



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 6th May 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Medical Republic](#)** (online) reports that the Labor's health team, including Health Minister Mark Butler, has retained its seats in the lower house. Mr Butler said in a radio interview that he would like to continue leading the department, but acknowledged that the decision is up to the caucus.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that a review by St Vincent's Hospital Sydney found issues in the genetic cancer testing of more than 500 patients conducted by former senior physician Allan Spigelman from April 2022 to June 2023, including cases where patients received wrong results. *Also reported by: The Sydney Morning Herald, The Daily Telegraph, ABC Online*
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that PFAS, at levels above proposed safety limits, were detected in a Leura reservoir that supplements the tap water supply, prompting Sydney Water to drain two drinking water reservoirs.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 2) reports that Queensland Premier David Crisafulli did not confirm whether the government would withhold back pay from nurses and midwives if they took industrial action over the state's wage offer. The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, joined by other unions at the Labour Day march in Brisbane, said they reject the offer. *Also reported by: The Guardian, Adelaide Now*

- **The Courier Mail** (page 3) reports that Queensland Health, supported by police and the TGA, seized 76,000 vapes, 19 million illicit cigarettes and 3.6 tonnes of loose tobacco, worth \$20.8 million, as part of its crackdown on illegal chop shops.
- **Northern Territory News** (page 1) reports that Darwin Private Hospital's maternity services will close on June 6, with expectant mothers uncertain about their options. Health professionals and families have criticised the NT government's proposed plans, calling them vague and insufficient.
- **The Chronicle** (page 3) reports that Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, with support from It's a Bloke Thing, has appointed a second Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse in Queensland, aimed to improve patient care and raise awareness in the region.

MINISTER BUTLER

Emboldened unions issue pay warning

Australian Financial Review, General News, 06/05/2025, David Marin-Guzman, Page 3

Unions will push hardline employers to accept the need for higher wages in the face of a likely six more years of Labor government, with Pilbara miners such as Rio Tinto first in their sights.

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

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Walking on sunshine back to the office

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/05/2025, David Crowe & James Massola, Page 1

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has challenged the Greens and the Coalition to respect the outcome of the federal election by passing Labor's agenda as soon as possible, as he sets up a huge meeting this Friday for MPs to decide his new ministry. [...] South Australians Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Health Minister Mark Butler, Trade Minister Don Farrell and Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth are among the PM's close advisers.

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

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Stocks rise for Labor Right MP

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 06/05/2025, Paul Starick, Page 11

Labor Senator Marielle Smith is in line for promotion because of a nation-leading swing in South Australia. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, who played a central role in Labor's "Strengthening Medicare" campaign, and Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth also are expected to keep their portfolios.

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

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President tells Albo: you've got a mate in me

The Nightly, General News, 05/05/2025, Nicola Smith, Page 1

An upbeat newly re-elected Anthony Albanese has revealed his "warm and positive" conversation with Donald Trump following his historic election win, as he outlined his key priorities for his second term. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said "turning bulk billing around for people without a concession card" would be a top priority after Labor made a \$8.5b boost to Medicare the centrepiece of its election campaign.

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Health winners and losers this election

The Medical Republic, Other, 05/05/2025, Holly Payne

The votes have been tallied, the democracy sausages have been eaten and Labor has returned for a

second term – with the smoke beginning to clear, here's where the major health issues have landed. [...] All five members of Labor's health team – Mark Butler, Anika Wells, Ged Kearney, Emma McBride and Kate Thwaites – retained their respective seats in the lower house.

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Labor's resounding win brings renewed focus on aged care reform

Helloseaders.com.au, Other, 05/05/2025, Alex Jacobs

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has secured a second term in a historic win for the Australian Labor Party, gaining a strengthened majority in the House of Representatives against a shell-shocked Coalition opposition. [...] There are no changes for the prominent aged care players: Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, retained Hindmarsh; Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, retained Lilley; and Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care Senator Anne Ruston is likely to be re-elected.

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ACN calls on a re-elected Labor to fast-track health reform

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 05/05/2025

In the wake of Labor's federal re-election, the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is calling for the government to fast-track its health reform processes, especially the recommendations of the Cormack Review. "It is vital that the momentum for significant and much-needed health reform initiated by Health Minister Mark Butler, Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Malarndirri McCarthy continues and picks up pace in this second term," ACN CEO Adjunct Professor Kathryn Zeitz FACN said.

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MINISTER WELLS

Record-breaking number of women to enter Australian parliament

ABC Online, Other, 05/05/2025, Evelyn Manfield

Australia will be represented by more women in federal parliament than ever before, after Saturday's election saw voters choose a series of women over men. [...] Sports Minister Anika Wells on Sunday pointed out the election had been particularly successful for Labor women in Queensland.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Triple M Central Coast, 13:00 News, 05/05/2025

Re-elected Robertson MP Dr Gordon Reid aims to have a second Medicare urgent care clinic set up. Meantime, re-elected Dobell MP Emma McBride discusses the big uptake on the Medicare Mental Health Centre opened this year.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Faction fight over seats at table

The Australian, General News, 06/05/2025, Greg Brown, Page 4

Anthony Albanese is making headway on realising his ambition to make Labor the natural party of

federal government, as closed-door discussions are under way between faction bosses on the makeup of the ministry which is likely to include more women, West Australians and MPs from the Left. [...] Two options for promotions include new Lyons MP and former Tasmanian opposition leader Rebecca White and Victorian Left MP Ged Kearney, who was assistant health minister in the last term.

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

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Albanese to 'slow the pace' as factions jostle over cabinet reshuffle

ABC Online, Other, 05/05/2025, Tom Crowley

Anthony Albanese is likely to summon the new and expanded Labor Caucus to Canberra later this week or early next week and is in no rush to finalise a cabinet reshuffle that could see the elevation of new ministers. [...] Elsewhere, rising star Andrew Charlton — seen by some as a potential future treasurer or leader — has been floated as a candidate for promotion, as have assistant ministers Ged Kearney and Patrick Gorman.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Cattle Australia calls for 'urgent' Federal Government investment in Q Fever vaccine

Countryman, Other, 05/05/2025, Melissa Pedelty

Cattle Australia has called for an urgent \$3 million injection to bring a new Q Fever vaccine to market to combat rising cases of the serious bacterial infection in the Eastern States. [...] According to Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care, the disease can cause flu-like illness, with symptoms like high fever, chills and fatigue, but can also lead to complications such as pneumonia or hepatitis in some cases.

Also reported by: [South Western Times \(Online\)](#), [Busselton Dunsborough Times \(Online\)](#), [Bunbury Herald \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [Midwest Times \(Online\)](#).

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Responding to a measles exposure in your pharmacy

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 05/05/2025, Chloe Hava

With measles cases climbing across Australia and pharmacies increasingly listed as exposure sites, community pharmacists must be prepared. [...] Local PHUs will identify any staff who may have been exposed to a measles case and assess their immunity status, said a spokesperson from the federal Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Chronic Wound Consumables Scheme finally on the way

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

Every year, more than 420,000 Australians suffer from a chronic wound, costing patients an average of \$4000 in out-of-pocket costs. [...] It will cover the full cost of products including bandages, dressings and adhesives, with the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) adding that it will 'consult with wound care experts to develop the full list of products the scheme will cover'.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

'It only takes one person to get tripped'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 05/05/2025, Natasha Egan

In addition to common email tools to test the phishing literacy of staff, aged care provider BaptistCare has – with permission – used the form of artificial intelligence known as deepfake technology to create hoax videos. "We deepfake our executives and then play it back to our staff and see if they can tell the difference," said Daniel Pettman – chief information and digital officer at BaptistCare.

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Home care providers make joint call for action

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 05/05/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

No older person should be made to choose between dignity and dinner, chief executive officers from seven home care organisations have said in a joint call to government to act on the Support at Home funding model. The group of providers including Your Side Australia, Hornsby Kuringai and Central Coast Community Transport, Proveda, Focus Care, Novacare, MWP Care and Job Quest – who collectively hold over 160 years of frontline experience – have warned that unless urgent action is taken, older Australians will be put at risk by an underfunded system that prioritises cost over care.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Illegal tobacco, vapes get chop

Courier Mail, General News, 06/05/2025, Andreas Nicola, Page 3

A record number of illicit tobacco and vape products have been seized in just one week, with an estimated street value of \$20.8m. Operation Appaloosa, led by Queensland Health and supported by Queensland Police Service and the Therapeutic Goods Administration, seized 76,000 vapes, 19m illicit cigarettes and 3.6 tonnes of loose illicit tobacco.

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

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Victoria Alcohol and Drug Association calls for withdrawal beds in every public hospital

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/05/2025, Athos Sirianos & Stuart Kavanagh

Victoria urgently needs more detox beds on the front line to combat the thousands of people battling severe drug and alcohol abuse who need medical help to beat their addictions. It comes as Infrastructure Victoria described the state's rehab facilities shortage as "critical" in its 30-year draft strategy — which listed a series of priorities for the government to consider.

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Wollongong backs new drug court for rehabilitation

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 05/05/2025, Glen Humphries

Wollongong City Council will throw its support behind a call for a city drug court to deal with the "high rates" of related crimes. A 2024 Drug Summit handed down its report in April this year and one of its 56

priority actions was expanding the drug court program to Wollongong.

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Call for new approach to recording sex differences in health data

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 05/05/2025

Men are more likely than women to get sick and die from three common conditions - hypertension, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS - but less likely to get medical care, according to international researchers. The team looked at global data and found males have higher rates of disease and higher rates of death compared to females, but in some countries are also less likely to seek health care and adhere to treatment.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Cancer blunder hits 500 patients

The Australian, General News, 06/05/2025, Penny Timms, Page 3

More than 500 patients who have undergone genetic testing to determine if they carry mutations that could put them at a higher risk of developing cancer are at the centre of a blunder at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney. There has been an adverse clinical health outcome for one patient as a result of the blunder and The Australian understands about 20 others had experienced what's considered serious clinical errors, such as being provided with the wrong test result.

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

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Doctor accused of record errors

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/05/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 3

An investigation into a senior cancer genetic specialist has found "irregularities" in almost one-third of his patients' medical records, including one patient who suffered adverse outcomes after receiving incorrect advice about their cancer risk, and roughly 20 other patients whose records contained errors that put them at potential risk. Emeritus Professor Allan Spigelman is at the centre of an internal review of medical records for more than 1600 patients at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney's cancer genetic service between April 2022 and June 2023.

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

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Professor's cancer error

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/05/2025, Ashleigh Gleeson & Suzan Giuliani, Page 15

A distinguished clinician has had more than 500 issues discovered with his work testing patients for their genetic cancer risk at a Sydney hospital, including 20 errors which involved some people being told the wrong results. That included one patient suffering an "adverse health outcome" as a result of information they received from Allan Spigelman, a leading cancer genetic specialist and emeritus professor at UNSW who continues to work in the public system in the Hunter region and at Maitland PriAllan vate Hospital.

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

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Heart check a lifesaver

Herald Sun, General News, 06/05/2025, Page 4

Australia is on track to surpass one million Medicare heart health checks since the scheme began in 2019. [...] Heart Foundation healthcare programs manager Natalie Raffoul said the nation was on track to surpass one million checks before the end of the year.

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Free check at the heart of good health

West Australian, General News, 06/05/2025, Page 14

Australians have been urged to get their tickers checked in the battle to stop a silent killer claiming more victims. [...] The Heart Foundation says a Medicare heart health check is the nation's best tool in the fight against heart disease, giving people an understanding of their risk up to five years in advance enough time to take preventive action.

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Vital investment into Downs cancer support

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 06/05/2025, Bella Munro, Page 3

Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer across the Darling Downs, and yet there wasn't enough support for Tony Ryan to undergo treatment in Toowoomba. [...] Queenslanders living in regional and remote areas are 44 per cent more likely to die from cancer within five years of diagnosis than people in metro areas, according to the Cancer Council.

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

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St Vincent's Hospital review finds cancer genetics specialist Allan Spigelman's errors placed patients at 'potential risk'

ABC Online, Other, 05/05/2025, Anne Connolly

A major Sydney hospital is urgently reviewing more than 1,500 patient records after discovering a litany of errors and incorrect advice by one of its leading cancer specialists, the ABC can reveal. St Vincent's Hospital discovered "irregularities in the medical records" of some patients seen between April 2022 and June 2023 by Allan Spigelman, a cancer genetic specialist and the former clinical director of St Vincent's Kinghorn Cancer Centre.

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Latest GP guidance for breast cancer prevention

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

In Australia, one in seven women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, making it the most common cancer to be diagnosed in women – and the second leading cause of cancer death. To ensure GPs are across the most up to date guidance, breast health is the focus of the latest issue of the RACGP's Australian Journal of General Practice (AJGP).

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PRIMARY CARE

Affinity hunting for targets

The Australian, Business News, 06/05/2025, Bridget Carter, Page 14

Affinity Equity Partners is believed to once again be on the acquisition path in the radiology industry, as it searches for bolton purchases for Lumus Imaging DataRoom understands the private equity firm has been courting Allegro Funds for a potential play at its Perth Radiological business, which was valued at \$400m some years ago. Meanwhile, other smaller based diagnostic imaging providers in Victoria are on its radar.

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Premier sticks with plan after wipe-out

Courier Mail, General News, 06/05/2025, Chris Burns, Page 2

Queensland Premier David Crisafulli says the federal Coalition has "soul searching to do" in the wake

of its devastating Queensland results, including the fall of its leader Peter Dutton, but he will not deviate from the plan he took into his election six months ago. This would include the hospital program rescue plan which has plunged key projects such as a cancer centre into hiatus while the government navigates cost blowouts and structural problems.

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

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Mums in limbo

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/05/2025, Lottie Hood, Page 1

Expectant mums are still in limbo, weeks away from Darwin Private Hospital maternity services closure. Mum-to-be Brooke Illingworth is so concerned and upset she says she is considering living elsewhere.

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The consequence of mum's ward closure

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/05/2025, Camden Smith & Lottie Hood, Page 5

A baby a day will be delivered at the Healthscope-owned Darwin Private Hospital's muchloved Jabiru ward ahead of its expected closure on June 6. Darwin Private Hospital general manager Tamara Sweeney said that from May 2, 31 babies would be delivered at the private maternity ward ahead of the final admission day for new patients on May 30.

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Oh baby! Petition urges private care

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/05/2025, Lottie Hood, Page 5

Healthscope's private maternity services in Hobart were also facing closure earlier this year but in February, the Albanese Government said they will provide \$6m in funding to support the expected increase in demand across services. However, there has been no such offer for Darwin.

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Come hell or high water

Cairns Post, General News, 06/05/2025, Catherine Duffy, Page 8

Almost 18 months after intense rain from Cyclone Jasper flooded the Cairns Airport, the region's Royal Flying Doctor Service base is still being refurbished while lifesaving medical treatment is provided. Cairns RFDS base support manager Bill Spriggs said the base had sustained significant damage from the December 2023 flooding event, with 130 medical and support staff operating from two sites across the airport.

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Major funding for new academy to fast-track students into careers in health and science

Education Matters, General News, 01/05/2025, Page 8

The Australian Government has agreed to contribute \$80 million in federal funding towards the establishment of a new Academy for Health Sciences in Rockhampton. The academy will boost the pipeline of health workers in regional Queensland by helping to fast track high-achieving local students into careers as doctors, nurses, paramedics and allied health professionals.

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Health start-up Eucalyptus to ditch Woolworths, cash in on Wegovy online

Australian Financial Review, Other, 05/05/2025, Amelia McGuire

The founder of Australian health technology start-up Eucalyptus plans to stop selling fertility and skincare products in stores including Woolworths and Priceline, sacking ten staff members to concentrate on hawking more profitable weight-loss drugs.

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

Albanese's health focus helps secure historic election win for Labor

Aged Care Insite, Other, 05/05/2025, NCA NewsWire

Fee-free TAFE, a beer tax freeze, energy rebates and changes to the Medicare levy are among a lengthy list of changes Anthony Albanese has promised to bring to Australians following his thumping election win. Mr Albanese will lead a majority Labor government in a second term after securing a convincing majority in the federal election.

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Election result confirms huge Medicare shift in November

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

Even before a polling date was confirmed, this year's Federal Election has been framed like no other recent ballot around Medicare – and so it continued right up to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's victory speech on Saturday night. 'We will be a government that helps every Australian who relies on Medicare,' he said, brandishing the familiar card, albeit mostly obscured beneath his fingers.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 05/05/2025, Spence Denny

Interview with Professor Shyla Mills, CEO, Palliative Care South Australia. Mills says they need the State and Federal Governments to work together to provide palliative care funding. She discusses their projects including Palliative Care Connect.

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

Interview with Ramya Raman, Vice President of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Raman comments on Labor's \$8.5b investment to fix Medicare. She says it is an investment they aspire after years of underinvestment into general practice and Medicare.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Help plea for Bondi killer was 'missed'

The Australian, General News, 06/05/2025, Clareese Packer, Page 7

An email from police requesting Bondi Junction killer Joel Cauchi receive a mental health follow-up in the months before his rampage was missed by a dedicated officer, an inquest has been told. The mental health police officer in question said he couldn't explain why there had been no contact made with Cauchi after an incident in 2023 and agreed it had been difficult for him to process that he had something to do with this "missed opportunity".

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Cops miss killer clue

Courier Mail, General News, 06/05/2025, Shannon Tonkin, Page 1

Queensland Police missed an internal email requesting killer Joel Cauchi receive a mental-health assessment after an incident at his parents' house 15 months before his fatal knife rampage at Westfield Bondi Junction. It comes after it was revealed two officers who interacted with Toowoomba man Cauchi in January 2023, one of whom later made the assessment request, formed the opinion he was mentally "unwell", but decided against having him taken for an immediate assessment.

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

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Queensland laws left 'raging' Cauchi on loose

Queensland's restrictive health laws prevented police from detaining killer Joel Cauchi for a mental health assessment a little over a year before the Westfield Bondi Junction massacre because he was not an "immediate risk" of committing suicide, an inquest has heard. It comes as it can be revealed a Queensland police officer admitted he "overlooked" a request by a colleague to follow up with Cauchi in the days after an incident at the Cauchi family home in early 2023 that left the 40-year-old "raging and screaming".

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

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ADHD treatments are changing lives

Daily Advertiser, General News, 06/05/2025, Joshua Hutchinson, Page 7

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

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Officer describes altercation between Joel Cauchi and father over knives in Bondi stabbing inquest

ABC Online, Other, 05/05/2025, Isabella Ross

A police officer described Joel Cauchi as "fixated" on knives when he responded to an altercation between the Bondi Junction killer and his father in Queensland. Cauchi called Queensland Police at 6:50pm on January 8, 2023, saying his military collection including "US army knives" had been taken from his room by his father, where a physical altercation then ensued at the family residence.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

ANMF congratulates Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on historic election win

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 05/05/2025

ANMF Federal Secretary Annie Butler said Mr Albanese had delivered many gains for nurses and midwives and care workers during his last term of his Government – which will now help secure better outcomes in health and aged care for the community over the next three years. “We congratulate Mr Albanese and his federal Labor team on their historic re-election to Government,” Ms Butler said.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Minister vows to back union in landmark gender pay case

The Australian, General News, 06/05/2025, Ewin Hannan, Page 5

Workplace Relations Minister Murray Watt has pledged to intervene in support of the Australian Services Union in a landmark gender pay case, following union concerns a recent Fair Work decision could result in pay cuts to social workers of up to \$714 a week. In a mid-campaign letter to ASU national secretary, Emeline Gaske, obtained by The Australian, Senator Watt acknowledged the union concerns that a new award classification structure could result in pay cuts and pledged Labor would make a postelection submission to the commission that the real wages of low-paid workers not go backwards.

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

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Tight-lipped over nurses' pay threat

Courier Mail, General News, 06/05/2025, Mikaela Mulveney & Chris Burns, Page 2

David Crisafulli has dodged questions on whether he threatened to strip back pay from frontline nurses and midwives, as several other unions join the growing backlash against the state's public-sector wages policy. Tens of thousands of publicsector workers and federal and state Labor members took to Brisbane's streets on Monday for the Labour Day march, with unions calling on the government for a fair wage offer.

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

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Walking the union talk

Cairns Post, General News, 06/05/2025, Elodie Jakes, Page 1

Newly elected Leichhardt MP Matt Smith said building a new urgent care clinic in Cairns was his first order of business while surrounded by unionists at Monday's Labour Day Parade. Staff retention and wage increases were key issues for union members at the Cairns parade fresh off the back of a federal Labor election victory.

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Ready to serve the region

Daily Advertiser, General News, 06/05/2025, Maryam Sulaiman, Page 1

A medical graduate is struggling to find her dream job in Wagga despite the ongoing shortage of doctors across the region. Shayan Alkhalaf completed her Bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery in Iraq and now hopes to become a GP after becoming an International Medical Graduate (IMG).

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Thousands of people gather for Brisbane Labour Day march

Adelaide Now, Other, 05/05/2025, Mikaela Mulveney

The woman who felled Opposition Leader Peter Dutton in his own seat has joined other politicians and tens of thousands of union members in Brisbane for Labour Day celebrations. Thousands of public sector workers were among the marchers after rejecting "low-ball wage rises and public sector job cuts" under the Crisafulli Government.

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

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Queensland unions predict 'hell of a bloody fight' if LNP attacks nurses' right to strike

The Guardian, Other, 06/05/2025, Andrew Messenger & Joe Hinchliffe

The Queensland union movement has warned the state's conservative government it will be in for a "hell of a bloody fight" if it pursues threats to strip nurses and midwives of backpay should they enact their legal right to strike. A pay dispute between the LNP government and the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU) is ongoing after their previous enterprise agreement expired on 31 March.

[Read More](#)

Provider denies union claims it has failed to pass pay rise onto workers

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

The nurses union has accused a NSW aged care provider of failing to abide by Fair Work Commission (FWC) decisions that would mean more money for its workers. NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) general secretary Shaye Candish said the Illawarra Retirement Trust (IRT) has refused to "pass on pay increases to their incredibly hard-working nurses and carers," labelling the not-for-profit's actions as "deeply disappointing."

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 05/05/2025, Ashleigh Gillon

The Queensland Government has warned frontline nurses and midwives they will lose backpay if they strike. The ultimatum has received a wave of backlash. This follows stalled wage talks that lasted for two months. The Nurses and Midwives Union says the current deal falls short and some staff could end up worse.

[Play Now](#)

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

Interview with Leah Magliano, Director of Clinical Services, Calvary Hospital, about International Midwifery Day. Magliano also comments on the challenges faced by midwives, including the shortage of midwives and recruitment.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

New PBS listings for women's health

Medical Forum, General News, 01/05/2025, Page 37

As of 1 May a new medication for endometriosis was listed on the PBS, alongside a progesteroneonly contraceptive pill. Ryego, a new medication with Relugolix with estradiol and with norethisterone, is now available on the PBS for the treatment of endometriosis.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Channel 10, 10 News First, 05/05/2025, Sandra Sully

PM Anthony Albanese marked Federal Election victory by once again waving his Medicare card. This represent Labor's \$8.5b to boost bulk billing over the decade. Albanese says cutting student debt is first on his agenda.

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 05/05/2025, Laura Jayes

Interview with NSW Labor Senator Tim Ayres, about Federal Election. Ayres says the Federal Election victory is an affirmation that the [Labor] Government has been heading in the right direction. He also comments on Labor's plans on Medicare.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

New addition for Brisbane 2032

Courier Mail, General News, 06/05/2025, Grace Koo, Page 7

Olympic Education Commission chair Mikaela Cojuangco-Jaworski has been appointed as the Brisbane 2032 Co-ordination Commission chairwoman, succeeding Kirsty Coventry who was voted IOC president. The former Filipino equestrian athlete and actress has been an International Olympic Committee board member for five years and a member of the commission since the city was awarded the Summer Olympics four years ago.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Labor urged to boost spending on science

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 06/05/2025, Michael Smith & Amelia McGuire, Page 19

As Donald Trump slashes funding to US science, researchers and tech industry chiefs are holding out hope that Labor's election victory will have the opposite result in Australia.

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

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Wearable X-rays better fit for bubs, kids

Courier Mail, General News, 06/05/2025, Isabella Pesch, Page 9

University of Queensland researchers will start development for a wearable X-ray aimed at making lung screening more comfortable for babies and young children. Using light-conversion technology made of flexible glass material, Associate Professor Jingwei Hou could develop an image detector to create accurate pictures of children's lungs.

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WA lab offers up drug hope for rare diseases

West Australian, General News, 06/05/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 14

A cutting-edge lab in Perth is optimistic a drug created in WA could soon offer hope for some of the world's rarest diseases. Researchers at the newly-renamed Personalised Medicine Centre have been building on the success of antisense oligonucleotides otherwise known as a gene patch created by West Australians Steve Wilton and Sue Fletcher.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Calls for ACT inquiry into Aboriginal deaths in custody

Canberra Times, General News, 06/05/2025, Bageshri Savvasachi, Page 10

Families and community leaders want to see a powerful inquiry into deaths in Canberra's jail, after two Aboriginal men died in prison custody within the same week. Independent MLA Thomas Emerson will on Tuesday move a motion in the Legislative Assembly, calling on the government to launch a board of enquiry into the treatment of Aboriginal detainees.

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Malpa Young Doctors for Life program getting bigger in Waroona and Bunbury with Alcoa Foundation funding

West Australian, Other, 06/05/2025, Craig Duncan

Even more South West and Peel students are set to become malpas (mates) and young leaders with a culturally-based program to expand in the region. Students from Djidi Djidi Aboriginal School and Waroona District High School will soon take part in the Malpa Young Doctors for Life program, aiming to empower Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students aged between nine and 12 to take control of their health.

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Indigenous health alliance reaffirms call for structural change

National Indigenous Times, Other, 05/05/2025, Callan Morse

The National Indigenous Health Leadership Alliance has reaffirmed its commitment to work alongside government to "to transform Australia's healthcare system" following Saturday's federal election outcome. Federal Labor was re-elected by majority with voters overwhelmingly rejecting Peter Dutton and the Liberal party's politics at the ballot box.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

WA free flu vax back

Medical Forum, General News, 01/05/2025, Page 4

Free flu vaccinations will be available across WA for a fourth winter ahead of what is expected to be a higherthan-average flu season. Running from 1 May to 30 June all people aged five to 65 who are not eligible for a jab under the National Immunisation Program will be able to access the vaccine free of charge.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Territory-wide Mornings, 05/05/2025, Rick Hind

NT Health Minister Steve Edgington urges residents to book their influenza vaccines as the flu season begins. He says all Territorians over the age of six months should get the vaccine.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Pharmacy pressures

Ballarat Courier, General News, 06/05/2025, Michelle Smith, Page 1

Pharmacists are just as frustrated with medication shortages as consumers, as supply issues continue with some popular medications. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration currently lists shortages of 397 drugs or drug dosages.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

AICIS

Alarm over PFAS levels in Leura water

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/05/2025, Carrie Fellner, Page 1

Cancer-linked chemicals have been discovered at five times the incoming safe level in a reservoir used to top up the tap water supply in the tourist haven of Leura in the Blue Mountains. Sydney Water confirmed yesterday it had drained two drinking water reservoirs in recent weeks after discovering the so-called "forever chemicals", also known as PFAS, at levels exceeding proposed new safety guidelines.

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

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AFP warns of date rape drug surge hitting NSW

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/05/2025, Amber Schultz, Page 14

A "tidal wave" of a recently criminalised drug used to drug and sexually assault unsuspecting victims has reached Australia's shores as authorities scramble to detect the imports heading to Sydney. [...] Bute can be legally imported into Australia for legitimate industrial use by importers registered with the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme and is used in the production of plastics and polymers.

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