



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 8th May 2025

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)  
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)  
| [Vaccines](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)  
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)  
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)  
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)  
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)  
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |  
[First Nations Health](#) | [Interim Australian CDC](#) | [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#)  
| [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#) | [AICIS](#)

## LINKS

[Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers](#)

[Click here to view full print articles in this report](#)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports health and welfare experts have told a Queensland domestic discipline review that smacking children should be against the law because "decades of evidence has shown violence is ineffective as a form of discipline".
- **The Australian** (page 2) reports a lack of paediatric anaesthetists is delaying surgeries at the Children's Hospital at Westmead, which is the only hospital in the state authorised to perform children's liver transplants, cardiac surgery, burns procedures and complex orthopaedic procedures.
- The **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 9) reports traces of nitazenes have been found in counterfeit pain relief medication in Victoria, NSW, Queensland and the ACT in recent months, with the AFP warning the synthetic opioid is 10 times more powerful than fentanyl.
- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 11) reports NSW chemists are now allowed to administer flu jabs to children as young as two. Previously only GPs could vaccinate children under the age of five and this change is expected to free up more than 60,000 GP appointments.
- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 20) reports Edith Cowen University researchers have found a link between obesity and long COVID, noting people with excess weight are more likely to

experience memory problems, depression, sleep disturbances and sensory impairments after contracting COVID-19.

- **ABC Online** reports the mother of a transgender teen is taking the Queensland Government to court, arguing the state's freeze on access to hormone treatments for children with gender dysphoria is unlawful. The freeze was implemented after reports 17 young patients of the Cairns Sexual Health Service received hormone therapy that was outside the national treatment guidelines.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Montu establishes telehealth working group chaired by Greg Hunt

Cannabiz, Other, 07/05/2025

Montu has set up a telehealth sector working group chaired by former federal health minister Greg Hunt "to help shape shared principles for high-quality virtual care in Australia".[...] The group acknowledged the support and guidance of federal health minister Mark Butler and shadow health minister Anne Ruston, "noting their shared commitment to ensuring telehealth remains a permanent and trusted feature of the Australian health system".

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER WELLS

### Delay, invest and deliver: Aged care's Government wishlist

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 07/05/2025, Alex Jacobs

The dust is far from settled following a momentous federal election that resulted in an emphatic re-election for Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and an unceremonious end to Peter Dutton's Coalition leadership. [...] "The key consideration, whether it's Anika Wells or a new minister, is whether or not to at least partially delay the implementation of the program.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### LEAN 'would tilt us into economic destruction'

The Australian, General News, 08/05/2025, Page 4

Labor luminary Joel Fitzgibbon has taken aim at the Labor Environment Action Network, suggesting that its push for a 70 per cent 2035 emissions reduction target would cause "economic destruction". [...] The "climate and environment champs" given the "seal of approval" by LEAN were Bennelong MP Jerome Laxale, Macnamara MP Josh Burns, Reid MP Sally Sitou, Cooper MP Ged Kearney, Jagajaga MP Kate Thwaites, Canberra MP Alicia Payne and Fre-mantle MP Josh Wilson.

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

**Party's over... now it's knives out at Labor as insiders spill on**

## frontbench bloodbath to come

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/05/2025, Peter Van Onselen

Even though it's all celebrations publicly over at Labor HQ, a brouhaha is breaking out within the new-look parliamentary party as the factional left and right go to war divvying up the spoils of victory. [...] Former head of the trade union movement Ged Kearney will rise into the ministry alongside other left-wing operatives such as the PM's assistant minister Patrick Gorman.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### Ramsay open to Healthscope asset deals

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 08/05/2025, Michael Smith, Page 16

Ramsay Health Care, the country's biggest hospital operator, has not ruled out buying Healthscope hospitals if high-quality assets go on the market.

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

### Experts answer how severe this flu season will be

9News, Other, 07/05/2025, Joshua Buchwald

Australia's influenza cases are continuing to rise with more than 63,000 flu cases reported this year so far, tracking above the average for the past five years. [...] For more information on the flu vaccine, head to the Department of Health and Aged Care website.

[Read More](#)

### Not so usual suspects make up new telehealth group

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/05/2025, Holly Payne and Mariella Attard

Some of the more obscure players in the telehealth field have banded together to form a new working group, spearheaded by medicinal cannabis group Montu and chaired by former federal health minister Greg Hunt. [...] Montu, which owns telehealth clinic Alternaleaf and clinical education platform Saged, is subject to legal action initiated by the TGA in 2024.

[Read More](#)

### “Can you believe this?” Geelong Council asks Govt for millions to keep home care services running

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/05/2025, Caroline Egan

Last month, the Victorian local Council announced plans to hand its home care service delivery over to specialist local providers. [...] It's estimated only about one quarter of Victoria's local Councils still deliver home care services, with West Wimmera Council, on the border of Victoria and South Australia, the latest to get out ahead of the Department of Health and Aged Care's incoming Support at Home reforms.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## VACCINES

## Long Covid weight link

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/05/2025, Page 20

People with excess weight are more likely to experience long-term neurological and mental health symptoms after Covid-19, including headache, vertigo, smell and taste disorders, sleep disturbance and depression. While the mechanics behind the link between excess weight and long Covid is yet to be confirmed, Edith Cowan University research notes it could be linked to an exaggerated inflammatory response predisposed by excess fatty tissue.

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Aged care breaches: St Jude's Health Care Services homes sanctioned

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/05/2025, Tamara McDonald

An Australian aged care home where elderly people reported feeling embarrassed by the smell and not treated with respect has failed to meet any of the industry's quality standards and been slapped with a sanction that means it won't take on new residents. The aged care watchdog found at Carinya of Bicton, in an affluent suburb of Perth and operated by St Jude's Health Care Services, incidents involving possible abuse or neglect are not consistently identified, reported and responded to.

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

[Read More](#)

### ACIA calls for Labor to address CHSP concerns

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/05/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Peak body Aged Care Industry Association has welcomed the re-election of the Albanese Labor Government but called on the incoming aged care minister to take urgent action on Commonwealth Home Support Program assessments, which need to be completed by 30 June for clients to continue accessing government-subsidised services.

[Read More](#)

### 'Ignored': It's time the government did something for older Aussies, say advocates

The Senior, Other, 07/05/2025, Rowan Cowley

They make up almost half of Australia's voting public, but were largely forgotten in federal election campaigning. Now, advocates are calling on the re-elected Labor government to provide meaningful solutions to systemic problems affecting older Australians.

[Read More](#)

### Not For Profit IRT rejects union claim it withheld government-funded aged care staff pay rises

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/05/2025, Caroline Egan

The Illawarra-based aged care provider says it has contributed nearly \$4 million of its own funds to ensure staff receive the pay rises they are entitled to under the Fair Work Commission's Aged Care Work Value Case decision. The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association had claimed the provider, which operates 19 aged care homes in NSW, had failed to pass on Government funding for the historic pay rises.

[Read More](#)

### The future of home-based care

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/05/2025

Clinical, connected, and ready to scale. As aged care beds dwindle and frailty increases, the shift to delivering complex care at home is no longer optional — it's inevitable.

## 4BC, Afternoons, 07/05/2025, Sofie Formica

Regular Segment: Brisbane's Legal Lowdown with Attwood Marshall Lawyers' Wills and Estates Department partner and accredited aged care professional Debbie Sage discussing the consequences of not having an enduring power of attorney. Sage shares a case involving a husband and wife who had been married for 50 years and assumed the document was unnecessary because everything was jointly owned. When the wife became seriously unwell and unable to communicate, the husband tried to arrange help through My Aged Care. The service refused to act without speaking directly to her despite her condition. An urgent guardianship application had to be made to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal for her to receive the care she needed.

*Interview continues on: [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#).*

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Care residents locked out

The Australian, General News, 08/05/2025, David Murray, Page 1

NDIS participants were locked out of their homes when provider Cocoon SDA Care became embroiled in a dispute over rent, 18 months before turmoil at the company exploded into public view. The lockdown resulted in vulnerable people with disabilities being forced into emergency Airbnb accommodation, according to sources familiar with the case.

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

### Push for smacking kids to be a crime

The Australian, General News, 08/05/2025, Natasha Bitá, Page 1

Smacking children should be against the law because it is akin to beating wives and slaves, more than 100 health and welfare experts have told the nation's first review of "domestic discipline" laws. The Queensland Law Reform Commission is reviewing Section 280 of the Criminal Code, which in line with other states and territories, provides a defence against assault charges for parents, carers and teachers who use "reasonable" corporal punishment.

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

### Chemists cleared to give young kids flu jabs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/05/2025, Madeline Crittenden, Page 11

Children as young as two can now receive the flu jab at their local pharmacy, relieving pressure on general practitioners by potentially freeing up more than 60,000 GP appointments every year. Previously, only GPs were authorised to vaccinate children younger than five for influenza, but parents will now be able to take children to get vaccinated at their local pharmacy from the age of two after the NSW government amended the NSW Pharmacist Vaccination Standards.

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

### Giving kid the tools to cope with grief

West Australian, General News, 08/05/2025, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 21

A world-first program which uses online cognitive behavioural therapy to help young children deal with grief is being trialled in WA. The Curtin University project, funded by the Channel 7 Telethon Trust, is designed to address a huge unmet need among six to 12-year-olds suffering from grief, such as the loss of a family member or a parental separation.

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

### Australian Association of National Advertisers hits out at South Australian ban on unhealthy food and drink ads

The Australian, Other, 07/05/2025, Duncan Evans

Advertisements for ham salad sandwiches will soon be banned from public transportation in South Australia in a fresh push to roll back childhood and adult obesity. The ban, set to come into effect from July 1, prohibits a range of junk food items from being displayed on Adelaide's buses, trains and trams, including processed meats like ham.

[Read More](#)

## 4BC, Afternoons, 07/05/2025, Sofie Formica

Regular Segment: Wednesday Wellness with bariatric and laparoscopic surgeon Dr Philip Lockie discussing weight loss. Formica asks Lockie whether BMI is still a useful tool in weight management discussions. Lockie says BMI is a starting point but not a reliable indicator of weight-related health conditions. He prefers to focus on conditions like diabetes, sleep apnoea, and cholesterol levels, along with lifestyle factors.

*Interview continues on: [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#).*

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Know the cancer signs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/05/2025, Page 21

Only one in five Australians can name a single sign or symptom associated with blood cancer despite it being one of the nation's deadliest cancers. With one in 12 Australians at risk of being diagnosed with blood cancer in their lifetime, and one in three patients already facing a delay in diagnosis, Leukaemia Foundation chief executive Chris Tanti said the lack of awareness of blood cancer symptoms could be devastating.

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

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

## ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 07/05/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with respiratory and sleep physician Dr David Feng on asthma. Feng confirms awareness of the asthma cluster currently affecting parts of southern Tas and mentions a report from Asthma Australia. Baxter raises concerns about excessive oral steroid use, quoting Asthma Australia's CEO Kate Miranda. Feng agrees and explains that oral corticosteroids, while effective, carry serious side effects like mood changes, osteoporosis, and increased stroke risk.

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

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Surgery crisis at children's hospital

The Australian, General News, 08/05/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 2

The sickest and most vulnerable children are facing the prospect of not being able to access lifesaving surgeries at one of Sydney's major children's hospitals as surgeons struggle to gain resources to carry out kids' liver transplants, cardiac surgery, burns procedures and complex orthopaedic surgery amid long-term severe understaffing and underresourcing. The Children's Hospital at Westmead is the only facility in NSW that provides some of the most critical specialised surgeries for kids, but services are being hampered by a shortage of paediatric anaesthetists that the NSW Health Ministry has refused to rectify over several years.

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

## Mother challenges legality of Queensland Health puberty blocker freeze

## **in Supreme Court**

ABC Online, Other, 07/05/2025, Janelle Miles, Kate-Mckenna and Emma-Pollard

The mother of a transgender teenager has launched a legal challenge to the Crisafulli government's freeze on public access to hormone treatments for children with gender dysphoria, claiming it is unlawful. Her lawyers say the legal action alleges Queensland Health's Director-General David Rosengren improperly exercised his power when he issued a directive suspending the treatments, including puberty blockers, in late January.

[Read More](#)

## **Draft deprescribing guideline for older people issued**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 07/05/2025, Jolyon Attwooll

Newly drafted clinical practice guidelines aim to help GPs deprescribe medications for older people – a patient cohort particularly prone to harmful polypharmacy. The document, developed by the University of Western Australia, sets out recommendations to be used as part of a shared decision-making framework for patients aged over 65 and is currently out for feedback.

[Read More](#)

## **Political cynicism and Band-Aid solutions miss key point of our health system dilemma**

The Australian, Other, 05/05/2025, Dr Mei Ling Doery

No clinician can forget the controlled rage experienced when attempting to locate a nonexistent bed at 3am for an acute mental admission. Nor the warm wet stench of groin-fold thrush in the futile search for femoral vein access in a young obese patient.

[Read More](#)

## **Channel 9, A Current Affair, 07/05/2025, Allison Langdon**

The demand for Little Wings has grown significantly, with a 400 per cent increase in service delivery over the past four years. The charity connects seriously ill children to health services in major cities and also sends doctors to regional areas, which are currently facing a crisis in paediatric services. Despite a commitment of \$600,000 a year from the NSW government, it has now refused to confirm ongoing funding.

[Play Now](#)

## **Channel 9, Nine News, 07/05/2025, Melissa Downes**

Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls expresses his disappointment with the failures at Robina Hospital that contributed to the death of former Gold Coast Police Officer Kevin Farr. He issues a warning to hospital executives, stressing the need for improved performance after the multiple system failures highlighted in a report.

[Play Now](#)

## **Sky News Live, Credlin, 07/05/2025, Peta Credlin**

Interview with former Prime Minister Tony Abbott on concerns over NSW abortion law reform. Abbott says the bill forces health professionals with a conscientious objection to abortion to actively facilitate the procedure. He argues the bill targets Christian values and pressures religious hospitals to abandon their principles.

[Play Now](#)

## **2CC, Canberra Live, 07/05/2025, Leon Delaney**

Interview with Dying with Dignity ACT president Sam Delaney on how the ACT government addresses the legal and ethical challenges of VAD when a person loses decision-making capacity after being approved for the process. Delaney says there is no one-size-fits-all model, especially as Canberra is the first jurisdiction to implement such laws. He says the government must now focus on designing a system that reconciles advance care directives with other legal mechanisms.

[Play Now](#)

## 2GB, Drive, 07/05/2025, Clinton Maynard

Maynard says the RACGP is urging all state and territory governments to adopt and expand drug testing services. This comes after the detection of nitazenes, a synthetic opioid far more potent than heroin, found in counterfeit medications. He says Dr Marguerite Tracy from the RACGP believes pill testing services, especially fixed sites, are a sensible harm reduction measure that saves lives. The RACGP argues this does not encourage drug use but helps users make informed decisions.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 07/05/2025, Saskia Mabin

The ACT Government says its voluntary assisted dying scheme will be introduced as legislated with no expanded access for people who lose decision-making capacity after their last assessment. The Health Minister says a report into that issue provides a solid foundation for future considerations.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 07/05/2025, Ryk Goddard

Australian Medical Association Tasmania President Michael Lumsden Steel says the re-elected Federal Government should rethink the way healthcare funding is administered. During the election campaign, Labor promised a range of funding initiatives for Medicare, but doctors have disagreed on whether policies like increasing GP bulk billing incentives would decrease costs for patients.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### \$16m for mental health

Northern Territory News, General News, 08/05/2025, Fia Walsh, Page 5

The Northern Territory government has confirmed multimillion-dollar funding to operate the new mental health unit under construction at Royal Darwin Hospital, expected to open next year.

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

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

### Brain changes linked to later depression in world-first study

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/05/2025, Sarah Booth

Changes to our brain during adolescence could predict depression, a world-first Australian study has found. Victorian researchers conducted a 15-year study with Melbourne students and found those with "disturbances" in the growth of key brain structures during their teenage years were predisposed to depression.

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

[Read More](#)

### Families turn to Triple P to combat rising parental stress and mental health concerns

The Sector, Other, 07/05/2025, Fiona Alston

Australian families are grappling with cost-of-living pressures, the aftermath of natural disasters, and an escalating mental health crisis. To help reduce the impacts of these challenges, over half a million parents and carers have found support through Triple P – Positive Parenting Program, a free, evidence-based service funded by the Australian Government that assists families to manage parental stress and raise resilient kids.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 07/05/2025, Peter Mitchell



Victorian researchers say laughing gas could help treat severe depression and are exploring its potential through new studies. In a trial with 81 patients, 20 per cent went into remission after four supervised sessions, with others showing reduced symptoms.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 07/05/2025, Max Futcher and Katrina Blowers

New research from the Sunshine Coast shows a link between gut imbalance and the severity of some ADHD symptoms. Experts say gut health may influence certain aspects of ADHD, but not all symptoms.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 07/05/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

Researchers have found that nitrous oxide shows strong results in treating clinical depression in people who do not respond to standard serotonin-based medications. The trial involves 81 participants and points to laughing gas as a promising alternative treatment.

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

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 07/05/2025, Samantha Donovan

Report by ABC journalist Costa Haritos on postnatal depression affecting new fathers. There is growing concern about postnatal depression in new fathers, with increasing numbers seeking help from support services. Erin Duncan, a Victorian care navigator with ForWhen, highlights that men often struggle to ask for support, especially during the perinatal period.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### This young doctor says the public health system has become 'toxic' and fears it could kill him

ABC Online, Other, 07/05/2025

As a junior doctor in a busy New South Wales emergency department, Dr Fahad Khan expected long hours, high stress and the pressure of life-or-death decisions. What he didn't expect was the creeping fear that his job might kill him.

[Read More](#)

## ABC, 7:30, 07/05/2025, Sarah Ferguson

Report by ABC's 7.30 reporter Hagar Cohen and producer Richard Mockler on issues in NSW's public health system. The public health system is facing severe pressure due to staff shortages, department closures, and ongoing industrial action. In April, 6,000 doctors staged a three-day strike, the first of its kind in the state. Special Commission of Inquiry panel member Prof Jeffrey Braithwaite says increasing doctor pay may not resolve the deeper issues.

Report continues on: [ABC \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC \(Melbourne\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### **ABC Radio Canberra, Afternoons, 07/05/2025, Alice Matthews**

Interview with Australian Patients Association ambassador Dr Nick Coatsworth on digital health records. Coatsworth says many patients are frustrated about the inaccessibility of their recent test results. He explains that the federal system is meant to link private and public health information, but there is no mechanism to ensure that tests from private providers are uploaded into the ACT digital health record.

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## SPORT

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### **ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 07/05/2025, Chris Bath / Dom Knight**

Interview with UNSW NeuroRecovery Research Hub and Centre for Pain IMPACT director Sylvia Gustin on a new research project focused on reducing chronic pain by helping people manage emotions. Gustin explains that the therapy program teaches emotional skills, such as mindfulness. The program also provides a handbook and an app to support ongoing practice and repetition.

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

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### State pill test trial's sniffer dog snag

The Australian, General News, 08/05/2025, Thomas Sargeant, Page 7

A government-led drug checking trial at NSW music festivals has drawn praise from attendees who believed their drugs were "safe to consume" after testing them, but who still felt pressure to quickly take or discard their substances due to fear of police. Users of the pill testing trial had to smuggle illicit drugs past police, who used sniffer dogs and conducted searches on attendees who used the service, punters told The Australian.

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

### Chemists cleared to give young kids flu jabs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/05/2025, Madeline Crittenden, Page 11

Children as young as two can now receive the flu jab at their local pharmacy, relieving pressure on general practitioners by potentially freeing up more than 60,000 GP appointments every year. Previously, only GPs were authorised to vaccinate children younger than five for influenza, but parents will now be able to take children to get vaccinated at their local pharmacy from the age of two after the NSW government amended the NSW Pharmacist Vaccination Standards.

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

### '60,000 cases': Why experts are worried about this year's flu season

The Courier Mail, Other, 07/05/2025, Sarah Mitchell

There have been tens of thousands of reported flu cases in Australia before we've even reached flu season. Experts say now is the best time to get vaccinated. Despite many workplaces offering them for free, and doctors, pharmacies, immunisation centres and Aboriginal Medical Services making them extremely accessible, vaccination rates in Australia are steadily declining.

[Read More](#)

### Experts answer how severe this flu season will be

9News, Other, 07/05/2025, Joshua Buchwald

Australia's influenza cases are continuing to rise with more than 63,000 flu cases reported this year so far, tracking above the average for the past five years. [...] For more information on the flu vaccine, head to the Department of Health and Aged Care website.

[Read More](#)

### Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 07/05/2025, Ashleigh Gillon

Interview with RACGP president Dr Michael Wright on the early rise in flu cases this year and the importance of getting vaccinated. Wright says there have already been over 70,000 confirmed flu cases this year, which is more than 55% higher than the same time last year. He encourages people to get their flu shot and stresses the importance of vaccination, particularly those in priority groups.

[Play Now](#)

### ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 07/05/2025, Chris Bath and Dom Knight

More than 71,000 lab-confirmed influenza cases have been reported across Australia this year, which is above the five-year average. Medical experts are concerned about falling vaccination rates and say the public is not taking the flu seriously.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## Cardiex lodges TGA application for arterial health monitor

The Australian, Other, 07/05/2025

Cardiex has formally lodged a TGA application to register its CONNEQT Pulse device in Australia, following FDA clearance in the US. The move adds to a strong year that includes US shipments, a \$3.25m capital raise, and inclusion on the US Blood Pressure Validated Device Listing.

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Fake pain drug alert

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/05/2025, Page 9

Counterfeit pain medications have emerged as the latest threat posed by illicit drug importation, as Australian Federal Police detect a worrying spike in nitazenes. Nitazenes are an illicit and dangerous synthetic opioid that can cause serious effects, including overdose that may present as loss of consciousness, shallow or stopped breathing, bluish-purple skin and slow or erratic pulse.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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

### Biocurious: With psychedelic therapies gaining cred, Tryptamine offers patients and investors the trip of a lifetime

The Australian, Other, 07/05/2025, Tim Boreham

Tryptamine is focused on using psilocybin to treat difficult mental health and neurological conditions. In league with Swinburne University, the company will launch a groundbreaking binge eating disorder trial using intravenous delivery.

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

