



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 15th March 2025

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| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)  
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| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)  
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)  
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)  
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)  
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that childhood vaccination rates have declined significantly since the Covid-19 pandemic, with the rate for one-year-olds falling below the crucial 90 per cent threshold in 53 regions. Health Minister Mark Butler warned that Australia was falling “well below herd immunity levels” for measles and whooping cough in particular.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 3) reports that barely 25 per cent of children aged 6 months to five years old received flu vaccines in 2024, contributing to a record case number of 364,956.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 5) reports that NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has requested a parliamentary inquiry into the quality of health services at Northern Beaches Hospital following the death of a two-year-old boy who received care at the facility.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 4) reports that a Queensland woman has expressed relief after being told her breast biopsy results were mistakenly swapped with another patient, although she criticised the Queensland government for “putting health workers in untenable positions”.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 12) reports that a groundbreaking medical inhaler developed in Brisbane could offer faster, needle-free care for patients suffering anaphylaxis, although the device could be acquired by foreign investors without additional local funding.

- **The Canberra Times** (page 1) reports that Canberra Health Services will work with WorkSafe ACT to assess risks and improve safety for health staff providing at-home care after two medical professionals were assaulted by patients.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 3) reports that threats from the Trump administration to impose trade barriers on American-made pharmaceuticals could pose a risk to Australia's \$17.7 billion Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
- **The Canberra Times** (page 9) reports that Australia's nursing and midwifery bodies have called on the federal government to support a \$500 million program that would allow nurses and midwives to take greater charge of patient care to help alleviate the pressure on hospital ED departments.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 3) reports that the AFL has confirmed it will not allow this season's Sheffield Shield final to go ahead at Adelaide Oval, saying it would pose an unacceptable risk to players.
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 1) reports that the Environment Protection Authority has confirmed there is no risk posed to humans after the agency detected the presence of "low levels" of antibiotics in samples of dead salmon materials washed up on southern Tasmanian beaches.
- **ABC News Online** reports that NSW Health has confirmed a man aged in his 70s has died after contracting Japanese Encephalitis, which is the fourth death since it was first detected in the state in 2022.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Covid's dangerous hangover: alarming slide in child vaccination

Weekend Australian, General News, 15/03/2025, Christine Middap, Page 1

A sustained slide in routine child immunisation rates is raising alarm as data reveals under-vaccination of one-year-olds has spread from 11 to 53 regions, opening the door to more widespread infectious disease outbreaks. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler warned of 7 to 8 per cent falls in under-fives being vaccinated against measles and whooping cough.

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

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### Anti-vax legacy: drop in kids' jabs

Weekend Australian, General News, 15/03/2025, Christine Middap, Page 20

Leading epidemiologist Raina MacIntyre was in a hospital emergency ward late in 2024 when she overheard a conversation that left her dumbfounded. "I thought, oh my goodness, is this how bad things are?" [...] The Covid-19 Response Inquiry Report handed down late in 2024 highlighted the need for a national strategy to improve vaccination rates and rebuild community trust in vaccines, and Health Minister Mark Butler warned of 7 per cent to 8 per cent declines in under-fives vaccinated against measles and whooping cough.

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

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### Labor 'drained' regions of GPs

Weekend Australian, General News, 15/03/2025, Noah Yim, Page 9

The Albanese government has "drained" general practice doctors from regional areas by redirecting newly migrated health professionals, the peak GP association says, as the Coalition calls on the government to explain why a majority of the new communities listed for priority GP access are in Labor electorates. Health Minister Mark Butler this week unveiled 17 communities that would be eligible for the pool of overseas-trained doctors, who have to work outside of metropolitan areas before they can be a Medicare provider.

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

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## Covid was a painful story, so let the rewriting begin

Weekend Australian, General News, 15/03/2025, Steve Waterson, Page 20

Despite efforts by the architects of our pandemic response to deny it, we should never forget that this was an entirely man-made disaster. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler had a different opinion at the launch of the government's once-over-lightly Covid inquiry in October 2024, saying "our pandemic plans were grossly inadequate for the scale of the challenge that Covid-19 presented to us".

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

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## 'Perfect storm' diet for danger

Herald Sun, General News, 15/03/2025, Amy Bissett, Page 19

The "perfect storm" is how an eating disorder expert has described the pandemic in fuelling a rise in "life-threatening" anorexia in young Australian children. [...] In 2023, Health Minister Mark Butler announced that \$70m would be used to increase services for youth mental illhealth and eating disorders.

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

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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.

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

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## Urgent care clinic to reduce pressure on Geelong hospital

Surf Coast Times, General News, 14/03/2025, Ellie Claringbold, Page 7

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.

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

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## The end of cancer: how cell therapy breakthroughs have us on the edge of a cure

The Australian, Other, 15/03/2025, Natasha Robinson

Two years after Neil Armstrong walked on the Moon, US president Richard Nixon declared a new frontier in American scientific conquest. [...] It's what federal health minister Mark Butler called a "turbocharged period" of discovery on cancer therapies, after announcing public funding for the first pan-tumour pharmaceutical – Vitrakvi – that has been described as a likely game-changer in precision oncology.

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## Dietitians push nutrition as weight loss drugs surge

Canberra Times, Other, 14/03/2025, Sam McKeith

Australian doctors who prescribe weight-loss drugs such as Ozempic should be obliged to refer the patient to dietitians at the same time, the nutrition industry's peak body says. [...] The office of Health Minister Mark Butler did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#)

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## Deni Headspace push continues

Shepparton News Online, Other, 14/03/2025, Daniel Briggs

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.

Also reported by: [Yarrawonga Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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## A Medicare freeze by another name?

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/03/2025, Paul Smith, Page 3

I am talking about the judgement GPs made when they learnt of the \$8.5 billion investment in general practice to bring back universal bulk-billing for the masses. [...] But is there not Department of Health and Aged Care modelling showing the policy will triple the number of universally bulk-billing clinics from 1600 to 3200? Yes, but it is all top secret.

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## 50 urgent care clinics to come

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/03/2025, Antony Scholefield, Page 4

The Prime Minister has committed to expanding the urgent care clinic network from 87 to 137 even though the independent evaluation of whether the clinics are easing pressure on EDs is not due until 2026. [...] Anthony Albanese made the announcement at a Sydney urgent care clinic run by GP corporate ForHealth, alongside Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler.

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## The 'worst' health minister and a Sky News probe

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/03/2025, Paul Smith, Page 18

The other issue, in terms of who is the 'worst' health minister, is that Mr Dutton had successors and they were not included in the poll for reasons to do with the spacetime continuum. Those ministers included Sussan Ley and Greg Hunt. And there is also the current incumbent, Mark Butler, who seems keener than most to repeat the 2015 poll results despite (or perhaps because of) their use-by date.

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## Universal bulk-billing is a fever dream

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/03/2025, Page 19

Mark Butler says he 'could not in good conscience' boost rebates instead of bulk-billing incentives. Dear Mark Butler, I have been a GP for 15 years. I transitioned my clinic to a mixed-billing model three years ago.

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## Red tape cut

Nursing Review, General News, 01/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz, Page 2

The Albanese government has announced a new scheme for the removal of red tape to allow a record number of overseas-trained nurses to enter the Australian workforce faster. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said this measure is a direct response to an independent review of health practitioner regulatory settings (Kruk Review), in collaboration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and all state and territory governments.

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## Best advice and care

Nursing Review, General News, 01/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz, Page 8

The federal government has announced a review into healthcare for trans and gender diverse Australians, just days after Queensland announced it would pause the delivery of puberty blockers to children pending a review into pediatric gender services. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the review would develop new national guidelines for the treatment of trans and gender diverse children and adolescents in Australia and be "driven by evidence" and informed by "public consultation and international work".

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## Sector reacts

Nursing Review, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 11

A nurse who vowed to "kill" Israeli patients and another who claimed he had already sent Israeli patients to the afterlife have now been banned from practising "anywhere in Australia, in any context". Ahmad "Rashad" Nadir and Sarah Abu Lebdeh were deregistered by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of NSW, effective from February 13, Health Minister Mark Butler has confirmed.

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## Strengthen Medicare

Nursing Review, General News, 01/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz, Page 26

The Albanese government has unveiled a \$1.7bn funding boost for state-run hospitals amid "pressures" hampering the country's health system. [...] "Through a range of pieces of work, particularly Senate inquiries that Senator Marielle Smith has led, and Ged Kearney's work through the Advisory Council, it's been very clear to us that women simply haven't been getting the level of support they deserve through our healthcare system for too long.

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## Gig Guide: Pioneer bows out as govt's medical innovation adviser

InnovationAus, Other, 14/03/2025, Joseph Brookes

Immunologist Ian Frazer, who co-developed the technology behind the HPV vaccine against cervical cancer, has stepped down from his role as chair of the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board. [...] "I know many people will recognise Professor Frazer's name as the co-inventor of the technology which brought us HPV vaccines, now used worldwide to help prevent cervical cancer," Health minister Mark Butler said.

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## Vaccination nations

Inside Story, Other, 14/03/2025, Lesley Russell

In just a few short weeks the Trump administration has halted, overturned, defunded or revised vaccine-related research programs, approvals processes and public health guidance, with steps underway to downgrade or even eliminate independent expert advice. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care announced the deal in these terms: "The Australian government has entered into a ten-year partnership with Moderna and the Victorian government that will see Moderna build an mRNA vaccine manufacturing facility at Monash University Victoria."

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## Nine new Distribution Priority Areas named in WA

Medical Forum, Other, 14/03/2025

More localities around Australia have been identified as areas where GP service levels have decreased – with the majority in WA. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's office said the government was continuing to work through its response to the independent review of classifications and that these updates to the MMM and DPA classifications were in line with the latest Census and workforce data from the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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## Questions remain on disability despite shadow minister's appearance on Q+A

Women's Agenda, Other, 14/03/2025, Melissa Marsden

Monday's episode of Q+A neglected a major issue that raises questions on the political and media value placed on disability. The panel comprised an array of politicians and commentators, including Shadow Assistant Minister for the NDIS Hollie Hughes and Minister for Health Mark Butler.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER WELLS

### Paralympics grant doubles the support

Gympie Today, General News, 14/03/2025, Arthur Gorrie, Page 44

The state Government has announced a \$2 million grant for The Queensland Academy of Sport, to launch a new Para-Sport Unit which it says will more than double the pipeline for Paralympians on the road to Brisbane 2032. [...] Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells, said the lead-up to our home Games in Brisbane 2032 provided "a generational opportunity to create a legacy in sport and reshape how all Australians look at disability in this country.

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### 'Stubborn, distressing' infection affecting women is actually an STI

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/03/2025, Rebekah Scanlan

One in three women will suffer with a common issue that gets worse during intercourse – now new research suggests it's actually an STI. [...] 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.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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### Red tape cut

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number of overseas-trained nurses to enter the Australian workforce faster. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said this measure is a direct response to an independent review of health practitioner regulatory settings (Kruk Review), in collaboration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and all state and territory governments.

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### Nurses deliver demands to Labor

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/03/2025, Jessica Wang, Page 39

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 outcomes. The seven pre-election demands issued by the Alliance of the Nine Peaks also calls for endorsed midwives to conduct preconception counselling, homebirths and general women's health consults, which would require a new item on the Medicare Benefit Schedule.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Weekend Australian \(Australia\)](#).

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### Early spike in flu prompts warning

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 15/03/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 19

Doctors are urging people to get the flu vaccine before winter with cases soaring over the past few months. [...] This week the Department of Health and Aged Care sent an urgent message to health professionals across the country urging them to improve vaccine uptake, especially among children aged under five, pregnant women, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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

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### Study finds teens don't fully understand risks of smoking

Bellarine Times, General News, 14/03/2025, James Taylor, Page 40

A new research paper from the Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer (CBRC) at Cancer Council Victoria has shown gaps in teenagers' understanding of the harms of smoking. [...] The survey was led by Cancer Council Victoria's Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer and funded by the federal government Department of Health and Aged Care, state and territory governments and Cancer Councils in Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania.

Also reported by: [Surf Coast Times \(Torquay\)](#), [Armstrong Creek Times \(Victoria\)](#).

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## How Gold Coast doctor is fighting anti-vax epidemic

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 15/03/2025, Ann Wason Moore, Page 64

Australia's Chief Medical Officer Professor Tony Lawler recently described social media health advice as "a misinformation and disinformation arms race". This warning comes amid a measles outbreak in the US, with approximately 90 per cent of those infected unvaccinated, and the first disease-related death in more than a decade.

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## Anti-vaxxers attack MP after jab post

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/03/2025, Anna Falkenmire, Page 20

Wallsend MP Sonia Hornery has been forced to close comments on her social media posts and stand up to vile trolls after posting about the COVID-19 vaccine. [...] Australia's Department of Health and Aged Care describes COVID-19 vaccinations as "the best way to maintain your protection against severe illness, hospitalisation and death from COVID-19".

Also reported by: [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Macleay Argus \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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## Nurses deliver seven demands

Weekend Post, General News, 15/03/2025, Page 3

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 outcomes. [...] The demands align with recommendations made in a landmark review into the health workforce led by former Department of Health deputy secretary Mark Cormack.

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## Routine childhood vaccinations are falling, and some regions are faring worse than others

The Australian, Other, 14/03/2025, Christine Middap

A sustained slide in routine child immunisation rates is raising alarm as data reveals under-vaccination of one-year-olds has spread from 11 to 53 regions, opening the door to more widespread infectious disease outbreaks. [...] The federal Health Department is working on a new five-year National Immunisation Strategy to improve coverage, prepare for new diseases, strengthen community engagement and build trust in vaccines.

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## Labor 'drained' regions of doctors, new priority regions questioned

The Australian, Other, 14/03/2025, Noah Yim

The Albanese government has "drained" general practice doctors from regional areas by redirecting newly migrated health professionals, the peak GP association says, as the Coalition calls on the government to explain why a majority of the new communities listed for priority GP access are in Labor electorates. [...] "The DPA statuses for these areas have been updated based on the most recent Department of Health and Aged Care data on outer metropolitan areas with lower levels of GP services, compared with a benchmark level," the statement read.

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## New government report reveals boomer the cause of NT salmonella outbreak

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/03/2025, Gera Kazakov

The cause – and the cost – of a salmonella outbreak which gave seven Red Centre residents diarrhoea has been revealed in a new report, which says the outbreak came from a boomer. [...] The report by the Australian Centre for Disease Control and the Department of Health and Aged Care examined the outbreak in August 2024.

Also reported by: [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).



## A Medicare freeze by another name?

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/03/2025, Paul Smith, Page 3

I am talking about the judgement GPs made when they learnt of the \$8.5 billion investment in general practice to bring back universal bulk-billing for the masses. [...] But is there not Department of Health and Aged Care modelling showing the policy will triple the number of universally bulk-billing clinics from 1600 to 3200? Yes, but it is all top secret.

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## Influenza

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/03/2025, William Naughton, Page 25

Background Infectious diseases and general medicine physician, Alice Springs Hospital, Central Australia Health Service, NT. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care recommends annual influenza vaccination for everyone six months or older.

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## Screening colonoscopy halves colorectal cancer mortality

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/03/2025, Guy Hingston & John Goldston, Page 35

Like many GP and non-GP specialist colleagues, when the primary author turned 50, he requested a screening colonoscopy (that turned out to include a polypectomy). [...] The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) rolled out by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care is the current mainstay of colorectal cancer screening across Australia.

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## Getting ahead

Nursing Review, General News, 01/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz, Page 1

Nursing is one Australia's most in-demand professions, despite nurses and midwives already representing over half of the nation's health workforce. [...] Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Adjunct Professor Alison McMillan PSM draws on her more than 40 years of nursing experience to provide strategic advice to the Department of Health and Aged Care, overseeing a range of federal government projects like the National Nursing Workforce Strategy and the National Nursing and Midwifery Education Advisory Network.

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## GPs urge PBS listing of Ozempic for weight loss

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 14/03/2025, Page 1

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has called for effective obesity-management medication, which could include semaglutide drugs, to be subsidised on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) to reduce health inequity. [...] The call comes just days after the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) sent more than a thousand GPs an 'education letter' raising concerns about their prescribing of semaglutide.

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

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## Climate change, health, and the federal election: what's at stake?

Croakey, Other, 14/03/2025, Alison Barrett

The federal election is now set to take place in May, and while a minority Labor Government is the most likely outcome according to recent polls, the Coalition is still in contention and could form its own minority government with the support of independents and minor parties. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care is now drawing up an implementation plan for the Scope of Practice and related reviews.

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## Aged care in crisis

For elderly residents in the Hills, staying in their homes is becoming increasingly difficult due to a severe shortage of essential aged care services. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said "the significant challenges facing aged care providers in rural and remote areas are recognised, along with the need to strengthen and support the aged care workforce in these communities".

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## The world has largely moved on from COVID-19. Meet the people who can't

SBS, Other, 14/03/2025, Jessica Bahr

It's been five years since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic, but some people continue to feel the effect every day. [...] Calls for more support In February 2024, the Department of Health and Aged Care published its national plan for post-acute sequelae of COVID-19, commonly known as Long COVID.

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## Vaccination nations

Inside Story, Other, 14/03/2025, Lesley Russell

In just a few short weeks the Trump administration has halted, overturned, defunded or revised vaccine-related research programs, approvals processes and public health guidance, with steps underway to downgrade or even eliminate independent expert advice. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care announced the deal in these terms: "The Australian government has entered into a ten-year partnership with Moderna and the Victorian government that will see Moderna build an mRNA vaccine manufacturing facility at Monash University Victoria."

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## Nine new Distribution Priority Areas named in WA

Medical Forum, Other, 14/03/2025

More localities around Australia have been identified as areas where GP service levels have decreased – with the majority in WA. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's office said the government was continuing to work through its response to the independent review of classifications and that these updates to the MMM and DPA classifications were in line with the latest Census and workforce data from the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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## Rural Generalism set to be recognised as its own specialty

Medical Forum, Other, 14/03/2025

The Department of Health and Aged Care said 2025 will see the largest cohort of doctors starting GP training in Australia, with more choosing to work in rural and regional areas. More than 1750 doctors are expected to begin government-funded training to become a GP in 2025. One-third of these future GPs are training in the new general practice specialty of Rural Generalism.

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## New PSR, Medicare investigative powers 'overreach'

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/03/2025, Holly Payne

The AMA alleges that proposed changes to the law expressly override common law privilege against self-incrimination. The Department of Health and Aged Care could be veering into overreach with proposed extensions to investigatory powers, the AMA has warned.

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[Back to Top](#)

## The long hard battle

Hobart Mercury, Weekend, 15/03/2025, Linda Smith, Page 1

Linda Smith would like to see greater financial support for long Covid sufferers. She'd also like to see long Covid become a notifiable disease so there would be a way to collate data on the number of people affected. "There needs to be better medical care. And there needs to be better community understanding," she says.

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## This issue

Hobart Mercury, Weekend, 15/03/2025, Page 4

Today, March 15, marks International Long Covid Awareness Day, providing an important opportunity to shed light on this debilitating condition, which many including health professionals are calling a "hidden epidemic". People suffering from long Covid experience a wide range of symptoms, from fatigue, shortness of breath and cognitive dysfunction to changes in taste and smell, insomnia, anxiety and depression.

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[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Five years after COVID, we're not prepared for crisis

AFR Weekend, Editorials, 15/03/2025, Page 38

As The Australian Financial Review reported last month, federal Labor has spent \$26 billion more on aged care, disability,

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### What the pandemic taught us about social isolation in the elderly

Canberra Times, Other, 14/03/2025, Rowan Cowley

The covid pandemic was a time of unprecedented challenges, but what did it teach us about the importance of providing social connection for older Australians? RMIT community wellbeing expert Katherine Johnson said the pandemic was a challenging time for all Australians, especially those living in Melbourne, who endured the longest lockdowns in the world.

*Also reported by:* [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### Designs show extensive internal works on heritage building

The Mercury, Other, 14/03/2025, Alison Foletta

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.

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

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### 'More sector voices'

Nursing Review, General News, 01/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz, Page 28

Study lead author Dr Priyanka Vandersman, a senior research fellow at Flinders' Research Centre for Palliative Care, Death and Dying (RePaDD), said the results show that the successful adoption of new digital technologies in aged care relies heavily on improving the tools, training, and ongoing support available to nurses and staff. "In Australia and around the world, we have seen a significant increase in digital technologies in the healthcare sector," Dr Vandersman said.

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## **Providers must look to Asia for solutions, say futurist, peak CEO**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/03/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Day two of the ITAC 2025 conference delivered a wake-up call to providers from Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson and scientific futurist Dr Catherine Ball that Australia's fear of failure has let the aged care sector fall behind, and embracing proven Asian tech is the best path forward.

[Read More](#)

## **Regular eye tests could help identify risk of dementia**

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 14/03/2025, Natalie Dragon

Regular vision tests may help predict the risk of developing dementia with research showing a link between deterioration in vision and cognitive decline. Dementia rates are rapidly increasing in Australia and globally, with vision problems contributing to an estimated 4.7 per cent of the burden.

[Read More](#)

## **Secrets to finding the best private health insurance deal for over-60s**

The Senior, Other, 14/03/2025, Anthony Caggiano

Australians have been changing private health insurance companies amid higher costs of living and premiums going up as they enter later stages in life. Roy Morgan research found in 2024, 833,000 people aged 60 and over had swapped providers during a 12-month period, while 3.9 million had such insurance

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## **Proposed liquidity requirements likely to increase cost of capital and threaten new builds, warns StewartBrown**

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

Residential aged care operators would need to retain more than double the amount of liquid assets that they already hold under the proposed new Financial and Prudential Standards, according to new modelling released by the aged care accountants this afternoon (Friday 14 March).

[Read More](#)

## **Private versus Not For Profit: which has the smallest gender gap?**

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

Meet the Top 10 largest aged care operators with the smallest gender pay gaps – and most are led by men. Half of Australia's largest aged care providers with the lowest gender pay gaps are For Profit operators – and eight of the 10 are led by male CEOs, according to new data from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA).

[Read More](#)

## **The \$56K wage difference: the benefits of scale**

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

With labour the biggest expense for residential aged care operators, newly released 2023-24 data from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) indicates that when it comes to saving on wage costs, bigger is better. Smaller residential aged care operators are paying an average total remuneration of \$100,000 to their employees – \$18,000 more than their larger counterparts – according to new data from the WGEA.

[Read More](#)

## **The regional aged care operator paying \$25K above the average for staff**

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

Not-for-profit Warrigal is now seeing thousands more visits to its careers website every month – but the challenge of finding enough nurses, particularly in regional areas, continues to plague operators and their bottom lines. Aged care providers are reporting an increased number of job applications, but the lack of Registered Nurses (RNs) remains a pain point for operators, especially those outside of the major cities.

## Why \$17.7 billion in wage rises won't 'sandbag' against aged care demand

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

The federal government has now committed a huge \$17.7 billion to pay increases for aged care workers and nurses. The sector has a close to zero per cent gender pay gap according to the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA).

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Don't sweat it

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 15/03/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 17

In the mid-1990s, up to 40 per cent of menopausal women in western countries were taking HRT. Doctors saw it not only as a treatment but also a potent prophylactic in reducing the risks of a suite of conditions. Yet when the notorious Women's Health Initiative clinical trial results were leaked and widely misreported in 2002, warning of a heightened risk of breast cancer from the drugs, HRT prescriptions plummeted.

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

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### Blind spot

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 15/03/2025, Richard Godwin, Page 34

The sudden rise of short-sightedness, particularly among children, is alarming. What's causing it and is there a solution? very morning shortly after checking my phone and shortly before brushing my teeth I pull down my lower eyelids in turn and smush a contact lens on to each of my eyeballs. I'm pretty good at this by now and can do it without a mirror.

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

### Millions of kids at risk from flu

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/03/2025, Eliza Barr, Page 3

Millions of kids are being left exposed to the flu, with new data exposing a shock decline in children being vaccinated despite an explosion of cases reported in the last year. Statistics from the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance revealed just 25.7 per cent of children aged between six months and five-years-old were vaccinated against the flu in 2024, even though they are most at-risk of serious complications.

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### I'm learning to thrive with no hands or feet

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/03/2025, Lisa Wachsmuth, Page 39

The NSW Central Coast dad had been put into an induced coma after a secondary infection caused life-threatening sepsis, with medical professionals working around the clock to keep him alive. They saved his life, but not his limbs, and now the quadruple amputee is learning to live again using prosthetics and his own ingenuity.

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

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### Heart and soul

Herald Sun, Weekend, 15/03/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 1

Professor Derek Chew also runs the cardiovascular disease monitoring group for the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. He says in Australia the rate of heart attacks is on the increase,

particularly in young people under the age of 45. Chew puts that down to the increase in obesity.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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## New baby, new life

Courier Mail, Qweekend, 15/03/2025, Amelia Lamont, Page 14

You've had your first baby and now you're in your fourth trimester, a time when your life has changed, you're lonely and sleep is in short supply. A new book suggests ways to navigate this new frontier Loneliness When I reached out to my social media audience to ask them about their observations on the fourth trimester, one experience rang out loud and clear the loneliness that comes with having a baby.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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## Jab plea as flu strikes

Courier Mail, General News, 15/03/2025, Page 6

Pharmacists are imploring Australians to proactively vaccinate ahead of the 2025 flu season, after vaccination rates plummeted in 2024 and the number of cases soared. Statistics reveal less than a third of Australians received a flu vaccine in 2024, when the nation recorded its highest ever rate of influenza cases.

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## Qld device could end allergy jabs

Courier Mail, General News, 15/03/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 12

People with deadly allergies could receive life-saving treatment without a needle from a groundbreaking medical device developed in Brisbane that could work up to eight times faster than injectors. It is hoped clinical trials with allergy sufferers could begin within months.

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## Weight of numbers

The Nightly, General News, 14/03/2025, Sarah Di Lorenzo, Page 32

Fibre is a key ingredient to good health, but are you eating enough? If you're experiencing blood sugar spikes, high cholesterol or weight gain, you may not be getting enough fibre. Despite this essential nutrient playing a crucial role in maintaining overall health, most people do not consume enough of it.

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## How can we turn tide on nation's obesity crisis?

Central Western Daily, General News, 15/03/2025, Jessica Kerr, Page 39

Since the 1990s, the proportion of the world's population who are overweight (with a body mass index of 25-30) or obese (with a body mass index of 30 or above) has doubled. If current patterns continue, we estimate that by 2050, 30 per cent of the world's children and adolescents (aged five to 24 years) will be overweight or obese, according to our new research in The Lancet.

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## A better measurement index? Why BMI guidelines may be on way out

Daily Liberal, General News, 15/03/2025, Ayisha Siddiqua, Page 36

Studies following the boom in the worldwide sales and usage of these drugs are revealing potential side effects, such as increased risks of pancreatitis and arthritis. There is an increase in the off-label use of Ozempic and other related drugs, with some doctors prescribing them for conditions or in doses not approved by regulatory authorities.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#)

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## Weighing up case for drug subsidies

In Australia, the government subsidises the cost of semaglutide (Ozempic) for people with diabetes. But it is yet to subsidise semaglutide (Wegovy) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for weight loss. This is despite Australia's regulator approving GLP-1 agonists for people with obesity, and for overweight people with at least one weight-related condition.

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

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## Pollution threatens mankind with sperm in decline

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/03/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 20

A study of 78,000 men shows sperm quality is linked to how long males live, amid rising concern about pollution threatening the ability of humans to reproduce. "Pollution is mostly having an impact on males globally," University of Newcastle Distinguished Emeritus Professor John Aitken said.

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## Six tips to enhance your gut health, as shared by a nutritionist

The Australian, Other, 14/03/2025, Laura Southern

The key to optimal gut health lies not just in the foods we eat, but the way we combine them to increase the absorption of nutrients and antioxidants from ingredients, and help good bacteria survive the digestive process.

[Read More](#)

## Australians urged to prepare for flu season after record cases in 2024

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/03/2025, Eliza Barr

Pharmacists are imploring Australians to proactively vaccinate ahead of the 2025 flu season, after vaccination rates plummeted in 2024 and the number of cases soared. Statistics reveal less than a third of Australians received a flu vaccine in 2024, in a year where the nation recorded its highest ever rate of influenza cases.

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

[Read More](#)

## Cancer Council Tasmania and Quit Tasmania officially launch 'Don't let Vaping In' campaign

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/03/2025, Simon McGuire

Users of TikTok and Snapchat might have noticed a series of short videos appearing 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: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Health budget detail lacking but spending bill should pass: inquiry

Canberra Times, Other, 14/03/2025, Jasper Lindell

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.

[Read More](#)

## Concerns over Ozempic misuse and eating disorder risks prompt calls for increased screening

ABC Online, Other, 14/03/2025, Olivia Willis

Initially developed to treat type 2 diabetes, drugs such as Ozempic and Wegovy (brand names for

semaglutide) have become household names in recent years. They belong to a class of medications known as GLP-1 receptor agonists, which lower blood sugar levels and suppress appetite , and can help people lose weight.

[Read More](#)

## Genomics and the GP

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/03/2025, Sibel Saya & Brent Venning, Page 46

In this rapidly expanding field, the assessment of polygenic risk scores and pharmacogenomics are two areas that show promise for boosting provision of personalised medicine in primary care.

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## Bodies aren't generic

Nursing Review, General News, 01/03/2025, Maggie Kirkman & Jane Fisher, Page 22

What about the gap in medical care? Cardiovascular diseases which can lead to heart attack and stroke are one of the leading causes of death for women in Australia. But women are less likely than men to receive preventive care for heart disease, such as appropriate medication.

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## Antifungal resistance

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Tracey Cheung, Page 60

Fungi have been overlooked in infectious disease research, says Dr Megan Lenardon, a microbiologist and a senior lecturer in UNSW's School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences. "There are many pathogens with different transmission routes and many challenges with therapies and diagnostics," she said.

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## Redefining relief

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Margaret Mielczarek, Page 66

As medical cannabis continues to gain traction as a therapeutic option for conditions such as chronic pain and anxiety, retail pharmacists are stepping into a vital role in patient care, with this evolving space demanding that they stay informed about the emerging evidence while offering empathetic guidance to patients who may feel overwhelmed by this treatment option. Here, we explore how retail pharmacy can enhance access, dispel misconceptions, and improve the patient experience, redefining the role of pharmacists in the era of medical cannabis.

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## PBS-list weight-loss jabs: GPs

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/03/2025, James Tsaoucis

Manufacturers of glp-1 RAs such as semaglutide are being urged to invest in listing the medications on the PBS to treat obesity The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners is calling for "effective obesity-management" medications including glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) to be subsidised on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), "to reduce health inequity".

[Read More](#)

## Transforming lives with free addiction support

Shepparton News Online, Other, 14/03/2025, Emma Prior

Primary Care Connect is offering the free InFocus education program, designed for people who are affected by a loved one's substance use, to the Moira community with a two day session to be held in Cobram in April. Primary Care Connect is acutely aware of the toll supporting a family member or loved one through harmful use or addiction to alcohol or other drugs can take.

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[Back to Top](#)



## Daring to dream of beating cancer

Weekend Australian, General News, 15/03/2025, Jessica Clement, Page 3

It's still the biggest killer worldwide three out of every 10 deaths in Australia are attributable to it but how we fight cancer is changing. The pace of innovation has spawned a raft of game-changing medical breakthroughs over the past six months alone, giving researchers a level of confidence they have never expressed before.

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## Swapped cancer biopsies torture

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/03/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 8

A woman was wrongly given the all clear from cancer, after her breast biopsy results were mistakenly swapped with another patient who then underwent unnecessary surgery. Narelle Schirmer says she's been through torture, and also feels sorry for the total stranger who was mistakenly handed her cancer diagnosis because it was her "burden to bear".

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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## Losing Liv: a broken generation

Herald Sun, Weekend, 15/03/2025, Amy Bissett, Page 10

For close to two years, Liv Evans' family battled to save her from an eating disorder she developed during the pandemic. Sadly, at just 15, she passed away. Liv is one of many young people who became anorexic in lockdown. Now her dad, Robb, wants to ensure others are not failed by what he says is a flawed system.

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

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## Bad taste in mouth

Herald Sun, General News, 15/03/2025, Page 35

Drinking a lot of sugary drinks may increase women's risk of mouth cancer, regardless of whether they smoke. University of Washington scientists looked at data on 162,602 women, 124 of whom developed mouth cancer over 30 years of follow-up.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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## The ASX players bringing new hope to IPF sufferers

The Australian, Other, 14/03/2025, Nadine Mcgrath

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a progressive and life-threatening lung disease but several ASX companies are giving hope to sufferers. Characterised by the thickening and scarring of lung tissue, IPF leads to a decline in lung function, making breathing increasingly difficult over time.

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

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## Race gets ethics nod for Phase I trial in solid tumour patients

The Australian, Other, 14/03/2025

Approval allows the Cancer Care Foundation's lead site, Southside Cancer Care Centre in Miranda, NSW, to start enrolling patients under the supervision of principal investigator Dr Mahmood Alam, pending institutional approval and site activation this month. The Phase I open-label, multi-centre trial study will be conducted in two stages and assess safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics (PK) of RC220.

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

[Read More](#)

## One in ten former Mackay miners test positive to lung disease

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/03/2025

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: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## New discovery as to what causes Parkinson's disease

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/03/2025, Robyn Riley

One of the world's leading Parkinson's disease scientists has warned of a potential pandemic of the neurological condition if research doesn't "step up" to address the looming crisis. Professor David Komander, head of WEHI's Ubiquitin Signalling Division, said Parkinson's was growing at a faster rate than the more common Alzheimer's disease.

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

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## Daughter of Wollongong aged care worker Nathan Madden opens up on cancer discovery heartbreak

The Courier Mail, Other, 14/03/2025, Sam Stolz

The "heartbroken" daughter of a Wollongong aged care worker has had her "world turned upside down" after her "hero" dad suffered a fall at work before doctors realised he had cancer in his brain, lungs and kidneys. Nathan Madden, 45, was working as an Assistant In Nursing (AIN) at an aged care home in Wollongong in the state's Illawarra region when he had a fall at the facility early last week.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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## Geraldton workshops for women undergoing cancer treatment made possible by Racing WA Community Fund grant

West Australian, Other, 14/03/2025

A group of Mid West women battling cancer were given a helping hand recently to look good and feel better. Workshops in Geraldton offered 50 women undergoing cancer treatment a well-deserved confidence boost to enhance their overall wellbeing.

[Read More](#)

## Australian scientists solve decades-long Parkinson's mystery

The New Daily, Other, 14/03/2025, Imma Perfetto

In an important breakthrough for people living with Parkinson's, a Australian study has finally determined the structure of a protein linked to an early-onset form of the disease. Solving a decades-long mystery that paves the way for development of new drugs to treat the condition, the study, published in the journal Science, shows how a protein – PINK1 – attaches to the surface of damaged mitochondria.

[Read More](#)

## Huge leap forward in treating Parkinson's disease from Australian researchers

9News, Other, 14/03/2025, Adam Vidler

Australian researchers have made a huge breakthrough in the fight against Parkinson's disease after solving a decades-long mystery. Scientists at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

(WEHI) have for the first time been able to observe a key protein directly linked to the awful disease, and determine what it looks like.

[Read More](#)

## Let's get to the bottom of this 'taboo'

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/03/2025, Carmel Sparke, Page 13

Professor Richard Hillman says shame contributes to late presentations of anal cancer. Carmel Sparke WHEN Professor Richard Hillman was a boy, a future as one of Australia's leading anal cancer doctors was not top of his list of dream careers.

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## Annual asthma check up

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 48

With the return of most schools by February the National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) has encouraged parents and carers of children with asthma to book in an asthma check-up. "Changes in routine during the holidays can leave children more vulnerable to asthma flare-ups after returning to school."

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## Midland patients face long journeys for radiation therapy

Medical Forum, Other, 14/03/2025

A patient has highlighted the lack of access to out-of-pocket radiation therapy in the Midland area by sharing his four-hour e-bike journey to Nedlands and back again to access treatment for throat cancer. "It makes very little sense to me that there's a perfectly good hospital [St John of God Midland Public Hospital] seven kilometres from my door that isn't being used to its full potential," Thomas said in his YouTube video shared online.

[Read More](#)

## Navigating therapy for severe asthma made simpler with new resources

Medical Forum, Other, 14/03/2025

An updated information paper and wall chart on monoclonal antibody therapy for severe asthma has been released to assist primary health practitioners. The resources, compiled by the National Asthma Council Australia, were designed to assist GPs to fast-track patients' access to monoclonal antibody therapy through regular review and early referral to an appropriate specialist.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 13/03/2025, Max Futchter & Sarah Greenhalgh

News Pancreatic cancer is one of the rarest and deadliest cancers, but now a team of Australian scientists could be on the verge of changing that. They've found a way to stop it from spreading, which is key to saving lives.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 14/03/2025, Michael Thomson

News Scientists are one step closer to finding a cure for Parkinson's disease. Following a breakthrough by Australian researchers, they've cracked the code of a mystery protein that will now lead them to better treatments.

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[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Inquiry into hospital's care after two-year-old boy's death

The NSW government will conduct a parliamentary inquiry into Northern Beaches Hospital after the death of a two-year-old boy who received care at the facility. Joe Massa was taken to Northern Beaches Hospital on September 12 after he began vomiting.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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## Australia on alert over Trump hit to medicine

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/03/2025, David Crowe & Millie Muroi, Page 3

Australians face a challenge to the \$18 billion federal scheme that cuts the cost of essential medicines after US President Donald Trump ramped up his threat to impose trade barriers on pharmaceuticals to protect American companies. Health advocates are warning against any move by the Trump administration to target the subsidies under plans to impose reciprocal tariffs on dozens of countries from next month, after years of complaints from US companies about the hit to their profits from the way Australia controls prices.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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## Power of touch

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, 15/03/2025, Gabriel Weston, Page 6

Much is made of the common ground between surgeons and artists. But, while any portraitist's gift resides in their ability to engage profoundly with a subject's identity, this humane concern is still sadly lacking in many of our operating theatres.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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## High cost of living leading poll issue

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/03/2025, Angira Bharadwaj, Page 4

The cost of living is the number one election issue for 75 per cent of Australians, while almost half listed health care and Medicare as their top priority. The findings of a pre-election survey of more than a 1000 Australians by research group Finder shows the Albanese government would need to pack their upcoming preelection budget, due on March 25, with cost-of-living sweeteners to win over voters.

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## Finally, we'll get the truth

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/03/2025, Elizabeth Pike & William Tyson, Page 22

The parents of a baby boy who died at Northern Beaches Hospital have welcomed a parliamentary inquiry into the safety and quality of health services at the facility, saying they are "thrilled" by the commitment. Elouise and Danny Massa said the inquiry will help uncover the truth about the "tragic and avoidable" death of their two-year-old son Joe, who died in September last year following what they claim was a misdiagnosis and critical delays in treatment at the hospital.

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## Doctor to 'keep eye' on hospital

Herald Sun, General News, 15/03/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 27

A top doctor who leads reviews into children and infant deaths has been quietly brought into a Victorian hospital accused of mishandling several patients' care. Leading obstetrician Professor Mark Umstad will provide "extra oversight" of Latrobe Regional Hospital after he was appointed as a ministerial delegate by Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas on Wednesday.

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## Assaults prompt overhaul

Canberra Times, General News, 15/03/2025, Jasper Lindell, Page 1

Two public hospital staff members have been assaulted in recent weeks during home visits to patients,

forcing health officials into a scramble to improve staff safety while guaranteeing patient care. At-home visits will continue this weekend while Canberra Health Services tightens up safety processes and awaits improvement and prohibition notices from the workplace safety watchdog.

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## 62 Rob Parker

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/03/2025, Page 51

Dr Robert Parker has championed the wellbeing of Territorians for more than a decade, helping advocate for medical staff and patients in an increasingly burdened health care system. The Australian Medical Association NT president and Royal Darwin Hospital director of psychiatry continues to hold a prominent position in our most powerful list as the health system grapples with understaffing, budget issues and acute strain on hospitals.

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## Group's push for palliative care pays off

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/03/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 7

Eighteen years of lobbying for a designated Northern hospice centre has finally paid off for an advocacy group. Northern Tasmania has not had a dedicated public palliative care facility since the closure of the previous hospice centre, Phillip Oakden House, in 2007.

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## Toddler's death prompts hospital probe

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/03/2025, Page 26

A privately run public hospital will face a parliamentary probe after critical failings led to the death of a toddler. Two-year-old Joe Massa, pictured, collapsed and died in September after he and his parents waited three hours in the emergency department at Sydney's Northern Beaches Hospital.

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## NSW Health Minister announces inquiry into Northern Beaches Hospital after tragic toddler death

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/03/2025, William Tyson

A parliamentary inquiry has been ordered into Northern Beaches Hospital to investigate patient safety and quality of care, following the tragic death of two-year-old Joe Massa. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park requested the inquiry, which will be conducted by the NSW Parliament's Public Accounts Committee, examining incidents at the privately operated facility since it opened in October 2018.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Toddler's death prompts probe into hospital's safety

Canberra Times, Other, 14/03/2025, Samantha Lock

A controversial privately run public hospital will face a parliamentary probe after critical failings led to the death of a toddler. Two-year-old Joe Massa collapsed and died in September after he and his parents waited three hours in the emergency department at Sydney's Northern Beaches Hospital.

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

[Read More](#)

## NSW parliament to investigate hospital after toddler's tragic death

9News, Other, 14/03/2025, Richard Wood Senior

Health Minister Ryan Park told Ben Fordham on 2GB this morning, the state government had pledged to Joe's parents, Danny and Elouise Massa, it was determined to get to the bottom of the tragedy and to avoid a similar one happening again. "To that end, I've asked the NSW Public Accounts Committee to conduct an parliamentary inquiry into the safety and quality of health services provided at that hospital."

[Read More](#)

## Will ADHD role haunt GPs?

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/03/2025, Rachel Carter, Page 1

Will ADHD role haunt GPs? The pressure to prescribe stimulants should worry us, says top GP. "A non-medical colleague contacted me recently to ask whether his son, who was doing a school exam, could have a Ritalin prescription," Professor Simon Willcock says.

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## New tests to inform prescribing

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/03/2025, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 8

Point-of-care diagnostic tests for respiratory tract infections could help GPs decide which patients need antibiotics, although an expert warns they will not replace clinical judgement. One TGA-approved brand is FebriDx, with a cassette similar to a rapid antigen test that uses a fingerprick blood sample to detect elevated levels of CRP and myxovirus resistance protein A (MxA).

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## Neurodivergent training

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/03/2025

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is developing a training program for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants around assisting neurodivergent individuals, and is seeking input from pharmacy professionals. Most pharmacists and pharmacy assistants have patient-facing roles where they deal directly with individuals who are neurodivergent on a daily basis, the PSA noted.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Desperately seeking attention: Why some people pretend to be sick

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/03/2025, Lauren Ironmonger, Page 30

What drives fraudsters like Belle Gibson and Amanda C. Riley to engage in complex, often decades-long ruses feigning illness? Lauren Ironmonger finds medical opinion is not so clear-cut.

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

### Desperate bid for control

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/03/2025, Amy Bissett, Page 36

'I got anorexia from watching TikTok videos on how to get fit' Katya Jaski set herself a goal during lockdown. Instead of wasting the long days in isolation, she was going to use the time to get fit and healthy. The first stop was TikTok. After searching through hashtags like #fitspo and #fitness, endless videos surfaced.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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### Lockdown kids

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 15/03/2025, Page 1

It was all in the name of saving lives, but what has been the long-term effect of placing the nation's children into lockdown during the pandemic? The Advertiser this week launched a four-part docuseries, Lockdown Kids: How to Break a Generation, delving into the rise of mental health issues, including anorexia and anxiety, school refusal and anti-social behaviour.

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### Funding to boost learning

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/03/2025, Alison Foletta, Page 6

Tasmanian schools will be provided with an additional \$83m in funding from the federal government so public school students can "keep up and catch up". The state and federal governments announced they had signed a new school funding deal that would provide an additional 2.5 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard to the state's public schools.

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

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## Women's wellness high tea

Geelong Advertiser, GT, 15/03/2025, Page 15

The recent Women's Wellness High Tea, presented by Melbourne Avalon Airport, brought together women and community leaders in support of Lifeline Geelong's critical mental health and suicide prevention services. With more than \$36,000 raised, the Women's Wellness initiatives are one step closer to reaching a \$100,000 target, directly supporting Lifeline Geelong's lifesaving crisis services.

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

## Anxiety plague hurting our kids

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 14/03/2025, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 56

This month marks the fifth anniversary of Melbourne going into Victoria's first pandemic lockdown. The first of six in total, which altogether lasted a staggering 263 days. The longest in the world. But what has been the true cost of isolating children during the Covid-19 pandemic? It is only now that the long-term impacts are finally coming to light as News Corp tapped into the country's top mental health experts for its four-part docuseries Lockdown Kids: How To Break a Generation.

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

## Lifeline finds a home at uni

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 15/03/2025, Lewis Nancekivell, Page 5

Lifeline volunteers have moved into a new Mildura office at La Trobe University, creating what both organisations hope will be a mutually beneficial partnership. Lifeline is a crisis support hotline that provides 24-hour assistance for suicide prevention with the call centre servicing people in need from across Australia. La Trobe Mildura's head of campus Sandy Connor said she has always admired charity's work.

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

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

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/03/2025, Angira Bharadwaj

An Australian charity promised funding by the Albanese government has accused Labor of kicking the issue down the road until after the federal election. Griefline, a 37-year-old telephone helpline for Australians struggling with grief, has said it will close its services at the end of this week, claiming reassurances from the government that they would get funding did not materialise in time.

[Read More](#)

## Lockdown Kids: Aussie children still struggling to attend school

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/03/2025, Amy Bissett

It's the worst figure in ten years, with almost half a million children skipping school regularly across Australia in what is one of the most startling long-term impacts of Covid-19 lockdowns. New figures also show that two in ten teenagers are dropping out before year 12, and there's an estimated 80,000 kids totally missing from the education system.

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

[Read More](#)

## Black Dog Ride returns to Busselton this weekend to spark meaningful conversations about mental health

West Australian, Other, 14/03/2025, Sofia Fimognari

The Black Dog Ride will return to Busselton at the weekend aiming to spark meaningful conversations

about mental health. The Black Dog Ride began at the Busselton foreshore in 2009 when family and friends of the organisation's founder Steve Andrews waved him off on a solo mission.

[Read More](#)

## Shocking reason almost half a million Aussie students have started skipping school as drop-out rates surge

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/03/2025, Matt Jones

Almost half a million Aussie children are skipping school on a regular basis as they struggle to readjust to full-time study loads in the classroom in the wake of coronavirus lockdowns. New figures, released by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, showed more than 483,000 children enrolled in school last year went to class less than 89 per cent of the time.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Police 'will quit in droves' at pay offer

Weekend Australian, General News, 15/03/2025, Sarah Elks & Michael McKenna, Page 11

Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union secretary Sarah Beaman said the government had to explain how it would fulfil the LNP's election promise to maintain "nation-leading wages and conditions for over 50,000 nurses and midwives". "It's in the government's interests to deliver on their promise given the current workforce crisis and increasing demand for nursing and midwifery in Queensland," she said.

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

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### Nurses deliver demands to Labor

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/03/2025, Jessica Wang, Page 39

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 outcomes. The seven pre-election demands issued by the Alliance of the Nine Peaks also calls for endorsed midwives to conduct preconception counselling, homebirths and general women's health consults, which would require a new item on the Medicare Benefit Schedule.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Weekend Australian \(Australia\)](#).

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### Nurses want to play bigger role in care

Canberra Times, General News, 15/03/2025, Tess Ikononou, Page 9

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. Unlocking the full scope of nursing skills, including allowing some to provide specialist referrals, would help patients access healthcare in rural and regional areas where GPs are in short supply.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### 'Come walk in our shoes': Townsville nurse's message for Premier amid wage woes

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 14/03/2025, Natasha Emeck

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, providing them with an opportunity to discuss the government's pre-election commitment regarding wages and working conditions.

[Read More](#)

## 'Held back'

Nursing Review, General News, 01/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz, Page 6

Following the release of new hospital data, the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) has called upon the federal government to remove the policy barriers preventing some nurses from delivering preventative healthcare for women. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's report, Australia's hospitals at a glance, lists 'diseases of the genitourinary system' (such as urinary tract infections) as the third most common reason for women aged 15 to 44 to present to an emergency department.

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Ambo Tristan is taking the next step

Ballarat Courier, General News, 15/03/2025, Michelle Smith, Page 3

"A man had a cardiac arrest in front of me, I managed to get him back, and a week later he walked out of hospital." That's just one of Ambulance Victoria paramedic Tristan Adams' motivations for wanting to upskill to save more lives. The ranks of Ballarat's highly trained Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance (MICA) paramedics are being bolstered with three new interns.

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### Radiology training call

Weekend Post, General News, 15/03/2025, Emma Cam, Page 1

Stakeholders are seeking a \$27.5m bipartisan commitment ahead of the federal election so training in medical imaging and radiography can be offered in Cairns. If they are successful, a Bachelor of Medical Imaging will be available at CQ University by 2026, which is expected to address workforce shortages in the long term.

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### Exhausted junior doctors who didn't claim overtime win \$175m in backpay

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 14/03/2025, Broede Carmody & Henrietta Cook

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 impact their career.

[Read More](#)

### Busselton welcomes medical students from Rural Clinical School of WA to undertake clinical training

West Australian, Other, 14/03/2025, Ezra Kaye

The University of Western Australia, University of Notre Dame Australia and Curtin University students will live in Busselton and complete placements in South West hospitals, general practices and with the South West Aboriginal Medical Service. City of Busselton mayor Phill Cronin said he and his team were excited to meet the latest cohort of medical students undertaking rural placement in Busselton.

[Read More](#)

### Locum sanctioned for quitting

A doctor who walked off a locum job after 45 minutes because she believed the hospital was unsafe has failed to overturn her sanction at a tribunal hearing. The Medical Board of Australia ordered the general physician to undergo six hours of mentoring and to prepare a reflective report in response to a complaint that she had abandoned her patients in February 2023.

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## 'RACGP will not apologise'

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/03/2025, Page 14

Dr William Bay is a GP registrar again, with the RACGP allowing him to rejoin the Australian General Practice Training Program after he beat his emergency suspension over his anti-COVID-19 vaccine views. Dr Bay was expelled from the college and training program after being suspended for interrupting an AMA conference, telling attendees to stop "forcing" vaccines on people "who are getting killed by them".

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## IMG fast track brings in 42 GPs

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/03/2025, Page 14

The Medical Board of Australia has so far approved 42 GPs, eight anaesthetists and three psychiatrists under its new IMG fast track that cuts out medical college assessment. Health ministers say the pathway is safe and necessary to address the workforce crisis, with the doctors from comparable countries, such as the UK practising under supervision for their first six months in Australia.

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## 'Lessons from abroad'

Nursing Review, General News, 01/03/2025, Lisa Nissen & Lynda Cardiff, Page 24

What are physician assistants? Can they fix the doctor shortage? If you've tried to get an appointment to see a GP or specialist recently, you will likely have felt the impact of Australia's doctor shortages. To alleviate workforce shortages, the Queensland government is considering introducing health workers called physician assistants more widely to the state's health system.

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[Back to Top](#)

# TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

## Lifesaving inhaler must not be lost to us

Courier Mail, Editorials, 15/03/2025, Page 67

A revolutionary inhaler to treat anaphylaxis is being developed by Brisbane-based medical technology company De Motu Cordis Pty Ltd, and it's already attracting international attention with a trial to start within months. But the team needs a further \$10m in funding, or Australia risks losing the world-first device to overseas investors.

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

## Channel 10, The Project, 14/03/2025, Rove McManus, Sharyn Ghidella, & Alex Lee

News Times as much as \$150 a treatment, and with obesity more likely to affect people in lower socioeconomic areas. A PBS listing could be a game changer.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

# MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

## The real cost of Dutton's public service cuts

The Saturday Paper, General News, 15/03/2025, Rick Morton, Page 12

The Minister for Finance, Government Services and the Australian Public Service, Katy Gallagher, tells The Saturday Paper that even with these promised changes she can't see how Dutton could manage to save \$6 billion a year, a claim he made when matching Labor's bulk-billing Medicare funding announcement last month. "They've probably costed an ASL [average staffing level] at a particular point, and then timesed it by 36,000 and decided that equals \$6 billion a year," she says.

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[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Under a shroud

The Saturday Paper, General News, 15/03/2025, Nick Feik, Page 11

Allegations of falsified death certificates at Launceston General Hospital last year led to the referral of dozens of cases to the coroner for investigation. [...] His medical registration was suspended in May, but the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency said it was "unable to share information" behind its decision "beyond what is available publicly".

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

### Receptionist who poisoned GPs has sentence cut

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/03/2025, Heather Saxena, Page 1

A woman who poisoned two GPs and their child by adding an antipsychotic to a mushroom dish at a family dinner has had her nine-year sentence reduced on appeal. Sharon Lee had worked as a medical receptionist in a Perth practice owned by her younger sister.

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### Five year sentence

Nursing Review, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 4

A nursing assistant who took advantage of vulnerable patients in a series of fraud offences including using a patient's card to make transactions amounting to more than \$100,000 has been permanently banned from providing any health services in a bid to "protect public health and safety". Steven Tran, 29, who worked as an assistant in nursing (AIN), was convicted of fraud against patients and staff at hospitals across Sydney.

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Linda's 'incredible legacy': Organ donor's partner reflects on her selflessness

Canberra Times, Other, 14/03/2025, Annika Rhoades

Data from the Australian Donation and Transplantation Activity Report revealed that 2024 was the busiest clinical year on record for DonateLife Tasmania, which resulted in the highest ever state and national rate of 43.5 donors per million people. There are 1800 Australians on the waitlist for an organ transplant and a further 14,000 people who are on kidney dialysis, according to the report.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

## Teen spirit

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, 15/03/2025, Konrad Marshall, Page 1

A-grade student, prefect, Mario Kart fiend and at 17, faster than Usain Bolt was at the same age. Queensland schoolboy Gout Gout is the talk of global sprinting, and, with his recent contract, a \$6 million man.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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## How the AFL stole Saturday from the blokes in the shed

The Saturday Age, General News, 15/03/2025, Tony Wright, Page 37

The wealthy masters of the game tycoons of both pay TV and free TV have put their heads together to carve up the rights to AFL matches, with the blessing of the bosses of the AFL itself. And they've cancelled the old boys' Saturday nights.

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## Brissie loss can be our net gain

Herald Sun, General News, 15/03/2025, Robert Craddock, Page 3

It comes as plans for an essential upgrade of the Queensland Tennis Centre hang in the balance and amid news officials have told the International Tennis Federation it cannot deliver the traditional Olympic Games requirements of 10,000, 5000 and 3000-seat arenas. It's understood Olympic officials have privately discussed whether the Melbourne home of the Australian Open, the National Tennis Centre, could host the Games tournament if Brisbane does not come up to scratch.

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

## AFL rules against Shield appeal

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/03/2025, Matt Turner, Page 3

The AFL says turning Adelaide Oval from a cricket ground back to a football arena has unacceptable risks so it cannot allow the Sheffield Shield final to be played there. After days of talks between the state government, South Australian Cricket Association, Stadium Management Authority and AFL, the football league on Friday stopped the Shield decider from being hosted at the famous city ground over concerns at the planned arrangements.

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## Legacy is about more than sport

Courier Mail, Editorials, 15/03/2025, Page 67

Brisbane is a capital city hosting the biggest sporting event in the world so the hard truth is it's going to cost a lot of money. The \$113m price tag to upgrade the Pat Rafter Arena to Olympic standard so we don't lose the tennis to Melbourne in 2032 will be money well spent when some of the biggest sporting superstars in the world start rolling into Tennyson.

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

## NBL's Stadium push

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 15/03/2025, Ben Cameron & Brendan Kearns, Page 1

The owner of Australia's premier basketball competition says the league would "seriously consider" granting a licence for Geelong United, but the city first needed an elite-level venue. Larry Kestelman floated the idea of Geelong being one of the National Basketball League's expansion teams, but said the league was "landlocked" because there wasn't a stadium capable of hosting elite level games.

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## Tehan promises \$1.5m to Port Fairy Community Sports Hub

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 15/03/2025, Andrew Thomson, Page 3

Liberal Member for Wannon Dan Tehan has promised an elected Liberal Government will invest \$1.5

million to support the construction of a new Community Sports Hub. The facility to be built at Gardens Reserve in Port Fairy is expected to provide modern facilities for local athletes and the wider community.

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### World-first needle-free treatment that could save allergy patients

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/03/2025, Rachel Riley

People with deadly allergies could receive life saving treatment without a needle from a groundbreaking medical device developed in Brisbane that could work up to eight-times faster than injection alternatives. It's hoped Australian clinical trials using the device could begin on allergy sufferers within months.

*Also reported by:* [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Flipping the stats

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/03/2025, Julie Power, Page 3

This is not your usual pool. In eight remote Aboriginal communities managed by Royal Life Saving Society in Western Australia, the aquatic managers' go beyond teaching laps to being generous hosts, like the Kendalls. It is 26 years since the first remote pools opened in such communities as Jigalong and Balgo, says the state's RLSS general manager Greg Tate, and they are making a difference.

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

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

### 'The hard work starts now': Council agrees to new partnership

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 15/03/2025, Jonathan Hawes, Page 4

March 28 will be a day Tamworth makes history. That's the date Tamworth Regional Council is set to sign a first-of-its-kind formal partnership with the city's Indigenous community represented by the Tamworth Coalition of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (TACCO).

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### New manager of Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service's holistic family violence support service

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/03/2025, Callan Morse

Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service chief executive Jake Smith said Ms Webb brings significant experience to SiS Tasmania in supporting those who have experienced family domestic and sexual violence. "Meg brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to support our team to deliver much needed services for our clients and communities," Mr Smith said.

[Read More](#)

### "We see justice for our Mum as making sure that this does not happen again" - inquest probes death in custody of Martu woman Dannielle Lowe

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/03/2025, Giovanni Torre

A coronial inquest into the death in custody of 41-year-old Martu woman Dannielle Lowe has been presented with evidence of the impact of unconscious bias against Aboriginal people in clinical

decision-making and lack of access to Aboriginal health workers. Ms Lowe had been incarcerated at Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison and died on Christmas Eve in 2022 after what her family believe was a ruptured aneurysm three days earlier.

[Read More](#)

## "No longer surprising": NT Closing the Gap targets going backwards

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/03/2025, Dechlan Brennan

The Northern Territory's failure to halt the regression in half of the Closing the Gap targets is "no longer surprising," experts have said. With a quarter of the population Indigenous - three quarters of whom live remotely or very-remotely - the "unacceptable backwards steps" in the latest data from the Productivity Commission for the NT reveals governments are "failing to deliver on their commitments", according to the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT).

[Read More](#)

## Gap not closing

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/03/2025

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) believes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led solutions are key to addressing the unmet targets of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. New data from the Productivity Commission shows only four of the 19 Closing the Gap targets are on track to be met by their deadline, while outcomes are declining for several targets, including incarceration, rates of suicide, child removal and early childhood.

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[Back to Top](#)

## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Cowboy floored by virus

Courier Mail, General News, 15/03/2025, Emily Devon, Page 22

A seasoned cattle station worker was only a few weeks into his first stint on a Far North Queensland property when he complained to his mum of a headache and then failed to go to work the next day. Now, 25-year-old Isaac Pearce is in Townsville University Hospital ICU with nurses and doctors working around the clock to help manage the extremely rare Murray Valley encephalitis virus that has since been diagnosed as meningoencephalitis.

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

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### EPA'S fish finding

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/03/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 1

The Environment Protection Authority has confirmed the presence of "low levels" of antibiotics in samples of dead salmon materials that have washed up on southern Tasmanian beaches but the agency says there is no risk posed to humans. A disease outbreak impacting the Tasmanian salmon industry has been attributed to an endemic bacterium known as *Piscirickettsia salmonis* (*P.salmonis*).

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### Man dies from JEV after holiday in region

Daily Advertiser, General News, 15/03/2025, Finn Coleman, Page 7

A second person has died from Japanese encephalitis (JE) in NSW after contracting the infection in the Murrumbidgee region. The man in his 70s died in hospital on March 6. NSW Health said he had been receiving care for JE and was reported to have acquired the infection while holidaying in the Murrumbidgee region.

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### JEV: Deadly virus could spread after floods, warns QIMR scientists

Queensland's top scientists are concerned that the deadly Japanese encephalitis virus will spread to coastal areas following the floods and the anticipated explosion of mosquitoes. QIMR Berghofer's Mosquito Control Laboratory's Brian Johnson said: "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: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#)

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## **WA Health Department issues warning over increase in cases of gastro bug Cryptosporidiosis**

West Australian, Other, 14/03/2025, Hannah Cross

WA Health has issued a major health warning after cases of a highly infectious stomach bug linked to swimming pools and water parks flooded authorities at a rate of 70 a week last month. Cryptosporidiosis cases have skyrocketed in the first two months of this year, with a "significant increase" reported in February, concentrated mainly in the Perth metro area.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

## **Canberra man dies after contracting Japanese Encephalitis virus on holiday**

Canberra Times, Other, 14/03/2025, Petlee Peter

A man who died after contracting Japanese Encephalitis virus while holidaying in the Murrumbidgee region in NSW was reportedly a Canberran. NSW Health announced on Friday the state's second death from the virus this year.

[Read More](#)

## **ACT visitor dies after contracting Japanese encephalitis in Murrumbidgee region**

ABC Online, Other, 14/03/2025, Rachel Holdsworth

A man has died after contracting Japanese encephalitis on holiday in Southern NSW. It is the second death in NSW this year from the virus. NSW Health has confirmed the man, aged in his 70s, from the ACT, died on March 6 in a Canberra hospital while being treated for Japanese encephalitis.

[Read More](#)

## **Researchers and biotech firm create new 'world-first' scabies diagnostic tool**

ABC Online, Other, 14/03/2025, Lillian Rangiah

Long before Melbourne's first COVID-19 lockdown hit, Blake Atmaja and his housemates had already learned how to self-isolate. A year earlier, one of his housemates came home with news he never could have anticipated: he'd been diagnosed with scabies and Blake had likely contracted it too.

[Read More](#)

## **Second 2025 death from Japanese encephalitis recorded in NSW**

9News, Other, 14/03/2025, Adam Vidler

A second person has died of (JE) in New South Wales this year, after a previous fatality in February. A man in his 70s, who is believed to have contracted the virus while holidaying in the Murrumbidgee region, died in hospital on March 6, NSW Health said.

[Read More](#)

## **Fresh measles warnings in NSW and Victoria as multiple new cases detected across both states**

9News, Other, 15/03/2025

There have been fresh measles warnings issued on Friday night, after a confirmed case was infectious

on an international flight and while visiting several locations in Sydney. NSW Health said the case recently returned from South-East Asia, where there are ongoing outbreaks of measles in several countries, including Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

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[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Arson incidents probed

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/03/2025, Elizabeth Henson, Page 11

Police are warning that organised crime syndicates are still operating within the state's underground tobacco market, as authorities appeal for witnesses to a spate of arson attacks across Adelaide. Officers raided 27 properties seizing more than \$2.38m worth of illicit tobacco and \$430,000 in cash during a blitz in metropolitan Adelaide and regional SA between March 7 and 11.

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### Police seize nearly \$2.5 million in illegal tobacco products amid crackdown in South Australia

7news.com.au, Other, 14/03/2025, Lauren Thomson

Operation Eclipse is hampering illegal tobacco trade across the state. Last week, officers from Operation Eclipse seized tobacco and cash on various raids in Adelaide and regional South Australia in a haul worth millions.

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[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

### Why the cash splash?

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/03/2025, Linda Silmalis, Page 11

Sydney Water argues the cancer-linked chemicals perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) remain well below acceptable levels for safe drinking water, meeting current and proposed Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. PFAS are dubbed as "forever chemicals" because they never break down.

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### Here's how 'forever chemicals' at airport are being fixed

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/03/2025, Joe Colbrook, Page 4

As the nation grapples with how to deal with "forever chemicals", Tasmania could set the example for things moving forward. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been detected at Launceston



Airport and in local waterways, due to historical use of firefighting foams containing the chemicals.

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## Revenge of the nurdles: Oodles of tiny plastic 'toxic bombs' wash into bay

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 14/03/2025, Bianca Hall

Marine health organisation Tangaroa Blue Foundation and Port Phillip EcoCentre have been auditing sites around Melbourne for microplastics, particularly nurdles, for a decade. Tangaroa Blue founder and chief executive Heidi Tait said some regularly audited factories were "serial offenders", releasing nurdles into the natural environment.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

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