



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 7th May 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Sydney Morning Herald**](#) (page 1) reports aged care residents could lose out if councils are successful in changing the way rates are calculated on retirement villages, with the local government bodies wanting to charge each individual home rather than the existing practice of levying rates based on the total land area.
- The [**Daily Telegraph**](#) (page 1) reports laughing gas is the best medicine after Australian research found nitrous oxide to be effective in treating long-term depression. The trial of 81 patients found 20 per cent went into remission after four, one-hour sessions, while another 20 per cent reported a significant reduction in symptoms.
- The [**Courier Mail**](#) (page 1) reports Queensland police have told an inquest into the Bondi Junction stabbings that laws regulating when they can detain a person for mental health assessment are confusing, with existing legislation meaning they can only intervene when a person is at immediate risk of self-harm.
- [**The Australian**](#) (page 3) reports Australian research has shown emotional therapy to be an effective form of chronic pain treatment, with sufferers reporting up to a 10 per cent drop in pain after undergoing the online course that aims to retrain emotional processes.

- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 16) reports Sydney Water is being urged to "come clean" on PFAS contamination in the Blue Mountains after two reservoirs were drained on Monday after contamination was detected. The levels detected were within existing guidelines but up to five times over the thresholds under upcoming laws.
- [The Australian](#) (Online) reports a week-long raid by Queensland officials has netted almost \$21 million in illegal tobacco products, while The [Daily Telegraph](#) leads coverage reporting South Australian authorities have seized \$23 million in illicit tobacco since July.

MINISTER BUTLER

Albanese wins on health reform so what's next for nurses?

Nursing Review, Other, 06/05/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Anthony Albanese has led Labor to a landslide win in the federal election after a nationwide swing toward the party put it on track to comfortably form a majority government. [...] When it came to Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Minister Ged Kearney, Mr Griffin said they have been highly engaged with the challenges of the health system up to this point but the time for real action is now.

[Read More](#)

Catholic Health congratulates Labor and urges health reform

CathNews, Other, 06/05/2025, Rebecca Comini

Catholic Health Australia has congratulated Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Labor on its return to government following a strong focus on health during the federal election campaign. [...] "We thank the health and aged care ministers Mark Butler and Anika Wells for their energy, urgency and constructive collaboration, and look forward to building on our advocacy in the Government's second term.

[Read More](#)

What's going in Australia's chronic fatigue guidelines

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/05/2025, Holly Payne

Getting exercise guidelines for myalgic encephalomyelitis and chronic fatigue syndrome right will need a 'dispassionate examination of trial evidence', the RACGP says. [...] The project kicked off last year, following federal health minister Mark Butler's allotment of \$1.1 million to the council to develop clinical practice guidelines for the condition.

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MINISTER WELLS

PM to look left for extra ministry

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/05/2025, David Crowe and James Massola, Page 7

The Labor left is poised to gain a key place in the federal ministry after winning up to a dozen seats at the election, taking a prized position vacated by former party leader Bill Shorten and extending its influence in government. [...] Albanese elevated Aged Care Minister Anika Wells to cabinet before the election, filling Shorten's position at that level with a prominent member of the Queensland right.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

New campaign urges greater awareness and screening for cervical cancer in First Nations communities

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/05/2025, Giovanni Torre

Four of Australia's leading health organisations recently joined forces with the federal government to ensure no one is left behind in the drive to eliminate cervical cancer in Australia. The Australian Centre for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer (ACPCC), the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), ACON and the Australian Multicultural Health Collaborative have united in a new federally funded campaign, the Own It campaign, to improve cervical screening rates by highlighting Australia's world-leading HPV self-collect test.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

Wound consumables scheme 'first step' for better treatment.

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/05/2025, Euan Kielly

As of now, the chronic wound consumables scheme (CWCS) has begun its rollout, covering the cost of many wound consumable products. [...] This development will occur upon consultation between the Department of Health and Aged Care and wound care experts to ensure adequate coverage.

[Read More](#)

Catholic Health Australia submission: Consultation on PHI rules

Catholic Health Australia, Other, 06/05/2025

The Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) and the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) are undertaking a review of private health insurance legislation in accordance with the Legislation Act 2003 to ensure it remains fit-for-purpose, is kept up to date and in force so long as it is needed.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged care residents could be in for a nasty surprise

Sydney Morning Herald, Money, 07/05/2025, Rachel Lane, Page 1

Residents in retirement communities could be in for a nasty surprise with councils across the country looking to change the way rates are levied. Currently, retirement villages and land lease communities are charged council rates based on the whole parcel of land.

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Retirement Living Council urges re-elected Labor Government to delay aged care reforms

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/05/2025, Caroline Egan

The Retirement Living Council (RLC) is urging the re-elected Albanese Government to delay rollout of the new Aged Care Act, calling for urgent action "before it's too late". Operators have told the Government they will not be ready for the 1 July transition, as the final details of the reforms are still being ironed out – with delays extended by the Federal Election.

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The real reason Australia's birth rate has plummeted to a record low—what you need to know

Your Life Choices, Other, 06/05/2025, Don Turrobia

If you've been keeping an eye on the news lately, you might have noticed a worrying trend: Australia's birth rate has dropped to its lowest point in recorded history. For many of us who remember the baby boom years, this shift is nothing short of remarkable.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Record haul of illicit tobacco and vape products seized in Queensland

The Australian, Other, 06/05/2025

A record haul of illicit tobacco and vape products has been seized in Queensland with an estimated street value of \$20.8 million. A series of raids were conducted at more than 30 locations across Queensland, and within one week, 76,000 vapes, 19 million illicit cigarettes and 3.6 tonnes of loose tobacco were uncovered.

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

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Dozens of illicit tobacco stores closed as authorities seize \$23m in tobacco, vapes, and six tonnes of leaf

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/05/2025, Darren Chaitman

Huge quantities of illicit cigarettes and vapes worth more than \$23m have been seized in South Australia since July in a government crackdown on the illegal trade. The government said its illicit tobacco task force had now conducted more than 500 raids, in partnership with SA Police and other agencies, seizing 17.2m cigarettes – the equivalent of 9.5 cigarettes for every South Australian resident.

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

[Read More](#)

Illegal tobacco crackdown uncovers millions in black market loot

7news.com.au, Other, 06/05/2025, Katharina Loesche

Authorities have seized millions of dollars' worth of illegal tobacco and vapes in one of Queensland's biggest crackdowns yet, lifting the lid on a booming black market tied to organised crime. Storage sheds packed with 19 million illicit cigarettes, three tonnes of loose-leaf tobacco and more than 76,000 vapes were uncovered during a sweeping week-long operation across Queensland

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Ashley Youth Detention Centre closure delayed again

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/05/2025, Callan Morse

Tasmania's troubled Ashley Youth Detention Centre will remain in operation until at least early 2028 after the state government pushed back its closure date for the third time. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data suggests on an average day in 2022-23 in Tasmania, "First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about four times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision".

[Read More](#)

'No compassion... just blame': how weight stigma in maternity care harms larger-bodied women and their babies

Nursing Review, Other, 06/05/2025, Briony Hill and Haimanot Hailu

According to a study from the United States , women experience weight stigma in maternity care at almost every visit. We expect this experience to be similar in Australia, where more than 50 per cent of women of reproductive age live in larger bodies.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 06/05/2025, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

A major study has found a shingles shot slashes the risk of heart disease and stroke by 23 per cent, with benefits lasting up to eight years. [...] New research has found black tea, berries, citrus fruits, and apples can promote healthy ageing. The study, conducted by Edith Cowan University, Queen's University Belfast, and Harvard School of Public Health, found foods rich in flavonoids help reduce the risk of unhealthy ageing, impaired physical function, and poor mental health.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 06/05/2025, Holly Stearnes

Operation Appaloosa seized 76,000 vapes, 19m illicit cigarettes, and 3.6 tonnes of loose illicit tobacco over one week in March. It was led by Queensland Health, with the support of the Queensland Police Service.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Shingles vax protection

Northern Territory News, General News, 07/05/2025, Page 4

People who are given a vaccine for shingles have a 23 per cent lower risk of cardiovascular events, including stroke, heart failure and coronary heart disease. The protective effect of the vaccine lasts for up to eight years and is particularly pronounced for men, people under the age of 60 and those with unhealthy lifestyles, such as smoking, drinking alcohol and being inactive, Kyung Hee University College of Medicine researchers in South Korea say.

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

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Knee osteo risk factors

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/05/2025, Page 12

Being overweight or obese and having a past knee injury account for 14 per cent of the overall risk of developing knee osteoarthritis. From studies involving more than five million people, University of Sydney researchers also identified eating large amounts of ultraprocessed foods (including "junk foods", sugary drinks and processed meats) as a risk factor.

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Could Queensland's deadly melioidosis outbreak be linked to the Bruce

Highway upgrade?

ABC Online, Other, 06/05/2025, Kate Ainsworth and Tom Hartley

Luke Bantoft knew he was dying. It was the middle of March, and the 42-year-old type one diabetic had been experiencing a debilitating "domino effect" of symptoms after weeks of rain in Cairns.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 06/05/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Heart Foundation ACT general manager Lauren Ford on what to do on Heart Week. Ford says they urge people to go to the GP and get a heart health check. She says it is a 20-minute checkup where the GP will ask questions about your family history, heart health history, and lifestyle and do some tests, such as taking your blood pressure, blood glucose, and cholesterol. She says they will use this information to estimate your level of risk of having a heart attack or a stroke in the next five years.

Continues on: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).

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4BC, Drive, 06/05/2025, Gary Hardgrave

Interview with St Vincent's Private Hospital Northside's Dr Lachlan Marshall on heart health. Marshall says they recommend people to understand their own heart risk, which takes about three minutes online on the National Heart Foundation website. He also suggests getting an annual heart health check with your GP, which only takes about 20 minutes.

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PRIMARY CARE

Emotional therapy as opioid substitute

The Australian, General News, 07/05/2025, James Dowling, Page 3

Emotional therapy is an effective and highly accessible form of chronic pain relief, research has proven, as the medical industry re-evaluates rampant use of opioid medication and surgery. Despite a persistent rise in reports of chronic back pain, clinicians and orthopaedists are increasingly shying away from using painkillers, citing concerns of patient resistance and dependence, along with surgical interventions such as shrinking disks, melting nerves or spinal fusion.

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Hospital on fast track

Herald Sun, General News, 07/05/2025, Peter Rolfe, Page 2

A new 11-storey hospital will be built in Melbourne's Parkville medical precinct after being approved by the state government. The private hospital to be built across the road from the Royal Women's Hospital and close to the Royal Children's Hospital and Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre will provide more than 200 beds.

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Confusion surrounds maternity ward closure as CLP tries to manage the pending shutdown

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/05/2025, Camden Smith, Lottie Hood

A baby a day will be delivered at the Healthscope-owned Darwin Private Hospital's much-loved 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.

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

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RACGP accepts new antidepressant deprescribing resource

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 06/05/2025, Jo Taylor

Tapering patients off antidepressants is a 'poorly understood area in clinical practice'. A drug-specific, step-by-step resource, now recognised by the RACGP, aims to change that.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 06/05/2025, Manny Tsigas

The AMA's WA branch says conditions in hospitals have improved significantly for junior doctors but warns there is still more to do to address workforce fatigue and burnout. It has surveyed more than 1,400 doctors in training for its hospital health check.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 06/05/2025, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

A total of 30 per cent of the almost 1,500 WA doctors surveyed reported experiencing bullying, sexual harassment, and discrimination. Doctors at all levels blame a system under immense stress from a shortage of staff and resources.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 06/05/2025, Tracy Vo

A total of 1,500 new doctors took part in the AMA's annual health check rating their hospital system. It has found almost a third of doctors in training experience bullying, harassment, or discrimination.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 06/05/2025, Melissa Downes

Jenna and Andre McGregor got to spend only five days with their newborn baby, Hugo, before he passed away in 2023 at the Mackay Base Hospital. This tragedy came just six months after the then-health minister promised maternity services would improve following a report that revealed multiple failings at that hospital had contributed to the deaths of three other infants.

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6PR, Drive, 06/05/2025, Oliver Peterson

WA's junior doctors experience high rates of burnout, according to a survey by the AMA. The AMA's hospital health check raises concerns about continuing workforce shortages, an increase in workloads, and fatigue among doctors in training.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 06/05/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with AMA Tas president Dr Michael Lumsden Steel on the federal government's bulk-billing announcement. Steel says the AMA spoke to both major parties before the election and has outlined how to modernise Medicare, which includes increasing the patient rebate. He says what the federal Labor government has proposed is not increasing the base rebate at all but tripling the bulk billing incentive for GPs to bulk bill the patient.

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

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ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 06/05/2025, Geraldine Mellet

The WA branch of the AMA says 30 per cent of junior doctors have reported experiencing bullying, discrimination, or sexual harassment. The association surveyed almost 1,500 junior doctors and found ongoing workforce shortages and increase in workloads were among the other major issues identified in the state.

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ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 06/05/2025, Geraldine Mellet

Interview with UWA Centre for Optimisation of Medicines' Dr Amy Page on de-prescribing medications to people aged 65 and over. Page says taking many medicines, particularly five or more, which is known as polypharmacy, has a risk of causing harm as well as being able to benefit from the medicine. She says people taking five or more medicines are more likely to experience problems like side effects, increased hospital admissions, increased risk of having a fall, and in some cases premature death. She says they are trying to help people come up with a strategy to be able to appropriately reduce or stop medicines if no longer needed.

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FIVEAA, Afternoons, 06/05/2025, Stacey Lee

Interview with Labor senator for SA Marielle Smith on Labor's commitment on women's health. Smith says their \$800 million investment in women's health was a massive step change. She mentions new contraceptive pills and new HRT going on the PBS and longer appointments with your GP. She admits there is more work to do, particularly in the space of perinatal mental health.

Continues on: [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Cops in mental health plea

Courier Mail, General News, 07/05/2025, Shannon Tonkin, Page 1

Queensland police officers have used the inquest into the Bondi Massacre to call for changes in "confusing" laws that dictate when they can and when they cannot legally detain a person for a mental health assessment. Inspector Bernard Quinlan said current Queensland laws were too restrictive as they only allowed for police to detain someone if at immediate risk of self-harm.

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Laughing gas to help treat depression

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07/05/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 17

A cheap, safe and readily available drug colloquially known as "laughing gas" has for the first time been used to successfully treat people with severe depression in a major Australian study. Nitrous oxide is called laughing gas because when the anaesthetic is inhaled it gives patients a sense of euphoria.

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

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Too many pep pills

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 07/05/2025, Page 5

Antidepressants are being overprescribed in Australia, new research suggests. University of Queensland researchers say about one in seven people in Australia are prescribed antidepressants, with women and people aged over 65 more likely to be on them.

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Mental ill-health and the power of words

ABC Online, Other, 06/05/2025, Paul-Penton and Natasha Mitchell

The language used to talk about mental ill-health can play a key role in reducing or enforcing stigma. And it's constantly evolving.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 06/05/2025, Peter Overton

An inquest into the Bondi Junction stabbing attack today heard more about a missed email that resulted in Queensland police neglecting to follow up on mental health concerns about killer Joel Cauchi. Queensland's mental health incident coordinator said her colleague was filling in and the oversight is not indicative of him as an officer.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Nurses' pay deal 'nation-leading'

The Australian, General News, 07/05/2025, Mackenzie Scott, Page 6

Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls has insisted the pay rise sweetener offered to nurses on Friday would keep them the best-paid in the country as negotiations with the powerful nurses union heat up. The state government proposed nurses receive a three per cent increase in the final four months of the new agreement on top of the public service's base offer, which Mr Nicholls said would keep them the best-paid health workforce in the country.

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Aged carer's \$346k for racial bias

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/05/2025, Page 5

A nursing home has been ordered to pay an ex-employee \$346,000 in compensation after a judge found she was fired because of her race. Registered nurse Wei Han, also known as Casey, worked at the St Basil's Homes Lakemba facility for nine years before her contract was terminated.

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Bullied and harassed

West Australian, General News, 07/05/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 3

Almost a third of trainee doctors have been bullied, harassed or discriminated against, and about half have witnessed it, a damning report by the Australian Medical Association of WA reveals.

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Tim Nicholls says conditions for Qld nurses and midwives are 'nation-leading'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/05/2025, Isabella Pesch

Health Minister Tim Nicholls remains adamant negotiations for wages and conditions for Queensland's nurses and midwives are "nation-leading", despite backlash from the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU). The QNMU on Monday slammed the "unprecedented" ultimatum that resulted from the latest round of wage negotiations after their contract expired two months ago.

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

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Aged care provider denies union claims it has failed to pass pay rise onto nurses

Nursing Review, Other, 06/05/2025, 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](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 06/05/2025, Natalie Forrest

AMA WA's Dr Kyle Hoath says one in two doctors are facing burnout as a result of workforce shortages, unsafe working hours, and excessive workload. Premier Roger Cook says over the last term, they have increased the number of doctors and nurses working in their hospital system by over 1,800.

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4BC, Breakfast , 06/05/2025, Peter Fegan

The Queensland Government is facing the growing threat of strike action with nurses warning they'll walk off the job over what they've called woefully inadequate pay offers or increases. In a move labelled unprecedented by the Qld Nurses and Midwives Union, the Government's latest wage offer comes with strings attached.

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2CC, Breakfast, 06/05/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with assistant minister for competition, charities, treasury, and employment and federal member for Fenner in the ACT Andrew Leigh on his priorities for the next term. Leigh says getting the bulk-billing rates up is very important for Canberra. He says a pure bulk-billing practise would have doctors earning around \$260,000. He says now, with their reforms, doctors in those practices will be able to earn \$400,000, making it more financially attractive to be part of a bulk-billing practice.

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4BC, Breakfast , 06/05/2025, Peter Fegan

Interview with health and ambulance services minister Tim Nicholls on nurses' wages. Nicholls says there are more than 55,000 nurses and midwives across Queensland Health. He says they made an offer that will maintain nation-leading wages and conditions. He says in all but the last four months of the next three years, Queensland nurses' wages and conditions will be better than those in Victoria.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

WA's virtual emergency health consultation expands

The Mandarin, Other, 06/05/2025, Melissa Coade

A virtual emergency health partnership between the WA government and Healthdirect Australia has received backing for more services. The telehealth service, known as the WA Virtual Emergency Department (WAVED), offers patients assistance from a senior emergency doctor between 8am and 10pm.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'Clear transgression

Burnie Advocate, General News, 07/05/2025, Benjamin Seeder, Page 1

A Tasmanian paramedic fired after he failed to respond to an emergency call during an industrial dispute over travel allowances has lost his unfair dismissal case and has also been sanctioned by his professional body. Andrew Thomas Mansell was covering an ambulance shift at Smithton in February 2021 when he received a 'Priority 0' notification - the highest-level classification of urgency for an incident.

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Fake nurse turned emergency chief: Scott McLennan now holds senior role in NSW disaster service

The Australian, Other, 06/05/2025, Will Seitam and Liam Mendes

A man convicted of working as a fake cosmetic nurse in Western Australia showed a "blatant disregard for the law" before becoming a high-ranking officer at a NSW government disaster emergency service. [...] In a March 2019 phone interview with investigators working for Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, the nation's health regulator, the SES employee admitted to authorities he had studied nursing but did not complete a qualification.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

The increasing role of AI in health care

SBS, Other, 06/05/2025

From helping doctors triage patients, to interpreting brain scans and detecting early signs of disease, AI has potential to revolutionise healthcare. Still, challenges remain around safety, regulation and cultural nuances and experts say these must be considered as the technology advances and new tools emerge.

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SPORT

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Alter Gap strategy: Calma

The Australian, General News, 07/05/2025, Paige Taylor, Page 1

The Aboriginal elder who introduced the Close the Gap concept as a way to measure and reduce Indigenous disadvantage is urging a shift in the approach. The decade-long agreement on Closing the

Gap signed in 2020 includes a promise to invest in community-controlled Aboriginal organisations so they can do the work in key areas, including Indigenous health, child protection and crime prevention.

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New campaign urges greater awareness and screening for cervical cancer in First Nations communities

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/05/2025, Giovanni Torre

Four of Australia's leading health organisations recently joined forces with the federal government to ensure no one is left behind in the drive to eliminate cervical cancer in Australia. The Australian Centre for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer (ACPCC), the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), ACON and the Australian Multicultural Health Collaborative have united in a new federally funded campaign, the Own It campaign, to improve cervical screening rates by highlighting Australia's world-leading HPV self-collect test.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Flu season to be 'dire'

Courier Mail, General News, 07/05/2025, Page 3

Australian health experts are sounding the alarm over low flu vaccination rates as winter sets in, warning children and older adults are particularly vulnerable to a dangerous and potentially deadly flu season. Despite being eligible for free flu shots, fewer than one in three children under five, and just 32.5 per cent of Australians aged 65 and over, have been vaccinated so far this year.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#). [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

ABC, ABC News, 06/05/2025, Jeremy Fernandez

According to the TGA, all medicinal cannabis products must comply with the Australian quality standards. In 2023, requirements for overseas manufacturers came into effect, following concerns that Australian producers had higher regulatory burdens. However, medicinal cannabis grower Cade Turland says the playing field is still not equal, so he has joined 80 per cent of licenced Australian producers who have written to the health minister calling for a domestic-first policy.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Australian Cannabis Cultivator Guild forms, calling for action on 'import-flooded' market

ABC Online, Other, 06/05/2025, Madeleine Rojahn and Scout Wallen

Australian farmers are warning of "catastrophic failures" in the medicinal cannabis industry if the government does not reduce its reliance on international imports. A newly formed alliance argues gaps in supply are being plugged by lower-quality imports that it says is flooding the market. [...] The TGA said the Office of Drug Control (ODC) published the amount of approved domestic cultivation on its website.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 06/05/2025, Ryk Goddard

A Tasmanian medicinal cannabis farmer says Australian growers could meet the country's demand for the product but the Federal Government is over-reliant on imports. In 2023, 61 per cent of medicinal cannabis in Australia was imported. The Australian Cultivator Guild says Australian farmers are forced to outsource parts of their operations if they want to compete with imports.

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

Sydney Water must come clean on forever chemicals

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 07/05/2025, Page 16

In itself, the discovery of more cancer-linked "forever chemicals" in Blue Mountains water supplies is not surprising; the impact of PFAS on drinking water has been an emerging problem for several years, and the Herald last year revealed the presence of the substances in the nearby Medlow Dam. The Medlow discovery, which was only made after the Herald shamed the government into testing supplies, led to the hurried installation of a \$3.4 million filtration unit at the Cascade Water Filtration Plant in Katoomba, which supplies drinking water to nearly 50,000 residents across the World Heritage Listed area.

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

2GB, Mornings, 06/05/2025, Mark Levy

Sydney Water has confirmed that 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. Campaigners, led by the head of the Stop PFAS Action Group, Jon Dee, were shocked to find out that the testing had even taken place and then they were quietly published on Sydney Water's website.

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