



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 22nd March 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 1) reports experts have warned the rise of telehealth cosmetic clinics may be putting patients at risk as short online consultations fail to meet regulations, with the TGA confirming patients have been left blind from incorrectly administered injections. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#)
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports unnamed sources have claimed the Queensland government is considering building a swimming arena across the road from a new stadium at Victoria Park instead of a drop-in pool at Brisbane Arena.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports women experiencing menopause and pregnancy are at higher risk of developing body dysmorphia and eating disorders, according to a new report from The Butterfly Foundation. *Also reported by:* [Saturday Age](#)
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports chief executive of the Australian Academy of Science Anna-Maria Arabia has called on Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to hold an emergency meeting with the National Science and Technology Council to discuss funding cuts to a number of research projects at Australian universities by US President Donald Trump and to mitigate further interference in Australian research projects.

- **The West Australian** (page 1) reports WA Health Minister Meredith Hammat has declined to comment on whether the St John ambulance service should be put back in public hands as ramping hours have reached over 3500 hours this month.
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 3) reports Tasmania's remote at-home care program has been expanded to provide virtual care for acute and chronic conditions to ease pressure on hospitals.
- **ABC Online** reports South Australia's parliamentary committee into endometriosis has found delays in diagnosis and treatment, making 20 recommendations in its report to improve care, all of which Health Minister Chris Picton says have been agreed to in principle.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 5) reports an additional 15,000 Australians could be living with congenital heart disease than originally reported according to new research from the Heart Research Institute. *Also reported by: Herald Sun, Courier Mail, Geelong Advertiser*

MINISTER BUTLER

Albo plays the perfect sensitive alpha male

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/03/2025, James Morrow, Page 67

Australian conservatives may have cheered Donald Trump's win last November but as our local election campaign revs up they may be having second thoughts. [...] There he was Thursday on the Gold Coast, flanked by his health minister Mark Butler, all but threatening to shirt-front the US president.

Also reported by: Courier Mail (Brisbane).

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Matching promises on clinic a win

Burnie Advocate, General News, 22/03/2025, Anthony Haneveer, Page 21

Sitting in a hospital's emergency department waiting room will convince you of what has been said for years: There are people there who should not be. [...] Early this month, the government committed \$644 million to open another 50 clinics, which, according to Health Minister Mark Butler, "provide bulk-billed care for urgent but non-life-threatening conditions, seven days a week, for extended hours, with no appointment needed".

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

NBN Coffs Harbour, NBN News, 20/03/2025, Gavin Morris & Natasha Beyersdorf

The cost of major medicines is expected to drop in Australia by 2026 under a new plan announced by the Albanese Government with drugs from the PBS dropping to a maximum price of \$25. Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister, says this will be a huge benefit for Australian households and a huge benefit for the health sector as a whole.

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2SM, Afternoons, 21/03/2025, Pete Davis

Compere mentions that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler mentioned that Australia was one of the first countries in the world to include a new public health measure that aims to educate and dissuade smokers from using it.

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MINISTER WELLS

'Doomed to repeat history': Fears Covid aged care outbreak issues still

not fixed

Adelaide Now, Other, 21/03/2025, Sarah Booth

Issues exposed by the deadly aged care outbreaks have still not been fixed, grieving families warn. [...] A spokesman for Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the Albanese government's aged care reforms and greater preparedness in the sector has led to a significant reduction in COVID-19 case fatality in aged care.

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

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Aged care's \$300M tech gamble: A costly digital trap?

Hellolenders.com.au, Other, 21/03/2025, Alex Jacobs

Is the Federal Government falling into a classic corporate software trap as the true costs of implementation unfold – lured in with a \$13.5 million contract, only to now find itself on the hook for what has become a \$150 million piece of software? [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care is implementing the Government Provider Management System (GPMS), a comprehensive platform built on Salesforce technology, to enhance reporting and information sharing in line with the new Aged Care Act effective from July 2025.

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ABC Radio Darwin , 11:00 News, 21/03/2025

Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells says that hospital bed blocks due to aged care patients are now a nationwide issue. The government added that it is setting up a system to help deal with the ageing population in the NT.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

NBN Gold Coast, NBN News Gold Coast, 21/03/2025, Natasha Beyersdorf & Gavin Morris

There will be better support for Tweed Heads residents who seek psychological services as both the Federal and State Governments are backing a new Medicare mental health centre. Assistant Mental Health Minister Emma McBride points out that patients won't need a diagnosis, referral or appointment to partake in this service.

Also reported by: [NBN Coffs Harbour \(Coffs Harbour\)](#), [NBN Lismore \(Lismore\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Unlocking potential: Rethinking how we deliver care

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/05/2025, Page 8

Access to essential healthcare is increasingly challenging, especially in rural and remote areas where GP shortages are leaving communities without vital medical services. [...] Speaking about the review at Parliament House, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said nurses and midwives were not only not working to their full scope of practice but there were inconsistencies in scope across states and territories that created additional barriers to care.

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\$28m investment in Victoria's nurses and midwives

Epworth HealthCare will build a new state-of-the-art home for its nursing and midwifery program after receiving \$28 million in Federal Government funding. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney, called it “a wonderful institution which provides upskilling and education” when she announced the funding at Epworth Richmond hospital in Melbourne.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Night of the long knives redux?

Canberra Times, General News, 22/03/2025, Miriam Webber, Page 51

The public service may be impartial, but the process to hire and fire departmental secretaries can be highly political, ruthless, and for some, traumatic. [...] Ex-bureaucrats say Blair Comley's past could come back to haunt him.

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Model reform just what the doctor ordered

The Longreach Leader, General News, 21/03/2025, Di Stanley, Page 23

Graduate doctors saddled with \$400,00 in uni debt are reluctant to commit to a GP pathway, but a national forum in Emerald has heard how a single employer model could provide the financial stability and career aspirations they seek. [...] National Rural Health Commissioner Professor Jenny May said a collaboration between the Emerald Medical Group and Emerald Hospital was already paying dividends.

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Snap poll highlights demand for more urgent care clinics

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/05/2025, Page 4

A recent ANMF social media poll has highlighted the increasing reliance on Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, with more than half of respondents stating they had used one. [...] Once fully operational, four in five Australians will live within a 20-minute drive of a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, according to Department of Health and Aged Care analysis.

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What's on the mind of Upper Hunter residents

The New England Times, Other, 21/03/2025

As the Federal Election looms closer, Muswellbrook residents are settling into their new electorate of New England and sharing some of the issues they're hoping to see addressed by candidates and the Federal Government. [...] Garry says he is unsure of the future of their services due to financial difficulties and changes coming from the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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'It's all in your head': From misdiagnosis to motherhood, Amelia Parkins shares her battle with endometriosis

Region Riverina, Other, 21/03/2025, Shri Gayathirie Rajen

When Amelia Parkins started experiencing excruciating menstrual pain at the age of 13, she was told there was nothing wrong with her and that it was all in her head. [...] In December 2024, the

Department of Health and Aged Care announced that women living with endometriosis can now access a new treatment under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

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Stakeholders largely support star ratings design changes

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 21/03/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

There is consensus amongst providers and consumers in some areas of the proposed star rating design changes, such as a maximum of two stars where homes are not meeting both care minute targets, but on timeframes in which a compliance rating should return and the inclusion of half stars there was division. [...] The evaluation was undertaken by professional services firm KPMG on behalf of the Department of Health and Aged Care to ensure the star ratings are an effective tool in helping older people compare aged care homes and encouraging providers to deliver quality services.

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Transition taskforce awaits detail on education plan

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 21/03/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

A spokesperson from the Department of Health and Aged Care has said progress on the education and training plan for the transition to the new Aged Care Act should continue as normal during the caretaker period. Aged Care Transition Taskforce members have asked for further detail on the Department of Health and Aged Care's education and training plan for the implementation of the new Aged Care Act, the minutes of this month's meeting show.

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People in rural and remote Australia deserve the same aged care services

Catholic Health Australia, Other, 21/03/2025

CHA has been in discussions with Government and the Department on changes to the Modified Monash Model (MMM). The MMM classification system is used to distribute funding according to rurality in 58 Department of Health and Aged Care programs including aged care.

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Shock profitability drop: Can residential care afford to delay change?

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 21/03/2025, Alex Jacobs

The latest Quarterly Financial Snapshot (QFS) report for the aged care sector delivered some shock results for residential care providers, at least on the surface. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care said the profitability decline had been foreshadowed by recent QFS reports, particularly because the timing of the AN-ACC price increase shifted from July 1 to October 1.

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Aged care Residents' Experience Survey expands to capture 20% of residents

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 21/03/2025, Alex Jacobs

Over 43,000 aged care residents will participate in this year's annual Residents' Experience Survey after the Australian Government announced that at least 20% of residents will be surveyed at each home. [...] "The Residents' Experience Survey is an opportunity for residents to tell the Australian Government what it's like to live in an aged care home, including what is working and what needs to be improved," states the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Quality Standards evolution: Is this the end of unannounced visits?

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 21/03/2025, Alex Jacobs

Australia's aged care sector is on the brink of a significant transformation with the introduction of a strengthened regulatory framework under the new Aged Care Act. [...] "For providers operating in these categories it will also be a condition of registration that you comply with the strengthened Quality

Standards in the delivery of services," Robert Day, Assistant Secretary, Harmonisation and Regulatory Strategy Branch, Department of Health and Aged Care, explained.

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Aged care's \$300M tech gamble: A costly digital trap?

Helloladers.com.au, Other, 21/03/2025, Alex Jacobs

Is the Federal Government falling into a classic corporate software trap as the true costs of implementation unfold – lured in with a \$13.5 million contract, only to now find itself on the hook for what has become a \$150 million piece of software? [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care is implementing the Government Provider Management System (GPMS), a comprehensive platform built on Salesforce technology, to enhance reporting and information sharing in line with the new Aged Care Act effective from July 2025.

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Health in my language

Partyline Magazine, Other, 21/03/2025

Migrant and refugee communities in rural and regional Australia face significant challenges in accessing health services. [...] Funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care and in partnership with organisations across each state and territory of Australia (Red Cross, STARTTS, True Relationships and Reproductive Health (True), Women's Health Matters, and Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services Inc.), the program offers free health education sessions in over 30 languages.

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'True medical leader': RACGP welcomes new CMO

The Medical Republic, Other, 21/03/2025, Amanda Sheppeard

The RACGP has welcomed the appointment of its former president and "inspiration" Professor Michael Kidd AO, as Australia's chief medical officer. [...] "I am looking forward to rejoining the Department of Health and Aged Care and supporting national reforms in public health and healthcare services," he said in a statement yesterday.

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Free online program for parents of children with disabilities

The Sector, Other, 21/03/2025, Freya Lucas

With around 1 in 13 children in Australia living with a disability, and with ongoing strain on the disability workforce, difficulties in accessing support, long wait times, and cost-of-living pressures, mean that children are missing out on critical early intervention support. [...] Stepping Stones Triple P Online is free in Australia, thanks to funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care under the Parenting Education and Support Program.

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Helping kids after Alfred

WEB Somerset Sentinel, Other, 21/03/2025

The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) is offering advice on how families can support children and young people dealing with anxiety and stress during and after a natural disaster. [...] Parents can access free online resources to support their families through the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program at any time, thanks to funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

AGEING AND AGED CARE

New initiative aims to enhance quality of care in residential aged care

Helioleaders.com.au, Other, 21/03/2025, Alex Jacobs

Monash University's Dr Marta Woolford is spearheading an innovative project to improve the quality of care and life of aged care residents across Australia. The project, funded by a recent grant, seeks to address longstanding challenges in the sector where programs fail to gain a foothold and become embedded in long-term practice.

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POPULATION HEALTH

'Crushing demand' for social housing

The Saturday Age, General News, 22/03/2025, Kieran Rooney & Daniella White, Page 6

More than 55,000 Victorian families are trying to get into social housing after cost-of-living pressures drove an 8.4 per cent increase in the waiting list in 2024. [...] The latest Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows Victoria had the lowest proportion of social housing stock in the country, at 2.8 per cent of all homes in 2023.

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Two, four, six, eight!

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 22/03/2025, Bethany Hiatt, Page 1

Midwives at a Subiaco hospital are seeing double after the births of eight sets of twins in the space of just one week. In a startling coincidence, the baby boom at St John of God Subiaco Hospital also marked Multiple Birth Awareness Week. While the hospital is experienced in caring for multiples, it has rarely welcomed so many at once.

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Flinders, Point Leo and Shoreham residents warned tap water 'not safe' to drink after discovery of dead rodent

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/03/2025, Grace Frost

Residents of south Mornington Peninsula have been warned their tap water is "not safe" to drink without boiling it first after a dead rodent was found in the area's water supply. Health services released a warning for Flinders, Point Leo and Shoreham on Thursday night, telling residents they "must boil tap water before drinking" or risk diarrhoea, cramps, headaches and other gastro symptoms.

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

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'Not safe to drink water': Urgent warning after dead rodent found in Victorian reservoir

Northern Territory News, Other, 21/03/2025, Clareese Packer

Residents have been urged to boil tap water before drinking after a dead rodent was found in a reservoir along Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. Those in Flinders, Point Leo and Shoreham have been warned it is not safe to drink water without boiling it first after a dead rodent was found in the Shoreham Reservoir.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

King tells cancer patients to 'keep bugging on'

Weekend Australian, International News, 22/03/2025, Kate Mansey, Page 12

King Charles has shared some advice with fellow cancer patients, telling them: "What's that Winston Churchill saying? Keep bugging on." His comments came on the second day of his visit to Northern Ireland as the King visited a cancer research laboratory in the pharmacy and pharmacology department at Ulster University's Coleraine campus.

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

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King's Winnie advice to patients

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/03/2025, Page 9

The King has given some sage advice to anyone undergoing cancer treatment, quoting England's enigmatic wartime leader Winston Churchill. The 76-year-old monarch shared his wisdom on a visit to Ulster University, in Belfast, on Friday where he spoke to scientists and students.

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

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Heart fail uncovered

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/03/2025, Page 5

Scientists at the Heart Research Institute (HRI) have unexpectedly uncovered an additional 15,000 more people living with congenital heart disease (CHD) across Australia than reported. The discovery was made after the HRI set up a first-of-its kind national registry to help improve the lives of people living with the condition and their families.

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

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Mum's plea for her little battler

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/03/2025, Genevieve Holding, Page 3

Despite being a "tough" and "healthy kid", Hobart mum Julia Dannock knew something was wrong with her then nine-year-old son Harry when his handwriting suddenly turned messy. The search for a cause continued for a year until Harry was diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA).

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Dementia blow: Daughter shares heartache

Newcastle Herald, General News, 22/03/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 14

Dementia cases are estimated to rise in the Hunter by 74 per cent in 30 years without a major breakthrough in treatment. Almost 13,000 people in the region have the brain disease, Dementia Australia data showed.

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Be endo aware

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 22/03/2025, Denika Anderson, Page 9

A women's sexual and reproductive health nurse at Sunraysia Community Health Services has championed Endometriosis Awareness Month, which is observed during March. Endometriosis is a chronic condition where tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside it in other parts of the body and it affects almost one million Australians.

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A new way to conceptualise pain

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 4

The idea that a patient's pain is always trying to tell us something is an increasingly outdated notion. These days, pain researchers and much of the medical community accept that pain can be a disease in its own right; and is not always justified by something physical.

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Progress on new hypertension and lipid guidelines

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 10

Lipid and hypertension related health issues affect millions of Australians - around 4.5 million Australian adults have high blood pressure and 8.5 million have abnormal blood lipid levels. [...] In a bid to improve outcomes, the Heart Foundation and the Stroke Foundation have joined forces to progress the development of two bespoke sets of guidelines: one for managing and treating hypertension (high blood pressure) and another for managing and treating lipids (such as cholesterol).

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 21/03/2025, Saskia Mabin

Starting 1 July, people who are unemployed or homeless will now receive free hearing aids and hearing tests. It comes due to an expansion of a Hearing Australia programme funded by the Federal Government.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Payroll tax 'contagion' for small business

AFR Weekend, General News, 22/03/2025, Paul Karp & Michael Smith, Page 10

Small and medium businesses in industries including building services and mortgage broking warn they face extinction over backdated payroll tax bills running into the millions.

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

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Pressure ramps up

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 22/03/2025, Jessica Page, Page 1

WA's new Health Minister is taking over a hospital system where ramping is the norm and has almost trebled since she campaigned for urgent action in 2016, while she was a union boss. Meredith Hammat is facing her first major test, with ambulance response times plummeting to dangerous levels on Thursday the day after she was sworn in.

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Home health support boosted

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/03/2025, Genevieve Holding, Page 3

More Tasmanians will be able to avoid a trip to hospital following the expansion of remote support health care service Care@home. The Tasmanian Department of Health's Care@home program has grown its care offering to include a new Acute Virtual Monitoring Program (AVMP) covering a range of short-term conditions and illnesses which Tasmanians can receive virtual care for at home.

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It's not what doctor ordered

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 22/03/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 18

Queensland's peak doctors body has accused Premier David Crisafulli of reneging on his election

promise to listen to medical experts when making decisions that impact the health of Queenslanders. Australian Medical Association Queensland president Nick Yim says the government has not heeded doctors over pill testing, alcohol harm programs, workforce incentives and in its latest decision to make pharmacy prescribing permanent.

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Peace for my brave sister

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/03/2025, Anna Vlach, Page 25

In mid-2023, I got the call from Louise, from her bed in Flinders, telling me they had found out what was wrong with her. I was in an aisle at Coles, across from work ... time stopped as I listened.

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Trans activists in sex drug victory

Courier Mail, General News, 22/03/2025, Des Houghton, Page 64

Transgender activists have legally sidestepped Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie's ban on puberty blockers in an embarrassing setback for the Crisafulli government. And it appears to me that Queensland Health is assisting children to get puberty blockers despite the ministerial directive.

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Soaring ambo times prove a headache for new minister

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Editorials, 22/03/2025, Page 134

In the world of politics words and actions have a habit of coming back to bite. Health Minister Meredith Hammat's feet were barely under her new desk when she experienced it.

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Women's health boost at Red Cliffs clinic

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 22/03/2025, Wade Stephens, Page 2

Sunraysia Medical Centre at Red Cliffs has extended its women's health services, offering dedicated on-the-day or next-day appointments to women across Sunraysia. Last week, a visiting team from the Royal Women's Hospital stopped by the clinic to provide training and supervision, paving the way for Dr Afshan Shariff and Dr Phillis Jebron to start offering long acting reversible contraception to patients.

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Key funds unlock new kids' support services in the bush

Central Western Daily, General News, 22/03/2025, Nick McGrath, Page 11

More paediatric services are on the way to the bush after Royal Far West (RFW) confirmed its expansion into Dubbo. RFW will expand services to Dubbo as part of a new agreement with the Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) after additional funding for the specialist child development service was confirmed in the 2024/25 state budget.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#).

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New health infrastructure moving ahead

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 22/03/2025, Kevin Anderson, Page 14

The Tamworth and Gunnedah hospital sites are a hive of activity, as tradies continue working away to build state-of-the-art, modern health infrastructure in Tamworth. The fight for a new Tamworth Mental Health Unit has been a big one, with committed advocates, such as the Tamworth Mental Health Carers Support Group, campaigning over a long period of time to reform inpatient mental health care in Tamworth.

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Latest rural snapshot shows higher death rates and dismal healthcare access

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/05/2025, Page 5

Rural, regional and remote Australians are dying at higher rates than their urban counterparts, with avoidable deaths in the regions nearly four times higher, according to recent National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) data. The Rural Health in Australia Snapshot 2025 shows the expectancy gap is stark, with men in very remote areas dying up to 13.6 years earlier and women up to 12.7 years earlier than those in metropolitan areas.

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Healing with nature

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 12

Construction of the hospital began in April 2022 and was accompanied by a comprehensive biodiversity management and environmental stewardship plan that included the planting of 250 banksia trees, installation of 39 nestboxes and clearing of litter to protect local wildlife. The \$100 million-plus private surgical and rehabilitation hospital services Sydney's Northern Beaches community, an aging catchment forecast to see a 23% rise in retiree-aged residents by 2031.

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Thousands rally to reinstate care for Queensland trans youth

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/05/2025, Page 5

Thousands took to the streets all over Australia to call on the Queensland government to reinstate care for trans youth and make gender-arming care accessible and affordable for everyone who needs it. The Queensland state government's recent ban on puberty blockers and hormone therapy will impact 491 young people and their families, many who have been on the waiting list for months, and even years.

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Bundaberg hospital faces scrutiny over patient mistreatment

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/03/2025, Eden Regan

Bundaberg's much touted new public hospital may be scaled back under a review of all health projects being undertaken by the LNP, as fresh claims are made about patient treatment and staff fears at the hospital. Health Minister Tim Nicholls did not rule out the possibility that Bundaberg's much touted new public hospital may be scaled back under a review of all health projects being undertaken by the LNP, as fresh claims are made about patient treatment and staff fears at the hospital.

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

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Endometriosis sufferers experiencing long delays for treatment, report finds, as SA government vows change

ABC Online, Other, 21/03/2025, Leah MacLennan

Deanna Flynn Wallis began experiencing the symptoms of endometriosis when she was 13. She said she'd been sporty and athletic, and loved dance and acting, but suddenly she found she couldn't do all those things anymore.

[Read More](#)

GP Research Foundation relaunches

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/03/2025

GPs are urged to bring forward their 'big ideas to tackle pressing health challenges', with applications now open for a range of innovation and research grants. The call comes as the Australian General Practice Research Foundation was relaunched in Sydney this week, focusing on innovations to improve patient care and health outcomes.

[Read More](#)

GPs 'need to be ready to embrace new technologies'

Medical Forum, Other, 21/03/2025

General practitioners will need to be ready to embrace new technologies to drive further change in care over the next five years. Supporting and building a future-ready profession was one of four key areas of

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SBS, World News Australia, 21/03/2025, Catalina Florez

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners mentioned that racism is impacting how people use healthcare services. It comes as International Day of Elimination of Racial Discrimination comes into light.

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

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Hidden risk of eating disorders

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/03/2025, Lauren Ironmonger, Page 1

When Courtney Rattle found out she was pregnant at 34, she couldn't believe it. The Blue Mountains yoga instructor, now mum to nine-month-old Anya, struggled with anorexia for more than half her life.

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

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Meta shuts Facebook for Lifeline WA

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 22/03/2025, Page 14

Suicide prevention service Lifeline is pleading with Meta to restore its WA-based Facebook page after the social media giant "mistakenly" closed it down. Lifeline chief executive Lorna MacGregor said Lifeline WA's Facebook page had been closed for 36 hours despite a request to review the decision.

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

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

Silent 'epidemic' plaguing gen Z

Herald Sun, General News, 22/03/2025, Natalie Brown, Page 15

Thousands of young Australians are falling victim to a silent struggle one that's hard to pinpoint and talk about, and the physical effects of which can literally make you sick. Contrary to common assumptions, research by News Corp's Growth Distillery with Medibank found it is millennials and generation Zers not baby boomers who are feeling the loneliest.

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

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

Call for free psych support

Herald Sun, General News, 22/03/2025, Jade Gailberger, Page 15

Experts are calling for desperately needed funding to be pumped into the strained mental health system, ahead of Tuesday's Budget and an imminent Federal Election campaign. Australian Psychological Society chief executive Dr Zena Burgess said the government must improve access to affordable psychological services.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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

Can neuroinclusive content on social media do harm?

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 22/03/2025, Lanna Hill, Page 135

Neurospicy, neurotypical, neurodivergent terms that just didn't exist when I was at school. And that's a great thing - while epilepsy isn't typically considered to be a neurodivergent condition, as someone who was diagnosed at the age of five, I certainly know what it was like to have a "different" brain.

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Sharing knowledge

Geelong Advertiser, GT, 22/03/2025, Page 6

Jess Bellia knows first-hand what it is like to have neurodivergent children. With three children who experience the world differently to others, including two on the spectrum, Jess is a passionate advocate to create wonderful lives for her own children and others

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Kalgoorlie-Boulder joins the State in the biggest 'Purple Lights 4 Epilepsy' display yet

West Australian, Other, 21/03/2025, Jessica Antoniou

Kalgoorlie-Boulder will join a Statewide effort and light the town purple to raise awareness and show support for those battling epilepsy. The Eastern Goldfields Community Centre and William Grundt Memorial Library are two of 57 landmarks across WA set to light up the night on March 26 as part of the Purple Month campaign by Epilepsy WA.

[Read More](#)

'Broken': Hidden side effect of Covid-19

NEWS.com.au, Other, 21/03/2025, Tsn Flex & Bek Day

An Australian healthcare worker says the Covid pandemic had an unrecognised toll on many, and shares the moment she realised it "broke" her. Australia is in the grips of a mental health crisis and people don't know who to turn to.

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

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Australia's most stressed state revealed

Cairns Post, Other, 21/03/2025, Elissa Doherty & Kate Jones

Queensland is the most stressed state, Victorians are still reeling from the Covid pandemic and work pressures are felt most severely in NSW, new research has found. Survey data reveals the state we live in can play a major role in our mental wellbeing.

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

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Tackling youth mental health in regional areas with Life4Life

Shepparton News Online, Other, 21/03/2025

ince its inception, Life4Life has delivered evidence-based mental health education to 29,991 young people in rural and regional communities. Life4Life is a registered charity that aims to improve mental health and wellbeing in youth by bringing regional communities together.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Amazing impact made by nurses

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 22/03/2025, Daneka Hill, Page 16

Lila Pigliafiori had just started working as a nurse when she realised the man sitting across from her in a mental health facility was deaf and none of his doctors knew about it. Reflecting on the moment years on, Mrs Pigliafiori said she'd noticed there was something amiss because she had hearing-impaired relatives.

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

Care clinic to spur GP crisis

Weekend Post, General News, 22/03/2025, Arun Singh Mann, Page 18

A bipartisan commitment to Cairns' second urgent-care clinic doesn't guarantee the facility won't face its share of GP recruitment challenges, as a North Queensland university flexes its muscles in training graduates for regional centres. The Cairns Post recently reported the city had lost five GP surgeries in 12 months amid claims of insufficient Medicare rebates and cost of living pressures.

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

Keep us ahead in nurses' pay

Weekend Post, General News, 22/03/2025, Tim Little, Page 19

Cairns nurses are calling on the Queensland government to "keep their promise" on nation-leading wages for nurses and midwives. The Queensland Nurses and Midwifery Union began statewide meetings recently for feedback on the state government's wage policy, with the Cairns sub-branch overwhelmingly rejecting the offer.

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International nurses day 2025

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/05/2025, Robert Fedele, Page 18

For International Nurses Day (IND) 2025, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) is highlighting the critical importance of a healthy nursing workforce in strengthening economies, improving health systems, and ensuring better outcomes for communities globally. This year's IND theme Our Nurses. Our Future.

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

Qld nurses launch bid for new union to 'break monopoly'

Northern Territory News, Other, 21/03/2025, Judith Kerr

Queensland's nursing sector is poised for a major confrontation in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission as a new "alternative" to the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union pushes for official registration. The Queensland Nurses for Choice and Health, a group supported by the Nurses Professional Association of Queensland, lodged its application for registration this week, sparking a battle over representation in the state's public health system.

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

[Read More](#)

Julia Creek seeking new GP with offer of \$680k a year salary

The Mercury, Other, 21/03/2025, Michael Madigan

It has to be one of the more lucrative job offers in Queensland, yet a \$680,000 salary package has not yet lured a doctor out to Julia Creek in the state's northwest. "We are getting a few nibbles," said McKinlay Shire councillor John Lynch, who sounds a little bewildered as to why a young medic wouldn't leap at the chance to serve the tiny town of around 500.

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Budget inaction not the answer to Trump turbulence

AFR Weekend, General News, 22/03/2025, Jennifer Hewett, Page 43

The nation Jim Chalmers' budget will set the scene for an election campaign dominated by global noise but domestic policy silence. A pre-election budget the Albanese government never planned to deliver has turned into a platform for Labor.

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

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

Trump makes rejects great again

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/03/2025, Peter Hartcher, Page 32

Around the world, leaders are being defined by the quality of their defiance of Donald Trump. [...] Big Pharma wants Trump to smash the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) to extract higher drug prices from Australian patients. So only the wealthy can keep healthy, as it is in America.

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

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

Don't listen to giants Zucking up to Trump

Courier Mail, General News, 22/03/2025, Julie Cross, Page 2

A new campaign by US tech giants to dismantle Australia's regulation of digital platforms has been slammed by politicians and parents of children who have taken their own lives because of social media. [...] This week US drug giants put pressure on the Trump administration to slap tariffs on Australia because they believe the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme hampers their profits.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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

The PBS is worth defending

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 22/03/2025, Page 15

It's no wonder US big pharma hates Australia's pharmaceutical benefits scheme. It is a public good that subsidises the cost of life-saving medicines and puts the community ahead of company profits.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Crikey \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#).

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Don goes against the grain in total trade war

The Nightly, General News, 21/03/2025, Ellen Ransley, Page 10

Trump doesn't care if his tariff crusade hits Aussie producers or US consumers Donald Trump may still be finalising the details of his looming reciprocal tariffs, but the boldness of some of the most powerful lobby groups in the US suggests Australia is in for a bumpy few months ahead. [...] But suggestions he use the PBS or the News Media Bargaining Incentive as bargaining chips are alarming.

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

A 3D approach to clinical problems

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 18

Biomedical engineers at UNSW Sydney have ambitious plans to explore ways to make 3D model even more useful for medical professionals, by developing the use of different printing materials that recreate the complex way body parts feel and move. The plans come after researchers at the Tyree Foundation Institute of Health Engineering (IHealthE) recently designed and created a patient-based anatomical 3D model of a young child's skull which helped surgeons devise and plan an innovative way of successfully removing a life-threatening tumour.

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Cut to prescription costs announced at APP2025 opening

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 21/03/2025

More than 400,000 Australians each week will pay no more than \$25 for prescription medicines following an announcement by the Albanese Labor Government. [...] The Prime Minister the Hon Anthony Albanese MP said, "The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is not for sale... it is a core part of who we are as Australians, and we will proudly defend it... we do not negotiate our values."

[Read More](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 21/03/2025, Sally Sara

Panel discussion with Melissa Clarke, political correspondent, Radio National, Phil Coorey, Political Editor, Australian Financial Review, and James Massola, National Affairs Editor, Sydney Morning Herald & The Age, about the Government's plan to improve the PBS pricing. Clarke believes that the Opposition agreeing with the new PBS cap is a way for them to neutralize the issue, as Labor has significantly chosen to focus more of their funding and initiatives spending on health, which she deems as a comfortable ground for them.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

What will a legal violation of privacy in Australia mean for nurses?

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/05/2025, Rebecca Millar, Page 46

Over the past 15 years, the adoption of electronic medical records (EMRs) has surged by 50% worldwide, driven by the promise of improved efficiency, accuracy, and patient outcomes. In Australia, the Health 2040: Advancing Health, Access and Care plan prioritises digitising medical records as part of a broader strategy to enhance healthcare delivery.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Rape-accused doctor appealing suspension

Canberra Times, General News, 22/03/2025, Tim Piccione, Page 2

A prominent Canberra doctor facing numerous sexual assault allegations is set to appeal his suspension from practising medicine. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency suspended the man's registration in late February, two weeks after he was granted ACT Magistrates Court bail on strict conditions.

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

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Ban for medical officer

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 22/03/2025, Allan Murphy, Page 12

A former resident medical officer at Mildura Base Public Hospital has been banned from practising medicine until at least August next year after using a stolen prescription pad to obtain medication for self-administration. [...] The colleague and another medical practitioner from the WA hospital made a notification to the Medical Board of Australia via the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, while the pharmacist alerted Victoria Police.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

2GB, Drive, 21/03/2025, Clinton Maynard

Panel discussion with Dr Tanveer Ahmed, psychiatrist, and Charlotte Mortlock, political advisor. Compere mentions that cigarettes a couple of weeks from now will have a new warning on them. Ahmed points out that some of the warning labels provided by companies have been quite successful as the country has one of the lowest smoking rates in the Western world.

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SPORT

The end game. Football family's unbearable reality of living with head-knock dementia

Weekend Australian, General News, 22/03/2025, Sandra Odorisio, Page 1

It takes two of them, Sandra and the carer, to wrestle her husband Trevor Crow into the shower, pinning his hands while she swabs him down quickly, fearful of the violent blows and abuse likely to come. The home where the former Newcastle Rugby League chairman, once a St George second rower, is now staying offers one-on-one care.

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

IOC wants Indigenous focus at Brisbane 2032

Weekend Australian, General News, 22/03/2025, Jacquelin Magnay, Page 2

The Howard government has been given a slapdown at the International Olympic Committee session for not doing enough to recognise Aboriginal and Indigenous peoples at the hugely successful Sydney Olympic Games in 2000. This came after the Brisbane 2032 president Andrew Liveris delivered an acknowledgment to country at the Costa Navarino resort in Greece before the 108 IOC members on Thursday.

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

Games village switch 'would save billions'

Weekend Australian, General News, 22/03/2025, Jamie Walker & Michael McKenna, Page 2

The relocation of the main athletes' village for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics would help plug a multibillion-dollar hole in the Games infrastructure budget under a deal being eyed by the Queensland government as a pillar of its venues plan to be unveiled next week. Instead of consuming the lion's share of the unfunded \$3.5bn cost of accommodating an expected 22,000 athletes and officials, the main village could be built for \$300m were it shifted from the proposed riverside site at Northshore Hamilton to the RNA showgrounds on the lip of the CBD.

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

New IOC boss used to 'difficult men' like Trump

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/03/2025, Chris Barrett, Page 6

As Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky can attest, a sit-down with Donald Trump at the White House can go any which way. But according to at least one official who has seen her at work, new

International Olympic Committee president Kirsty Coventry is well-placed to deal with the unpredictable United States leader as she approaches a meeting with him about the next summer Games in Los Angeles.

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

Casting light on sport's deadly secret

The Saturday Age, General News, 22/03/2025, John Silvester, Page 40

When we meet Dr Linda Iles at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, she is clearly favouring one leg. Turns out her plans for a marathon hike in the Snowy Mountains were thwarted when she fell off a ladder in her accommodation on day one.

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

Brisbane's big splash

Courier Mail, General News, 22/03/2025, Taylah Fellows, Page 1

A state-of-the-art swimming arena built across the road from a new Victoria Park stadium is firming as a surprise Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games mega-precinct. The Saturday Courier-Mail understands the state government will scrap plans for a drop-in pool inside Brisbane Arena in favour of a National Aquatics Centre.

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

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

Brissie's 'BS' gets mayoral rebuke

Courier Mail, General News, 22/03/2025, Jeremy Pierce, Page 6

Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate has doubled down on his criticism of Brisbane City Council's Olympic contribution and offered to build two indoor arenas for the price of one. Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner has attracted the ire of Games organisers for his reluctance to stump up cash for venues, prompting Mr Tate to call him a "freeloader".

Also reported by: [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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

One way or another arena is win-win

Courier Mail, Editorials, 22/03/2025, Page 66

Brisbane needs a new inner-city arena. That fact is not in dispute. Brisbane is a world city and as such deserves to host the world's best entertainment acts in a state-of-the-art arena that is within walking distance to our thriving night-life, restaurants and transport network.

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

A new torch bearer

Herald Sun, Sport, 22/03/2025, Julian Linden, Page 81

Zimbabwean sports minister and former swimmer Kirsty Coventry has been elected as the first female president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), marking a monumental shift for one of the oldest and most conservative sporting bodies in the world. The surprise election result will have a massive impact on the 2032 Brisbane Games, which have already fallen way behind deadline because of ongoing squabbles and lack of clear leadership.

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

Our field of dreams

Northern Territory News, General News, 22/03/2025, Nathaniel Chambers, Page 1

A masterplan outlining the 10 potential sites for a Darwin City Stadium that promises to become the home of both sport and entertainment has been released with a premiership-winning AFL player throwing his support behind the push. The plan sets the foundation for a state-of-the-art stadium crafted to benefit entertainment, all sporting codes, and the broader Northern Territory community.

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

St George Illawarra Dragons to finally be under one roof

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 22/03/2025, Glen Humphries, Page 5

The shovels were out for the ceremonial sod-turning of the Dragons high performance centre - which could be up and running as early as mid-next year. The facility at the University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus, which was formally approved in August last year, will include two playing fields, locker rooms, a state-of-the-art gym, an aquatic recovery centre, full physiotherapy facilities, a spa and a lecture theatre.

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

Two new facilities open on East Coast

Launceston Examiner, General News, 22/03/2025, Aaron Smith, Page 2

The Break O'Day Council and the federal government have unveiled two facilities to serve residents on Tasmania's East Coast. The Fingal Community Shed and the St Marys Multi-purpose and Evacuation Building were both opened on March 14 by the local government and Member for Lyons Brian Mitchell.

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

Complex passes first stage but millions needed for main goal

Newcastle Herald, General News, 22/03/2025, Josh Leeson, Page 6

Lake Macquarie City Council's plan to become a home for regional sport is at the halfway mark, and mayor Adam Shultz is urging his state and federal counterparts to help carry the project across the tryline. Yesterday, the \$14 million first stage of the Belmont Sports Fields Masterplan was handed over to local sports clubs.

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

Our pool ambition is sunk

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 22/03/2025, Tom Boswell, Page 4

Gold Coast's bid to host the Olympic swimming events in 2032 appear over following calls from Australia's national aquatic bodies to build what they believe to be the only viable option in Brisbane. Stakeholders from national swimming, diving, water polo and artistic swimming have come together to call for the National Aquatics Centre (NAC) to be constructed.

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

Channel 7, Sunrise, 21/03/2025, Matt Shirvington & Natalie Barr

Brisbane could face global embarrassment if the city is unable to agree on an indoor entertainment venue for the 2032 Olympics. It comes after Premier [David Crisafulli] is still behind setting up a new Brisbane Arena venue.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today , 21/03/2025, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo

The City of Brisbane is set for a new venue. The venue is set to be a 60,000-seat venue in Victoria Park and additionally, Qld Premier [David Crisafulli] is expected to make an announcement come Tuesday as the big decision nears.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Trump cuts grants to seven unis

AFR Weekend, General News, 22/03/2025, Julie Hare, Page 1

The Trump administration has cut funding to seven Australian universities, sparking calls for Anthony Albanese to urgently ward off further interference that may put \$600 million in joint research effort.

Heart alert on cannabis

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/03/2025, Page 27

It has pot-tential to ease your mind but two major studies suggest active cannabis users face a staggering six-times higher risk of heart attack compared to abstainers even among young and otherwise healthy adults. "Asking about cannabis use should be part of clinicians' workup to understand patients' cardiovascular risk, similar to asking about smoking cigarettes," Boston University study author Dr Ibrahim Kamel said.

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

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

Gold Coast Superman soars again with 'medical miracle' on the horizon

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 22/03/2025, Ann Wason Moore, Page 26

The Gold Coast's own Superman is turning 50. That's no small feat considering that, at age 19, Perry Cross was given just two years to live.

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

Home sweet home post-op

Weekend Post, General News, 22/03/2025, Page 6

Almost half of children who require surgery for complicated appendicitis can safely complete their recovery at home. The research, led by Murdoch Children's Research Institute, found more than 40 per cent who received care in the home following a complex appendectomy recovered faster and had fewer complications.

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

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Abortion management and hospital stay

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 22

An international trial involving 435 women has found that 71% of patients who managed early stages of abortion at home after 12 weeks of pregnancy spent fewer than nine hours in hospital, compared to 46% of patients who took the first step at hospital. A medical abortion involves taking two types of pills to end a pregnancy: mifepristone, which blocks the hormone progesterone and therefore causes the lining of the uterus to break down, and misoprostol, which makes the womb contract.

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

Relief could be on the way for UTI sufferers

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/05/2025, Page 4

Researchers have uncovered new insights into what causes the painful and disruptive symptoms of urinary tract infections (UTIs), offering hope for improved treatment. A new study led by Dr Luke Grundy from Flinders University, and Dr Steven Taylor from SAHMRI offers fresh insights into the causes of urinary tract infections (UTIs) and their painful symptoms.

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

Predicting chronic pain within three days of injury

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 8

After only one to three days of a whiplash injury, scientists can predict which patients will develop chronic pain based on the extent of 'cross-talk' between two regions of the brain, and the person's anxiety level after the injury, according to a new Northwestern Medicine study. The study showed the more the hippocampus, the brain's memory centre, talked to the cortex involved in long-term memory storage the more likely the person is to develop chronic pain.

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Healthcare accessibility: A rural and remote Australian case study

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/05/2025, Shirley Papavasiliou & Carmen Reaiche, Page 40

With the goal to drive change within the public health sector. This study advocates to shape public policies that support the complex realities of dying, death, loss and grief, while removing barriers that vulnerable populations face in accessing health services.

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Exploring barriers to antenatal education for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) women in a tertiary hospital setting

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/05/2025, Delnia Palani, Page 42

Women who identify as Culturally and Linguistically diverse (CALD), have long been acknowledged as experiencing poorer pregnancy outcomes compared to others. The reason for this are complex and multifactorial, but include lack of access to resources, low health literacy or resources only available in English language, communication barriers and lack of cultural understanding/cultural sensitivity by healthcare providers.

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Better care and efficiency with electronic journey patient boards

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 26

The implementation of electronic patient journey boards (EPJBs) at Alfred Health has increased the effectiveness and efficiency of patient care across each of its three Victorian campuses, a report has found. Researchers from the Health and Social Care Unit in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University, supported by the Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre (DHCRC), undertook an evaluation to formally review the impact and effectiveness of the Alcidion EPJBs across The Alfred, Caulfield and Sandringham sites in Victoria.

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

The link between exercise, prostate cancer and erectile dysfunction

Medical Forum, Other, 21/03/2025

Sexual dysfunction is an adverse effect of prostate cancer treatment and can be a major issue for patients and their partners. But new ECU research has found regular exercise can help restore sexual function.

[Read More](#)

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Data drop highlights Territory's sorry state

Northern Territory News, General News, 22/03/2025, Matt Cunningham, Page 22

There were two pieces of information delivered from Canberra last week that sum up the sad state of the Northern Territory. The first was the productivity commission's annual Closing the Gap data.

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The role of culture and connection in improving Aboriginal health

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 27

UNSW Sydney researchers are calling for a rethink of the health system's approach to closing the gap following their research highlighting the role of culture and connection in improving Aboriginal health outcomes. Study co-author Dr Aryati Yashadhana, from the School of Population Health at UNSW Medicine & Health, said "Our research shows that when Aboriginal people have the freedom to practise culture on Country, it has a positive impact on their health and wellbeing."

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Attracting talent

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 21/03/2025

Urgent investment in rural healthcare infrastructure is needed to ensure Indigenous communities have easy access to health services, said the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM). The association is calling for the creation of a support fund to contribute to housing and childcare, which in turn will help rural areas attract and retain healthcare professionals in areas of greatest need.

[Read More](#)

Working to close the gap

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 21/03/2025

The pharmacy industry has joined to shine a light and call out the "confronting lack of progress" on persistent health disadvantages experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities on National Close The Gap Day. Coinciding with the release of the annual Closing The Gap report, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has called for action on the Productivity Commission's 2024 Closing The Gap Review.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Silicosis breakthrough

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/03/2025, Page 11

A new diagnostic tool that analyses a person's breath for signs of silicosis has the potential to catch the disease earlier rather than wait for irreversible lung damage to appear. In a study by the University of NSW, researchers describe a rapid, AI-powered breath test which could transform the way silicosis is diagnosed.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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Government scraps pill testing

Newcastle Herald, General News, 22/03/2025, Page 30

A state government has been slammed for abandoning permanent pill-testing clinics after extremely potent synthetic opioids were found in Australian wastewater for the first time. Queensland has decided not to renew contracts for fixed pill-testing sites at Brisbane's Bowen Hills and Burleigh Heads on the Gold Coast, with doors set to close on April 4.

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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WA Health issues first measles alert for 2025 after returner traveller from Pakistan hospitalised

7news.com.au, Other, 21/03/2025, Hannah Cross

WA has recorded its first measles case for 2025 after the virus was confirmed in a traveller who had returned from a trip to Pakistan. The Department of Health issued a health alert for the Perth metro area on Thursday evening, advising the person had visited several public places — including the paediatric waiting area at Fiona Stanley Hospital's emergency department — while infectious between March 12 and March 17.

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Warning of looming 'quad-demic' this winter as flu vaccination rates nosedive

There are warnings that a disturbing dip in flu vaccine rates could drive up hospital cases and deaths this winter. Stocks of the latest flu vaccine are being rolled out in Australia as the United States recovers from its worst season in years.

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Health warning after spike in diarrhoea bug cryptosporidiosis

Medical Forum, Other, 21/03/2025

General practitioners and other health professionals are urged to be aware of a spike in local cases of cryptosporidiosis. More than twice the number of cases has been recorded in WA this year as were recorded at the same time last year, prompting a warning from WA Health.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 21/03/2025, Michael Thomson

Doctors are concerned about the flu and virus threat this winter that's caused havoc in the Northern Hemisphere. They're worried that a drop in vaccination rates would drive up hospital cases and even death.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#).

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Time's up

The Saturday Age, General News, 22/03/2025, Clay Lucas & Henrietta Cook, Page 1

The booming injectables market is driven by doctors issuing scripts via telehealth in consultations that sometimes last under one minute. Critics warn patients' safety may be at risk, Clay Lucas and Henrietta Cook report. [...] A further 81 were left with eye disorders, according to Therapeutic Goods Administration reports.

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

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Building awareness around deprescribing and sustainability

Australian Hospital and Healthcare Bulletin, General News, 01/03/2025, Page 7

In 2023, Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha), then known as SHPA, launched MedsAware: Deprescribing Action Week a campaign to encourage care conversations around the risks associated with 'polypharmacy' and the benefits that can come from 'deprescribing'. As a professional body representing medicines experts in this age of patientcentred care, we saw this wonderful opportunity to build awareness for a process which ultimately should be a collaboration between patient and provider.

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

6 things ANMF members should know about artificial intelligence (AI)

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/05/2025, Paul Yiallourous, Page 6

Will it improve health outcomes for patients, or pose a risk to their wellbeing? [...] Here are three potential positives and negatives that you should be aware of about AI in your workplace: Healthcare settings are strictly regulated In Australia, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is responsible for approving and assessing the continued use of medicines and medical devices, which extends to programs and software used in medical settings.

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Policy shift needed to boost biosimilar uptake: Halton

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 21/03/2025

Australia is "underdone on penetration in the market" when it comes to uptake of biosimilar

medications, Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) chair, Jane Halton says.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Calls for NSW to change drug driving laws impacting medicinal cannabis users

Adelaide Now, Other, 21/03/2025, Clareese Packer

There are new calls to overhaul a driving law in one state, with claims Aussies shouldn't be forced to choose between their medicine and their freedom. 2 min read The latest news from Australia and around the world.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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