



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 14th March 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Adelaide Advertiser**](#) (page 3) reports management at a hospital in South Australia instructed clinicians to prioritise patients from ramped ambulances over those in the waiting room, a state government parliamentary inquiry has been told. *Also reported by:* [**Adelaide Advertiser**](#)
- The [**Courier Mail**](#) (page 3) reports scientists are concerned Japanese encephalitis virus may spread to coastal areas in the wake of flooding caused by Cyclone Alfred.
- [**The Age**](#) (page 4) reports over 15,000 doctors who did not log unscheduled overtime while working at Victoria's public hospitals will share in \$175 million settlement reached with the state government.
- The [**Canberra Times**](#) (page 4) reports the ACT government needs to provide greater transparency about the causes for growing public health care demand or risk bad estimates for future budgetary forecasts, a territory parliamentary committee has found.
- [**The Australian**](#) (page 6) reports Indigenous incarceration, suicides, and the rates of Indigenous children in state care continue to rise, new data measuring the efficacy of Closing the Gap policies has found. *Also reported by:* [**Canberra Times**](#), [**ABC Online**](#), [**Daily Mail Australia**](#), [**SBS**](#)

- **The Australian** (online) reports nurses and midwives are calling for regulation changes allowing them to order diagnostic tests, issue referrals to specialists and prescribe some medications, a move the Australian College of Nursing says would improve patient outcomes and reduce wait times. *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Deni Headspace push continues

Deniliquin Pastoral Times, General News, 14/03/2025, Page 3

A campaign for a Headspace centre in Deniliquin has been intensified. [...] "We have written to the Headspace Board on several occasions, however it has been made clear that the decision for allocation of Headspace funding sits with the Commonwealth Government, and as such we have now renewed our efforts, with direct correspondence to the Minister for Health Mark Butler and a number of other political pathways," explained Lourene Liebenberg from Deni MHAG.

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Urgent care clinic pledge

Geelong Independent, General News, 14/03/2025, Jena Carr, Page 1

A new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic will open in Torquay if Labor is re-elected at the next federal election. Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler announced on Tuesday, March 11, that the new clinic would provide urgent care for the region.

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

Medicare the winner as parties match funding pledges

Grenfell Record & Bland Advertiser, General News, 13/03/2025, Tess Ikonomou and Adrian Black, Page 2

Billions of dollars will be poured into Medicare no matter who wins government, with the coalition promising to match Labor's landmark spending pledge on health care. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the modelling done on the policy showed there would be 20 million additional free visits to the doctor.

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New national centre to help strengthen suicide prevention

Koori Mail, General News, 12/03/2025, Professor Pat, Page 25

Starting in July 2025, a new centre will bring together the University of Western Australia (UWA)'s Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATISIP) and the Transforming Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing (TIMHWB) research program, co-led by Professors Pat Dudgeon and Helen Milroy. [...] Mark Butler MP, for his support of our work and for the grant, which will allow the centre to operate for three years initially.

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John Hunter needs federal boost: Park

Newcastle Herald, General News, 14/03/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 4

Nsw Health Minister Ryan Park has called for more federal funding to improve long wait times and shortages of beds and staff at John Hunter Hospital. The hospital's emergency department has been under immense pressure since the pandemic, and presentations have been rising for a decade. [...] Last month, the federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced an extra \$407 million in funding for NSW's 220 public hospitals and health services.

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

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'It was my rock': how the power of a butterfly lives on 10 years later

The Border Mail, Other, 13/03/2025, Madilyn McKinley

When she first walked through headspace Albury-Wodonga's doors, Asha Romeril felt safe. Loginor

signup to continue reading Greeted by a familiar wet nose each time from the centre's therapy dog Hendrix, or Heni, she found support in her clinician. [...] The grassroots campaign saw more than 2000 signatures and 4000 signed butterflies presented to the then-federal health minister Mark Butler during a trip to Canberra.

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Urgent care clinic to reduce pressure on Geelong hospital

Surf Coast Times, Other, 13/03/2025

Residents in Torquay, Armstrong Creek and the wider Surf Coast region will be able to get access to bulk billed care for urgent but non-life-threatening conditions closer to home if Labor is re-elected. Health Minister Mark Butler visited University Hospital Geelong earlier this week to discuss Labor's commitment to open a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Torquay by mid-2026, announced by Corangamite federal member Libby Coker earlier this month.

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News Corp Australia launches Lockdown Kids: a special investigation into the impact of COVID on our children

B & T Online, Other, 13/03/2025, Aimee Edwards

News Corp Australia has launched Lockdown Kids: How to Break a Generation, a four-part docu-series and editorial special exploring the long-term impact of placing the nation's children into isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic. [...] The series speaks to a wide range of parents, children, experts and politicians including Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to discuss the issues and solutions.

[Read More](#)

News Corp unveils 'Lockdown Kids' series on post-COVID youth crisis

Mediaweek, Other, 13/03/2025, Natasha Lee

News Corp Australia has unveiled Lockdown Kids: How to Break a Generation, a multi-platform editorial and documentary initiative poised to ignite crucial industry dialogue surrounding the long-term consequences of pandemic-era isolation on Australia's youth. [...] The series speaks to a wide range of parents, children, experts and politicians including Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to discuss the issues and solutions.

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'Game-changer' precision oncology trials get \$143.4m federal boost

Oncology Republic, Other, 13/03/2025

'Without the zero Childhood Cancer Program, my daughter would have continued the pattern of recovery and relapse with tragic results,' says the mother of one patient. The federal government will invest \$143.4 million to extend two world-leading precision medicine programs for children and adults with cancer, the ZERO Childhood Cancer Program and the Precision Oncology Screening Platform Enabling Clinical Trials (PrOSPeCT). Federal health minister Mark Butler said the programs were changing the game.

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D'Arcy Arms' Irish bash, rock gigs and night markets – what's on across the Gold Coast this weekend

WEB InQueensland, Other, 13/03/2025

After a wild one last week (thanks Alfred) we're delighted that events are back on – and if you're itching to get out and about this weekend, there's plenty to do! Here's what's on across the Gold Coast from Thursday March 13 to Sunday March 16. [...] Catch performances by Gallie, Mark Butler & Claddagh and The Gathering, sip pints of Guinness from the Shamrock Bar and tuck into beer-battered sausages with curry.

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ABC North and West SA, Regional Late Afternoons, 13/03/2025, Narelle Graham

The District Council of Streaky Bay has confirmed that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has reclassified Streaky Bay under the Modified Monash Model. The long-awaited change allows for increased incentives to attract more doctors to the region.

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ABC Radio Perth, Drive, 13/03/2025, Gary Adshead

Continuing interview with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on national and state issues. Albanese responds to concerns about the increasing burden of kidney disease in Australia, particularly the strain on dialysis services in Western Australia. He highlights the government's existing funding for dialysis expansion in Central Australia, where First Nations communities are disproportionately affected. He says he will discuss the research funding request with Health Minister Mark Butler.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Drive, 13/03/2025, Ali Moore

Interview with ABC Shepparton reporter Callum Marshall on the discovery of a significant illicit tobacco operation in Merrigum, Victoria, that seized crops valued at nearly \$35 million. Marshall says the discovery, covering over 13 acres, was made following a community tip-off and a joint operation by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), Border Force, and Victoria Police's Viper task force. He notes Health Minister Mark Butler has announced a \$156.7 million investment to combat illicit tobacco.

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ABC Radio Darwin , 06:30 News, 13/03/2025

Discussions are underway between the Northern Territory and Federal Governments regarding funding for maternity services, following the planned closure of the Darwin Private Hospital maternity ward. The Federal Government recently allocated \$6 million to Tasmania to support maternity care, and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said he'd be open to discussing similar funds for the NT.

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MINISTER WELLS

\$300 million to boost regional aged care

Healthcare Channel, Other, 13/03/2025, Ritchelle Drilon

The Albanese Government has unveiled an additional \$300 million in grants to improve residential aged care services , especially in regional, rural and remote locations. [...] Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, underscored the importance of allowing seniors to remain close to home while receiving quality support: "The choice to enter residential aged care shouldn't mean a choice to leave your community.

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ABC Radio Perth, Drive, 13/03/2025, Gary Adshead

Interview with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on national and state issues. Albanese responds to concerns regarding the lack of critical documents needed for aged care providers and families about upcoming regulatory changes. He says the reforms are the most significant aged care changes in a century and assures that Aged Care Minister Anika Wells is actively addressing the issues.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

More than \$100k in Heywire grants available to develop young regional

Australians' ideas

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2025

For Year 12 students Briar and Tayah, graduating school is daunting. Briar is from Wooroolin in Queensland and Tayah is from Pambula Beach in New South Wales. [...] Assistant Minister for Regional and Rural Health Emma McBride was at the launch.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

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VACCINES

Long Covid took away a great life

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/03/2025, Linda Smith, Page 4

Three years ago, Hannah Smith was a happy and healthy 46-year old she was working four days a week as a psychologist, a career she loved; she and her partner Michael had purchased a house in West Hobart; she was travelling interstate regularly to visit her adult children and her grandchildren; and the roller derby enthusiast had also just been selected to compete nationally. Life was good.

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Five years since COVID was declared a pandemic, we're still poorly prepared for the next one

Medicine Today, Other, 13/03/2025, Sharon Lewin and Peter Doherty

On March 11 2020, as COVID continued to spread rapidly around the globe, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared a pandemic. More than 7 million people have since died from COVID. The virus, and the public health measures enacted to control it, have had far-reaching effects on societies around the world.

Also reported by: [Aged Care Insite \(Online\)](#), [2GB \(Online\)](#), [The Mandarin \(Online\)](#).

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Hospice plans for heritage site revealed

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/03/2025, Alison Foletta, Page 16

New redevelopment plans have been released for an end-of-life care 'sanctuary' in northern Tasmania. The Launceston Hospice plan is before the City of Launceston council and open for public feedback.

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Elder abuse awareness called for after death

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 14/03/2025, Page 6

"I think he's going to do me in," a father told a colleague about his son. [...] He urged the Victorian government to raise awareness about elder abuse through targeted campaigns and community education, to empower them to understand what it is and to report it.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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What a difference a friend makes for lonely seniors

Shepparton News, General News, 14/03/2025, Khadija Hadjab, Page 8

For many older Australians, loneliness isn't just an occasional feeling it's part of everyday life. With families moving away and friends no longer around, staying socially connected can become difficult.

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The Australian state offering older drivers safety courses to help reduce road deaths

Canberra Times, Other, 13/03/2025, Jordan Mulach

Older drivers are overrepresented in South Australia's road toll, prompting the state's police to run safety courses in a bid to refresh its senior motorists' driving skills. On March 27, South Australia Police will hold two free sessions at its new Road Safety Centre in West Beach, focusing on keeping road users up to date with road rules.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Calvary offered affordable rentals for retirees, it was full within 72 hours

Aged Care Insite, Other, 13/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz

As cost of living pressures continue to mount, and data showing that 20 per cent of older Australians are retiring into poverty, one aged care provider has had an overwhelming response to its affordable rental offering. Calvary Health Care's Sydney Williams retirement village, located in Melbourne, filled its eight one- and two-bedroom units within three days of opening.

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BaptistCare now third biggest provider as merger finalised

Aged Care Insite, Other, 13/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Three not-for-profit aged care providers have successfully combined forces, leading to a shift of the major players in Australian aged care. BaptistCare (Vic, Tas, SA), Baptist Care SA and BaptistCare (NSW, ACT, WA) have merged to become one entity – BaptistCare – and in doing so, BaptistCare has emerged as the country's third largest integrated care and service provider

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Newly merged BaptistCare wins big at ITAC

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 13/03/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Winners share their surprise and joy with Australian Ageing Agenda at the ITAC 2025 awards at Marvel Stadium, Melbourne, on Wednesday evening, which saw more than 59 nominees up for awards in four categories – data insights, capacity building, technology transformation and research and development.

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\$93M tied up: proposed liquidity ratios a “handbrake” on aged care and

village development

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

If you needed further proof of the impact the Government's proposed new liquidity standards will have on operators' development plans, read these sobering comments from Southern Cross Care (SA, NT & Vic) CEO David Moran. As we have reported , the proposed standards would require residential aged care operators to hold onto quarterly 35% of cash expenses plus 10% of quarterly refundable deposits – including ILUs.

[Read More](#)

Projects on hold as Ageing Australia lobbies in opposition: liquidity ratios for retirement living and ILUs

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/03/2025, Caroline Egan

Ageing Australia, along with several dozen CFOs of member organisations, has met with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) to lobby against the proposed inclusion of independent living and retirement village refundable amounts in proposed aged care liquidity standards.

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Latest Draft Rules outline expansion of banning orders to include registered providers

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/03/2025, Caroline Egan

For Penelope Eden, Partner at law firm MinterEllison, the most notable addition in release 2c of the Draft Aged Care Rules is the expanded authority given to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner to make banning orders against registered providers. Under the current Act, a banning order can only be made against an aged care worker or a governing person of an approved provider.

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Anglicare Sydney marketing campaign evolves from real-life stories of residents

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/03/2025, Caroline Egan

When the Not For Profit's Marketing Manager Stacie Chalmers visited every one of Anglicare Sydney's 23 aged care homes to interview residents, family and staff about their aged care home, she was touched by the stories of love, joy and friendship she heard. The stories have now become the inspiration and foundation for Anglicare Sydney's 2025 marketing campaign.

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Aged care providers poised to build after WA Labor's state election win promise

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/03/2025, Caroline Egan

With Roger Cook returned to Government amid a thumping win for Labor in Western Australia, aged care providers are preparing to build on the back of the party's \$140 million worth of promises for the sector. Russell Bricknell , CEO of WA Not For Profit aged care provider Juniper , is part of a working group of aged care operators that formed during the COVID-19 pandemic .

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Enkindle Consulting show the gaps in the Support at Home Manual

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/03/2025, Caroline Egan

The long-awaited Support at Home Manual (SaH) dropped last Friday, all 209 pages. With many taking the long weekend to pore over its pages, some are concerned as much about the Manual's omissions as they are about its contents.

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Five years on, the COVID-19 virus is still in 104 aged care homes

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/03/2025, Caroline Egan

Five years after the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a pandemic in 2020, its impact is still being felt in residential aged care. The cumulative number of aged care residents that contracted

the virus is more than 240,000.

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Home care reforms may drive older Australians away from essential services: Chris Mamarelis, Whiddon CEO's 'political wishlist'

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/03/2025, Caroline Egan

Recent funding reforms to Australia's aged care system go some way towards progress, but key issues remain unresolved, says Chris Mamarelis, CEO of Not For Profit provider Whiddon. "While recent funding reforms [to Australia's aged care system] have made some progress, key issues remain unresolved", says Chris Mamarelis, CEO of Not For Profit provider Whiddon.

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Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's workforce soars 50% in three years

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/03/2025, Caroline Egan

The aged care regulator's workforce has soared 50% to 1,598 in the last three years, while the My Aged Care workforce has grown 28% to 941 in the last year. Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner Liz Hefren-Webb, in her first Senate Estimates hearing in the role, said increased staffing was needed to implement the recommendations of the Independent Capability Review of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC).

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Hall & Prior announces date for takeover of beleaguered Blue Haven Bonaira aged care home

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/03/2025, Caroline Egan

The WA-based family-owned aged care operator has revealed the majority of Bonaira staff have accepted offers of employment, with regulatory approval from the Department of Health and Aged Care for the transfer of operations expected in "the next week or two". A condition of the approval is that the home care services are transferred to Hall & Prior on the first calendar day of the month, so the intended date for the transfer of all Blue Haven Bonaira services to Hall & Prior is 1 April 2025.

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POPULATION HEALTH

'Guinea pig' teens targeted by fad for illegal nicotine pouches

Age, General News, 14/03/2025, Lauren Ironmonger, Page 22

More young Australians are using nicotine pouches, an illegal, unregulated product experts say is being marketed as a healthier alternative to smoking. Late last year, Generation Vape, a national research group led by Cancer Council NSW, released the first Australian study on nicotine pouch use and perceptions among young people.

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

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Ramping up AR management

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Samantha Crawford, Page 72

Itchy eyes? Sneezing? [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) figures for 2017/18 show that the ACT had the highest rate of AR in Australia, with 29 per cent of people surveyed reporting that they experienced the condition, while the Northern Territory had the lowest rate at 14 per cent.

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Nursing, midwifery peak bodies call for more responsibilities to fix Australia's healthcare crisis

The Australian, Other, 14/03/2025, Jessica Wang

Nurses and midwives want regulations changed to allow them to order diagnostic tests, issue referrals to specialists and prescribe certain medications, in a move peak bodies say would reduce waiting times and boost healthcare outcomes. [...] According to figures released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, nurses and midwives make up about 54 per cent of the total health industry, while 16 per cent of the workforce are medical practitioners (doctors and GPs).

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

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Wellness influencers love the ice bath. What does the science say?

The New Daily, Other, 13/03/2025, Hunter Bennett and Ben Singh

Ice baths have become increasingly popular over the past few years. Fitness influencer and casual exercisers around the world are embracing this trend that was once reserved for elite athletes. Ice baths (also known as "cold water immersion") are exactly what they sound like. They involve immersing your body in cold water for a set amount of time.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Troll to target vaping

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/03/2025, Simon McGuire, Page 14

Users of TikTok and Snapchat may have seen a series of short videos on their feeds as part of a new anti-vaping campaign. Cancer Council Tasmania (CCT) and Quit Tasmania have officially launched the "Don't Let Vaping In" campaign.

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

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Fighting sleeping disorders

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/03/2025, Taylor Mason, Page 5

Charles Darwin University researchers have developed the General Practice Sleep Scale (GPSS), a questionnaire designed to make obstructive sleep apnoea screening faster, easier, and more accurate in general practice settings. Ahead of today's World Sleep Day, March 14, which highlights the importance of sleep health, the study found the GPSS significantly outperformed existing tools such as the Berlin questionnaire and the STOP-Bang test.

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Specialist diabetes care close to home

Daily Advertiser, General News, 14/03/2025, Finn Coleman, Page 5

An outreach service addressing the inequity of access to specialist diabetes services in regional NSW areas has stopped off in Wagga. The Diabetes Regional Education, Access and Management (DREAM) initiative is a collaboration between St Vincent's Hospital Network Sydney (SVHNS) and Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (MPHN).

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Bleak figure for ex-miners as lung screen returns

Daily Mercury, General News, 14/03/2025, Page 5

One in 10 former miners tested in Mackay have contracted a lung dust disease from their time in the industry. Resources Safety and Health Queensland said from the 312 former workers screened in Mackay since 2019, 32 were found to have contracted a disease while mining.

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

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Unaware of what causes dementia

Daily Mercury, General News, 14/03/2025, Page 7

Australians are largely unaware that common health issues such as hearing loss, depression and high cholesterol are risk factors for dementia. Dementia Australia chief executive Tanya Buchanan said dementia was the second leading cause of death for all Australians and there were 433,300 Australians living with the condition.

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Saving lives in Poppy Grace's name

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 14/03/2025, Page 62

Poppy Grace Middleton was a force of nature. Diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia at 11 weeks of age, a rare leukemia that affects five to six babies in Australia each year, she was given a 20 per cent chance of survival.

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A mindfield for Aussies

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/03/2025, Page 39

Australians are largely unaware common health issues such as hearing loss, depression and high cholesterol are risk factors for dementia. Dementia Australia chief executive Tanya Buchanan said dementia was the second leading cause of death for all Australians and there were 433,300 Australians living with the condition.

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Proteomics launches predictive kidney disease test in Australia

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/03/2025, James Pearson

Proteomics International Laboratories has launched its breakthrough PromarkerD predictive test for diabetic kidney disease (DKD) in Australia. The test will be wheeled out to doctors in Western Australia and the Northern Territory first before going nationwide.

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'They break down in tears': The Albury doctor on a mission to end the suffering of endometriosis

Canberra Times, Other, 13/03/2025, Rosie Ryan

Among the saddest sights Albury gynaecologist Scott Giltrap sees in his work are the brown patches on the stomachs of women that are the result of years of trying to ease the pain of endometriosis with hot water bottles.

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Aussie paediatrician weighs in on why we're seeing more allergy cases in kids

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/03/2025

Australia has the highest rates of childhood food allergy globally - 1 in 10 infants will have some sort of food allergy. The incidence has been climbing over the last couple of decades and the reasons for this are not well understood. Allergies are multifactorial conditions, which means there are many reasons why and how sensitivities come about.

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A candid convo about endometriosis

Shepparton News Online, Other, 13/03/2025, Nicola Ceccato

Endometriosis is a chronic condition that affects more than 10 per cent of women. Megan Fisher and Rechelle Zammit chatted about their individual journeys and then came together to discuss the social, physical, and emotional impacts.

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Living with kidney disease: Ann Breed's 30-year story and message for others

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 13/03/2025, Finn Coleman

It was 30 years ago when Ann Breed was diagnosed with kidney disease, but that hasn't stopped her from living life. With so many risk factors for chronic kidney disease, Ms Breed and Wagga Base Hospital renal unit staff have encouraged the community to be up-to-date with kidney health checks.

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Wellness Wagon: A mobile unit improving health literacy in regional Australia

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2025

Q: How might we help young people in regional areas take charge of their health? A: Through a mobile unit championing health literacy and lived-experience led peer support. Whether seeking support for mental illness, cancer treatment, gender affirming care or cerebral palsy, these regional young people are "sick and tired" of navigating the health system by travelling long distances to find doctors who will take them seriously.

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Cerebrospinal fluid leaks cause painful headaches, but diagnosis is rare

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2025

When retired nurse Rose Kruze started suffering from debilitating headaches she had no idea they were a symptom of something more sinister. "It's just pounding in the head — you just can't even think," she said.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 13/03/2025, Matt Shirvington and Natalie Barr

Interview with Dr Daniel Timms, inventor, on the BiVACOR temporary heart. Shirvington reports a Sydney man has become the first person discharged from hospital with the titanium BiVACOR artificial heart, a world-first medical breakthrough developed in Australia. Timms says the titanium device, initially designed as a temporary solution until a donor's heart is available, could one day serve as a permanent replacement amid promising trial results.

Interview continues on: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#).

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2CC, Canberra Live, 13/03/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Chris Forbes, CEO, Kidney Health Australia, on calls for Australians to take a two-minute online test to assess their risk of kidney disease. Forbes says 1.8 million Australians show early signs but remain undiagnosed, and warns of a growing crisis in Central Australia. He says those at risk include those with diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, or a family history to see their GP for a simple kidney health check.

Interview continues on: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).

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2GB, Drive, 13/03/2025, Clinton Maynard

Interview with Kellie Caught, Director of Energy and Climate at the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), on the impact of rising energy costs on the elderly and other vulnerable groups. Caught says the ACOSS Heat in Home Survey found 90% of respondents struggled with excessive heat, with over half unable to cool their homes. She says the issue was worse for renters, low-income earners, people with disabilities, and First Nations people, with over 60% facing significant difficulties. She adds 90% reported health issues, and 14% required medical attention for heat-related conditions like dehydration and asthma flare-ups.

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PRIMARY CARE

Health detail lacking, bill should pass

Canberra Times, General News, 14/03/2025, Jasper Lindell, Page 4

The ACT government has been unable to provide sufficient detail about what has caused growing demand for public health services, leaving the budget vulnerable to bad estimates, a parliamentary committee says. The Legislative Assembly's public accounts committee has recommended the government's second appropriation bill be passed, but recommended improvements to financial transparency and sounded a fresh warning over the rise in territory debt levels.

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'Hunger Games' ramp up in EDs

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/03/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 3

Hospital management allegedly ordered frontline emergency doctors to take patients from ramped ambulances ahead of patients in the waiting room, a parliamentary committee has heard. SA Salaried Medical Officers Association chief industrial officer Bernadette Mulholland told the hearing EDs were becoming like the "Hunger Games".

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Funds for airport

Border Watch, General News, 14/03/2025, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

Larger aircraft and air tankers for firefighting at the Mount Gambier and District Airport will be funded in a \$1.2m project. [...] The Naracoorte Aerodrome funds will go towards resealing and line marking the runway in order to extend its lifespan and support access for the Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) and emergency services including firefighting.

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Emergency department data change panned

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/03/2025, Matt Maloney, Page 3

The government has been criticised for attempting to hide public information on hospital emergency department waiting times, although the Health Minister says that data is more transparent than it has ever been. Monthly health department reporting on emergency department statistics has been removed from the department's dashboard, in favour of daily reporting.

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

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

Ambulance station site locked in

Newcastle Herald, General News, 14/03/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 2

Land has been bought at Caves Beach for a new ambulance station, after paramedics raised concerns about a lack of action on the plan. The Minns government announced yesterday that the site was in Kayuga Close.

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

'Life-saving': John Hunter project hits milestone amid hope for future

Newcastle Herald, Other, 13/03/2025, Damon Cronshaw

The redevelopment of John Hunter Hospital has hit a milestone, with the new seven-storey acute services building reaching its highest point. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park will announce the building's progress, along with two other big decisions, at the hospital on Thursday morning.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 13/03/2025, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will

Goodings

Several children's surgeries were cancelled mid-procedure at the Women's and Children's Hospital after doctors noticed high humidity in the operating room. Condensation on the windows raised concerns about patient safety and equipment sterilisation. As a precaution, 13 non-urgent surgeries were cancelled yesterday. Emergency procedures will continue as usual, while SA Health engineers work to fix the issue.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Poor sleep can affect intimate relationships

The Australian, Other, 14/03/2025, Penny Timms

It's a concept known as "sleep divorce" and new data suggests about 14 per cent of Australian couples sleep apart every night, with another 31 per cent engaging in it at least once a month to improve their rest. "Sleep divorce is becoming more common around the world, and while it can enhance individual rest ... it may also introduce emotional distance," says Alison Wimms, director of medical affairs at ResMed.

[Read More](#)

'Delay and deflect': Griefline hits out at Labor after funding stoush

The Mercury, Other, 13/03/2025, Angira Bharadwaj

Labor has been accused of playing politics with mental health after a funding stoush with a major Australian charity. [...] A letter seen by The Daily Telegraph and sent to Griefline from the Health Department said: "Noting Griefline's request for immediate financial support, please be aware Commonwealth grant processes are subject to the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 under Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

We tracked the mental health of trans and gender-diverse Australians for over 20 years. And we're worried

The Conversation, Other, 13/03/2025, Zoe Aitken, Glenda Bishop, Dennis Petrie, Sara Hutchinson Tovar and Karinna Saxby

The mental health of trans, nonbinary and gender-diverse Australians is worse than the general population and the gap is getting wider. Our new study, published recently in BMJ Mental Health, shows the gap has grown considerably since 2010, particularly for young people. This is the first time the mental health of trans, nonbinary and gender-diverse Australians has been tracked over time for so long using data that represents the whole population.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 13/03/2025, Tiffany Warne

A new headspace trial in Adelaide's northern suburbs is providing free mental health support for young people. The initiative offers up to four one-on-one sessions at the Twelve25 Youth Centre in Salisbury without requiring a doctor's referral. The latest data from the Bureau of Statistics shows the number of young Australians facing mental health disorders has surged 26% compared to 18 years ago.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, The Kenny Report, 13/03/2025, Chris Kenny

Interview with child and adolescent psychologist Clare Rowe. Kenny reports on the fifth anniversary of the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic, with The Advertiser's new video series highlighting the lockdown's impact on their mental health. Rowe cites data indicating that three in four children in Melbourne experience significant depression and anxiety before turning 18. She says many children

have struggled to fully recover, with some never returning to school or socialising as they did before 2020. She says parents and schools must actively push children to re-engage with normal activities to foster recovery.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nurses demand LNP keeps word on wages

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 14/03/2025, Natasha Emeck, Page 6

Frontline nurses in Townsville are calling on Queensland Premier David Crisafulli to honour an election promise made to them, after the state's recently unveiled wages policy fell short of their expectations. Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU) secretary Sarah Beaman met with local union members at the Townsville University Hospital on Thursday, giving them an opportunity to discuss the government's preelection commitment on wages and working conditions.

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

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

Give nurses, midwives more scope to free-up healthcare

Canberra Times, Other, 14/03/2025, Tess Ikonomou

There's growing calls for nurses and midwives to take greater charge of patient care to help free-up GPs and ease the pressure on hospital emergency departments. Australia's nursing and midwifery bodies have called on the federal government and the opposition to back a \$500 million program for nurse-led clinics across the country.

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

[Read More](#)

New pregnancy exercise guidelines put women's long-term health first

Prevention, Other, 13/03/2025, Christine Diane Almanzor

Turns out, staying active while pregnant can help prevent chronic conditions and boost overall health for years to come. Traditional pregnancy exercise advice has largely focused on foetal safety, but new guidelines from the Women's Health Education Network (WHEN) are shifting the conversation. The WHEN Pregnancy Exercise Guidelines emphasise not just the immediate safety of the baby, but the long-term musculoskeletal and pelvic health of women—before, during and after pregnancy.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Doctors win \$175m in overtime claim

Age, General News, 14/03/2025, Broede Carmody and Henrietta Cook, Page 4

Junior doctors have won a landmark \$175 million settlement with the Victorian government over unpaid overtime while working at public hospitals. The agreement will benefit up to 15,000 staff who worked across 36 Victorian health services between January 2015 and now, who did not log unscheduled overtime because they were unaware of their entitlements or feared it would negatively affect their career.

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

Students welcomed

Border Watch, General News, 14/03/2025, Page 8

I was pleased to attend the launch of the Flinders University SA Rural Medical Program this week. Flinders secured federal grant funding in 2023 to facilitate the full four-year program in regional areas,

which sees a cohort of 30 students living and studying right here in our beautiful city.

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

Rural GPs are hard to find, so this town is offering a reward

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2025

Australia has a shortage of GPs, particularly in rural, regional and remote areas. But, one GP clinic in regional Victoria is tackling the problem in a creative way by offering a reward to anyone in their community who can help recruit a doctor!

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#), [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Allergy Assist for rural GPs

Medicine Today, Other, 13/03/2025

A free online platform designed to provide rural doctors with timely specialist advice and expert allergy education and support is now available. Launched by the National Allergy Council in partnership with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and funded by the Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care, allergy assist TM provides rural doctors with clinical tools, educational resources and specialist allergy advice within 48 hours.

[Read More](#)

Health Minister to address APP

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/03/2025

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Queensland, has announced that the Hon Tim Nicholls, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services in Queensland, will address delegates at APP2025. He will present a keynote address on Fri 21 Mar, offering insights into the current landscape of healthcare policy, and the future direction of community pharmacy in Qld.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacists thanked for stepping up

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/03/2025

Today is Thank Your Pharmacist Day, and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is celebrating the nation's 40,000 pharmacists, recognising their dedication and impact across all areas of practice and in all corners of the country. This year's theme, 'Pharmacists Stepping Up', highlights the growing role of pharmacists in delivering accessible, high-quality healthcare - stepping up to meet increasing demands, growing towards full scope, and improving patient outcomes in every area of practice and specialty.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Uni side hustle grows to nearly \$70m valuation

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 14/03/2025, Tess Bennett, Page 17

StrongRoom ai, which makes software for pharmacies to help patients adhere to their medication regime, has completed a \$17 million capital raising, which values the start-up at almost \$70 million. Founded by three friends as a side hustle while at univers...

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

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Joint call for \$19 co-payment

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/03/2025

Leading health and community voices including the Pharmacy Guild of Australia are calling for bipartisan support to reduce the maximum out-of-pocket cost of prescription medicine to \$19. Other organisations include the Australian Patients Association, Asthma Australia, Family Planning Alliance Australia, QENDO, Australian Association for Adolescent Health, Wounds Australia, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and Advanced Pharmacy Australia.

Also reported by: [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#), [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#), [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Doctors say GP shortage, strict university admissions will make it difficult to deliver on Albo's bulk billing election promise

7news.com.au, Other, 13/03/2025, Jennifer Bechwati

The federal government's key election promise to deliver more bulk billing is in doubt with the nation facing a critical shortage of doctors and the Medicare system at breaking point. The shortage, and promise of more bulk billing, has left many local doctors' surgeries raising how difficult it already is to staff practices.

[Read More](#)

How connected is our healthcare?

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2025, Fran Kelly

In a perfect world, our medical histories would live in the cloud, accessible to health professionals at the press of a button but safe and secure from data breaches. In reality, our digital health records are clunky, disconnected and distrusted, so what's the fix?

[Read More](#)

6PR, Drive, 13/03/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on severe storms in Perth, infrastructure projects, and expansion of urgent care clinics. Albanese highlights the government's efforts to improve healthcare, including tripling the bulk billing incentive and establishing 50 new urgent care clinics. He notes that eight clinics are already operating in Western Australia, with at least six more planned.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'Birthkeeper' on kill charge

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/03/2025, Eliza Barr and Janine Watson, Page 21

A woman with no medical qualifications who calls herself an "accredited childbirth educator" has been charged with manslaughter over the death of a baby by allegedly attempting a breech home birth "without adequate training, knowledge, or equipment". Self-described "birthkeeper" Penelope Burrows, also known as Penny, was charged with manslaughter alongside Christina Meyer after the death of a baby boy on September 11, 2022 at Karangi, 10 minutes west of Coffs Harbour.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#).

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

Leaked data reveals serious clinical errors

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 14/03/2025, Ben Silvester, Page 3

Leaked government data has revealed three Victorian health services were responsible for nearly half the serious clinical errors leading to severe harm or death across the state. The data from Safer care Victoria recorded "sentinel events": serious clinical errors that kill or seriously harm a patient.

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

Lost, alone and distressed

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 14/03/2025, Nadine Morton, Page 1

An 88-year-old dementia sufferer is alone on a bus, unsure where she is. Thankfully a call from her carer helps to track her down, after leaving Wollongong Hospital in a state of distress.

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

Surgeon took photo of penis Nazi tattoo

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/03/2025, Vanda Carson, Page 39

An orthopaedic surgeon who shared with his doctor mates a photo he took of a comatosed patient's penis that was tattooed with a swastika has been reprimanded for misconduct and fined \$10,000. The surgeon whose name has been suppressed by a tribunal, took the photo of the swastika-adorned penis while the unconscious man was being treated in April 2019 at a hospital in regional Queensland for injuries sustained after a homemade pipe bomb exploded as he was holding it.

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

Midwife with hepatitis B still working at hospital amid exposure fears

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/03/2025, Clementine Cuneo

A midwife at the centre of a potential hepatitis B outbreak at a major Sydney hospital where up to 400 mothers and children could have been exposed is still working at the facility. A midwife at the centre of a potential hepatitis B outbreak, which may have exposed hundreds of mothers and children to the virus at a Sydney hospital, is still working at the facility.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

'Weakest policy': Taylor blasted

The Australian, General News, 14/03/2025, Greg Brown and Jack Quail, Page 5

Angus Taylor's claim to have unveiled 34 economic policies in this term of parliament extends to taxpayer-funded mental health sessions, regulating vaping, increasing student visa fees, investing in ovarian cancer research and reducing the refugee intake. The list released by the office of the opposition Treasury spokesman has been panned by economists as evidence there has been a lack of credible policies unveiled by the Coalition.

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

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Wild Health Canberra Australian health leaders' summit

Wild Health Summits, Other, 13/03/2025

In a pre-budget check-up of the Australian health system, Wild Health is going to Canberra on 4 May 2023 to examine how we might navigate the most intractable barriers to our starting meaningful, long-term healthcare reform.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 13/03/2025, Melissa Downes

The Queensland Government is considering a major restructuring of Queensland Health to improve efficiencies and streamline departments. A briefing by the Director-General outlined the proposed changes to staff, including potential impacts on the First Nations Health Service. The government has

assured employees that no job cuts will occur, with a final decision expected after the consultation period ends in March.

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SPORT

AFL's smart move on head risks

The Australian, Sport, 14/03/2025, Jessica Halloran, Page 24

AFL chief Andrew Dillon has revealed the league is amping up the monitoring of head injuries in the game by piloting smart mouthguard measurements with two leading clubs this season. The Sydney Swans and Geelong will use the mouthguards which can measure the contact in training and games among a raft of measures to be rolled out as the league works towards potentially reducing contact in training sessions.

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

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GP boss says \$100m race should be 'guarded jealously' despite the cost

Age, General News, 14/03/2025, Sam McClure, Page 1

Australian Grand Prix Corporation boss Martin Pakula says Melburnians would have been "furious" if the Formula 1 race had been stolen by Sydney and defended the cost to Victorian taxpayers. This weekend's Albert Park event features two Australian drivers, one with a genuine chance of winning in Brighton-raised Oscar Piastri, and Sunday's grand prix will be the first race in Ferrari red for seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton.

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

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Cocaine ban for Kings captain

Daily Telegraph, Sport, 14/03/2025, Matt Logue, Page 84

Sydney Kings captain Xavier Cooks received a four-week ban after testing positive for cocaine but faces further potential punishment from the club. Cooks has served the majority of his ban outside of competition while being provisionally suspended since early February.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Race on to crack code of disease

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/03/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 19

One of the world's leading Parkinson's disease scientists has warned of a looming crisis of a surge in the neurological condition if research doesn't "step up". Professor David Komander, from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) in Melbourne, said Parkinson's cases were now outpacing Alzheimer's disease cases in the community.

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Wedded to being obese

Herald Sun, General News, 14/03/2025, Page 19

Being married triples men's risk of obesity but does not increase women's risk. A National Institute of Cardiology study in Poland also found tying the knot increases the risk of being overweight by 62 per cent in men and 39 per cent in women.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Mamamia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Water aerobics can help weight loss

Daily Mercury, General News, 14/03/2025, Page 7

Water aerobics can help people with obesity lose body weight and waist circumference. A Pukyong National University team in South Korea says water aerobics is potentially a good exercise option for people who are overweight, as it reduces the impact on joints.

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Convenient but not healthy

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/03/2025, Louisa Ragas, Page 23

A new Deakin study reveals that poorer countries could soon experience higher levels of obesity as convenience stores and chain supermarkets pop up replacing traditional food outlets and vendors. Researchers from Deakin's Global Centre for Preventive Health and Nutrition (GLOBE) in the Institute for Health Transformation (IHT) said the study reflects a seismic shift in the types of retail food stores springing up across the world, and that this trend could have serious health impacts on communities.

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

Cash for research to help cancer patients

Newcastle Herald, General News, 14/03/2025, Matt Carr, Page 7

A Newcastle cancer researcher says a grant of almost \$800,000 will allow her to help patients "prehabilitate" from surgery related to the disease. Jennifer Mackney, a clinical specialist physiotherapist who is also an honorary University of Newcastle lecturer and John Hunter Hospital respiratory scientist, said that exercise, diet improvements and psychological support before surgery had numerous benefits.

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

Antidepressants reduce generalised anxiety disorder symptoms, finds Cochrane review

Medicine Today, Other, 13/03/2025, Rebecca Jenkins

Antidepressants effectively reduce symptoms in patients with generalised anxiety disorder (GAD) compared with placebo, a Cochrane review finds. Researchers said the review aimed to provide an updated summary of all the evidence available on antidepressants compared with placebo in GAD, including the efficacy and acceptability of the pharmacotherapy.

[Read More](#)

Online lifestyle trial shown to improve cognition in older adults

Medicine Today, Other, 13/03/2025, Melanie Hinze

New research published in Nature Medicine calls for effective, scalable dementia prevention interventions to address modifiable risk factors for dementia. The single-blind, randomised controlled trial assessed an online multidomain lifestyle intervention, called Maintain Your Brain (MYB), which was designed to target modifiable risk factors that may prevent cognitive decline.

[Read More](#)

Fracture prevention in postmenopausal women given infrequent zoledronate

Medicine Today, Other, 13/03/2025, Rebecca Jenkins

An infusion of zoledronate every five or 10 years can prevent vertebral fractures in early postmenopausal women, a large randomised controlled trial suggests. The bisphosphonate zoledronate was known to prevent fractures in older women when given every 12 to 18 months; however, studies had shown a persistent effect on bone density and bone turnover lasting beyond five years, researchers wrote in The New England Journal of Medicine.

High muscle strength and cardiorespiratory fitness associated with lower mortality risk in patients with cancer

Medicine Today, Other, 13/03/2025, Emily Lathlean

High muscle strength and cardiorespiratory fitness are significantly associated with a lower risk of all-cause mortality in patients diagnosed with cancer, according to a systematic review with meta-analysis. The review, published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, included 42 studies and almost 47,000 participants with cancer of any form or stage, with a median age of 64 years (range 58).

[Read More](#)

Headache disorder may be linked with suicide risk

Medicine Today, Other, 13/03/2025, Rebecca Jenkins

Patients with headache disorder have a higher suicide risk, a large population-based cohort study finds, with the association extending across several headache types. Previous studies had found increased rates of suicidal thoughts and behaviour in people with headache disorders, but much of the literature had focused on migraine and cluster headache, researchers wrote in JAMA Neurology.

[Read More](#)

Helping AYA cancer survivors thrive

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/03/2025

A team of Australian researchers at Prince of Wales Hospital and UNSW Sydney has launched a groundbreaking two-year study to better understand and address the psychological and cognitive challenges faced by adolescent and young adult (AYA) cancer survivors aged 15-25. The research, funded by a \$242,000 grant from the Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation, aims to bridge the gap between oncology and primary care by ensuring young survivors do not just survive cancer, but thrive beyond treatment.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 13/03/2025, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

Garvan Institute scientists have found a way to slow pancreatic cancer spread by targeting neuropeptide Y with an obesity drug in development. Tests in mice were successful, with human trials planned next. Pancreatic cancer has a five-year survival rate of 13%, dropping to 2% once it spreads.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'Honour Closing the Gap promises'

The Australian, General News, 14/03/2025, Paige Taylor, Page 6

Renewed efforts to boost school attendance and tackle family violence in the Northern Territory are the direct result of governments working with Indigenous communities as they promised they would when they signed the Closing the Gap agreement five years ago, according to co-author Pat Turner. New data measuring the successes and failures of the Closing the Gap showed this week that Indigenous incarceration and suicide rates, and the rates of Indigenous children in state care, continued to climb.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Croakey \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#), [SBS \(Sydney\)](#).

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Sugar drinks up, healthy food down the new price policy in Djarindjin remote community

West Australian, Other, 13/03/2025, Natasha Clark

A row of brightly coloured Pringles cans with a price tag of \$8.50 sit on the shelves in the general store

at Djarindjin, a remote Aboriginal community 200km north of Broome. A refrigerator hosts a 600ml Fanta drink costing \$6.60, and a one litre of Coke for \$8.50.

[Read More](#)

Man in wheelchair forced to crawl in inaccessible government-owned home in WA

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2025, Giulia Bertoglio

When Graham Umbulgurri is alone and needs to go to the toilet, he has to crawl to his bathroom. His government-owned home in Wyndham, Western Australia's northernmost town, has corridors and doors too narrow for him to manoeuvre his wheelchair safely.

[Read More](#)

Importance of CV risk-factor screening in young First Nations people highlighted

Medicine Today, Other, 13/03/2025, Melanie Hinze

The authors of research published in the Medical Journal of Australia have found that hypertension and prehypertension were 'alarmingly frequent' among young Indigenous Australians from regional, remote and urban communities. Lead author, Professor Garry Jennings, AO, who is Chief Medical Advisor at the National Heart Foundation and researcher and clinician at The Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute and the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, said, 'Major CV events are often seen at a young age in First Nations people,' adding that 'it makes sense to look for major CV risk factors, including hypertension, earlier in adolescents and young adults.'

[Read More](#)

NT Aboriginal peak bodies alliance calls for end to Territory Coordinator Bill

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/03/2025, Giovanni Torre

The Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory Aboriginal Corporation has urged the NT government to scrap the Territory Coordinator Bill. "The Territory Coordinator has unprecedented power that contradicts commitments the Northern Territory Government have signed up to under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap," said Dr John Paterson, APO NT Lead Convenor.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Post-flood virus fears

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 14/03/2025, Jackie Sinnerton and Holly Fishlock, Page 3

Queensland's top scientists are concerned that the deadly Japanese encephalitis virus will spread to coastal areas following the recent floods and the anticipated explosion of mosquitoes. QIMR Berghofer Mosquito Control Laboratory's Brian Johnson said on Thursday: "While JEV has been circulating in the Darling Downs and Murrumbidgee region, the large flooding resulting from Cyclone Alfred may increase the risk of its spread to new areas."

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

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

Is Australia's anti-vax movement growing?

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2025, Dave Marchese

Australia's always been proud of having one of the highest uptakes of vaccines in the world. But with the US reporting its first measles deaths in a decade and politicians here expressing anti-vax views, could all of that be at risk? Hack takes a look at vaccine sentiment across the country.

[Read More](#)

WHO global brief on encephalitis

Medicine Today, Other, 13/03/2025

WHO has launched a new technical brief on encephalitis. Encephalitis: global threats, trends and public health implications aims to focus attention on the increasing global threat of encephalitis, prevention strategies and existing gaps in its diagnosis, treatment and care.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Pharmacies' role in medicinal cannabis awareness

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Independent Pharmacies, Page 46

Australia. In recent years, medicinal cannabis has gained recognition as an effective treatment for various medical conditions, including chronic pain, anxiety, and epilepsy. [...] Navigating TGA guidelines Adhering to TGA guidelines is vital when supplying medicinal cannabis in Australia.

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Transforming care: Empowering pharmacists in the medical cannabis revolution

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 70

Retail Pharmacy spoke with Nicole Le Maistre, General Manager of Leafio Montu's medical cannabis distribution arm about how Montu and Leafio are empowering pharmacists in the medical cannabis space. Can you provide some background on Montu and its wholesale distribution arm, Leafio? [...] In addition, our Government Relations, Medical Affairs, and Regulatory teams work diligently to ensure Leafio meets the stringent compliance standards set by the TGA.

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

Health Check: All hail the hard-working bodily 'spuds' – it's World Kidney Day

The Australian, Other, 13/03/2025, Tim Boreham

It's World Kidney Day, when we all should take a moment to honour the dual bodily organs that rid the body of toxins around the clock. [...] Promarker D is not approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration but can be sold in a limited manner via an 'approved laboratory' channel.

[Read More](#)

Politics is Clive Palmer's 'golf' – and he'll keep pouring money into it as long as his wife will let him

The Guardian, Other, 14/03/2025, Josh Butler

Clive Palmer faced a conundrum in Canberra on Thursday: whether to answer a question on China and Taiwan from one of the press gallery's most esteemed journalists, or swallow the chunk of chocolate biscuit he'd just bitten into. [...] It wasn't for lack of trying, with Palmer's Mineralogy pumping about \$100m into ads and support for the UAP campaign ; including newspaper ads denounced as spreading "misleading" claims about the World Health Organization , online ads which raised the ire of the Therapeutic Goods Administration and Labor party, and spam texts to millions of Australians raising concerns about the Covid-19 vaccines.

[Read More](#)

New procedure for product alerts

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/03/2025, John Smith

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has implemented its new Procedure for Recalls, Product Alerts and Product Corrections (PRAC), replacing the Uniform Recall Procedure Therapeutic Goods (URPTG).

[Read More](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Buying cannabis should be 'like walking into a bottle shop'

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 14/03/2025, Brodie Everist, Page 4

Imagine it: a cannabis store with a range of leaf available to buy, all safely regulated and taxed. That's what Wayne Taylor wants. "I'd like to be able to walk into a cannabis dispensary and choose between some nice flower or some nice hash," Mr Taylor said. "It's like walking into a bottle shop."

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FOOD STANDARDS

Fruit consumption drop expected

Western Advocate, General News, 14/03/2025, Eliza Spencer, Page 5

Fruit producers could see demand drop, as a new study predicts Australians will reduce their fruit intake by almost 10 per cent by 2030. Research into Australian eating habits, conducted by CSIRO and James Cook University, predicted a drop in fruit consumption across the population, substituted by processed foods and 'discretionary foods' like sweetened snacks, cakes and pastries.

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

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Popular servo item recalled over allergy concerns

The Australian, Other, 13/03/2025, Clareese Packer

An Australian servo staple has been recalled over allergy concerns. The Patties Food Group On the Menu roast chicken roll has been recalled over the presence of undeclared allergens.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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AICIS

Tackling PFAS problem

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/03/2025, Simon Mcguire, Page 8

A Greens senator hopes a government committee can help solve a "multibilliondollar problem". On Wednesday, the Senate Select Committee on PFAS (per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances) held a hearing in Launceston, with evidence from TasWater and the owners of the Launceston Airport.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 13/03/2025, Ashleigh Gillon

Interview with Professor Lezanne Ooi, Lead Researcher at the University of Wollongong, on the link between pesticides, long-lasting chemicals, nanoplastics, and PFAS to Parkinson's disease. Ooi explains that the research tests lab-grown brain cells to assess whether everyday exposure, including home pesticide use, poses a risk. She notes that while genetics play a role, environmental factors are increasingly suspected, especially given the rising rates of Parkinson's in recent decades.

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