



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 2nd May 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Guardian** reports that the Labor government has pledged \$644 million to roll out an additional 50 urgent care clinics across the nation, if it wins this Saturday's election, with federal Health Minister saying it would ensure 80 per cent of Australians would live within a 20-minute drive from one.
- **ABC News Breakfast** features an interview with federal Minister for Aged Care and Sport, Anika Wells, who discusses the importance of urgent health clinics and emergency departments, as the Labor government looks to cut waiting times, adding that programs such as the Medicare mental health clinic are making a tangible difference to people's lives.
- **ABC News** reports that new costings released by the federal Coalition on Thursday has revealed the opposition will permit vapes to be sold at retail stores, a departure from the current legislation which only allows them to be purchased at pharmacies, with the Coalition also confirming it would tax the products and regulate the industry.
- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 4) reports that high-profile leaders from business, sport and government are set to converge in Sydney to discuss the potential economic benefits from the 2032 Games in Brisbane, with the panel including Australian Olympic Committee chief executive Matt Carroll and Business Sydney executive director Paul Nicolaou.

- The [\*\*Herald Sun\*\*](#) (page 4) reports that Jordan Emery CEO has resigned from Ambulance Tasmania, following his appointment as the new chief of Ambulance Victoria, with Ambulance Services Minister Mary-Anne Thomas saying she was “very confident” with his selection.
- The [\*\*Courier Mail\*\*](#) (page 9) reports that Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMAQ) President Dr Nick Yim has warned “vaccination fatigue” may have contributed to a significant rise in flu cases across the state, with new figures for May showing they are 36.4 per cent higher than the same period in 2024.
- The [\*\*Sydney Morning Herald\*\*](#) (page 16) reports that a woman from Sydney’s south-west who posed as a qualified psychologist has avoided a jail sentence, following an investigation with the Victorian education department which discovered she didn’t have a valid Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) number.
- [\*\*ABC News\*\*](#) reports that nurses in the New South Wales electorate of Richmond are set to back the Greens at this Saturday’s federal election, in a departure from its traditional support of the Labor party over an ongoing dispute regarding equal pay, with NSW Nurses and Midwives’ Association chief, Shaye Candish, saying its members would vote on issues “relating to healthcare”.
- [\*\*The Guardian\*\*](#) reports that a new international study led by the University of Queensland has shown women with endometriosis are at greater risk of premature and early menopause and seven times more likely to have surgical menopause.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Labor commits to telehealth

Geelong Independent, General News, 02/05/2025, Page 7

Labor has announced it will undertake a \$200-million expansion and rebranding of Australia’s national telehealth advice service if re-elected to government. [...] The GP telehealth service is not intended to replace existing primary care, but to provide urgent assistance when a regular GP is not available, Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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

### How Labor weaponised Medicare (again) to take on Peter Dutton

Australian Financial Review, Other, 01/05/2025, Michael Smith

They are privately annoyed Health Minister Mark Butler has highlighted how much they earn in a bid to sell the policy.

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### How the Greens rebranded from environmental activists to the 'party of renters'

ABC Online, Other, 01/05/2025, Isobel Roe

In Adam Bandt’s maiden speech to parliament in 2010, neither housing nor renters rated a mention. [...] Labor has already said it would not add dental to Medicare because of the cost, despite Health Minister Mark Butler admitting he would ultimately like to.

Also reported by: [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### Medicare urgent care clinics: are they Australian healthcare's saviour or just a Band-Aid solution?

The Guardian, Other, 02/05/2025, Natasha May

Labor has made the clinics key to its election strategy but critics say there is no long-term evidence they are reducing pressure on emergency departments. [...] The Albanese government has opened 87 urgent care clinics since 2023, with the health minister, Mark Butler, pointing out that similar clinics exist in the US, UK, New Zealand, France and Denmark.

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## Ahead of the election, families call for action on life-saving proton therapy facility

Croakey, Other, 01/05/2025, Alison Barrett

Members of the Consumer Advisory Group of the Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy and Research in Adelaide are urging federal and state politicians for clarity and action on the future of the facility following a setback on its establishment last year. [...] Croakey has also struggled to get any firm indication or response from both governments on the issue, although federal Health Minister Mark Butler told journalists earlier this year that he wanted to see the therapy available in Australia "as quickly as possible and I'm working with the South Australian Government to try to make sure that happens".

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## Coalition's pledge to cut home care wait list to zero is too little, too late

The Weekly Source, Other, 01/05/2025, Lauren Broomham

With just days to go until polling day, aged care has finally re-entered the political spotlight – but for the tens of thousands of older Australians still waiting for care, election promises offer little comfort. [...] Aged care barely rated a mention during last week's National Press Club debate between Senator Ruston and Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

## 6PR, Perth Today, 01/05/2025, Simon Beaumont

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler states he talks to GPs regularly and they have told him that the first investment they made in bulk billing two years ago worked and turned bulk billing around for Australians. He adds a lot of people have said that the money they've put on the table in February means that they can go full bulk billing. Butler states as a Labor Health Minister, he is not willing to put hard-earned taxpayer dollars into Medicare without some confidence that patients will get an outcome for it on bulk billing.

*Interview continues on: [6PR \(Perth\)](#).*

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## ABC Radio Perth, Drive, 01/05/2025, Gary Adshead

Interview with Member for Perth and Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister Patrick Gorman on the Coalition's proposed vaping tax. Gorman says Labor views vaping as a health issue, with Health Minister Mark Butler leading efforts to restrict access and protect young people. Gorman also suggests the Coalition prioritises revenue over public health by proposing the tax instead of stronger restrictions.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Leaders home and away in heady final days of campaign marathon

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 02/05/2025, Mike Foley & James Massola, Page 4

Peter Dutton has called on voters to judge the Albanese government's record rather than his own performance on the campaign trail even as he launches a last-ditch blitz of marginal electorates. [...] Labor minister Anika Wells had said earlier on the ABC, in the careful language of a frontbencher, that "the Voice in the form that we took to the referendum is gone" and the government respected the outcome but was "looking for a way to help First Nations people".

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

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### Well, well, wells

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/05/2025, Clare Armstrong, Page 1

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton seized on comments by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, who said: "The Voice in the form we took to the referendum is gone". [...] "We respect the opinions and the votes of people, they made that very clear," she told ABC. "But we're always looking for ways to help First Nations people."

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

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

## Price takes aim at Wong

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02/05/2025, Page 21

Liberal frontbencher Jacinta Price has lashed Labor as "deceitful" after Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong hinted there may be hope for a successful Voice referendum in the future. [...] During a press conference in his own electorate of Dickson in Brisbane, the Opposition Leader pointed to comments from sports minister Anika Wells about the Voice.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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## The surprising result of Marty Sheargold's axing by Triple M following his disgraceful outburst about the Matildas

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/05/2025, Andrew Prentice & Shayne Bugden

Two months after sacking Marty Sheargold following his shocking outburst about the Matildas, Triple M is dominating the Brisbane radio airwaves. [...] Sheargold was also condemned by Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells, Matildas midfielder Clare Wheeler, Football Australia and the players' union, Professional Footballers Australia.

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## Zero waitlists: Coalition's pledge to end home care delays

HelloCare, Other, 01/05/2025, Jakob Neeland

With the 2025 Federal Election two days away, the Liberal National Coalition has positioned aged care reform as a campaign cornerstone, promising to eliminate the home care waitlist for older Australians. [...] Six months ago, 81,194 seniors were waiting, with average delays of six months across all package levels and up to 11 months for higher-level care, according to Department of Health and Aged Care data.

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 01/05/2025, James Glenday & Catherine Murphy

Interview with Aged Care and Sport Minister Anika Wells. Wells says when budgets are tight in Brisbane, their urgent care clinics, the emergency department are so important in a decentralised state and the ability to bring those numbers down, reduce those wait times makes a difference to people. She adds things like a Medicare mental health clinic feel tangible and feel like they understand the problems and they're trying their best to help.

Interview continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Both major parties promise trauma recovery centre for Coast

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 01/05/2025, Page 13

The battle for Robertson continues to rage between the two major parties, with tit-for-tat announcements on huge commitments being a feature of the 2025 Federal election campaign. [...] Caption Text: Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Minister

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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## DEPARTMENT

### New IT directorate to be established

Canberra Times, General News, 02/05/2025, Jasper Lindell, Page 4

A new ACT directorate will be established to handle digital and IT projects following a public service review that found the present handling of digital projects posed a major financial risk. [...] Caroline Edwards, a former associate secretary of the federal Health Department, found directorates tending to run IT projects inhouse and at arms' length from the digital, data and technology solutions branch of CMTEDD, which posed a major financial risk to the ACT.

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

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### ASX Quarterly Health Wrap: Control Bionics reports strong US revenue, LTR Pharma makes progress with FDA

The Australian, Other, 01/05/2025, Nadine Mcgrath

Special Report: asx quarterly season is upon us again, with listed companies opening a window to their performance and key activities over the three months to March 31. [...] In late March, Lumos completed and lodged an application with the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care for the inclusion of FebriDx on the Medicare Benefits Schedule.

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

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### The Great Dunny Hunt returns as the public are urged to find 'secret toilets' to add to national toilet map

Broome Advertiser, Other, 01/05/2025, Ezra Kaye

The competition to find Australia's best porcelain throne has made its triumphant return. South West residents can participate in the Great Dunny Hunt, a project run by Continence Health Australia aiming to find the region's missing public toilets and add them to a national map, in support of Australians affected by incontinence. [...] Credit: Department of Health and Aged Care Continence Health Australia chief executive Jim Cooper said thousands of public toilets across the country remain unaccounted for on the National Public Toilet Map.

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## Yarning Circle reimagines care for older First Nations peoples

The second Elder Care Support National Yarning Circle took place this week on Kurna Country, Adelaide, bringing passionate people together with one goal; addressing the unique needs of older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In partnership with Department of Health and Aged Care, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) is in phase one of delivering an Elder Care Support Program (ECS Program), of which the Yarning Circle is one part.

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## Department publishes new SaH details

Community Care Review, Other, 01/05/2025

The Department of Health and Aged Care has released a template for Support at Home Monthly statements this week, which has drawn some criticism from providers as being vague and including the incorrect rate calculations of services. However, some are just happy it has been made available.

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## All aboard the aged care reform train: but have we forgotten anything?

Health Services Daily, Other, 01/05/2025

On 4 July 2024 the Department of Health and Aged Care set out the vision for embracing innovation and harnessing the power of data and digital technologies to improve the care and wellbeing of older people in Australia. The focus is on preserving choice and leveraging technology to make in-person and face-to-face services more accessible and efficient.

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## Zero waitlists: Coalition's pledge to end home care delays

HelloCare, Other, 01/05/2025, Jakob Neeland

With the 2025 Federal Election two days away, the Liberal National Coalition has positioned aged care reform as a campaign cornerstone, promising to eliminate the home care waitlist for older Australians. [...] Six months ago, 81,194 seniors were waiting, with average delays of six months across all package levels and up to 11 months for higher-level care, according to Department of Health and Aged Care data.

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## VACCINES

### Urgent health warning ahead of virus explosion about to strike Australia

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/05/2025, Caitlin Powell

A top professor has warned Australians will battle Covid outbreaks 'indefinitely', as the country reaches the five-year anniversary of the onset of the pandemic. Variant LP.8.1 was identified as the main cause of large outbreaks overseas in late 2024 and early 2025, and was responsible for three in five Covid cases in the UK in March.

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### Ambulance Victoria admits to second illegal gathering

The Mandarin, Other, 01/05/2025, Dan Holmes

Ambulance Victoria has confirmed paramedics violated the state's lockdown laws twice in 2021 by gathering at funerals for deceased coworkers. A statement from Ambulance Victoria on Wednesday says an "honour guard" of paramedics was present at a funeral during stage 4 COVID-19 restrictions in 2021.

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## Care trailblazer who dared to dream big

West Australian, General News, 02/05/2025, Page 62

Penelope Ruth Flett (nee Clark) AO Doctor, aged-care and disability services leader Born: Shardlow, England, 1947 Died: Subiaco, aged 77 Dr Penny Flett shaped the aged-care and disability sectors with unwavering advocacy, leaving a legacy of dignity, service and profound kindness. Born on March 19, 1947 to David and Beryl (nee Appleby) Clark, Penelope was only five months old when her family moved to Lagos, Nigeria, where her father was employed with the British colonial civil service as an auditor.

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## Aged care facility celebrates 50 years

Daily Mercury, General News, 02/05/2025, Page 11

Resthaven on Quarry has celebrated 50 years looking after the Mackay's most valuable community members. This also comes as the agedcare facility becomes the latest member of the Apollo Care Alliance, a specialist provider focused on supporting standalone regional aged care communities.

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## Occupations that are slowly disappearing across the country

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/05/2025, Ally Foster

Aged and disabled care workers and allied health workers have almost doubled in numbers in the past decade, increasing by 98 per cent and 83.9 per cent, respectively. Early childhood and child care workers have also seen strong growth, increasing by 52.5 per cent. In a similar vein, teachers have seen a 23.6 per cent increase.

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

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## Providers issue statement slamming “broken” Support at Home program

Aged Care Insite, Other, 01/05/2025, Stefanie Schultz

With the new Aged Care Act deadline of July 1 fast approaching, providers and peak bodies alike are making their voices heard on the key issues facing the sector. Seven Australian in-home care providers have published a collective statement this week calling upon the federal government to remove financial barriers placing vulnerable Australians at risk of being priced out of essential care services.

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## CHA wants coordinated climate action plan

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 01/05/2025

Not-for-profit peak for health, community and aged care providers Catholic Health Australia has called for the next government to help with the associated costs of preparing for and dealing with climate change incidents so they are not passed on to consumers. CHA chief executive officer Jason Kara said the health and aged care sectors were already facing the impacts of climate change.

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## The autonomy paradox: Why agency underpins technology adoption in aged care

HelloCare, Other, 01/05/2025, Jakob Neeland

People using aged care services form the most diverse subset of the population, their needs shaped by a spectrum of physical, cognitive, and emotional realities. This diversity, coupled with the deeply personal experience of age-related decline, poses unique challenges for designing effective technologies.

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## It's the 'cost of living election', but what other topics are top of mind for SBS audiences?

SBS, Other, 01/05/2025, Peter Theodosiou

Delivering on the recommendations of the Aged Care Royal Commission in 2021, as well as improving the quality of care and mitigating admission costs, were top election issues among members of the Italian, Korean, Greek, Macedonian and Polish communities. The Royal Commission found that the current Aged Care Act and its related legislation is no longer fit for purpose, with a new act set to come into place from 1 July.

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## “Desperate” home care sector is crying out for more Packages to be released

The Weekly Source, Other, 01/05/2025, Caroline Egan

In June 2019, there were 120,000 people waiting for a Home Care Package at their approved level of care. That had fallen to about 30,000 by March 2023. But figures released in February, the latest available, show there were more than 81,000 waiting as of 31 January 2025.

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## After four years, Opal HealthCare receives DA approval for aged care community in Western Sydney

The Weekly Source, Other, 01/05/2025, Caroline Egan

Australia's largest residential aged care operator has received the green light from Penrith City Council for a 129-bed aged care community in St Clair, 44km west of the Sydney CBD, following conciliation in the NSW Land and Environment Court. The planned two-storey home, at 94-100 Explorers Way, St Clair, on a 1.057 hectare site backing onto the M4 motorway, was first reported by The Weekly SOURCE in 2021.

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## Apollo Care expands to 13 homes with regional QLD acquisition

The Weekly Source, Other, 01/05/2025, Caroline Egan

Specialist aged care provider Apollo Care, which supports stand-alone aged care homes in regional communities, has taken on its 13th home, Resthaven on Quarry in Mackay, Queensland, 1,000km northwest of Brisbane. Resthaven on Quarry is a 63-bed facility, and one of the oldest family-run aged care communities on Queensland's Capricornia Coast.

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## Aged care worker charged with sexually assaulting seven aged care residents

The Weekly Source, Other, 01/05/2025, Caroline Egan

A 47-year old former aged care worker, Tracey Salmon, has been charged with nearly 50 offences after she allegedly sexually assaulted seven aged care residents at two Sydney aged care homes last year. During an investigation, NSW Police seized Salmon's phone and found videos of alleged sexual assaults being carried out against the residents at aged care homes in Sydney's south west, where she had been employed.

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## 2CC, Canberra Live, 01/05/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Independent member for Murrumbidgee Fiona Carrick on the future of the Burrangiri Aged Care Respite Centre. Delaney says ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith is considering repurposing the Burrangiri Aged Care Respite Centre, which is due to close at the end of June. He also mentions that Federal Labor has offered \$10m for respite services if re-elected, but the ACT government does not plan to use it to save Burrangiri. Carrick says losing the centre means losing nearly half of the dedicated respite beds in the area, worsening an already critical shortage.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### One and done

Australian Financial Review, Life and Leisure, 02/05/2025, Luke Benedictus, Page 10

Luke Benedictus tries limiting himself to a single meal a day. Breakfast and lunch are becoming increasingly unfashionable.

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### How Libs plan to save you

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/05/2025, Angira Bharadwaj & Elizabeth Pike, Page 8

Coalition will bank on \$3.6bn vape tax to help pay for its ambitious election promises A plan to regulate and tax vapes, hike up the fee paid by Australians who travel overseas and slashing the public service will help fund Peter Dutton's election promises. The Opposition Leader has also pledged to reduce Australia's refugee intake by about a third to 13,750 as part of a number of cuts to help it deliver a \$14 billion budget bottom line improvement over four years compared to Labor.

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

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### Only one can rule

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/05/2025, Page 31

Labor has announced to expand the bulk-billing incentive to all Australians as part of a package costing \$8.5bn over four years. Has promised more urgent care clinics and will move to slash the cost of pharmaceuticals. It will also significantly boost the Medicare rebate for IUD insertion from \$91 to \$215 and expand a network of endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics. Labor is also promising \$1bn for new or improved Medicare Mental Health Centres.

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

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### Libs outspend Labor but will save more in the end

Adelaide Advertiser, Edition Changes, 02/05/2025, Angira Bharadwaj, Page 4

Plans to regulate and tax vapes, hike up the fee paid by Australians who travel overseas and slash the public service will help fund Peter Dutton's election promises. The Opposition Leader has also pledged to reduce Australia's refugee intake by about a third to 13,750 as part of cuts to deliver a \$14 billion budget bottom line improvement over four years compared to Labor.

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### Prices through the roof with Labor at the helm

Northern Territory News, Business News, 02/05/2025, Anthony Keane, Page 42

Eggs, insurance, cooking oils and gas have been among the biggest cost-of-living culprits hitting households under the Albanese government. An analysis of official inflation data over the past three years has found these everyday items along with tobacco have surged by more than twice the rate of the Consumer Price Index's 13.6 per cent jump.

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

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### Budget will get worse before it gets better under Coalition

Australian Financial Review, Other, 01/05/2025, John Kehoe, Ryan Cropp, Paul Karp & Andrew Tillett

A surprise new \$3.6 billion tax on vaping and a massive \$17 billion cut to the public service will not be enough to prevent a Coalition government posting bigger budget deficits than Labor.

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## Just half an hour of weight training can make you stronger

Australian Financial Review, Other, 01/05/2025, Gretchen Reynolds

How little weight training can you get away with? According to a new study of 42 healthy adult men and women, the answer seems to be about an hour a week.

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## This 'Barbie tanning drug' creates a 'summer glow'. But is it worth the risk?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 01/05/2025, Lauren Ironmonger

If you're looking to maintain that "summer glow" as we head into winter, you may have come across a slew of products on social media promising to give you a "natural" tan. Often referred to as the "Barbie drug" or "vacation peptide", melanotan has been growing in popularity and prevalence, largely thanks to social media, where it has been promoted.

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## Is 'chatty' Dolores AI the answer to chronic pain?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/05/2025, Robyn Riley

Back pain, arthritis or nerve damage? Aussies are sending texts like these when they experience chronic pain. [...] Research by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare also reveals women are more likely to suffer chronic pain with long term conditions.

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

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## Bradley Kim Goodingham: Retired Gold Coast concreter jailed for historical child sexual abuse

The Courier Mail, Other, 01/05/2025, Alex Treacy

As his wife and son looked on from the gallery, a retired Gold Coast concreter, who we've been able to identify, learnt his fate for three revolting assaults on a young girl in the 1980s. [...] Data taken from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Personal Safety Survey 2016, Australian Childhood Foundation Defence counsel Bernard Reilly told the court his client was basically born on the Gold Coast and went to school locally, leaving in Year 10 to become a concreter, eventually operating his own small business.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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## These roommates were both treated for ADHD. Here's how their lives changed

Canberra Times, Other, 01/05/2025, Joshua Hutchinson

Roommates Sinead Kaegi-Norris and Jaclynn Culham have both been diagnosed with ADHD in the past few months. [...] And compared to 2017-18, the percentage of young people in the city being medicated in 2022-23 has increased fourfold, the latest data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows.

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

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## Schools across the State embrace program which helps get kids to eat more vegetables and exercise

West Australian, Other, 01/05/2025, Ezra Kaye

More than 10,000 students from schools across WA have embraced a program which helps kids get excited about eating more vegetables and moving their bodies. Crunch and Move — a free program for all WA primary schools — was launched last year by Cancer Council WA with the goal of encouraging children to eat healthier and exercise.

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## Coalition confirms it would introduce vape tax and allow vapes to be sold at retail stores

ABC Online, Other, 01/05/2025, Holly Tregenza

The Coalition has confirmed it would allow vapes to be sold at retail stores, tax the products and regulate the industry, in a departure from the current legislation which allows for vapes only to be sold at pharmacies. The opposition's costings, released on Thursday, reveal the measure would add \$3.6 billion to the budget over four years.

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## Common condition may increase risk of premature menopause

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 01/05/2025, Isabella Pesch

Women with endometriosis are at a greater risk of entering menopause early, Queensland researchers have found. In an international study, analysing almost 280,000 women with the chronic condition, University of Queensland researchers also found they were seven times more at risk of surgical menopause, which was the removal of both ovaries before the natural onset of menopause.

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## Varenicline aids vaping abstinence: study

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/05/2025, Jarrod McMaugh

Smoking cessation medication, varenicline, may be an effective treatment option to help young people stop vaping when prescribed alongside behavioural counselling, researchers say.

[Read More](#)

## Helping patients chose the right cosmetic surgeon

Medical Forum, Other, 01/05/2025, Lily Vrtik

The cosmetic surgery industry is growing, with Australians spending nearly \$500 million on procedures per annum. As demand continues to rise, a critical issue has come to the forefront: patients in Australia and New Zealand often struggle to identify which surgeons have the necessary qualifications, expertise, and ethical standards to provide a safe surgical experience.

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## Breast health

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/05/2025, Claire Denness

As i write this editorial, I reflect on my own consultations with patients who have had concerns about their breasts. Memories surface of consultations about premature thelarche, mastitis, nipple eczema and abnormalities detected on routine mammogram.

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## 6PR, Drive, 01/05/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with AMA president Dr Danielle McMullen on the major parties' health policy commitments during the federal election campaign. McMullen says key areas like modernising Medicare and increasing GP rebates have been overlooked. She says there is also a need for more support for nurses and allied health professionals in GP clinics. Peterson says preventative health has also been ignored, including the long-debated sugar tax. McMullen says Australia is falling behind other countries on this issue and will need to continue advocating despite strong evidence and recommendations in favour.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Women's pause for thought

Courier Mail, General News, 02/05/2025, Page 23

Women with endometriosis are at a greater risk of entering menopause early, Queensland researchers have found. [...] Dr Hsin-Fang Chung, from the University of Queensland's School of Public Health, said while it was known that endometriosis and its treatment could reduce egg quality and quantity, research on its effect on menopause was limited.

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## Pollies dodge issue of COUCH

Cairns Post, General News, 02/05/2025, Molly Frew, Page 9

Stakeholders have issued a final plea calling on Leichhardt candidates to commit to funding a Cairns cancer centre ahead of the federal election on Saturday. The funding for the Cairns Organisation United for Cancer Health (COUCH) Wellness Centre in Manoora stopped in March.

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

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## A picture of health

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 01/05/2025, Jessica Antoniou, Page 1

An imaging service in Kalgoorlie-Boulder has installed the region's first state-of-the-art CT scanner — hand-painted with Aboriginal art — offering a wider range of medical support to regional communities for the first time. Spartan First Imaging is Australia's only Indigenous co-owned medical imaging provider and has recently received a new SOMATOM go.TOP CT scanner by Siemens Healthineers, a German multinational company specialising in medical technology.

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## UQ study finds link between endometriosis and early menopause in women

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/05/2025, Isabella Pesch

Women with endometriosis are at a greater risk of entering menopause early, Queensland researchers have found. In an international study, analysing almost 280,000 women with the chronic condition, University of Queensland researchers also found they were seven times more at risk of surgical menopause, which was the removal of both ovaries before the natural onset of menopause.

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

[Read More](#)

## This new saliva test could detect prostate cancer early

The Courier Mail, Other, 01/05/2025, Sarah Mitchell

It's estimated that one in six Australian men will have prostate cancer by 85. Scientists in the UK believe a spit test could improve early detection. According to Cancer Council, 'prostate cancer is the most common cancer affecting Australian men (after non-melanoma skin cancer)', and screening tests can save lives.

[Read More](#)

## People with endometriosis more likely to experience early menopause, study finds

The Guardian, Other, 01/05/2025, Natasha May

Women with endometriosis face a higher risk of premature and early menopause and are seven times more likely to experience surgical menopause, a study has found. Surgical menopause occurs when a woman has both ovaries removed before reaching natural menopause, and may be done to treat endometriosis if other treatments fail.

[Read More](#)

## Breakthrough clinical trial could change the lives of thousands living with diabetes

7news.com.au, Other, 01/05/2025, Susanne Korneliussen & Katharina Loesche

Researchers have developed a promising immunotherapy drug that could reduce the need for insulin in people with type 1 diabetes. Led by Professor Ranjeny Thomas at the University of Queensland's Frazer Institute, the therapy combines vitamin D with an antigen from pancreatic cells and is injected into the skin like a vaccine.

[Read More](#)

## **Beloved Masterchef star reveals secret cancer battle as they're forced to exit the show days after season premiere**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/05/2025, Mary Mrad

A beloved MasterChef star has been forced to leave the cooking program after being diagnosed with cancer. Pete Campbell, who came second in season 13 before returning to the Back to Win series, has exited the show after being diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma.

[Read More](#)

## **Early menopause risk for endometriosis patients**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/05/2025, Karen Burge

GPs should monitor patients with endometriosis for the type and timing of menopause, as new research shows they face a higher risk of premature and early menopause, as well as a seven-fold risk of surgical menopause. Published in Human Reproduction, the University of Queensland (UQ) study analysed data from nearly 280,000 women in Australia, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Japan between 1996 and 2022.

[Read More](#)

## **A case of cutaneous metastatic breast cancer**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/05/2025, Brenda Ngo, Katherine Darch & Jim Muir

A woman, aged 73 years, presents concerned about the appearance of a new lesion on her right lateral lower back. This large erythematous nodular lesion has been present for at least a month and is asymptomatic.

[Read More](#)

## **The early detection of breast cancer: An update from the Red book**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/05/2025, Danielle Mazza, & Jon Emery

Breast cancer is the most common cancer affecting women and a leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Australia. Early detection through regular screening significantly improves survival rates and treatment outcomes.

[Read More](#)

## **Navigating the risk of stroke and bleeding in atrial fibrillation**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/05/2025, Rawa Osman, Jarrah Anderson, Annette Katelaris, Sally Dooley & Jonathan Dartnell

In Australia, atrial fibrillation (AF) contributes to almost one in 10 deaths and is the most common recurrent cardiac arrhythmia, with over 500,000 people affected.<sup>1</sup> Prevalence is rising, driven by an ageing population, an increased burden of comorbidities, increased awareness of the disease resulting in increased detection, improved detection methods and greater survival among patients with AF.<sup>2</sup> AF increases the risk of stroke by five-fold.

[Read More](#)

## **HeartConnect: Integrating primary care and specialist cardiology for rapid access and better patient and healthcare practitioner experiences**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/05/2025, Yvonne Zurynski, Genevieve Dammary, Chrisnan Nalliah, Simon Willcock, Catherine Smillie, Sanjyot Vagholkar, Walter Kmet, Shalini Wijekulasuriya, Sue Barry, Deborah Pallavicini & Gilbert Knaggs, Isabelle Meulenbroeks, Chloe Zurynski, Francisco Lopez

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) remains the leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide,<sup>1</sup> and despite advances in the prevention and treatment of CVD, it continues to pose a major challenge to healthcare systems globally. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimates that CVD costs to the Australian healthcare system are approximately \$14.3 billion a year.<sup>2</sup>

## Channel 10, 10 News First, 01/05/2025, Jennifer Keyte

Australians with an aggressive form of lung cancer not linked to smoking now have greater access to the medication Amivantamab. The drug's cost drops significantly after being added to the PBS.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 01/05/2025, Max Futchter & Katrina Blowers

Research from the University of Queensland finds that patients with endometriosis are seven times more likely to experience surgical menopause. The study also shows women under 40 are twice as likely to undergo the surgery.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 01/05/2025, Melissa Downes

Women with endometriosis face a greater risk of early menopause, with significantly higher rates of surgical menopause. The study uses data from over a quarter of a million women and links early menopause to increased risk of cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis.

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

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Mushroom texts to ex: 'I've spent small fortune'

The Australian, General News, 02/05/2025, Ellie Dudley & John Ferguson, Page 1

Erin Patterson is standing trial in the Victorian Supreme Court for the murder of Don and Gail Patterson and Simon's aunt, Heather Wilkinson, after allegedly deliberately serving them death cap mushrooms in a beef Wellington at a lunch in July 2023. She has also been charged with the attempted murder of Ian Wilkinson, who was present at the lunch but survived.

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

### Troubled care business probed

The Australian, General News, 02/05/2025, David Murray, Page 1

A disability care business cofounded by a former bankrupt businessman that services some of the most vulnerable people in Australia is in turmoil, failing to pay its staff and suppliers as it faces a federal investigation into its taxpayer funding. While Cocoon SDA Care has been promoting itself as one of the nation's best places to work, some of its staff have been frantically chasing unpaid wages in a crisis that calls into doubt the safety of National Disability Insurance Scheme participants in the company's care.

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### Texts reveal accused spent 'small fortune' on fatal lunch

Age, General News, 02/05/2025, Erin Pearson, Page 1

Accused killer mushroom cook Erin Patterson urged her estranged husband to attend the fateful lunch because she'd spent "a small fortune" on eye fillet steak. Simon Patterson spent an emotional day in Morwell's Supreme Court witness box yesterday, recalling the pair's marriage and how sick his parents, Don and Gail Patterson, became after eating beef Wellington served at Erin's Leongatha home on July 29, 2023.

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## Australians can trust Albo with the economy

Australians can trust Anthony Albanese to manage the economy well and invest in the services families rely on, like Medicare. He has focused on helping Australians with cost of living pressure in the here and now, while building opportunity for the future.

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

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## The moment a hero put an end to Bondi carnage

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/05/2025, Shannon Tonkin, Page 5

The court heard the paramedic is part of an elite unit known as the special operations team, or SOT, which receives military-style tactical training above and beyond normal paramedic training. The paramedic said rostering enough SOTs to cover shifts had been a "historic problem for a number of years" and the roster covering April 13, 2024, was no different.

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

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## It's the ultimate party to help sick children

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/05/2025, Jonathon Moran, Page 26

Justin Hemmes will throw open the doors of his home in Vacluse for a good cause. After initially being postponed due to severe rainfall a few weeks back, the return of the annual Silver Party will go ahead on Saturday May 10 to raise funds for the Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation.

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

## Ex, texts and tears

Herald Sun, General News, 02/05/2025, Laura Placella & Miles Proust, Page 1

Accused mushroom cook killer Erin Patterson was disappointed her estranged husband turned down her invitation to the fateful lunch, telling him she had "spent a small fortune on beef eye fillet" and "may not be able to host a lunch like this again", a jury has heard. Simon Patterson took to the witness box on Thursday for the first day of evidence in Ms Patterson's trial in Morwell, where she stands accused of murdering his parents, Don and Gail Patterson, both 70, along with Gail's sister Heather Wilkinson, 66.

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## Ambo chief's long wait

Herald Sun, General News, 02/05/2025, Carly Douglas, Page 4

The man charged with fixing Victoria's embattled ambulance service presided over the worst patient wait times in the country. Jordan Emery has been picked as Ambulance Victoria's new chief executive following an eight-month global search, despite currently heading up one of the worst performing ambulance services in the nation.

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

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## Building a strong tomorrow

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 02/05/2025, Anthony Albanese, Page 6

A re-elected Labor Government will continue strengthening Medicare, with 50 more Medicare Urgent Care Clinics and 1800 MEDICARE, a 24/7 telehealth service that makes free care available to all Australians. We'll make a record investment in bulk billing so that by 2030, nine out of 10 visits to the GP will be free.

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

## Fresh trauma grips ambos

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02/05/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 3

Ambulance Tasmania boss Jordan Emery has resigned, becoming the fourth CEO to quit the post in the past five years. Mr Emery emailed staff on Wednesday night to inform them that he had been appointed as the new chief executive of Ambulance Victoria.

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

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## Hospital 'a priority national health issue'

Border Mail, General News, 02/05/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 5

The saga over a new Albury-Wodonga hospital is a "failure of federation", according to a Greens senator who plans to make a fresh medical hub a "priority national health issue". David Shoebridge visited Albury on Wednesday and spoke to Border Medical Association and Better Border Health representatives about the existing hospital set-up and the \$558 million upgrade, which clinicians have opposed.

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## Time to check their promises

Cairns Post, General News, 02/05/2025, Elodie Jakes, Page 8

Central Queensland University senior history and politics lecturer Joe Collins said both sides of politics recognised the need to improve infrastructure and healthcare in Far North Queensland. "There have been longstanding concerns with how damage to these roads and infrastructure, particularly the Bruce Highway, cuts off access to various communities in Leichhardt," Dr Collins said.

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## Pharmacists counter lengthy doctor waits

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 02/05/2025, Lucy Crock, Page 16

A Geelong mum is warning regional Victorians are resorting to hospital emergency department (ED) visits after waiting weeks to see a GP when they could have just gone to the pharmacy. Karen Ridgeway said her daughter came down with nasty urinary tract infection (UTI) symptoms over the weekend, while their local GP was closed.

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

## Worst waits for new ambos boss

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 02/05/2025, Page 16

The man charged with fixing Victoria's embattled ambulance service presided over the worst patient waiting times in the country. The state government has announced veteran paramedic Jordan Emery as Ambulance Victoria's new chief executive after an eightmonth global search.

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## Forrest candidates pitch plans for health care ahead of Federal election

West Australian, Other, 01/05/2025, Sofia Fimognari

With health care on the front of people's minds throughout this election cycle, what are Forrest's candidates promising to bring to the region if elected? With the four main candidates — Independent, Sue Chapman; the Liberals' Ben Small; the Greens' Georgia Beardman; and Labor's Tabitha Dowding fighting for the seat — this is where they stand on health care.

[Read More](#)

## Labor, Coalition and Greens healthcare policies compared

Aged Care Insite, Other, 01/05/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Labor has called Saturday's federal election a "referendum on Medicare", with mental health, cheaper medicines, accessible dental and Urgent Care Clinics dominating campaigns across the three major parties, yet there has been very little discussion on the future of aged care. Given that 2025 is bringing major reform for the sector, the lack of aged care specific policy announcements is somewhat surprising.

[Read More](#)



## AI 'hindered' by concerns over privacy, ethics

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/05/2025

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning offer a promising way to enhance adverse drug reaction (ADR) reporting by using predictive factors to automate detection, according to a new systematic review.

[Read More](#)

## VAD: Gag clauses, 'suicide' and protections

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/05/2025

"We fly by the seat of our pants," in Western Australia when it comes to voluntary assisted dying, one pharmacist tells an AdPha presentation. Following the recent release of its VAD Pharmacy Practice Update, Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) hosted a session for all pharmacy practitioners on the subject.

[Read More](#)

## Docs laud general practice pharmacists

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/05/2025, Megan Haggan

Doctor and pharmacist stakeholder groups are calling for better funding for general practice-based pharmacists. The Royal Australian College of GPs and Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) are calling for this funding to enable pharmacists to work with specialist GPs to support high-quality prescribing.

[Read More](#)

## Joint call for funding GP-based pharmacists

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 01/05/2025

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) and have joined forces to call on major parties to fund general practice-based pharmacists to work with specialist GPs to support high-quality prescribing and quality use of medicines. The measure could deliver around \$545 million in net savings to the health system over four years through fewer hospital admissions and reduced medicine use.

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## Is AI A-OK? Medicolegal considerations for general practitioners using AI scribes

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/05/2025, Owen Bradfield & Patrick Mahar

Good medical records are an essential part of healthcare. However, the burden of clinical documentation can reduce clinician productivity and add to stress and anxiety. Artificial intelligence (AI) scribes offer a solution by using large language models to predict text and rapidly generate complex records. Important medicolegal issues should be considered before adopting AI scribes into clinical practice

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## GPs say siloed approach to healthcare delivery 'outdated'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/05/2025, Anastasia Tsirtsakis

The RACGP and the PSA are calling for urgent funding to better integrate pharmacists into general practice, saying it will improve care, patient safety and health system sustainability. Around 250,000 annual hospital admissions are due to medication-related problems – and at least half are potentially preventable.

[Read More](#)

## Act now: Health of the Nation survey closing soon

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/05/2025, Michelle Wisbey

RACGP leaders are urging GPs to be part of the college's advocacy, to share what needs changing and detail their real-world challenges. The 2025 Health of the Nation survey will close at 11.59 pm on

[Read More](#)

## Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/05/2025

The Australian Journal of General Practice ( AJGP ) is Australia's leading peer-reviewed journal for general practitioners (GPs). Importantly, AJGP reaches the entire membership of The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, is opened and read by the very large majority, and accounts for (literally) hundreds of thousands of hours of annual continuing professional development.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 01/05/2025, Peter Mitchell

The Victorian government defends its appointment of Jordan Emery as the new ambulance CEO. Critics say the former Ambulance Tasmania head oversaw the country's worst wait times.

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## Sky News Live, The Rita Panahi Show, 01/05/2025, Rita Panahi

Commentary Now labor has managed to successfully make Medicare an issue of this election. They've whipped up a Mediscare 2.0, and pollsters are saying that it's working, that the coalition's attempts to counter these attacks is not resonating with voters, and instead, the coalition's counter promises on Medicare are being drowned out by Labour's scare campaign warning of cuts under the opposition leader, Nick the are.

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## 2GB, Drive, 01/05/2025, Clinton Maynard

Maynard is joined by 2GB journalist Joshua Bryant. Maynard reports that the coronial inquest into the Bondi Junction Westfield stabbing is ongoing. Bryant explains that a NSW Ambulance duty officer says communication could have been better between the police and paramedics. Bryant notes the expert evidence shows no delay affected clinical treatment, but improvements in coordination remain crucial.

[Play Now](#)

## 3AW, Drive, 01/05/2025, Jacqui Felgate

Interview with Australian Association of Practice Management CEO Miranda Grace on Labor's promise of universal bulk billing using a Medicare card. Grace says the message is misleading and that patients should not expect free GP visits from 1 November. She says there is not enough information or modelling, and more consultation is needed. She explains that each medical practise is different and many are small businesses already using mixed billing based on patient needs.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 01/05/2025, Chris Bath & Dom Knight

Bath is joined by ABC court reporter Jamie McKinnell. Bath discusses the ongoing inquest into the Bondi Junction Westfield attacks, focusing on the emergency services response. McKinnell explains that the court hears from a specialist intensive care paramedic trained for high-risk situations like armed attacks. The paramedic describes delays due to protective gear being stored centrally, requiring approval to borrow police equipment. The court says the situation did not affect patient outcomes but highlights an area for improvement. The witness also says there are too few of these highly trained paramedics in NSW and calls for more regular recruitment.

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## Therapy that's truly horses for courses

Herald Sun, General News, 02/05/2025, Jackie Epstein, Page 5

With some help from equine therapy, twin survivors of the Exford Primary School bus crash almost two years ago are making the most of their lucky escape. Ashton and Cadin Westlow, 13, are continuing their healing journey with the aid of the KIDS Foundation's injury recovery programs.

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## 'Therapy' excuse for tower breakins

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 02/05/2025, Isabel McMillan, Page 21

A young aspiring photographer who broke into "dangerous" rooftop spaces of three CBD highrises has avoided conviction, after telling a court he entered them unlawfully to aid his mental health. When police seized 19-year-old Jonty Akari's phone after his arrest in March, they found images and videos of the teen hanging his legs off the side of city rooftops after he managed to get through "usually locked" doors.

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## Jail for musician who raped runaway, aged 13

Canberra Times, General News, 02/05/2025, Hannah Neale, Page 2

A musician who repeatedly raped, and took exploitation videos of, a 13-year-old girl who had run away from home will spend the next year and a half in jail. This "certainty of a release date" would allow him to "appropriately manage" his multiple cancer and mental health diagnoses, acting Justice Rebecca Christensen said.

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

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## Views sought on new veterans commission

Air Force News, General News, 01/05/2025, Page 3

The Defence and Veterans' Services Commission (DVSC) will be established in September. A recommendation of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Final Report, it will provide oversight and evidencebased advice to government on reforms to improve suicide prevention and wellbeing outcomes for serving and former serving ADF personnel.

Also reported by: [Army News \(Sydney\)](#). [Navy News \(Sydney\)](#).

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## The 'vicious cycle' of rage bait and how to avoid it

ABC Online, Other, 01/05/2025, Kellie Scott

Rage bait can range from the banal to the extreme, says Simon Copland, an honorary fellow with the Australian National University who specialises in research into online extremism. "A classic bit of rage bait I see quite frequently come out of the US is really bad recipes, really disgusting recipes," he says.

[Read More](#)

## These roommates were both treated for ADHD. Here's how their lives changed

The Border Mail, Other, 01/05/2025, Joshua Hutchinson

Roommates Sinead Kaegi-Norris and Jaclynn Culham have both been diagnosed with ADHD in the past few months. The Wollongong women, both in their early 20s, say their lives have improved significantly since they've been medicated for the condition.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 01/05/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Tasmanian psychologist Carly Hargreaves on psychiatrist and 2010 Australian of the Year Patrick McGorry's view on ADHD diagnosis. Baxter notes that his comments upset some people who felt their experiences were being diminished. Hargreaves says McGorry makes a valid point about

many people identifying with ADHD traits. However, she says that suggesting everyone has these traits risks downplaying the real impact of an ADHD diagnosis.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Cuts to TAFE funding, more school chaplains

The Australian, General News, 02/05/2025, Natasha Bitá, Page 8

A Dutton government will make trainee teachers, nurses and social workers repay their "prac payments" of \$315 per week during mandatory on-the-job training, in a cost-cutting measure to save taxpayers \$556m over three years. The popular prac payments introduced by the Albanese government only last year to help university students struggling with the high cost of living when they are required to work for free in schools and hospitals as part of their degree would be added to student loans through the Higher Education Loan Program.

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### Graduate inspired by other nurses

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 02/05/2025, Daneka Hill, Page 4

A Townsville mum who was inspired to become a nurse after seeing her grandmother hospitalised, said the journey to being an registered nurse "is not easy" but is worth it. Alicia Rivero graduated with her Bachelor of Nursing from CQUniversity on Thursday, May 1.

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

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### Nurses supporting Greens in Richmond allege Labor bullying at pre-poll booths

ABC Online, Other, 01/05/2025, Elloise Farrow-Smith

Tensions are high in the northern NSW seat of Richmond where nurses handing out flyers at pre-poll booths say they are under pressure from their former allies, the Labor party. The seat sits on the NSW-Queensland border and in recent years has experienced an exodus of nurses to the Queensland in pursuit of better pay and conditions.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Has Labor made you better off

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/05/2025, Peter Dutton, Page 7

Are you, your family, and our country better off today than three years ago? Consider what's occurred on Labor's watch: [...] In just two years, a record one million migrants brought in. A housing crisis as a result. An 11 per cent fall in bulk billing. GP shortages.

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

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

## Biotech nails \$940m deal with US firm

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 02/05/2025, Michael Smith, Page 25

ASX-listed Dimerix has landed one of the biggest licensing deals by an Australian biotechnology company.

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

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## Albo backs four-year terms but no-go on another referendum

Western Advocate, General News, 02/05/2025, Craig Thomson, Page 5

But we should always stand up for our own interests, whether it's our Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, media bargaining code, or national security. I disagree with Trump on tariffs; I think they're economic self-harm. They hurt US consumers more than they help their industries. Tariffs are active economic selfharm that the United States is engaged in.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#).

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## Dimerix inks lucrative US licensing deal for phase III drug candidate

The Australian, Other, 01/05/2025

The licensing deal with Amicus in the US is the fourth for DMX-200, bringing in over US\$60 million in upfront payments alone. In January of this year, Dimerix announced a deal to develop and commercialise DMX-200 in Japan to treat FSGS with Fuso Pharmaceutical Industries Pty Ltd in January.

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

[Read More](#)

## 'Perfect storm' as ADHD medications in short supply

Canberra Times, Other, 01/05/2025, William Ton

A shortage of medications used to treat ADHD could leave more than one million Australians paying more for substitutes. The nation's health regulator says certain drugs used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are in short supply, and the shortage could last until the end of 2025.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Medication shortages leave Australian pharmacists frustrated

Ballarat Courier, Other, 01/05/2025, Michelle Smith

Creswick pharmacist Jeff Unmack said all pharmacies purchased stock from wholesalers, who were not receiving the drugs from manufacturers. "It's frustrating, but we are getting better at (dealing with) it," he said. "Doctors are getting used to it now, and having other conversations about other drugs.

[Read More](#)

## Pharmacist prescribers need 'confidence'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/05/2025, Roger Kroon

One pharmacist faces significant pushback from the medical profession while others are left "unsure" about expanded scope... but experts say it's all about confidence. Most pharmacists responding to the UTS Barometer 2024, released this week, agree that expanded scope of practice is "necessary" for the future of community pharmacy, but about a third are less

[Read More](#)

## A ketamine nasal spray is now subsidised for treatment-resistant depression

Medicine Today, Other, 01/05/2025, Nial Wheate & Shoohb Alassadi

An antidepressant containing a form of the drug ketamine has been added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), making it much cheaper for the estimated 30,000 Australians with treatment-

resistant depression. This is when a patient has tried multiple forms of treatment for major depression – usually at least two antidepressant medications – without any improvement.

[Read More](#)

## Govt funding for lung cancer med

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 01/05/2025

Australians with an aggressive form of lung cancer most common in non-smokers will now have affordable access to the first medicine to target the underlying cause of their disease. Johnson & Johnson's bispecific antibody IV infusion Rybrevant (amivantamab) is now available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for people with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer caused by changes (Exon-20 insertion alterations) in the epidermal growth factor receptor gene.

[Read More](#)

## New gender-affirming CPD

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 01/05/2025

A new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) module focused on inclusive and affirming healthcare for transgender, gender-diverse and non-binary patients is now available to pharmacists across Australia. 'Gender-Affirming Care in Pharmacy' was developed by Queer Pharmacists of Australia (QPOA) in collaboration with Meitheal Services, and the module has now been released through the CPD platform Inrx.

[Read More](#)

## First new PBS listing for ALS drug in 20 yrs

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 01/05/2025

Radicava IV infusion (edaravone, Teva Pharma) is now listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for eligible adults with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), representing the first new PBS-listed molecule for the treatment of ALS in over 20 years. Teva noted that pharmacists will play a key role in counselling patients and caregivers about Radicava's administration schedule, monitoring for potential side effects, and supporting adherence to treatment, particularly as part of a multidisciplinary approach to ALS care.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Provision of a remote telehealth opioid substitution therapy clinic in a regional Victorian community

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/05/2025, Sarah Garry, Paul MacCartney, Dean Membrey, Rhonda Gallienne, Pauline Molloy & Thileepan Naren

Patient demand for alcohol and other drug services currently far outstrips the capacity of the sector, a challenge that becomes more pronounced in regional and rural areas where specialist services are minimal. Objective This paper describes a model of a telehealth-based opioid substitution therapy (OST) clinic, established in partnership between three Victorian health services.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Fake psychologist spared time in jail

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 02/05/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 16

An English and maths tutor who posed as a psychologist qualified to perform NDIS assessments and

then faked a cancer diagnosis when caught out by schoolteachers has been spared jail time despite a magistrate warning that police charges could lead to her imprisonment. [...] Thursky raised a number of concerns, including that Hansen had conducted the assessment virtually when at least one test was required to be performed in person, that there were numerous spelling and grammatical errors, and her psychologist registration number was too short to be a valid Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) number.

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

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## Dentist fined 30k and suspended for supervision breach

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 02/05/2025, Judith Kerr, Page 16

A Gold Coast dentist has been fined \$30,000 and suspended for eight months after Queensland's Civil and Administrative Tribunal found he had engaged in professional misconduct, broke strict registration rules and gave false information to regulators. Dr Amer Patel, 36, was reprimanded and sanctioned after admitting to hundreds of breaches of conditions imposed by the Dental Board of Australia, starting in June 2021.

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## Ex-nurse caught with rifle, drugs

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 02/05/2025, Page 7

A former nurse found herself in the watch-house after a raid on her home uncovered a weapon and drugs. Rebecca Anne Moussalli, who is suspended from practising nursing, landed in the Maroochydore watchhouse following a search warrant at her Buderim home on April 15.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 01/05/2025, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Federal Shadow Treasurer Angus Taylor on the Coalition's proposed vape tax. Taylor says criminal gangs are already imposing a vape tax through illegal trade. He argues that a properly regulated sector with a government-imposed tax would be a better solution.

Interview continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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### Channel 7, Seven News, 01/05/2025, Max Futchter & Katrina Blowers

The Coalition proposes raising \$1b annually by regulating and taxing vapes, treating them like cigarettes. Treasurer Jim Chalmers responds by stating that the focus should be on removing kids from vapes, not taxing them.

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### FIVEAA, Mornings, 01/05/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with casual academic Maddison Dix on the potential impact of lowering the bowel cancer screening age from 50 to 45. Dix acknowledges that the change will improve outcomes for younger people with cancer, but it could lead to more people needing ongoing colonoscopies. She points out that this increase in demand could further strain the healthcare system, especially after COVID-19.

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## SPORT

## Olympic gains to be made in 2032

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/05/2025, Suzan Giuliani, Page 4

Leading stakeholders from business, sport and government will come together in Sydney today to discuss how they can deliver long-lasting social and economic benefits from the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games. The Olympic Opportunity event, hosted by Business Sydney and the Australian Olympic Committee today in Hyde Park, will also celebrate the 25year legacy of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

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## Race on for Olympic spots

Courier Mail, General News, 02/05/2025, Hayden Johnson, Page 5

Major Australian sport and business personalities will have seven weeks to advocate to secure the final two places on a downsized Brisbane Organising Committee for the Olympic Games. As revealed by The Courier Mail, Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie on Thursday said the government would adopt a recommendation of the 100day Games review to slice the size of the powerful organising committee.

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## No.1 is No.1 priority for city as councils reveal poll wish lists

Newcastle Herald, General News, 02/05/2025, Josh Leeson, Page 20

The continued upgrading of No.1 Sportsground for elite cricket and AFL, a replacement bridge over Cottage Creek, the transformation of the former Macquarie Coal site into housing, and the development of sports fields in Huntlee. These projects, and many more, are on Hunter councils' wish lists for the federal election.

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## Channel 9, A Current Affair, 01/05/2025, Allison Langdon

Report by A Current Affair reporter Sam Cucchiara on the emerging sport 'run it straight.' 'Run it straight' promotes heavy collisions as entertainment, despite growing awareness around the risks of head injuries in sport. Neurophysiologist Professor Alan Pearce points to nearly a century of research linking repeated brain trauma to conditions like dementia, motor neurone disease, and chronic traumatic encephalopathy. He calls for medical and health bodies to speak out against the activity.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Wentworth buys \$200m asset for BlackRock life sciences JV

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 02/05/2025, Page 22

The sector enjoys strong funding support from the government, thanks to the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).

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

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### BlinkLab raises \$7.7m

West Australian, Business News, 02/05/2025, Page 54

WA diagnostics startup BlinkLab has raised nearly \$8 million to bankroll a clinical trial for its smartphone autism test ahead of a US Food and Drug Administration submission. BlinkLab emerged from a trading halt on Thursday to announce it had completed a placement to domestic and international sophisticated and institutional investors, raising \$7.66m at 30 a share.

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## Australia must seize its medical research sovereignty – before it's too late



Medical research is about national capability. It's about improving population health, growing new industries, creating high-skilled jobs and building a knowledge economy that will outlast any single election cycle. It's a matter of sovereignty, of Australia owning its future rather than outsourcing it.

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## Dr Boreham's Crucible: The Aussie drug company giving thanks for US health sector mayhem

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/05/2025, Tim Boreham

Veteran drug contract manufacturer IDT Australia (ASX:IDT) can thank Donald Trump and Robert F Kennedy Junior's shambolic approach to reforming US healthcare that shuns usual scientific rigour and has crimped medical research funding. Why? The mayhem has prompted growing interest in carrying out drug trials in Australia.

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

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### A Voice warming up again isn't what we need to hear

Northern Territory News, General News, 02/05/2025, Lucy Zelic, Page 41

When Prime Minister Anthony Albanese addressed the nation following the resounding No vote in the 2023 Voice referendum, his eyes told a story far greater than his words. [...] When I spoke with the Minister for Domestic Violence Prevention in the Northern Territory, Robyn Cahill, the revelations were confronting.

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

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

### High stakes: have Indigenous issues been sidelined this election campaign?

National Indigenous Times, Other, 01/05/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders have raised concerns over the sidelining of First Nations issues this federal election campaign, with some arguing Labor has retreated since the defeat of the Voice while the Coalition is openly hostile to Indigenous-led solutions. [...] Earlier this year, SNAICC – National Voice for our Children, argued the focus on abuse only in Indigenous communities was a "political ploy that would not make one child safe".

[Read More](#)

### Supporting community and family, Indigenous student Edwina Murphy is fighting for life-saving diabetes technology

National Indigenous Times, Other, 01/05/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Just out of Katherine, in the Indigenous community of Rockhole, 22-year-old student Edwina Murphy looks after her two younger brothers. Often, her mother is 300km away in Darwin for treatment. Like Edwina, she is managing diabetes, having already lost sight in her left eye and four toes before beginning dialysis.

[Read More](#)

### Meet the Victorian candidates for Australia's only all-Indigenous political party

National Indigenous Times, Other, 01/05/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Supporting First Nations children, protecting water sovereignty, and raising the age for juvenile detention. These are just some of the policies being promoted by the country's only all-Indigenous political party —the Indigenous-Aboriginal Party of Australia (IAPA).

## Action urged as research shows young NT First Nations people at much higher risk of sudden cardiac death

National Indigenous Times, Other, 01/05/2025, Giovanni Torre

Medical experts have urged the federal and Northern Territory governments to invest in saving lives as new research shows the stark health danger facing young Indigenous people in the NT. The new research – published in Sport Medicine Australia's JSAMS Plus – reveals Indigenous people aged under 40 are at 15 times greater risk of sudden cardiac death than the general population.

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## Tamworth unit fire arson-accused denied bail amid health concerns

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 01/05/2025, Breanna Chillingworth

The woman accused of torching a South Tamworth unit on Easter Sunday is set to remain in custody as concerns grow she's not getting treatment behind bars. Louise Faye Monson watched on via video link in Tamworth Local Court on Thursday, May 1, from a cell in a Sydney women's prison.

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## What are First Nations voters looking for in this election?

SBS, Other, 01/05/2025, Phoebe McIlwraith

Labor has pivoted to economic policies, preferencing reforms for programs to increase employment and Commonwealth procurement, funding for First Nations environmental ranger programs and general policy, such as an increase in urgent care clinics. The Coalition's core Indigenous policy is a promise to audit Indigenous expenditure, and address what they call 'wasteful spending'.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Why Labor keeps talking about nuclear power

Australian Financial Review, General News, 02/05/2025, Ryan Cropp, Page 16

Peter Dutton has described the Coalition's nuclear policy as 'necessary'. But his team hardly mentions it.

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

### Measles crisis in US shows why we must save health system

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 02/05/2025, Peter Breadon, Page 27

Australia's prevention spending remains well below the average among wealthy nations. Countries such as Canada and the UK allocate a much bigger share of their health budgets to prevention, recognising that long-term investment in public health saves lives and money.

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

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### Flu cases jump as vax drops

Courier Mail, General News, 02/05/2025, Page 9

Six children have been hospitalised with the flu and 15,666 cases have already been recorded this year, as the peak body warns vaccination rates are in steady decline. Latest figures show flu cases recorded in May are 36.4 per cent higher than the same period in 2024, with AMAQ President Dr Nick Yim warning "vaccination fatigue" as a major contributing factor.

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### Combined vaccine gives hope

West Australian, General News, 02/05/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 22

Parents could soon be able to immunise their children against all five common strains of meningococcal after Perth researchers demonstrated a combined vaccine was safe and effective in protecting children against the deadly disease. The existing immunisations for meningococcal types A, B, C, W and Y are the combined MenACWY jab and a separate jab for MenB.

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## Claim cuts to save \$17b

Canberra Times, General News, 02/05/2025, Miriam Webber, Page 1

A further \$246 million would be spent on community engagement and to boost agencies tasked with supporting the nuclear program, the costings show. This includes \$87.5 million over four years on community engagement with the areas set to house the nuclear reactors, \$65 million to establish the Nuclear Energy Coordinating Authority, a National Nuclear Training Facility and fuel laboratory, and \$93.7 million to boost the capabilities of the existing Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency.

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## 15k flu cases, 6 kids in hospital

Cairns Post, General News, 02/05/2025, Tayla Couacaud, Page 5

Six children have been hospitalised with the flu and 15,666 cases have already been recorded this year, as the peak body warns vaccination rates are in steady decline. Latest figures show flu cases recorded in May are 36.4 per cent higher than the same period in 2024, with AMAQ president Nick Yim warning "vaccination fatigue" was a major contributing factor.

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

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## Syphilis shock in Sopo as rates soar nationwide

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 02/05/2025, Robyn Riley & Ashleigh Gleeson, Page 18

Australia has a hidden epidemic of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) - with the Gold Coast CBD Southport the capital of syphilis - that needs an urgent and co-ordinated emergency response, as cases spike across the country. Sexual health experts say fewer people are wearing condoms and testing rates have not picked back up since Covid due to the difficulties of getting in to see an affordable doctor.

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## Measles warning issued for Greater Shepparton

Shepparton News, General News, 02/05/2025, Page 15

With measles cases detected in Greater Melbourne and Mitchell Shire, and the colder months approaching, the Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit is urging residents to check their immunisation history during World Immunization Week (April 24 to 30). "There have been a number of introductions of measles into Victoria over the recent weeks," GV Public Health Unit clinical director Dr Will Cross said.

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## Australians once feared the health impacts of nuclear. Now nobody's talking about it

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 01/05/2025, Angus Delaney

As Australians prepare to cast a vote in an election which could have huge implications for the country's energy future, nuclear proponents dismiss Caldicott's fears as outdated. But they are still lurking in the debate as an unspoken question over the Coalition's policy to build seven nuclear plants nationally to offset the decline of coal power and help Australia reach net zero emissions by 2050.

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## The Kids Research Institute: Perth researchers make meningococcal breakthrough with combined vaccine

Parents could soon be able to immunise their children against all five common strains of meningococcal after Perth researchers demonstrated a combined vaccine was safe and effective in protecting children against the deadly disease. The existing immunisations for meningococcal types A, B, C, W and Y are the combined MenACWY jab and a separate jab for MenB.

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

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## New measles case identified in the South West, bringing region's total to nine

West Australian, Other, 01/05/2025, Ezra Kaye

A new measles case has been identified in the South West, bringing the region's total to nine. WA Health has now located 17 cases across the State since March 19, with eight in the Perth metropolitan area.

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

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## Lack of access to antibiotics is driving spread of superbugs, finds research

The Guardian, Other, 01/05/2025, Kat Lay

Less than 7 per cent of people with severe drug-resistant infections in poorer countries get the antibiotics they need, a new study suggests, with researchers warning that not only is this causing suffering and deaths, but is also likely to be driving antimicrobial resistance (AMR). With AMR forecast to cause 1.9m deaths a year by 2050, they are calling for urgent action, akin to the fight earlier this century to get HIV drugs to Africa's virus hotspots.

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## New measles cases in Victoria

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 01/05/2025

Two new measles cases have been reported in Victoria, one of which was locally acquired and has no known links to recent cases of measles. The other case was identified in a returned traveller who visited Vietnam.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 01/05/2025, Susannah Carr & Rick Ardon

Meningococcal cases are rising sharply, prompting renewed concern. Researchers are now developing a vaccine to cover all strains to make protection easier and more affordable for Australians.

Also reported by: *Seven Regional WA (Perth)*

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Counting cost of ADHD medication shortage

West Australian, General News, 02/05/2025, Page 50

A shortage of medications used to treat ADHD could leave more than one million Australians paying more for substitutes.. [...] To help, the TGA has approved a supply of overseas-registered tablets, but it has warned "certain medicines a pharmacist can substitute may cost you more".

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### In Practice: Changes to dual-labelled medicine ingredient names

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/05/2025, Morgan Liotta

The TGA has advised that more dual-labelled medicine ingredient names have begun the transition to sole ingredient names. A number of medicines with dual-labelled ingredient names moved to sole names on 30 April.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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## FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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## AICIS

### **South West community gearing up to fight against approval to store toxic waste at their local tip**

West Australian, Other, 01/05/2025, Ezra Kaye

A South West community is gearing up to fight approval to store toxic waste at their local tip. The Dardanup Environmental Action Group has said it will appeal the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation decision to grant Cleanaway a licence to store contaminated PFAS waste at the Banskia Road tip in Crooked Brook.

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