



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 29th March 2025

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports a health warning has been issued for WA as a measles outbreak continues to grow, with 20 exposure sites recorded and contact tracing ongoing. *Also reported by: [ABC Online](#)*
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports an aged care nurse in Adelaide is under investigation by police after allegations of assaults on two residents at Bene Aged Care Italian Village at St Agnes, with the nurse resigning after an internal investigation was launched.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 3) reports Queenslanders are being urged to vaccinate for the flu amid low immunisation rates and ahead of what is predicted to be a severe flu season with over 1000 additional cases recorded between January 1 and March 23 compared to last year.
- **[The Northern Territory News](#)** (page 3) reports the Northern Territory coroner has found Royal Darwin Hospital provided inadequate care to Judy Smart in the lead-up to her death in 2021, with no further recommendations made due to changes undertaken by NT Health following the incident.
- **[The National Indigenous Times](#)** online reports Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney has attended the ground-breaking ceremony for a new health care clinic for First

Nations people in Ceduna, saying that collaboration with local communities can “make a real difference.”

- **ABC Online** reports Palliative Care Australia has raised concerns over ongoing medicine shortages that they say is affecting the quality of life for patients in end-of-life care, with a spokesperson for the TGA saying they are actively investigating solutions to managing the shortages following public consultation.
- **ABC Online** reports Blue Mountains action group STOP PFAS has announced they will go ahead with a class action lawsuit against the NSW government after threatening to do so earlier this month if government-funded blood testing for PFAS levels was not provided.
- **The Australian** (page 9) reports police are investigating whether a former Ambulance Victoria employee is behind a hack that breached the personal information of up to 3000 Ambulance Victoria staff, including bank account details, addresses and emergency contact details. *Also reported by: Herald Sun*

MINISTER BUTLER

Ley outlines Albury hospital position

Border Mail, General News, 29/03/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 3

Sussan Ley says she opposes pausing the upgrade of Albury hospital and says it is not realistic to expect a substantial federal investment in a new Border medical campus. [...] Ms Ley's comments also followed Cr Mack and Wodonga mayor Michael Gobel meeting federal Health Minister Mark Butler and his NSW counterpart Ryan Park.

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Plea for community to show up for today's hospital rally

Border Mail, General News, 29/03/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 3

The Border community is being urged to show it cares about a new hospital by turning up in big numbers to a community rally. The event at Albury's QEII Square from 10am today, follows Albury mayor Kevin Mack and his Wodonga counterpart Michael Gobel meeting health ministers Mark Butler (Commonwealth) and Ryan Park (NSW) in recent days.

Also reported by: The Border Mail (Online).

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Health Minister Steve Edgington has dismissed calls to block trans and gender diverse children from accessing gender affirming care

Cairns Post, Other, 28/03/2025, Zizi Averill

A petition calling for young Territorians to be denied access to hormone treatments and puberty blockers has been knocked back by the NT Health minister, as LGBT+ advocates welcome the protection of gender affirming care. [...] In January, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced new national guidelines for gender affirming care by the National Health and Medical Research Council would be released in mid-2026.

Also reported by: Northern Territory News (Online), Herald Sun (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), Gold Coast Bulletin (Online), Townsville Bulletin (Online), Geelong Advertiser (Online), The Courier Mail (Online).

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SA's first full rural medical degree launched

Australian Rural & Regional News, Other, 28/03/2025

For the first time in South Australia's history, aspiring doctors can complete their entire medical degree in regional communities, thanks to Flinders University's new South Australia Rural Medical Program. [...] Federal minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, says the Australian government wants to see more healthcare workers in regional, rural and remote areas providing much-needed care to communities.

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Hedge the rise in your health insurance premium with these 2 ASX stocks

MSN Australia, Other, 28/03/2025

Health insurance premiums are set to rise by an average of 3.73% on 1 April. While this can be a bitter pill to swallow for consumers, it can be a good opportunity for investors. [...] Changes go into effect on 1 April After several rounds of negotiations between Health Minister Mark Butler and insurance companies, health insurance premiums will rise by an average of 3.73% in April.

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Seven Albury, Seven Local News, 28/03/2025, Madelaine Collignon & Nick Hose

There's optimism that Federal and State Governments are beginning to understand some of the problems at Albury Base Hospital. It comes as the Mayors of the border cities have met with Health Minister Mark Butler and the State Health Ministers.

Also reported by: [WIN Wagga Wagga \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [ABC Goulburn Murray \(Wodonga\)](#).

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MINISTER WELLS

Cannolis & smiles or dirty games?

Courier Mail, General News, 29/03/2025, Hayden Johnson, Page 26

A phone call placed 22 minutes before the release of the state's Olympic infrastructure plan was the last chance for the federal government to learn where its \$3.4bn of Games cash would be spent. [...] After two weeks of coy engagement over venues, state Sport Minister Tim Mander called federal counterpart Anika Wells to offer a briefing some 22 minutes before the state's venues plan was due to be released at The CourierMail's Future Brisbane Olympics lunch last Tuesday.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Work begins on new First Nations health centre in Ceduna

National Indigenous Times, Other, 28/03/2025, Callan Morse

Construction has begun on a new purpose-built health care centre for First Nations people in Ceduna and the far west coast of South Australia. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Age Care, Ged Kearney, said the new facility will be a place where lives will be saved, health outcomes improved, and care can be culturally safe.

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DEPARTMENT

Urgent Care Clinic for Dee Why

Peninsula Living, Supplements, 01/04/2025, Page 28

The Government has announced plans for a new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) in Dee Why, aimed at easing pressure on the Northern Beaches Hospital emergency department (ED). [...] The clinic's location was chosen based on data from the Department of Health and Aged Care and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, aiming to reduce pressure on busy EDs.

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Get access to free housing advice

Geelong Times, General News, 28/03/2025, Nathan Rivalland, Page 3

Geelong residents can get access to free housing advice and explore available services at next week's Housing Information Fair. [...] The federal government's Department of Health and Aged Care, Barwon Community Outreach Legal Service, genU, Meli, Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative and more will all share their insights.

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Care Expo a great success

The Longreach Leader, General News, 28/03/2025, Page 9

The Central West Queensland Care Expo 2025, held in Longreach on Tuesday, 18 March, successfully brought together over 125 attendees and more than 45 service providers from sectors including aged care, disability support, health, legal services, and financial well-being. [...] The expo also included a presentation on upcoming changes to aged care, delivered by the Department of Health and Aged Care, along with an update from the National Disability Insurance Agency.

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AMA urges Australians to get their flu shots before June

Wollondilly, General News, 28/03/2025, Michael Sharp, Page 10

Falling influenza vaccinations due to vaccine fatigue and misinformation, combined with the risk of a horror flu season like the one experienced in the Northern Hemisphere, could result in more lives lost from flu and other respiratory diseases this year. [...] Information about the flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines, including who should get vaccines, can be found on the Department of Health and Aged Care's website.

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Federal Budget 101: spotlight on regional and rural funding

Narromine Star, General News, 27/03/2025, Sophia McCaughan, Page 1

There was no announcement for additional funding or progress of the Inland Rail project from Narrabri to Narromine. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care develops and delivers evidence-based policy, well-targeted programs, and best practice regulation to achieve better health and wellbeing for all Australians, now and for future generations.

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Hedge the rise in your health insurance premium with these 2 ASX stocks

MSN Australia, Other, 28/03/2025

Health insurance premiums are set to rise by an average of 3.73% on 1 April. While this can be a bitter

pill to swallow for consumers, it can be a good opportunity for investors. [...] Changes go into effect on 1 April After several rounds of negotiations between Health Minister Mark Butler and insurance companies, health insurance premiums will rise by an average of 3.73% in April.

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"It's an exciting time to be part of the health and aged care sector"

CRN, Other, 28/03/2025, Jason Pollock

Logicalis Australia and Interactive are optimistic about opportunities this week's federal budget creates to modernise and improve aged care in Australia. Health and aged care came out on top in terms of technology spending in this week's federal budget, with iTnews reporting a total of \$320 million has been allocated across My Health Record, the Department of Health and Aged Care and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

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New GP Service up and running for La Perouse

cesphn.org.au, Other, 28/03/2025, Rosy Mobbs

Following many years of planning and waiting patiently, the La Perouse Aboriginal community has its own GP service operating from the La Perouse Community Health Centre. Gamay Health is a new service being managed and operated by the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council with an initial establishment funding grant provided by Central and Eastern Sydney PHN from the Department of Health and Aged Care's Indigenous Australians' Health Program

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Is our digital health agenda getting too big not to fail?

Health Services Daily, Other, 28/03/2025, Jeremy Knibbs

If there was to be a big fat "whoa, look what happened here" warning sign for our energetic and ambitious health system interoperability architects in the Australian Digital Health Agency and the Department of Health and Aged Care, it was this week's story out of WA about the collapse of a well-intended but big, complex, expensive and ambitious interoperability project to build a new eReferrals platform. Many people working in digital health will recognise a lot of components in the failure.

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Virtual nursing on trial to support aged care homes

Pulse+IT, Other, 28/03/2025, Heather Fletcher

Medibank's health service delivery company Amplar Health will provide virtual nursing services to aged care residents across 30 homes nationwide. The partnership with the Australian Government announced by the Department of Health and Aged Care aims to ensure older Australians 'receive consistent, timely care when and where they need it'.

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Stuck in limbo: navigating the legal landscape of Support at Home

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

With just 63 business days until the new Program is due to begin, home care providers still await critical detail in the new rules, especially around pricing, co-contributions, and communication with clients. Is the sector ready for the fallout? [...] However, the Department of Health and Aged Care has yet to reveal if operators will be able to terminate services if consumers refuse to pay required co-contributions – simply stating in the Manual on page 134.

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60-day scripts were supposed to save time and money. So why are we still waiting for cheaper medicines?

Your Life Choices, Other, 28/03/2025

Labor has committed A\$690 million over four years to cut the maximum cost of medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) to \$25. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care

predicted 60-day uptake would reach 45% in 2023–24, 58% in 2024–25, and 63% in 2026–27, if fully implemented.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Higher costs for seniors: The price increases looming for aged care

Weekend Australian, Business News, 29/03/2025, Michael Horin, Page 30

Apart from a freeze in the deeming rate at 2.25 per cent announced before the budget and an extra \$2.6bn allocated to 60,000 aged-care nurses to "deliver high-quality care for Australians", there wasn't much new in the budget for seniors. However, that doesn't mean there are not big changes afoot for the aged-care sector.

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Family fury as no jail for a 'terrible mistake'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 29/03/2025, Shannon Tonkin, Page 9

Disgraced former police officer and convicted killer Kristian White has become just the fifth person in the past five years to avoid jail time for manslaughter. White was handed a two year community correction order in lieu of prison on Friday, four months after a NSW Supreme Court jury found him guilty of killing 95-year-old great-grandmother Clare Nowland.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Adjustments to age pension to see an income boost for all

Central Western Daily, General News, 29/03/2025, Noel Whittaker, Page 70

The quarterly age pension adjustments have been announced, and thanks to inflation, all pensioners will receive an income boost. The pension system can be confusing because there are three changes each year: in July, the asset and income thresholds are adjusted, while in September and March, pension payments are updated.

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

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Docs urge elderly to stay active

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 29/03/2025, April Shepherd, Page 9

Local health professionals in the Far West Local Health District are urging older people to look after themselves this Fall Prevention Month. April Falls Month is an annual event that encourages elderly people to be aware of the risks of losing their independence from inactivity.

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Residents of Kalgoorlie-Boulder nursing home tap into their dancing abilities

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 28/03/2025, Jessica Antoniou

Residents of a Kalgoorlie-Boulder nursing home are putting on their dancing shoes as part of six-week dance program. Para Sports WA is funding Para and Ability Dance WA at Victoria Park Nursing Home, which offers six free dance lessons across six weeks for residents of all mobilities, led by a professional dance teacher.

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Election locked in: How would Peter Dutton's Budget Reply impact aged care?

HelloCare, Other, 28/03/2025, Jakob Neeland

Earlier this morning, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese confirmed that Australia's federal election will officially take place on 3 May 2025. Hours earlier, Opposition Leader Peter Dutton had delivered his budget reply speech, laying out a vision that could shape the lives of aged care workers, management, and seniors across the country.

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Catholic Health Australia want aged care at forefront of election campaign again

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/03/2025, Ian Horswill

The Albanese Government came to power in May 2022, stating nobody should be denied access to high quality aged care services. "Older Australians must be provided access to safe, person-centred and holistic care that is appropriate to individual needs, whether it is being provided in the community, home or a residential facility," the Labor Party's 2021 National Platform stated.

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Opinion: where is the grand plan for ageing in this country?

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

The ageing sector needs a vision and cohesive plan to address the escalating demand for aged care services and accommodation. It can't be business as usual. Government cannot deliver this alone – operators must step up.

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Choose your lane: why assisted living is the future for retirement village operators

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

Operators should re-think their strategies now. With the new Aged Care Act shifting the system towards more privately paid services, Baby Boomers will have to pay more – will they want the traditional institutional RAC models of aged care?

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What is the 'sweet spot' for mid-sized residential aged care providers?

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

Medium-sized operators with 800 to 1,200 beds have the good balance of resources and the ability to maintain personal, direct relationships with staff and residents necessary to stay viable in the shifting aged care landscape, the 2025 LEADERS SUMMIT has heard. Cynthia Payne, the Managing Director of aged care and retirement living consultancy Anchor Excellence, led a lively discussion with the CEOs of three, mid-sized aged care operators.

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Peak bodies back long-term strategy for ageing sector

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson has warned that the sector must look beyond the current system and focus on long-term planning after 1 July. The Ageing Australia CEO has acknowledged the need for a comprehensive strategy that includes retirement living, home care, and residential aged care as part of an integrated continuum of ageing services.

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As the demand for home-based healthcare grows on the back of Australia's ageing population and its increasing complex care needs, Silverchain is rapidly expanding into acute care in the home and scaling nationally.

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

With Support at Home set to shake up the traditional home care model, how can operators invest in the right strategies to make home care not just viable, but also a cornerstone of the healthcare system? As the demand for home-based healthcare grows on the back of Australia's ageing population and its increasing complex care needs, Silverchain is rapidly expanding into acute care in the home and scaling nationally.

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An AI trainer in the car for home care staff? It's real

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/03/2025, Lauren Broomham

With the health and aged care workforce struggling with both capacity and capability, AI is set to play a key role in improving workforce skills through tailored training. The Fair Work Commission's recent aged care wage rises have delivered a boost to staff attraction and retention in the sector – but turnover, particularly in home care, remains a challenge due to the complex nature of the work.

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Budget talks big on health, but will seniors get the care they need?

Your Life Choices, Other, 28/03/2025, Floralyn Teodoro

The latest Federal Budget has been a mixed bag for Australians over 50, with significant investments in health care that promise to bolster the system. The budget has delivered a substantial boost to the health sector, with funding aimed at improving hospital services, increasing affordable access to medicines, and enhancing mental health support.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 28/03/2025, Manny Tsigas

A former New South Wales Police officer found guilty of manslaughter for using his Taser on a great grandmother, will not spend any time behind bars. Claire Nowlan died after she fell during the incident at a Cooma nursing home.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Illegal tobacco shops raking it in

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/03/2025, Elizabeth Henson & Andrew Hough, Page 13

Illegal tobacco shops in South Australia are netting up to \$1.3m a month selling illicit cigarettes and vapes, while organised crime syndicates that supply the stores are believed to be pocketing several million dollars every four weeks, insiders have revealed. The huge revenues, which have been fuelling the underground tobacco war that has raged in SA since mid-last year, have been disclosed as a new push for harsher penalties is set to be considered in state parliament next week.

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

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Chill out on raw flavours

Geelong Advertiser, GT, 29/03/2025, Page 1

"It was hell to be fully honest," Ellen Doyle says of the seven years it took for her to be diagnosed with endometriosis. It's a pain like no other, one not many understand, one that doesn't have a cure and one

that affects one in seven girls and women in Australia, according to the Endometriosis in Australia report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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Deputy mayor suggests staff 'google' answers on fluoride

Daily Liberal, General News, 29/03/2025, Ciara Bastow, Page 4

Deputy mayor Phillip Toynton has slammed a rescission motion put forward at council, saying staff could just do a "quick google search" to find the answers to his fluoride questions. In February 2025 Cr Toynton brought forward a motion that asked why council ever applied for fluoride in the water, if there were any documented health risks and how fluoride is absorbed in the body.

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Perth man develops life-saving cooling vest as experts warn country is unprepared for intensifying heatwaves

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 28/03/2025, Liam Murphy & Wanneroo Thu

As extreme heat events become more frequent across Australia, climate experts warn that the health system and many industries are ill-prepared to handle the consequences of extreme heat, particularly heatstroke, and are calling for immediate action. [...] Here in Australia, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has reported that extreme heat events are leading to more hospitalisations, with injuries caused by extreme heat accounting for 7104 admissions and 293 deaths between 2012 and 2022.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Clinical trial result from hell has biotech investors on edge

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 29/03/2025, Michael Smith, Page 22

For three decades, Megan Baldwin dedicated her life to taking her PhD idea a way to treat vision impairment to the world. By the start of the year, that idea had morphed into a biotech hopeful known as Opthea with a market value of almost \$1 billion.

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Cholesterol warning on inherited disease

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/03/2025, Page 15

Thousands of Australians with inherited high cholesterol could be saved from an early death by having a simple, fully subsidised genetic test. Familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH), an inherited condition that causes dangerously high cholesterol levels, affects one in 250 people.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#).

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Dreams dashed by horror diagnosis

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/03/2025, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 28

Mum-of-two Karen Walsh landed the job of her dreams, signed a contract to build the home she'd always desired and even booked a cruise for her family. Heartbreakingly everything came crumbling down when she began to feel more exhausted than usual late last year something she at first attributed to low iron from being a vegetarian.

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Elizabeth travelled '23,000 miles' to help break the silence

Daily Liberal, General News, 29/03/2025, Ciara Bastow, Page 2

Elizabeth Allen has spent over a decade raising awareness about prostate cancer, tirelessly working to educate men and their families about the importance of early detection. As the secretary of the

Combined Prostate Cancer Support Groups of rural New South Wales, she has become a prominent advocate for men's health, particularly in rural areas where access to support and education is limited.

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One small step to lower dementia risk

Launceston Examiner, General News, 29/03/2025, Joe Colbrook, Page 3

How far will you go to prevent developing dementia? Professor George Razay says the answer is smaller than you might expect, and is calling on people to strap on their walking shoes on Sunday, March 30.

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9News presenter issues warning after skin cancer scare

9News, Other, 28/03/2025

9News Queensland seniors reporter Bruce Paige has opened up about a recent brush with skin cancer, reminding all Australians to look out for the early warning signs.

Paige recently discovered a basal cell carcinoma (BCC) on the side of his face after he had a few minor skin cancers diagnosed in the past.

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Diabetes technology access needs to be a national priority this Federal Election

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 28/03/2025

With the Federal Election date now set for May 3, Australia's leading diabetes advocacy organisations are calling for election commitments to expand affordable access to life changing technologies for people living with diabetes. [...] The latest Diabetes Australia cost of living survey found that for 61 percent of people, the cost of diabetes medicines and technologies was their greatest challenge.

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PRIMARY CARE

A cost-of-living poll for a resentful electorate

AFR Weekend, General News, 29/03/2025, Michael Stutchbury, Page 1

Australia's 2025 election will be decided by an electorate that has become entitled to living in one of the world's most affluent societies and resents that its living standards have been squeezed by the post-pandemic inflation breakout.

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Contest a matter of trust

Weekend Australian, General News, 29/03/2025, Paul Kelly, Page 1

Australia faces a brutal yet uninspiring election. This is an election that revolves around "who do you distrust least" Anthony Albanese or Peter Dutton. [...] He highlights cost-of-living relief, higher wages, more bulk billing, cheaper medicines, help with energy bills, cutting student debt and a new personal income tax cut.

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Trio of seats could prove make or break

Weekend Australian, General News, 29/03/2025, Matthew Denholm, Page 5

In a tight finish, Tasmania could hold the key to who wins government at this election, and both major party leaders will devote a disproportionate time to the island in this campaign. [...] "Health is the biggest issue this election campaign and only Labor has a track record of delivering Medicare Urgent Care Clinics and cheaper medicines, along with a fully costed plan for more free doctor visits," she said.

3000 staff hit in ambo data hack

Weekend Australian, General News, 29/03/2025, Damon Johnston, Page 9

Police are investigating a massive data breach at Ambulance Victoria after the private financial and personal data of up to 3000 employees was hacked. The Australian can reveal emergency services chiefs called in Victoria Police and Australian Federal Police on Friday amid fears the security breach had compromised the personal files of thousands of staff.

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

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Penny for your supports

The Saturday Paper, General News, 29/03/2025, Karen Barlow, Page 3

The government heads into the election confident in its declaration that Labor is the better economic manager, while the Coalition says it has piggybacked off its work and a series of windfalls. [...] The Coalition has matched the \$1.8 billion energy bill relief extension, the \$8.5 billion for the tripling of the Medicare bulk-billing incentive, the \$1.7 billion public hospital deal and the \$573 million women's health package, all in the knowledge that the budget was heading back into deficit an overspend figure now revealed to be \$27.6 billion and expected to rise to \$42 billion next year.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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Poll prediction? Storms ahead

The Saturday Age, General News, 29/03/2025, Peter Hartcher, Page 44

In spite of the madness elsewhere in the world, Australia's federal election begins in the realm of sanity. But also superficiality. [...] It intends to cut student debt by 20 per cent, increase payments for bulk billing of doctors' fees, make medicines under the PBS cheaper, build another 50 emergency Medicare clinics, pay a further electricity rebate of \$150 for the second half of this year.

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

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Inadequate care leads to gran's death

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/03/2025, Zizi Averill, Page 3

A Northern Territory grandmother who went into Royal Darwin Hospital for a routine surgery was exposed to "inadequate" post-operative care before her death, the coroner has determined. On Wednesday, Elisabeth Armitage released her findings into the death of 66-year-old Judy Smart in the Royal Darwin Hospital on June 20, 2021 just 10 days after checking in for a knee surgery.

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

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Allow us to keep building

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/03/2025, Anthony Albanese, Page 10

This election is a choice between Labor's plan to keep building or Peter Dutton's promise to cut. [...] Opening 50 new Medicare Urgent Care Clinics in the suburbs and regions on top of the 87 we've already got up and running.

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

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Ambos' personal details stolen

Herald Sun, General News, 29/03/2025, Mark Buttler & Mitch Clarke, Page 12

The personal details of 3000 Ambulance Victoria workers have been stolen by a colleague. Victoria

Police and AV have launched investigations into the circumstances of the alarming breach.

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

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Health spend crucial to vote

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/03/2025, David Killick, Page 20

Volunteer worker, mother, grandmother and "community champion" Kerry Kievit is one of the swinging voters who will play a key role in deciding who wins in Lyons, and who will govern the nation, after May 3. [...] "My husband and I both have complex health issues, so it's about the state of Medicare, the state of the health departments around the country, the lack of doctors and lack of specialists."

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'A long way off'

Daily Liberal, General News, 29/03/2025, Ciara Bastow, Page 1

A Federal Budget sweetener giving Australians increased access to bulk billed GP visits is still a long way off, despite what the Prime Minister says, warns a regional doctor. The federal government pledged \$7.9 billion over four years to expand bulk billing to try and deliver 18 million bulked billed GP visits each year.

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

Budget is 'bad luck for Barker'

Border Watch, General News, 28/03/2025, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 5

South Australia is the "state the budget forgot" according to Member for Barker Tony Pasin. [...] "We will also increase the Medicare levy low-income thresholds, which is extra tax relief for more than a million Australians."

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

NT seats of Lingiari and Solomon in the mix for May 3 federal election

The Courier Mail, Other, 28/03/2025, Fia Walsh

Signs are up, people are waving at cars, and the federal election campaign has officially kicked off in the Northern Territory. [...] "They've already said they'll shut down our Free Medicare Urgent Care Clinics – which have already helped Territorians on 20,000 different occasions in Palmerston alone, since 2023."

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Kalgoorlie-Boulder to host Royal Flying Doctor Service's first medical centre in WA

West Australian, Other, 28/03/2025, Carwyn Monck

Kalgoorlie-Boulder will host the Royal Flying Doctor Service's first medical centre in WA, which the organisation says will help cushion the city's doctor shortage. The Egan Street medical centre near the Coles supermarket complex is set to open mid-2025 with permanent GP staff and a nurse practitioner.

[Read More](#)

Palliative care patients face added stress and extra costs amid pain medicine shortages

ABC Online, Other, 28/03/2025, Olivia Willis

For Australians living with a life-limiting or terminal illness, palliative care services are designed to prevent their suffering and improve their quality of life. To do this, doctors often prescribe strong pain medications, but many have been unavailable or difficult to access in the past 18 months.

[Read More](#)

Brandon Chesney sentenced after posing as RAH nurse, assaulting young female patient

Cairns Post, Other, 28/03/2025, Charlie Dadds

A “narcissist” in scrubs who masqueraded as a nurse to administer tests has been sentenced after infiltrating Adelaide’s largest hospital. Brandon Chesney, 24, was driven by a “need for validation” when he posed as a member of staff for the Royal Adelaide Hospital, a court has heard, leaving a “vulnerable” female patient suffering an allergic reaction as a result of his misconduct.

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

[Read More](#)

'You can't cuddle them': mum of premmie babies on heartbreaking fight for fairness

The Border Mail, Other, 28/03/2025, Carla Mascarenhas

Ashleigh McKenna's two sons, Alfie and Oscar, were born at 25 weeks and four days. The first-time mum would spend 150 days in hospital enduring a "nightmare" situation.

[Read More](#)

What GPs need to know about firearms health assessments

Medical Forum, Other, 28/03/2025

The recent overhaul of WA firearms laws saw the creation of legislation which requires those seeking a firearms license to have a health assessment and existing firearms license holders to be assessed at least every five years. The new legislation, which is aimed at enhancing and supporting public safety by bringing in more stringent requirements, comes into effect on March 31.

[Read More](#)

Calls to end voluntary assisted dying telehealth ban

Medical Forum, Other, 28/03/2025

When Medical Forum spoke to Dr Bhawani O'Brien earlier in the week, she was travelling to Rockingham to visit a patient for one of three appointments as part of the voluntary assisted dying process. "I'm driving to Rockingham right now to see a patient for their final assessment."

[Read More](#)

Nurses want to expand their practice, but GPs have reservations

Medical Forum, Other, 28/03/2025

Nine of Australia's peak nursing and midwifery groups have called on the major parties at this election to commit to reforms to allow nurses and midwives to provide specialist referrals, prescribe medicines and order diagnostic testing. RACGP Vice President and WA Chair Dr Ramya Raman voiced concern about the potential impact such changes could have.

[Read More](#)

Five ministers to work across health in new Cabinet sub-committee

Medical Forum, Other, 28/03/2025

A new State Government sub-committee aims to deliver a new era of health for Western Australians. Following on from last week's Cabinet reshuffle, which saw the responsibility for health divided across multiple portfolios and ministers, the Government has provided a framework for how the arrangement would work.

[Read More](#)

Budget supports better access to women's health services

Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Other, 28/03/2025

This year's Federal Budget continues to prioritise women's health, with new investments that reflect the growing recognition of the need for more affordable, accessible care — including through community pharmacy. Among the headline measures is a \$109.1 million commitment to improving access to oral contraceptives and treatment for uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs).

Medicine access and healthcare equity to be prioritised ahead of Federal election

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 28/03/2025

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) releases its 2025 Federal Election Priorities Statement in the lead up to May election. With the Federal Election called for Saturday 3rd May, Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) calls on the major parties to prioritise safe, timely and ready access to medicines as part of their respective election platforms.

[Read More](#)

PSA welcomes pharmacists and stakeholders to inaugural GP-Pharmacists Symposium

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 28/03/2025

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is hosting the General Practice Pharmacists Symposium today in Melbourne, bringing leading voices and over 100 delegates together to explore the evolving role of pharmacists in general practice. It is the first General Practice Pharmacists Symposium hosted by PSA, following 2 years delivered by the WentWest PHN in New South Wales.

[Read More](#)

Is the Federal Election a 'turning point' for healthcare?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 28/03/2025

Brandishing a Medicare card, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has called a 3 May Federal Election, with GP access a central pillar for both major parties in the 2025 race to the polls. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Opposition leader Peter Dutton kicking off their Federal Election campaigns.

[Read More](#)

'I love my job, but it's time to go'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 28/03/2025

Professor Louise Stone is calling on GPs to share their stories as part of an investigation into why female GPs leave clinical general practice. Three in 10 GPs say they are intending to retire within five years.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 28/03/2025, Tiffany Warne

South Australia's doctors are fed up waiting for politicians to fix the state's ramping crisis, so the local branch of the AMA has asked to stop the blame game and work together to find solutions. The Access to Care roundtable is promising to bring in the best medical minds from across the country to Adelaide.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 28/03/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Dr Michael Wright, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Compere mentions that on Tuesday night, the Treasurer [Jim Chalmers] announced \$644m to establish a further 50 medicare urgent care clinics across Australia with new clinics expected for every State and Territory. Wright points out that these are looking to be a pretty expensive model of care, according to a report provided by the Interim Evaluation Report provided by Nous Group.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Key policy differences

Labor's energy plan aims to increase the amount of renewable energy in the grid to 82 per cent come 2030. It is also funding a \$2bn expansion of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation to unlock billions worth of investments in renewable and low emissions technologies.

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

In my mind my perfect baby boy would be better off if I was dead

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 29/03/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 10

The joy doting mum Kim Cottell gets from interacting with her adorable toddler son is palpable she beams proudly as he gurgles with delight while playing in an Adelaide park. But the stirring scene very nearly didn't happen with the 37-year-old mother, by her own harrowing admission, almost succumbing to postnatal depression in the most shocking of ways.

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

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

Giving anxiety a run for its money

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 29/03/2025, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 11

Three years ago, Jake Saunders would shake uncontrollably with nerves before school sporting events and suffer meltdowns whenever he lost. Today, the 10-year-old, who has autism, has won numerous races at school and athletics events and now competes at a State level in Little Athletics.

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

Philanthropist couple fighting for mums

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/03/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 12

A generous octogenarian couple who have funded - for more than a decade a "life-changing" program proven to help mums experiencing postnatal depression are lobbying for a statewide expansion. Globally esteemed former Adelaide medical researcher John Hopwood, 86, and wife Barbara, 87, a retired social worker, have financed the Acorn program to help mums bond with their newborns through the Hopscotch Foundation a charity established on the back of royalties earned through his breakthrough drug to treat a rare genetic disorder in children.

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

Teens wait for treatment

Courier Mail, General News, 29/03/2025, Page 18

The average wait time for the first session of treatment in Australia could be further harming the mental health of teens, prompting calls to introduce national standards. A study involving UNSW Sydney researchers reveals says the average wait time for teens to see a treatment provider for anxiety and depression is 99.6 days.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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'Lifesaving' program needs funds

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 29/03/2025, Page 12

A unique Adelaide program that has run out of a small suburban hall for the past decade helping struggling mums bond with their newborns has won global recognition, sparking calls for it to be expanded across the state. The Acorn program, funded by not-for-profit Hopscotch Foundation, has helped hundreds of women with mental health difficulties connect with their babies through a series of activities including "dance play".

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

Emotional support for our vulnerable

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 29/03/2025, Jessica antoniou, Page 1

Lotterywest has funded a world-leading evidencebased suicide prevention model for people living in

the Goldfields. The Eclipse pilot program is targeting people in the regional community who have had previous suicide attempts and will take place for three hours, once a week, across eight weeks.

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

Directory to help those waiting for help

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 29/03/2025, Jessica Howard, Page 5

A South-West charity has launched a safe place to wait for those facing delays in accessing mental health help. The Standard has previously reported that adults face three-month waits and children up to a year to see a mental health specialist in the region.

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

Shock moment for Aussie mum: 'I watched my son die in front of me'

NEWS.com.au, Other, 28/03/2025, Bek Day & Tsn Flex

By the time Christina Johns' son, A, was 13 years old, she knew something was wrong. "In those days, no one talked about mental illness," she tells news.com.au. "And single mums were incredibly looked down upon."

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Warning of fewer nurses in ICUs

The Saturday Age, General News, 29/03/2025, Broede Carmody & Kieran Rooney, Page 11

There could be fewer nurses in Victorian ICUs as an unintended consequence of how the government has phrased its incoming reforms, doctors and critical care specialists warn. Three peak bodies say that the draft laws, which have passed the lower house, would not stop hospitals from cutting up to three senior nurses per day in the state's largest ICUs compared to current industry standards.

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

Concerns on more medico resignations

Canberra Times, General News, 29/03/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 22

The head of a medical association would not be surprised if more senior doctors resign from Canberra Health Services following the departure of five orthopaedic surgeons and two anaesthetists. Australian Medical Association ACT branch president Kerrie Aust said specialist doctors are deeply concerned that administrative changes at the hospital are putting patients at risk.

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Students inspired to pursue a career in health

Daily Advertiser, General News, 29/03/2025, Finn Coleman, Page 3

Wagga's Pippa Errington, 17, recently lost her dad to cancer, and the journey inspired her to become a doctor. "I've had a lot of interest in medicine ... and I've spent a lot of time in the medical space," she said.

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Why budget sweeteners miss the mark

There were a number of election sweeteners in this year's Federal Budget, but regional MPs say those in their backyard have been left with a "sour taste" following "glaring omissions". Major projects across the west have been left out of the budget, released by treasurer Jim Chalmers on Tuesday night.

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

New push to retain vital healthcare talent

Daily Liberal, General News, 29/03/2025, Ciara Bastow, Page 12

The shortage of healthcare professionals in regional New South Wales has become an ongoing issue, with rural communities often grappling to secure vital services. CSU Professor, Megan Smith, said the university was working hard to combat this shortage and encourage local students to consider a career in the healthcare sector.

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

Report critical of country mat services

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 29/03/2025, Page 26

One rural birthing unit "teeters on the brink" and goes from "one disaster to the next" due to severe staff shortages. Another maternity service in a farming town of 15,000 closed four years after opening its doors, forcing specialists and medical workers out of town.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Birth 'crisis' looms amid staff shortages

Newcastle Herald, General News, 29/03/2025, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 30

One rural birthing unit "teeters on the brink" and goes from "one disaster to the next" due to severe staff shortages. Another maternity service in a farming town of 15,000 closed four years after opening its doors, forcing specialists and medical workers out of town.

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Paramedic boost: 15 recruits and move to 24/7 service

Shepparton News Online, Other, 28/03/2025, Zoe McMaugh

Fifteen additional paramedics will join the Deniliquin Ambulance Station on April 12. The increase will bring the number of paramedics servicing the local area to 25. It will also see the Deniliquin station transition to a 24-hour manned station.

[Read More](#)

Share or comment on this article: A remote Australian town seeks a doctor, offering a...

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 28/03/2025

A remote Australian town that will soon lose its only doctor is offering a salary of up to 680,000 Australian dollars (\$428,000), plus free rent and a car, to attract a new candidate. The remote Queensland town of Julia Creek, population 500, is offering about double the salary a family physician would earn in the state's capital, Brisbane.

[Read More](#)

More than \$600 million promised to boost doctor numbers

Medical Forum, Other, 28/03/2025

The Federal Budget delivered this week will provide \$606.3m over four years from 2025/26, and \$226.3m a year after that, to increase the number of doctors and nurses in the country. This includes \$265.4m over four years from 2025/26, and \$94.8m ongoing, to expand GP training through the Australian General Practice Training Program and the Remote Vocational Training Scheme.

[Read More](#)

Cash incentives crucial to staffing, care minutes

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 28/03/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

As care minute obligations become stricter, providers must embrace innovation and be strategic to ensure they are compliant, which can be particularly challenging for providers servicing rural and remote locations. That's according to this week's webinar on strengthening care delivery through compliance and strategy webinar hosted by technology and benchmarking company Mirus Australia.

[Read More](#)

Allied health, dementia peaks feel overlooked

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 28/03/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Allied Health Professions Australia and Dementia Australia have expressed concern at the lack of support shown to their respective sectors in the 2025 Federal Budget. AHPA chief executive officer Bronwyn Morris-Donovon said while the government appeared to have an ambitious health reform agenda, the omission of allied health in the budget is disappointing.

[Read More](#)

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Trump's tariffs to crash our election

Courier Mail, General News, 29/03/2025, Clare Armstrong, Lachlan Leeming & James Morrow, Page 7

Donald Trump is poised to crash through our federal election with his looming "liberation day" tariffs to be a major test for Anthony Albanese in the first week of the campaign. [...] US pharma giants have been urging Mr Trump to consider Australia's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme as anti-American, while some agriculture producers are pushing to target Australian beef and wine.

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

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A campaign in three words

Herald Sun, Editorials, 29/03/2025, Page 74

Australians will go to the polls on May 3 to decide the trajectory of the nation over the next three years. [...] Last Tuesday's budget delivered by Treasurer Jim Chalmers failed to move the dial in any significant way, but people will have noticed Labor's lower-cost Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicines, bulk-billing assistance, more free TAFE placements, university debt help, and the minor tweaks that add incrementally to last year's substantive stage 3 taxation changes.

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

World's drug giants compete on marketing and dirty tricks, but never compete on price

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/03/2025, Martyn Goddard, Page 42

America's pharmaceutical giants do not love the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. It costs them money. They've tried for decades to hobble the PBS or to knock the scheme over altogether. Each time they've failed. Now, with Donald Trump in the White House, they're trying again.

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

Angela Pownall: Why the health of women should matter more to us all

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 28/03/2025, Angela Pownall

I still remember listening to an acquaintance tearfully explain a few years ago how PMDD was ruining her life, confining her to bed and at times making her feel suicidal. [...] This month, three newer body identical HRT medications, which are more commonly prescribed as they carry lower risks of side effects, were finally added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 28/03/2025, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Bruce Wolpe, United States Studies Centre. Wolpe mentions that if US President Donald Trump attacks PBS, makes it harder for Australians to access those medicines, and penalises Australia's pharmaceutical industry and exports, people will question him. He believes it won't get as intense as that, but that's still an open possibility.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Alleged aged-care incidents

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/03/2025, Andrew Hough, Page 1

An Adelaide nurse is being investigated over claims she attacked elderly nursing home patients in her care. [...] The nurse is due to have her licence expire in May, according to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

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

Assistant nurses who 'abused and neglected' dementia patients at Garrawarra Centre banned from working in health services for two years Assistant nurses who 'abused and neglected' dementia patients at Garrawarra Centre banned from working in health

7news.com.au, Other, 28/03/2025, Tita Smith

Two young assistant nurses have been barred from working in health services for two years after abusing and neglecting high-needs dementia patients at an aged care facility, with one left on the ground for 15 minutes after a fall while the pair prodded him with their feet. Caitlin Kusabs, 23, and Alison O'Driscoll, 21, were reported to the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) after abhorrent behaviour towards three patients at Garrawarra Centre in Helensburgh, south of Sydney, during an overnight shift on October 19, 2023.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Flood-prone tennis upgrade 'not worth \$113m price tag'

Weekend Australian, General News, 29/03/2025, Page 10

David Crisafulli and his government capitulated to a demand from Tennis Australia for a rolled-gold upgrade of Brisbane's major tennis centre for the 2032 Olympics, despite the Premier's hand-picked panel warning the development was not worth the \$113m price tag and had no way to protect against

inevitable flooding. Flanked by homegrown tennis stars Pat Rafter and Ash Barty, Mr Crisafulli on Tuesday trumpeted the state's plans to overhaul the Queensland Tennis Centre at Tennyson, declaring he could not risk the 2032 Games tournament being shifted to Melbourne.

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

'Others hated it': Games venue tension

Weekend Australian, General News, 29/03/2025, Jamie Walker & Michael McKenna, Page 10

There was lots of love in the room when David Crisafulli announced his long-awaited reboot of the Brisbane Olympics' stalled venues program this week. The key players in this melodrama heaped praise on the Queensland Premier and his Games delivery chief; a long-suffering public, dismayed by nearly four years of dithering and backsliding on what should be built and where, seemed relieved that a credible and actionable plan was at last at hand.

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

Build, baby, build

Weekend Australian, General News, 29/03/2025, Jamie Walker, Page 24

The relief was palpable when Queensland's new Liberal National Party Premier, David Crisafulli, unveiled his keenly awaited Olympic delivery strategy this week. After nearly four years of political backflips and false starts, here at last was a cogent, actionable plan to build the infrastructure and venues necessary to stage the world's greatest all-sports tournament.

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

A vision splendid and bold for park

Courier Mail, General News, 29/03/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 27

It became Brisbane's worst-kept secret. But for the team behind the first bold vision for Victoria Park and a new stadium to become the epicentre of the 2032 Games, it's been a more than six-year labour of love.

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

15k seat Olympic centre

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 29/03/2025, Tom Gillespie & Bella Munro, Page 1

More than 15,000 spectators will pack out the new Toowoomba Equestrian Centre in seven years' time for the Brisbane Olympics, as organisers for the now successful bid pledge to have the \$70m facility ready in three years. Royal Agricultural Society of Queensland chief executive Damon Phillips confirmed as many as 10,000 temporary seats would be installed for the Games in 2032 at the TEC, which is expected to cost between \$60-70m.

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'Fantastic': First look at new stadium designs

Central Western Daily, General News, 29/03/2025, Riley Krause, Page 14

Revamped designs of Orange's planned sports stadium have been confirmed months after a multi-million cash injection was announced. In January the Federal Government announced it was providing \$15 million towards the long-awaited Orange Sports Precinct.

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

Doc's sporting effort for women's health secures top honour

Newcastle Herald, General News, 29/03/2025, Josh Leeson, Page 29

Dr Alyce Barnes' world-first interventions and promotion of female sport participation have earned her Lake Macquarie's top annual civic honour. The University of Newcastle researcher was crowned the Lake Mac Ambassador for 2025 last night at Belmont 16s.

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

Handy excuse to renegotiate stadium deal

Launceston Examiner, General News, 29/03/2025, Anthony Haneveer, Page 57

Is the groundwork being laid for an attempt to revisit the state's contentious AFL deal? The agreement paving the way for Tasmania's entry to the national competition is more than a headache for the Rockliff government.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

'It was a mistake': Australia fails to sign up to \$163b research fund

The Saturday Paper, General News, 29/03/2025, Rick Morton, Page 1

Two years ago, the Australian government balked at the cost of joining the European Union's \$163 billion research and innovation fund, Horizon Europe. The decision concerned researchers at the time but is now seen as a grave mistake, with the Trump administration making the United States an unreliable partner for universities and science agencies.

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Exercise link to breast cancer

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 29/03/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 27

Perth researchers find new way reduce the return of deadly disease Perth researchers have found a new way to try and reduce the recurrence of breast cancer. And it could be as simple as going for a quick walk or lifting a few weights.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\)](#), [\(Perth\)](#).

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ECU research finds exercise could reduce risk of breast cancer recurrence by lessening inflammation

West Australian, Other, 28/03/2025, Hannah Cross

Perth researchers have found a new avenue to explore to try to reduce the recurrence of breast cancer. And it could be as simple as going for a quick walk or pumping a few weights. Breast cancer is the second most diagnosed cancer in Australia, following prostate cancer.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Stuart's family says he asked for mental health support but he didn't get it. Days later he was dead

ABC Online, Other, 28/03/2025, Tahnee Jash & Carly Williams

In her 25 years, there is a line that Lisa Hume will never forget. "I'm sorry, sis, I tried. You need to come home; this is serious." It was a phone call made from Casuarina Prison in Western Australia on March 3, by a close family friend.

[Read More](#)

SNAICC urges election campaign to embrace bi-partisan approach to Closing the Gap for children

National Indigenous Times, Other, 28/03/2025, Giovanni Torre

SNAICC - National Voice for our Children has urged a bi-partisan approach to Closing the Gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the wake of the announcement of the May 3 federal election. SNAICC chief executive Catherine Liddle said "it's more important than ever that we see a bi-

partisan commitment to early education and child and family safety to ensure our children get the best start in life".

[Read More](#)

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Outbreak of measles hits WA

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 29/03/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 1

Cases of measles have continued to grow in WA, putting the State in the grips of its first official measles outbreak in six years. As more people were confirmed as having contracted the disease on Friday, authorities also revealed they were still on the hunt to work out who WA's patient zero was.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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Bracing for a flu-nami

Courier Mail, General News, 29/03/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 3

Queenslanders are being warned about a horror flu season ahead with cases already 24 per cent higher than the same time last year and three months before the usual spike begins. An increase in people travelling following a severe season in the northern hemisphere and ongoing vaccine hesitancy are being blamed for the early surge in cases.

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

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Warning after rare and exotic flesh-eating infection detected in southern NSW

9News, Other, 28/03/2025, Yashee Sharma

A warning has been issued to NSW residents after a rare and exotic flesh-eating condition, Buruli ulcer, was detected the state's south. Buruli ulcer is a skin infection caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium ulcerans*, which causes deterioration of the skin and bone that could lead to permanent disfigurement and long-term disability.

[Read More](#)

Gas, groceries and nuclear power: Littleproud make election pitch to voters

Cairns Post, Other, 28/03/2025, Michael Nolan

In the weeks that followed the Coalition's loss in 2022, Nationals leader David Littleproud put nuclear energy at the centre of his party's re-election pitch. [...] But it has been three years and he is still unable to answer a simple question – where he would dump the waste generated by the seven nuclear reactors he wants to build.

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

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 28/03/2025, Natalie Forrest

Health authorities have launched an outbreak investigation as cases of measles within the WA community climb. Six infections have now been confirmed in the last nine days.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 28/03/2025, Susannah Carr & Rick Ardon

WA's measles outbreak has spread with a case detected at Bunbury Prison. Two people at Bunbury Hospital and two from Hakea Prison had previously been detected, with the total number of people infected now at six.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 28/03/2025, Michael Thomson

Mass vaccination clinics are being carried out at two WA prisons amid a measles outbreak. There have now been six cases in less than a fortnight as three prisoners have been diagnosed at Hakea and Bunbury prisons, with a further two health workers affected at Bunbury Hospital.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Tasmanian Small Business Council wants state government to crack down on the illegal cigarette trade

Adelaide Now, Other, 28/03/2025, Simon Mcguire

Small business representatives want to see the Tasmanian government “urgently crack down” on the illegal cigarette trade. [...] "All illicit products seized are destroyed and reported to the Australian Border Force and the Therapeutic Goods Administration, as the Commonwealth regulators of illicit tobacco and vaping products," Mr Jaensch said.

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

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Downscheduling rejected

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 28/03/2025, Chris Brooker

A move to reschedule astrodrimer sodium vaginal gels for the treatment, relief and prevention of bacterial vaginosis has been rejected by the TGA's regulatory committee.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Warning after overdoses caused by heroin being sold as cocaine and meth in Melbourne

9News, Other, 28/03/2025, Zara Zadro

Heroin being sold as cocaine and methamphetamine in Melbourne has recently put two people into emergency care for overdoses, leading Health Victoria to urge the public to be wary of other false or contaminated drugs. It's thought the cocaine and meth sold to both victims were 'adulterated', meaning heroin was mixed into them, as all three substances were detected in specialised blood tests.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Children's snack recalled by Aussie supermarket

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 28/03/2025, Holly Truelove

A children's snack is being pulled from a major supermarket's shelves amid fears packets are contaminated with a dangerous object. Holly Truelove NewsWire Supermarket giant Woolworths has

recalled a children's snack amid fears it could be contaminated with glass. [...] Picture: Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.

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AICIS

Sydney Water flushes its boss

Daily Telegraph, General News, 29/03/2025, Linda Silmalis, Page 2

Sydney Water boss Roch Cheroux has been removed from the job with the board "initiating" a change in leadership. [...] Sydney Water has declared its water is safe with levels of PFAS found to be "very low" and met Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

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

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Blue Mountains group says PFAS class action to go ahead as government refuses blood tests

ABC Online, Other, 28/03/2025, Xanthe Gregory

A class action will be launched against the New South Wales government over its refusal to provide blood tests for Blue Mountains residents who were drinking PFAS-contaminated water. This month, the local STOP PFAS action group threatened legal action if the government did not provide free community-wide blood testing.

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