare production facility in Western Sydney. [...] "Our investment will now cover IV demand for Australia and we will no longer be hostage to overseas supply," Australia's Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said.

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Australian Society of Ophthalmologists appoints Katrina Ronne as first female CEO

Insight, Other, 07/03/2025, Rob Mitchell & Katrina Ronne Right

The Australian Society of Ophthalmologists (ASO) says progressive change is under way at the organisation with a historic CEO announcement coinciding with International Women's Day. [...] In other ASO news, calls for the Australian Government to establish a private health commission or independent authority are now sitting in the in-tray of Health Minister Mr Mark Butler MP.

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Private health premiums set to rise almost 4% from April

Medical Forum, Other, 07/03/2025

Private health premiums are set to rise 3.73% from the beginning of April after insurers were asked to rethink hikes. Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler agreed the increase was proportionate, after previously asking private health insurers to resubmit their claims three times.

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'Dud industry': Private health insurers accused of profiting from their customers pain

WEB InQueensland, Other, 07/03/2025

The Australia Institute has accused private health funds of profiting from their customers' pain after its latest fee hike, branding it "a dud industry". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said he had written to 29 insurers in December asking them to resubmit claims for an increase.

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Funding to support continuity of Zero Childhood Cancer for all Australian kids with cancer, and expansion to include young Australian adults with cancer

Australian Cancer Research Foundation, Other, 07/03/2025, Isabelle Dunster

Zero Childhood Cancer (ZERO), a world-leading national precision medicine program for children and young people with cancer, will receive a \$112.6 million investment from the Australian Government to extend and expand so that more children and young people can benefit from the latest in scientific and clinical understanding. [...] The Hon Mark Butler MP, Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, said ZERO was playing a significant role in improving outcomes for children and young people with cancer.

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ABC North West Qld, Breakfast, 07/03/2025, Zara Margolis

Health insurance premiums will rise by an average of nearly 4 per cent from April. Health Minister Mark Butler has contacted insurance companies three times during negotiations to say the rate needs to be lower before he approves the move.

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MINISTER WELLS

Our top 10 female movers and shakers

Weekend Australian, Sport, 08/03/2025, Emma Greenwood, Page 45

Most powerful and influential women in Australian sport. [...] 9 Anika Wells Federal Minister for Sport. Down from three last year 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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The Power 100: Australian sport's most influential women revealed

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 07/03/2025, Emma Greenwood

News Corp's annual Power 100 list for the most powerful and influential women in Australian sport has underlined the critical role played by women in the enormous successes of the past year. [...] 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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IWD 2025: Paralympic movement shines in power 100 influential women list

Paralympics Australia, Other, 07/03/2025, Hody Hong

The Paralympic Movement's ever-growing influence to drive positive change has been recognised in News Corp's annual Power 100 list of the most influential women in Australian sport. [...] The list also features leaders outside of Paralympics Australia who have a major influence on the movement, such as AIS Director Matti Clements (3), Brisbane 2032 CEO Cindy Hook (4), Australian Sports Commission Chair Kate Jenkins (6), Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells (9), and Governor General of Australia Sam Mostyn (24), who also serves as PA's Patron-In-Chief.

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Legend Wally Lewis welcomes government's multi million dollar plan to address CTE and brain health

Starts at 60, Other, 07/03/2025

Icon and advocate Wally Lewis has welcomed news that the Federal Government will invest millions of dollars to tackle probable chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) and support those living with the disease. [...] Federal Minister for the Aged and Sport, Anika Wells, said Lewis's support was invaluable as sport played a critical role in Australian life and concussion and sports-related head injuries impact young people more than any other age group.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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Women on the health a-gender

Herald Sun, General News, 08/03/2025, Jill Hennessy, Page 71

More than half of 80 Australian clinical guidelines reviewed in a recent Medical Journal of Australia study did not include consideration of gender in clinical practice. [...] The MJA study which raises similar concerns about the inclusion of women in developing clinical guidelines was commissioned by the Department of Health and Aged Care and is being championed by the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, so it's likely that there will be a push to rectify the gender discrimination in our guideline system.

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Allergy Advice for Rural Australians

Buloke Times, General News, 07/03/2025, Page 6

A groundbreaking new platform, believed to be the first of its kind globally, is set to transform the landscape of allergy care for rural and remote Australians. The National Allergy Council, in partnership with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), has launched allergy assistTM, a free online platform designed to provide timely, specialist advice to General Practitioners (GPs) and Rural Generalists. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney says, "All Australians deserve best possible healthcare, including those living rurally or remotely.

Also reported by: [Australian Rural & Regional News \(Online\)](#).

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'I have a voice': Rape survivor speaks out against gender bias by doctors

Canberra Times, Other, 08/03/2025, Anthony Caggiano

"Are you okay": three little words Brenda Colbourne hoped to hear, but instead, the rape survivor was dismissed and belittled time and time again by multiple doctors. [...] "Too many women have experienced gender bias in the healthcare system," said Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney.

Also reported by: [Merimbula News \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gloucester Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Scone Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Port Stephens Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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Funding for First Nations-led trial projects in Naarm to help close the gap

National Indigenous Times, Other, 07/03/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Indigenous-led trial projects to help strengthen families, reduce family and domestic violence, and help keep kids out of out-of-home care will take place in Naarm, the federal government has announced. [...] Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health, Ged Kearney, said supporting Indigenous-led and targeted projects was critical to meeting the needs of First Nations families and communities.

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New STI impacts 1 in 3 women: landmark study reveals men are the missing link

Monash University, Other, 07/03/2025

A landmark study reveals that bacterial vaginosis (BV), a condition affecting nearly a third of women worldwide and causing infertility, premature births and newborn deaths, is in fact a sexually transmitted infection (STI), paving the way for a revolution in how it is treated. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health, Ged Kearney said the Monash study has revealed how a simple change in treatment can make a significant difference for women.

[Read More](#)

New Research finds bacterial vaginosis is actually an STI — here's what

you need to know

Pedestrian TV, Other, 07/03/2025, Rhea Nath

In a pretty big milestone for women's sexual health , new research has discovered the missing link for people suffering from recurring (and frustrating!) bacterial vaginosis could be their male sexual partners. [...] Ged Kearney, assistant minister for health and aged care, acknowledged the significance of the study.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

Katy Gallagher says the right policies can accelerate women's equality

The Mandarin, Other, 07/03/2025, Melissa Coade

According to the third annual Status of Australian Women Report Card, efforts to advance gender equality are working. [...] Assistant Minister for Women Kate Thwaites added that Labor was focused on working for women every day.

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DEPARTMENT

Insurers propose rescue package to end hospital feud

AFR Weekend, General News, 08/03/2025, Michael Smith, Page 10

Health insurers, under pressure to return more of their profits to struggling hospitals, have offered short-term financial assistance for facilities most in need as part of a rescue package designed to end a bitter feud on private healthcare funding.

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Labor promises more bulk-billed GP visits in Geelong region

Surf Coast Times, General News, 07/03/2025, Angus Smith, Page 24

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. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the investment was the largest in Medicare's history and aimed to reverse funding cuts.

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

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

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Nationwide gang war is price you pay for Australian government's extortionate tobacco tax obsession | Caleb Bond

Cairns Post, Other, 07/03/2025, Caleb Bond

The penny has finally dropped on how the federal government has supercharged organised crime through greedy taxation. [...] The former head of the Australian Border Force's tobacco task force, Rohan Pike, told the Nine papers that "the federal Health Department's ideological zealotry in relation to illicit tobacco has caused the problem and continues to fuel it".

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Tropical Cyclone Alfred: Tips for parents

Moreton Daily, Other, 07/03/2025

With Tropical Cyclone Alfred bearing down on Moreton Bay, experts from the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program have tips for parents to help their children cope. [...] Delivery of the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program to parents and carers of children in Australia is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care under the Parenting Education and Support Program.

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Lilydale flagged as potential location for urgent care clinic under re-elected Labor

Mount Evelyn Mail, Other, 07/03/2025, Mikayla van Loon

Lilydale has been flagged as a potential location for an urgent care clinic in a more than \$600 million funding pledge from the Labor government if re-elected. [...] Should the new clinics be added, about 80 per cent – or four in five – Australians "will live" within a 20-minute drive of one of 137 facilities, according to the Department of Health and Aged Care.

Also reported by: [Lilydale Star Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ferntree Gully Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Brisbane 'unlikely' to see destructive winds as Cyclone Alfred forecast to weaken as it crosses Moreton Bay islands

MSN Australia, Other, 07/03/2025

Brisbane is "unlikely" to see destructive winds with Cyclone Alfred forecast to weaken to a category one system as it moves across Moreton Bay islands on Saturday morning. [...] Mr Albanese said the Department of Health and Aged Care's national incident centre had been activated.

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Allergy advice for rural Australians

Australian Rural & Regional News, Other, 07/03/2025, Meta Time

A groundbreaking new platform, believed to be the first of its kind globally, is set to transform the landscape of allergy care for rural and remote Australians. [...] The allergy assist™ platform – an initiative of the National Allergy Council's Shared Care for Allergy Project – is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care in response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Allergies and Anaphylaxis.

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Australian Government urged to step up for health amid Trump Administration's “swift and unrelenting” disruption

Croakey, Other, 07/03/2025, Melissa Sweet

In a speech to the United States Congress this week, President Donald Trump vowed to keep up his campaign of “swift and unrelenting action”. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler “has an opportunity here to remind the community of the importance of his portfolio for the health and wellbeing of the nation, to reassure us on the importance of medical research, immunisation and equitable access to healthcare for all people”, Wylie said.

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Emergency meds access ‘needs to be simplified’

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/03/2025, Leopold Hamulczyk

Measures enabling pharmacists to provide emergency supplies of subsidised medicines under continued dispensing need to be revised, pharmacy bodies say Pharmacy organisations are calling for the restoration of Covid-19-era continued dispensing measures to ensure patients can access their medicines in emergency situations. While the Department of Health and Aged Care's decision to update its [...]

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Which of these four bulk-billing models is right for GPs?

Health Services Daily, Other, 07/03/2025, Jeremy Knibbs

Within two weeks of prime minister Anthony Albanese announcing \$8.5 billion of new Medicare money, largely to entice GPs to shift back to doing more bulk billing, we have so far counted four separate models (one not publicly available unfortunately) competing for GPs' attention. The models have been created by groups with very different backgrounds in finance and modelling: the Department of Health and Aged Care (which unfortunately isn't being made available to anyone to check or to use to help assess the worth of shifting a practice's private billing/bulk-billing profile; a technically and potentially financially adept interested GP (Dr David Fong); a business analytics platform subscribed to by the majority of GP practices in the country (Cubiko); and a long-time (and sometimes controversial) practice advisory principal and accountant, David Dahm.

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‘A wake-up call’: GPs issued warning over semaglutide prescribing

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 07/03/2025

More than a thousand GPs across the country received a letter on Friday, 7 March, from the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) raising concerns about their prescribing history of semaglutide. ‘Our data shows that you have repeatedly prescribed semaglutide to patients who have no PBS history of any other T2DM medicines,’ the letter, sighted by newsGP, reads.

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Contraception perceptions

Western Independent, Other, 07/03/2025, Maybelle Barr

In 2020, the Department of Health and Aged Care statistics said 81% of Australian Women between the ages of 16 and 40 used some form of contraception. Liz Lang, General Manager of Health and Medical at LUMA, a WA women's healthcare clinic, says the conversation changes as a woman ages.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Major aged care merger sees third-biggest provider emerge

The Australian, Other, 07/03/2025, Sarah Ison

Three aged care providers have embarked on a major merger that will see the creation of a single organisation with more than 12,000 employees that service 38,000 elderly Australians, in a move the organisation's new chief executive says was made to insulate the companies against the challenges of a sector that is set to be completely overhauled in coming years. The Australian can reveal Bapcare – which operates in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia – this week merged with Baptist Care and Baptist Care SA to become the country's third biggest care and service provider.

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Promoting independence with Benalla Health home support program

Shepparton News Online, Other, 07/03/2025

As a person ages, maintaining independence and staying connected to their community becomes increasingly important. With an ageing community, Benalla Health has launched a program with that aim front and centre. The Benalla Health Home Support Program is designed to provide essential services that enable older people to live safely and comfortably in their own homes.

[Read More](#)

Peak partnership celebrates diverse workforce

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/03/2025

Aged care provider peak body Ageing Australia has announced a partnership with Fronditha Care Foundation – an initiative of not-for-profit aged care provider Fronditha Care – to promote cultural diversity within the aged care workforce. The campaign will raise awareness of discrimination within the aged care sector, offer support, encourage providers to address workplace discrimination and educate older Australians and their families so discrimination of aged care workers can be reduced.

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POPULATION HEALTH

'Menopause: Who said we just have to get through it?'

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 08/03/2025, Angela Pownall, Page 27

British GP Louise Newson is on a global mission to change attitudes towards menopause and allay “unfounded fears” of hormone replacement therapy. Dr Newson, who is in Perth this week, is credited for starting a menopause revolution in the UK that is now spreading across the world.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#).

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'Depressing' obese numbers released

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 08/03/2025, 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. The Murdoch Children's Research Institute study also found one in three children in Australia will be obese by that time.

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New obesity definition is 'much-needed'

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2025, Dr Mark Mellor, Page 30

Obesity is globally prevalent, affecting one in eight people in the world in 2022. In Australia, around two-third of adults and one-fifth of children have overweight or obesity. The prevalence of obesity has risen over the decades, so much so that the World Health Organisation (WHO) classifies it as a 'global epidemic'.

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Thingy Gifts in Adelaide's Salisbury North shop closed for six months after raid find thousands of illegal goods

7news.com.au, Other, 07/03/2025, Lauren Thomson

An Adelaide store has been ordered to close for up to six months after thousands of illegal goods were seized during a raid. The order against Thingy Gifts in Salisbury North was issued in Elizabeth Magistrates Court on Friday, following an application by Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Andrea Michaels.

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Push for millions with chronic illnesses to be helped with 'healthy living vouchers'

9News, Other, 07/03/2025

Exercise physiologists are urging the federal government to fund "healthy living vouchers" for Australians living with chronic illnesses. Olympic gold medalist Duncan Armstrong has been advocating for the introduction of a \$400 "Healthy Living Voucher," which would give millions of people the opportunity to consult with an exercise scientist.

[Read More](#)

Vaping epidemic grips Western Australia, sparking urgent action

9News, Other, 07/03/2025, Rachael Clifford

A new generation of addiction has emerged in Western Australia, with thousands of young people falling victim to the allure of vaping. One of those youngsters is 22-year-old Caileen Paynter, whose experience serves as a cautionary tale, highlighting the insidious nature of vaping and its profound impact on both health and financial wellbeing.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Rollercoaster ride with rare form of dementia

Central Western Daily, General News, 08/03/2025, Melissa Meehan, Page 37

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.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#).

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

Good to hear

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 4

An Australian first biobank to support research into gene therapies that could permanently cure certain types of hearing loss will be based in WA. The Aussie Ear Bank is expected to be operational by the end of 2025 at the QEII Medical Centre in Nedlands.

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

Guide to managing MS

The first clinical consensus for managing multiple sclerosis in Australia and New Zealand has been released. [...] The consensus was put together in collaboration with more than 30 specialists including neurologists, people living with MS, nurses, a physiotherapist, an infectious diseases physician, an immunologist, general practitioner and MS support groups MS Plus and MS Australia.

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

Hip and knee arthritis: AGP'sguide

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2025, A Prof Chris Jones, Page 40

Arthritis is a significant health concern in Australia, affecting over 2.5 million people and accounting for more than \$20 billion annually in healthcare costs. Among the most common forms of arthritis are hip and knee osteoarthritis (OA), conditions that severely impair mobility and quality of life.

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

Cancer Pain management

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2025, Dr Reshad Mirnour, Page 43

Pain is a prevalent and significant concern in cancer patients, warranting careful attention and management. Pain can happen at any stage of the disease and like any other pain condition, a sociopsychobiomedical approach needs to be considered.

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

Breast cancer in young women - understanding the risks and challenges

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2025, Dr Vanitha Budhavaram, Page 47

Breast cancer is often thought of as a disease associated with older women, however, recent studies indicate an increased incidence in women younger than 40. Early onset of breast cancer poses unique challenges in terms of detection, treatment, psycho-social impact and long-term outcomes.

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

Is your child's hearing at risk? The surprising risks you need to avoid

The Courier Mail, Other, 07/03/2025, Dr Golly

Hearing health is often something taken for granted by parents. Your baby receives an initial hearing test at a few days old and then you all go about your business... until of course, sometimes it's too late and damage is done to your child's hearing, oftentimes through exposure to seemingly inanimate household objects.

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

[Read More](#)

Patients and doctors call for Australia to increase theranostics cancer treatment capability as demand grows

Cairns Post, Other, 07/03/2025, Elizabeth Pike

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. Precision medicine or 'theranostics' uses nuclear medicine to see and target cancer by attaching radioactive isotopes to the cancer cells, leaving healthy cells alone.

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

[Read More](#)

Pioneering nurse's big gamble changed face of cancer treatment in Australia

The Senior, Other, 07/03/2025, Rowan Cowley

After many years of observing cancer patients in waiting rooms, miserable and scared, nurse Lorna

Cook decided there had to be a better way. In fact, Ms Cook and her business partner, pharmacist Julie Adams were so sure they could change the way chemotherapy and immunotherapy were administered they bet their houses on it.

[Read More](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 07/03/2025, Anton Enus

A survey by the Heart Foundation showed that 35,000 Australians found that about a third of them wouldn't dial Triple Zero if they were having a heart attack. Health experts say women may not even realise they are having a heart attack, as their symptoms can differ from men's.

[Play Now](#)

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PRIMARY CARE

ALP dumps plan for April poll

AFR Weekend, General News, 08/03/2025, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

The Albanese government has all but dumped plans for an April 12 election because of Cyclone Alfred, and will resort to the back-up strategy of handing down a federal budget on March 25 before calling an election for May 3 at the earliest.

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

Skin surgery rise after weight loss

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/03/2025, Henrietta Cook, Page 29

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. Dr Damien Grinsell, a fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, said he was performing about four of these operations a week, up from one a week a decade ago.

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

'I am so lucky'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/03/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 1

The brave words of a beloved Adelaide arts identity recorded shortly before her death have been shared publicly for the first time, reducing guests to tears at a gala awards dinner. Four months ago esteemed dancer, choreographer, director and producer Roz Hervey – mum of Hollywood star Tilda Cobham-Hervey – used the state's assisted dying laws to end her life before motor neurone disease could completely rob her of her "dignity".

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

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

The change that could save the lives of countless women

Canberra Times, General News, 08/03/2025, Megan Doherty, Page 10

St John Ambulance ACT is believed to be leading Australia by introducing CPR manikins with breasts so that people can train on them and get over their reluctance to perform chest compressions on women. Studies in Australia and the United Kingdom have found bystanders are less likely to intervene to perform CPR when the stricken person is a woman, because they are worried about touching her breasts.

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

Patients put on bypass

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/03/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 11

Hundreds of patients have had their surgery abruptly cancelled this week as the health system buckles under demand. Despite pouring billions of dollars into the system, the state government faces a dire

situation in which demand continues to exceed supply and ramping continues outside clogged EDs.

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

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Indi candidate says he won't be offering false hope on hospital

Border Mail, General News, 08/03/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 7

A social worker, who will stand for the Labor Party in the federal election in Indi, sees little role for the Commonwealth in assisting with a new Albury-Wodonga hospital. Life-long Wodonga resident Mitch Bridges will contest the North East seat against incumbent independent Helen Haines, the Liberal Party's James Trenergy and Libertarian member Tim Quilty.

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Blood low as storm hits hard

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 08/03/2025, Page 6

Blood donors are desperately needed across the country, as Tropical Cyclone Alfred forces the closure of more than 20 donor centres across southeast Queensland. Toowoomba is among the locations that have been forced to shut up shop as the southeast braces for the impacts of the slow-moving cyclone, leading to a massive blood shortfall in hospitals.

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

'No one survives what Dr TX did': Error led to woman's death at Canberra Hospital

Canberra Times, Other, 07/03/2025, Bageshri Savyasachi

For years, Bill Bovill and his family believed his wife died of self-harm, never realising she had "reasonable survival prospects", if not for a Canberra Hospital doctor's mistake. Jessica Bovill's widower is now calling for a royal commission into the territory's public health system, and for the ACT Health Minister to resign, after a coronial inquest found a doctor's "medication error" contributed to her death.

[Read More](#)

Tropical Cyclone Alfred won't stop homebirth for Sunshine Coast woman

ABC Online, Other, 07/03/2025, Fiona Blackwood

The threat of a cyclone can be stressful, but imagine preparing to give birth with a storm approaching. Lavender Bain lives on the Sunshine Coast and is due to have her first baby within days.

[Read More](#)

Voters list priorities in tightly contested WA seat of Warren-Blackwood

ABC Online, Other, 07/03/2025, Andrew Williams , Bridget McArthur & Stan Shaw

Countless missing, defaced or destroyed corflutes are a telling sign of a fever-pitch political battle for WA's most marginal regional seat. Stretching along the state's southern coast between Margaret River and Denmark, Warren-Blackwood was one of Labor's most surprising victories in the 2021 landslide, with Labor's Jane Kelsbie unseating long-term MP and Nationals stalwart, Terry Redman.

[Read More](#)

What will the state election mean for the future of WA's new maternity hospital?

ABC Online, Other, 07/03/2025, Keane Bourke, Georgia Hargreaves & Mark Bennett

WA mothers desperately need a new maternity hospital — and no matter who wins tomorrow's election — they'll be getting one. The question that has caused fierce divide in medical and political circles is where to put it.

[Read More](#)

NSW and Queensland residents left without power ahead of Tropical Cyclone Alfred

ABC Online, Other, 07/03/2025

Tens of thousands of residents in Queensland and NSW are without power, with weather conditions worsening as Tropical Cyclone Alfred approaches the eastern coast of Australia. The category 2 storm is expected to cross the coast early Saturday morning, with impacts already being felt across south-east Queensland and northern NSW.

[Read More](#)

Helen Haines' plan for regional healthcare

Shepparton News Online, Other, 07/03/2025

Federal Member for Indi Helen Haines presented a package of measures focused on improving regional healthcare and workforce supply with the launch of her Health Policy. Dr Haines said her plan aimed to improve capital investment in rural hospitals, training of healthcare workers, and support for students as part of a suite of policy measures for regional health.

[Read More](#)

Dani Barrington: One-size-fits all approach to menopause keeps stigma alive

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 07/03/2025, Dani Barrington

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.

[Read More](#)

More urgent care clinics 'won't fix patient care challenges'

Medical Forum, Other, 07/03/2025

Federal Labor has committed \$644 million to open a further 50 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics across Australia, if re-elected. In WA clinics are earmarked for Bateman, Ellenbrook, Geraldton, Mirrabooka, Mundaring and Yanchep. But the RACGP said the expansion will not fix the patient care challenges faced across the country.

[Read More](#)

Access to GPs and better education key to improving obesity outcomes

Medical Forum, Other, 07/03/2025

In a newly published position statement on obesity prevention and management, the College called for more government funding to address inequities in care and support longer consultations to enable GPs to manage the complexities associated with obesity. The statement outlines that GPs have a central role to play in the primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of obesity.

[Read More](#)

Major parties 'could do more to protect public health' ahead of State election

Medical Forum, Other, 07/03/2025

Public Health Association of Australia's WA branch said parties should back measures to deliver more for the public health system, like increased spending on preventative health initiatives that would ease pressure on ambulance and hospital systems. The branch has scored Labor, Liberals, Nationals and the Greens policies against PHAA WA's six election priorities, including prevention and health promotion.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 07/03/2025, Brenton Ragless & Kate Collins

The hours that have been lost to ambulance ramping in SA hospitals have increased for the fifth month

in a row delivering worrying signs as the State faces a flu season. It comes after the government today opened up more new beds, but there are still further signs that the system is struggling with demand.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Afternoons, 07/03/2025, Sofie Formica

Compere mentions that according to AMA Qld President Dr Nick Yim, virtual health services have been stepped up, in line with Tropical Cyclone Alfred. He says elective surgeries have been cancelled.

[Play Now](#)

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

'Children need the time to be kids'

Weekend Post, General News, 08/03/2025, Rebecca Whitfieldbaker, Page 7

Over-scheduling kids with high-pressure activities can be just as harmful to their mental health as excessive screen use, a wellbeing expert and former AFL mentor says. "Unchecked" screen use is linked to rising rates of anxiety and depression in young people, resulting in sleep disruption, reduced physical activity and impaired emotional regulation.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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

Psychiatrist's claim rejected

Courier Mail, General News, 08/03/2025, Des Houghton, Page 66

A senior Queensland Health psychiatrist accused a fellow child psychiatrist of suffering a mental illness or a delusion that may have put children at risk but the allegation has been rejected by Queensland Health chiefs, according to court documents. Dr Jillian Spencer made the allegations against Dr Brian Ross, lead clinician at the Queensland Children's Gender Service at the Queensland Children's Hospital in South Brisbane, the court was told.

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

Gidget helped this young mum overcome post-natal psychosis

Western Advocate, General News, 08/03/2025, Grace Dudley, Page 5

In 2014, when an excited mother gave birth to her first child everyone thought she was handling being a new mum really well. But little did they know her excitement and cheeriness was actually euphoria, a symptom of post-natal psychosis.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#).

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Doctor fears for care quality in relocation

Western Advocate, General News, 08/03/2025, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 69

A Bathurst psychiatrist has raised serious concerns about the quality of mental health treatment patients will receive when the Panorama Clinic temporarily relocates to Orange. However, the Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) is adamant a near-identical level of service can be provided from the Wattlegrove Unit.

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

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 07/03/2025, Manny Tsigas

Interview with director of the Australian College of Trauma Treatment Michael Burch discussing the psychological impacts of natural disasters. He says it's quite common for people to experience anxiety and depression and even some traumatic stress reactions, depending on their individual characteristics and past traumatic events during an event such as incoming cyclone Alfred.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Medics to answer the call

Courier Mail, General News, 08/03/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 7

Midwife Hannah Faul is on duty this weekend for home births and, like many dedicated medics across the state, nothing is going to stop her reaching her patients when they go into labour not even a cyclone. "I'm a private midwife with My Midwives and we have seven or eight women who could go into labour in the next couple of days as the weather event ramps up.

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

Romancing the pages doctor is loving her new chapter

Hobart Mercury, Weekend, 08/03/2025, Linda Smith, Page 5

As an emergency department doctor, Anna Maynard has long been familiar with writing referral letters and discharge summaries. But three years ago as she finished her specialist medical exams to become a GP and also prepared to start maternity leave with her third child Maynard decided to try her hand at writing a romance novel.

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

Hundreds of new nursing graduates join health system

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/03/2025, Simon Mcguire, Page 9

Workforce numbers in the Tasmanian Health Service will grow by hundreds over the next few months as freshly graduated nurses take up new positions around the state. A total of 307 new graduate nurses will be working in the Tasmanian health system.

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

Grow, learn, see further, stretch taller

Herald Sun, Weekend, 08/03/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 14

Victoria's medical and research precinct in Parkville is unique, not only because in one hub it houses global experts across all areas of health. Many of these world-renowned hospitals and research institutes are also led by women.

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

Call to protect women's wage boost

Canberra Times, Business News, 08/03/2025, Page 59

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, the Australian Council of Trade Unions has released its wages analysis.

Also reported by: [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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Midwifery agreement three years late

Launceston Examiner, General News, 08/03/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 6

The replacement of an agreement protecting the working conditions of midwives in Tasmania's public sector is three years overdue. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) Tasmania branch

secretary Emily Shepherd said this showed the government wasn't focused on supporting midwives' caseloads - the number of women a midwife cares for in a year.

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

Placement poverty hits health students

Border Mail, General News, 08/03/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 23

Giving up part-time work, stretching savings and witnessing students with mortgages drop out are some of the impacts of so-called placement poverty for allied health undergraduates on the Border. Four students enrolled in occupational therapy, physiotherapy and podiatry at Thurgoona's Charles Sturt University campus have told of their experiences at a media conference alongside Indi MP Helen Haines.

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Medical colleges boost rural specialists

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 6

Australia's medical colleges have launched an unprecedented expansion of specialist training in regional, rural, and remote areas, according to the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges. The RACGP has filled all rural training positions for 2025, with new data showing 585 GPs will begin rural specialist training in 2025, part of a broader intake of 1,506 junior doctors into specialist programs - a 20% increase from last year.

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Specialist recognition for rural GPs

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 8

GPs working in rural areas will soon be recognised under the speciality of Rural Generalism. The Federal Government announced the recognition of the speciality as 1750 doctors were expected to begin government-funded training to become a GP this year.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Affordable menopause medications now available

Shepparton News Online, Other, 07/03/2025, Lua Ikenasio

Women suffering from the debilitating symptoms of menopause now have access to three subsidised menopause medications. On Saturday, March 1, menopausal medications EstroGel Pro, EstroGel, and Prometrium were made available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

[Read More](#)

More women skipping meds

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/03/2025

Women are twice as likely as men to skip a prescription because of cost, according to new data from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. The independent longitudinal research found one in four women (27%) were unable to afford their prescription medicines in the past three years because of the cost.

[Read More](#)

Women twice as likely as men to skip a prescription because of cost

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 07/03/2025

The cost-of-living crisis is disproportionately affecting Australian women, prompting community pharmacists across the country to call on the Federal Government to cut the out-of-pocket costs of medicine. Results of independent longitudinal research by Insightfully* shows one in four women (27%) have been unable to afford their prescription medicines in the past three years because of the cost.

[Read More](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Artificial intelligence - making healthcare smarter

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 14

As little as a decade ago, there was scepticism that artificial intelligence could - and would - play a significant role in healthcare. [...] Prof Harding, who was recently appointed to the board of the Australian Digital Health Agency, said the technology could be applied in residential aged care and hospital-in-the-home care, allowing patients to avoid hospital while vital signs such as heart rate, oxygen saturation, temperature, blood pressure and respiratory rate were monitored remotely.

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AHHA welcomes Medicare investment but calls for a focus on value over volume

The Health Advocate, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 8

AHHA welcomed the federal government's Medicare funding announcement of \$8.5 billion, but for this investment to provide the greatest benefit for Australians, the focus must be on delivering value over volume. This investment in primary care is a significant step towards strengthening Medicare, and increasing access to the health care people need, when they need it, particularly during this cost-of-living crisis.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Ugly reality of the desire for beauty

Weekend Australian, General News, 08/03/2025, Penny Timms, Page 6

As the elevator doors open to the second level of an office building in Sydney, you are greeted by the unmistakable but somewhat pungent scent of herbal medicine. [...] In September 2023, the Medical Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency announced they were turning their attention to cosmetic injectables.

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

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

Money for nothing

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 37

Individuals, families, contractors and businesses all have to work to a budget of some form. [...] Meanwhile in 2023, 26.6% of GPs were aged over 60. With Ahpra seeking to introduce mandatory health assessments for doctors at 70, we will have to become more efficient

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Doctor Chin Ven Tan found guilty of lying to Medicare to bill \$400,000 in 'services' then falsifying 4000 patient entries

7news.com.au, Other, 07/03/2025, Tita Smith

A well-respected doctor who launched a chain of medical centres across Sydney has fallen from grace after being found guilty of fraudulently claiming \$400,000 from Medicare. Dr Chin Ven Tan - the founder and director of Tasly Healthpac International Australia medical corporation - falsified more than 4000 patient entries between 2020 and 2021 in a "calculated, extensive and continuous" effort to rip off the government agency.

[Read More](#)

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Gift that changed Anita's life

Launceston Examiner, General News, 08/03/2025, Emily Williams, Page 68

At 1.30am on November 26, 2024, the phone rang in a Tewkesbury home. Anita Richardson had spent 20 months waiting for this call. By 6.30am, she was on a plane to Melbourne, and when she woke up on November 29, she had been given a new chance at life.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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SPORT

Palaszcuk rails against Gabba's 'vested interests'

Weekend Australian, General News, 08/03/2025, Jamie Walker & Michael McKenna, Page 11

Former Queensland premier Annastacia Palaszcuk has slammed "vested interests" including AFL and cricket authorities for undermining her plan to make a rebuilt Gabba stadium the focal point of the Brisbane Olympics. Ms Palaszcuk spoke out as the finalised recommendations of a 100-day review into the stalled Games venue program went to the state Liberal National Party government, stoking tensions over the stadium decision.

Also reported by: [Weekend Australian \(Australia\)](#).

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

Crisafulli's Olympic dilemma

Weekend Australian, Editorials, 08/03/2025, Page 14

After four years of political dithering, mainly by Queensland's Palaszcuk and Miles Labor governments, the clock is ticking on preparing Brisbane's Olympic stadium. Nor has the Crisafulli Liberal National Party government, elected five months ago, advanced the process.

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

Taking on the Olympic world

Weekend Australian, Sport, 08/03/2025, Jacquelin Magnay, Page 45

Zimbabwean Kirsty Coventry has big plans if she is elected IOC president. When Kirsty Coventry decided last year to stand as a presidential candidate for the International Olympic Committee, she and her husband Tyrone Seward nipped out how it could work. Seward, a sports agent, is already working from home and looking after five-year-old daughter Ella while Coventry heads Zimbabwe's Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation portfolio under President Emmerson Mnangagwa as well as undertaking various Olympic jobs, such as heading the co-ordination commission chair for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics, the 2026 Dakar Youth Olympic Games, positions on world swimming, WADA, world surfing and her own non-profit swimming academy.

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Private role fits the bill

Courier Mail, General News, 08/03/2025, Hayden Johnson, Page 20

The private sector will be tapped for cash to save taxpayers from a multibillion-dollar 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games bill when the final infrastructure review is given to the state government on Saturday. Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie will receive the venue masterplan, 3 years after Brisbane won the rights to host the 2032 Games.

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Sport-Australia, US, Britain and NZ join forces in women's health

Initiative

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/03/2025

Sports scientists from Australia, the U.S., Britain and New Zealand have formed a partnership focused on helping female athletes fulfil their potential by providing access to research and best-practice information, the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) said on Friday. The Global Alliance for Female Athletes (GAFA) will give athletes, coaches and support staff access to "world-leading evidence, performance insights and best-practice information" for free, the ASC said.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Cut butter or you'll be toast

Weekend Australian, General News, 08/03/2025, Page 6

Dipping your bread in olive oil instead of slathering on butter could add years to your life, research suggests. Experts examined data from more than 221,000 adults, who were followed for 30 to 50 years, and found that those who ate the most butter had a 15 per cent higher risk of dying early.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#).

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The big picture

Central Western Daily, General News, 08/03/2025, Rachael Ward, Page 35

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: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#).

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Stimulating research into treatment of depression

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 39

Results of a recently published WA preclinical study could help clinicians make better informed decisions on the use of noninvasive brain stimulation to treat symptoms in depression and some other neurological disorders. In shedding light on what noninvasive brain stimulation does to the brain and where changes occur, the research assists in understanding which conditions are most likely to respond well to this form of therapy and which protocols to use.

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Pharmacogenetic screening to optimise antidepressant drug therapies in young people

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2025, Bradley Roberts, Page 44

Researchers at the Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science have recently launched the GENE-YD study, an innovative trial exploring the benefits of pharmacogenetic testing to optimise antidepressant pharmacotherapy in young Western Australians. This pilot randomised controlled trial aims to explore the feasibility for a larger trial in WA to improve treatment outcomes through personalising patients' antidepressant prescriptions, helping young people achieve symptom relief faster with fewer medication-related side effects.

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

Meet the doctor bridging the gap in women's health – with the help of female mice

The Australian, Other, 08/03/2025, Hannah Wilcox

Australian researchers are on the cusp of major breakthroughs in women's reproductive health – and -

female mice could hold the key. Karina Hutt, head of the women's health and ovarian biology laboratory at Monash University, is searching for answers on how to prevent damage to ovaries, fertility and overall health among women who undergo chemotherapy.

[Read More](#)

Australian clinical trials delayed after cyberattack takes down website for a week

Crikey, Other, 07/03/2025, Cam Wilson

Australian scientists are in limbo due to a cyberattack that has taken the nation's major clinical trial registry offline for a week, leaving researchers unable to continue their experiments. The Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry (ANZCTR) website has been offline since February 28, when the University of Sydney, which runs the registry, sent out an email announcing a "cyber security incident" had occurred on February 24.

[Read More](#)

Hospital sinks and the infection risk

Medical Forum, Other, 07/03/2025

New research has found that splash back from the basin may contain bacteria or viruses that could contribute to infection spread in hospitals and aged care facilities. It is not the act of washing our hands that poses a risk – after all, that's unavoidable in healthcare settings – but the speed at which the water pours from the tap.

[Read More](#)

The pros and cons of a daily polypill

The Mercury, Other, 07/03/2025, Peta Bee

Popping a single daily pill from our fifties 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.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Cass wants to change the stigma

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 08/03/2025, Samantha Newsam, Page 16

Cass Halcroft is someone who has always been "very independent". So asking for help wasn't something that came naturally. But she's glad she did. Now the mother-of-four is using her own experience to help others.

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

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Close the gap

The Health Advocate, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 4

Significant reform is necessary to Close the Gap, and for many, that change can be confronting and difficult. The latest Closing the Gap annual report, released earlier this year, indicates that there's still considerable work ahead, with only five of the 19 targets currently on track according to actions outlined in the 2024 Implementation Plan.

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Close the gap

The Health Advocate, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 10

As we commemorate National Close the Gap Day, we are reminded of the glacial progress across the National Agreement. But in the spirit of truth telling, we share stories that ensure the survival, dignity and wellbeing of First Nations Peoples.

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Closing the Gap: toolkit aims to create a safe space for First Nations people seeking healthcare

The Health Advocate, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 13

Recognition of cultural sensitivities and differences is crucial when it comes to ensuring equitable medical treatment for all members of the community. In response to that need, South Western Sydney Primary Health Network (SWSPHN) has developed a resource known as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Toolkit for General Practice.

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Designing better health care with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The Health Advocate, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 16

Closing the gap in health care means working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to create better and more culturally appropriate solutions. The Department of Health and Aged Care is making progress towards a genuine partnership.

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About the National Indigenous Health Leadership Alliance

The Health Advocate, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 20

Healthcare inequities affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia stem from systemic barriers embedded within mainstream health systems. The National Indigenous Health Leadership Alliance (NIHLA) was established to dismantle these barriers and advocate for equitable, culturally safe healthcare.

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Bridging the Health Gap

The Health Advocate, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 24

Currently, decision-makers within governments lack information about the potential or lack of health benefits of new medicines and technologies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as they are not routinely quantified. This gap in data is exacerbating health inequities.

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NSW Health supports recommendations from Ricky Hampson inquest

ABC Online, Other, 07/03/2025

The New South Wales Health Minister says the government supports all recommendations made to improve Aboriginal healthcare arising from an inquest into the death of an Indigenous man who was misdiagnosed and discharged from Dubbo hospital almost four years ago. Ricky "Dougjie" Hampson, 36, died from two perforated stomach ulcers on August 16, 2021.

Also reported by: [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#)

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Children suffering due to government inaction on closing the gap

National Indigenous Times, Other, 07/03/2025, Dechlan Brennan

First Nations children paying the price for government inactivity, the peak body for Indigenous children and young people has said. The latest data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) revealed only one-third of Indigenous children are developmentally on track, governments across the

country have continued to exacerbate the levels of children in custody, and Indigenous children in child protection continues to rise.

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These elders are filing a racial discrimination human rights complaint against Queensland Health

SBS, Other, 07/03/2025

They say they're tired of burying their family members and want to see justice brought to preventable and premature deaths in their communities. Robert 'Bongo' Sagigi says he's invited the lawyers to hold a public forum next week on Waiben, Thursday Island, in the Torres Strait.

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Cost of living and food security challenges loom large in Maningrida ahead of Federal Election

SBS, Other, 07/03/2025

In the remote town of Maningrida, two local stores service the community, but residents face the daunting reality of soaring grocery prices. The cost of everyday essentials like milk, sugar, toilet paper, and baby formula has more than doubled compared to major cities, a situation driven largely by the challenges of supply chain issues.

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Focus on First Nations suicide rates

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 07/03/2025, Allan Murphy

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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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

What is Silicosis? The sickness impacting young Aussie men

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/03/2025, Sarah Mitchell

A recent analysis from Monash University found cases of silicosis have risen at a drastic rate in Australia, with more than 500 workers diagnosed with the lung disease in the last ten years in Victoria alone. The majority of cases are in stonemasons, but other industries have also been impacted, and experts warn cases could continue to grow.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Experts debate weight-loss drug impact

Border Mail, General News, 08/03/2025, Shan Goodwin, Page 68

As debate rages over whether weight loss drugs are the miracle that overweight western societies prayed for or absolutely disgusting, food systems experts say they will have more impact on Australian farming in the next five years than climate change. Medications like Ozempic and Wegovy are far more than a celebrity slimming hack.

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

Blue Mountains residents to launch class action over PFAS contamination

ABC Online, Other, 07/03/2025, Xanthe Gregory

The New South Wales government has been issued a "formal warning" it will face a class action if it does not offer blood testing and compensation to the PFAS-affected Blue Mountains community. It comes as more residents receive results showing elevated levels of the substances in their blood.

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