



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 9th May 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports advocates have criticised NDIS provider Cocoon SDA Care for a program incentivising staff to sign up people with more extreme disabilities, which they say risked pressuring patients to act against their own best interests.
- The **Courier Mail** (page 1) reports Australian researchers will begin trials of a world-leading injectable drug it is hoped can stop the onset of dementia. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Hobart Mercury](#).
- **The Australian** (page 2) reports the instance of diabetes in Indigenous Australians has risen 40 per cent in the last decade, new Australian Bureau of Statistics data has shown, with 18 per cent of cases left undiagnosed. *Also reported by:* [West Australian](#)
- The **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 2) reports NSW Liberal MP Chris Rath has been criticised for likening abortion care to Nazi genocide during a debate on access to abortion services in state parliament.
- The **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 2) reports SA Health has relocated about 100 staff from an administration building in Port Pirie after a staff member was hospitalised due to bacterial infection caused by pigeon droppings.

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 3) reports two in three code one ambulance cases arrive within scheduled parameters in Victoria, new data has shown, with the State Government conceding more work is needed to improve wait times.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### **New cannabis cultivation group calls for 'urgent action' on imports**

Cannabiz, Other, 08/05/2025, Steve Jones

A new cultivation lobbying group has formed in Australia and called for "urgent action" to "save the local medicinal cannabis cultivation industry from collapse". The Australian Cannabis Cultivators Guild, spearheaded by Hale Farm director Cade Turland, has sent a letter to federal health minister Mark Butler warning of "catastrophic failures across local cultivators" unless imports are restricted and a "domestic-first" policy is adopted which allows cultivators to "grow their permitted amounts".

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### **ABC Ballarat, Australia Wide, 08/05/2025, Sinead Mangan**

Report by ABC TV Four Corners investigative reporter Louise Milligan on the inclusion of dental services in Medicare. Dental care has received attention during the election, with the Greens pushing to include it in Medicare at an expected cost of \$195b over 10 years. The Consumers Health Forum supports measures like a low-income dental scheme and bulk billing in rural and remote areas. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says Labor supports expanding Medicare to include dental, but cannot act on it immediately.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### **Anika Wells focuses on politics over helping sanctioned aged care services**

Sky News Australia, Other, 07/05/2025

Sky News host Paul Murray discusses sanctions being slapped on aged care services as the Aged Care Minister Anika Wells focuses on politics over supporting the elderly. "The Aged Care Minister is a person I have spoken of many times ... she thinks she is on her line to one day being a lot more than she currently is," Mr Murray said.

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### **Sky News' Paul Murray hits out at Aged Care Minister over provider sanctions**

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 08/05/2025, Alex Jacobs

Sky News host Paul Murray has criticised the Minister for Sports and Aged Care, Anika Wells, after The Daily Telegraph ran a story about St Jude's Health Care Services, which has been sanctioned after failing to meet most quality standards. Key points A 2023 site audit of Carinya of Bicton, operated by St Jude's Health Care Services, found the home was non-compliant with five out of eight quality standards.

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## VACCINES

### Origin story of COVID virus rewritten, challenging lab leak theory

West Australian, Other, 08/05/2025, Peta Rasdien

Challenging the idea that the pandemic was caused by a lab leak, scientists now believe they know when and where the virus first emerged. COVID, which first emerged in humans in Wuhan in central China in December 2019, is calculated to have caused up to 36 million deaths worldwide. It's believe the virus that causes it left the area where it first emerged among animals in China or northern Laos several years before jumping across to humans 2700 kilometres away in Wuhan.

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

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### Has COVID changed in five years? What to know as winter looms

SBS, Other, 08/05/2025, Meru Sheel

COVID is still around and can pose a risk of serious illness to vulnerable people. What are the symptoms in 2025? And how long does it last? Five years ago, COVID was all we could think about. Today, we'd rather forget about lockdowns, testing queues and social distancing. But the virus that sparked the pandemic, SARS-CoV-2, is still circulating.

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### 4BC, Drive, 08/05/2025, Gary Hardgrave

Hardgrave raises questions about the origins of COVID-19 and suggests it may have stemmed from gain-of-function experiments that began in the US and were later moved to a lab in Wuhan, China. He references allegations that the virus was developed intentionally and claims the blame directed at China may not reflect the full picture. He says former U.S. health advisor Anthony Fauci is facing scrutiny in America and may be forced to testify without legal protections due to a pardon from President Joe Biden. Hardgrave argues Australia should consider holding its own inquiry into the pandemic and the government's response, given the ongoing consequences and unanswered questions.

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### **Jenny Summerton takes on top residential care role at HammondCare**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 08/05/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Jenny Summerton started her career in diagnostic biology, working in a public health setting across microbiology, serology and virology before a loved one's dementia diagnosis inspired her to move to nursing and aged care. It was while working in an Adelaide care facility that Ms Summerton first came into contact with Dementia Support Australia, later taking a consultancy job with the organisation and rising to become its national program manager.

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### **With the election behind them, will Labor shift focus to aged care?**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 08/05/2025, Stefanie Schultz

After passing historic aged care legislation in November, the Albanese government swiftly shifted into election mode, opting for a more universally effective campaign strategy; Medicare reform. However, after its landslide victory on Saturday the Labor party is under pressure, from providers and peak bodies alike, to show up for the aged care sector in these last weeks leading up to July 1.

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### **Petrie named aged care pharmacist of the year**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 08/05/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Following a three-decade career dedicated to medication management in aged care, Neil Petrie has been honoured by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia this month. The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has announced Neil Petrie as the inaugural recipient of the PSA Australian Medicines Handbook Aged Care Pharmacist of the Year Award.

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### **Acredia launches integrated platform**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 08/05/2025

The new offering designed for residential aged care providers who also deliver home care services streamlines administrative processes and improves operational efficiency. Aged care software platform Acredia has launched a new home care solution – an integrated platform for residential aged care providers that also deliver home care, so that service management can be done on a single platform.

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### **Support at Home participants have waited long enough**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 08/05/2025

Effectively communicating Support at Home changes requires timely and tailored resources that make sense to your participants, but time is no longer on our side. More than 285,000 home care package consumers are about to see big changes in the system, but most still aren't sure exactly what these changes mean for them.

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### **Rules, obligations, and frustrations: Gov webinar explores new regulatory model**

Hellolenders.com.au, Other, 08/05/2025, Alex Jacobs

The Department of Health and Aged Care has delivered a timely update about the Aged Care Act's new regulatory framework, exploring the fundamental elements of the new Act, and some of the sector's burning questions — and frustrations. Key points Currently, hundreds of provider responsibilities are spread across several pieces of legislation.

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### **End to deeming freeze could leave pensioners out in cold, warn advocates**

Older Australians who are already struggling to make ends meet could be placed under further financial strain if the federal government does not extend a vital cost-of-living measure, warn advocates. National Seniors Australia and Council on the Ageing (COTA) are calling on the government to extend the ongoing freeze on deeming rates.

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## **Only in Saturday: Why aged care's future won't be built on beds**

The Weekly Source, Other, 08/05/2025, Caroline Egan

With aged care beds close to full occupancy and long wait times for Government-funded home care – and the Baby Boomer wave on the horizon – what is the best future model for aged care? Cam Ansell, Founder and Managing Director of aged care advisory firm Ansell Strategic, is predicting strong growth outside of traditional aged care and retirement villages.

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## **Aged care sector sounds alarm on reform rollout after Election win**

The Weekly Source, Other, 08/05/2025, Caroline Egan

Aged care providers across the country extended their congratulations to the re-elected Government this week, celebrating the victory just weeks before the sector is set to implement landmark reforms. However, their well-wishes came with a note of caution. In its statement on the election outcome, Ageing Australia, the peak body for aged care providers, said the transition timeframe for the reforms is a "major concern for providers".

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## **Regis surges ahead with nine greenfield projects and 1,000+ new beds**

The Weekly Source, Other, 08/05/2025, Caroline Egan

Regis Aged Care has revealed a dramatic expansion of its development pipeline, with nine greenfield projects now in play and more than 1,000 new beds on the way, according to a presentation delivered at the Macquarie Australia Conference. The ASX-listed provider now has 1,037 new beds across its pipeline.

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## **Bus drivers out: Govt cracks down on PCW care minute loophole**

The Weekly Source, Other, 08/05/2025, Caroline Egan

The Government has revised its definition of personal care workers (PCWs) to prevent aged care providers from including social and emotional support provided by non-direct care staff, such as bus drivers, in mandatory care minute targets. On 1 May 2025, the Department of Health and Aged Care held a webinar updating providers on care minutes funding, among other things, and included an updated definition of PCWs.

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## **Aged care left up the creek without a paddle – will the Government come to the rescue?**

The Weekly Source, Other, 08/05/2025, Lauren Broomham

With just 36 business days until 1 July, aged care providers are holding their breath. The looming rollout of the new Aged Care Act and the Support at Home program has the sector on edge – and the first item on the re-elected Government's aged care agenda must be an honest reckoning: operators cannot meet the current timeline.

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## **4BC, Afternoons, 08/05/2025, Sofie Formica**

Interview with CareAlert national sales manager Darren Steele on their new automated welfare call service. Steele says the aim is to help older people remain in their homes for longer, aligning with national goals around aged care. He confirms the new service is eligible for funding through My Aged Care and adds that there are no out-of-pocket expenses for those who qualify.

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Probe to light up illegal smokes

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/05/2025, Elizabeth Pike, Page 18

How criminal gangs make millions of dollars from black market sales will be investigated by a parliamentary inquiry into the illegal tobacco trade. The Minns government agreed to the Liberals and Nationals terms for an inquiry into illegal tobacco on Wednesday night to find out "what has gone wrong" in NSW as illicit cigarettes flood the state.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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### It's time to teach it right, period.

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/05/2025, Alison Foletta, Page 13

Period education is lacking in Tasmania, says chief executive officer for Family Planning Tasmania. CEO Marcus Di Martino said Tasmania "faces challenges" around period education. "Stigma still exists, especially in rural areas," he said. "Open and clear menstruation education is essential. It reduces shame, builds body confidence, and helps people manage their health. It's not just about biology, it's about equality, dignity, and access to the right information at the right time."

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### As birth rate drops, a reminder motherhood isn't womanhood

West Australian, General News, 09/05/2025, Rachel Matthews, Page 65

Australia's fertility rate sits at a historic low of 1.6 births per woman, part of a global shift. In Japan, 27 per cent of women aged 40-44 are childless; in Germany, 21 per cent. Yet cultural scripts lag. A 2023 Melbourne University study found 68 per cent of childless women over 40 face assumptions they're "lonely" or "selfish", compared to just 12 per cent of men.

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### State Government updates regulations to ban vaping at indoor workplaces

West Australian, Other, 08/05/2025, Oliver Lane

Vaping and the use of e-cigarettes will now be banned at indoor workplaces in WA following an update to the State's work health and safety regulations. The provisions in the Work Health and Safety Regulations which dealt with smoking tobacco in the workplace will now also cover the use of vapes and e-cigarettes.

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### Mental health stigma in rural Australia persists

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 08/05/2025

The stigma around mental health is "still alive and well" in part of regional Australia, mental health advocate Craig Hamilton says as he prepares to take his documentary on a rural road show. [...] Those numbers are from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and show, of that total in 2023, 2419 of those deaths were men.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#)

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### Her abuser knows her address, but she can't move. The 'impossible choice' some renters face

SBS, Other, 08/05/2025, Jennifer Luu

Phoebe needed to flee her home to escape domestic violence, but found it impossible to get a new

rental because her real estate agent was 'playing God'. Experts say Australia's housing crisis is keeping victim-survivors in unsafe situations. [...] One in four women and one in 14 men have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner since the age of 15, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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## Tasmania Aboriginal Centre calls for “immediate closure” of state's troubled youth detention centre

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/05/2025, Callan Morse

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre has called for the immediate closure of northern Tasmania's Ashley Youth Detention Centre. It comes after the Tasmanian government earlier this week confirmed the troubled Centre's closure had been delayed for the third time while a new youth justice facility is built in the state's south. [...] 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".

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## You can build strength in just 30 minutes—here's how

Prevention, Other, 07/05/2025, Korin Miller

New research shows that fitting strength training into a busy schedule is not only doable—it's surprisingly effective. A growing body of research confirms what many trainers have long known: strength training is essential for long-term health . [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare recommends adults do at least two sessions of muscle-strengthening activity per week, alongside 150 to 300 minutes of moderate-intensity activity.

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## 2GB, Drive, 08/05/2025, Clinton Maynard

Interview with NSW Shadow Minister for Health Kellie Sloane on the rise of tobacconist numbers in Sydney. Sloane says there are now over 19,500 tobacconists and convenience stores across the state, many linked to illicit tobacco and other criminal activity. She says current laws and enforcement are not keeping up, with only 14 compliance officers in NSW.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Condition leaves child in palliative care

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/05/2025, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 18

Grace is a vibrant seven-year-old girl who loves school, reading and is a master at Lego. At only three months old, she was diagnosed with fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva (FOP), an extremely rare genetic condition. FOP causes muscles, tendons and ligaments to gradually turn into bone, forming an extra skeleton that slowly locks the body in place. She is the only known person living with FOP in South Australia with only 900 people diagnosed worldwide.

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### Learning how to live is the greatest gift

Border Mail, General News, 09/05/2025, Jodie Bruton, Page 2

Grappling with her own mortality, Deanne McCartin felt adrift. The Lavington grandmother, 59, was facing fear, uncertainty and a sense of finality, coming at her at a rate of knots. Diagnosed with terminal bowel cancer in July, Ms McCartin did one round of chemotherapy before deciding to choose quality of life over more treatment. "Living with a life-limiting disease is a lonely place where there are no answers or reasons," she said.

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

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## Life-changing support

Launceston Examiner, General News, 09/05/2025, Saree Salter, Page 1

When Tasmanian journalist Sam Ikin started prioritising his health, he didn't expect to find out the worst news of his life. "I'd spent a year looking after myself, I changed my diet and stopped eating processed foods - I lost a whole lot of weight and felt great," Mr Ikin said. But soon enough, a lump on his neck revealed the 47-year-old father of three had poorly differentiated thyroid cancer - a rare and aggressive cancer. The thyroid was removed, but Mr Ikin insisted on a PET scan, which showed inoperable cancer had spread to his lungs and hips.

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## Group tests Tourette treatment

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 09/05/2025, Wade Stephens, Page 6

Medicinal cannabis oil produced in Mildura has been used in a trial exploring treatment options for young people with Tourette Syndrome symptoms. Ten participants, aged 12 to 18 took part in a randomised, placebo-controlled crossover trial, under the supervision of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

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## Kidney failure horror

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 09/05/2025, Jessica Klein, Page 7

A South East Queensland teenager's life was turned upside down in what felt like an instant for his family after a series of misdiagnosed symptoms now leave him fighting for his life and desperately waiting for a kidney transplant. In the lead-up to Christmas, 17-year-old Isaeah Parlett began experiencing a build-up of fluid in his legs, which doctors put down to a sort of oedema.

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## Dialysis gains momentum

Shepparton News Online, Other, 08/05/2025, Owen Sinclair

Momentum around delivering a dialysis facility in Cobram is growing, according to state Member for Ovens Valley Tim McCurdy. Following years of advocacy by Kidney Support Group Cobram and District, led by founder Dianne Raco and Sue Duscio, Mr McCurdy welcomed collaboration by the Moira and Berrigan shire councils to raise the issue further. "Regional Victorians deserve the same access to life-saving treatment as those in Melbourne," Mr McCurdy said.

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## Protein is important during perimenopause — here's how much you need and why

ABC Online, Other, 08/05/2025, Amy Sheehan

Elaine De Silva has spent many hours researching how to look after her body during perimenopause. The 48-year-old from South Perth/Whadjuk Noongar country says there's been one big takeaway from her doctor's visits, women's health podcasts and books — consuming adequate amounts of protein is a must.

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## New treatment may reduce chronic pain by 're-training the brain'

The New Daily, Other, 07/05/2025, Imma Perfetto

In a "major step forward in pain care", a new approach to treat people living with chronic pain has been shown to reduce its intensity in a randomised controlled trial of 89 people. The team behind the approach told journalists at a briefing this week that it has received funding from the Medical Research Future Fund to continue the next phase of the trial in a larger cohort of more than 300 participants in 2026.

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**ABC News, News Breakfast, 08/05/2025, James Glenday and Catherine**



## Murphy

Interview with Leukaemia Foundation CEO Chris Tanti and ABC radio producer Shelley Bishop on the foundation's new public awareness campaign. Tanti says the campaign focuses on improving awareness of blood cancer signs and symptoms. He says early detection is critical, as there are no screening programs for blood cancers.

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 08/05/2025, Spence Denny

Interview with UniSA postdoctoral researcher Dr Amanda Lumsden on a new assessment tool for ovarian cancer. Lumsden says the tool is based on an anonymous online survey developed with researchers, clinicians, gynaecologists, and consumers with lived experiences. She says the survey gathers information from people who have had a diagnosis of ovarian cancer, regardless of how long ago it was. Lumsden adds that the project is funded by Cancer Council SA and is largely supported by public donations and consumer input.

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 08/05/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Blood Cancer Partnerships general manager Tim Murphy on the rise in blood cancer rates and the need for more research and treatment options. Murphy says the increase is linked to an ageing population, with most cases occurring in people over 55. He adds that research has improved survival rates for some types of blood cancer, but more treatment options are needed to address the complexity of the diseases.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Centre unsure if funding will continue

Canberra Times, General News, 09/05/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 4

When someone seeks help from the police or a hospital after a sexual assault, they will often be supported by the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, which will attend callouts anytime of the day or night. The centre also operates a hotline and provides counselling and support for children and adult survivors of sexual violence as they navigate legal and medical systems.

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### Ambos still fall short of targets

Herald Sun, General News, 09/05/2025, Carly Douglas, Page 3

Victorians urgently in need of an ambulance are still facing delays as key benchmarks are missed, with the Allan government conceding more work must be done. Fresh figures show first responders are still failing to meet a state-set target of responding to 85 per cent of critical Code 1 call-outs within 15 minutes, with only two in three code one ambulances arriving on time.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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### 'Pigeon poo dust' puts staff at risk

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/05/2025, Douglas Smith and Brad Crouch, Page 2

An SA Health employee has been admitted to hospital and is undergoing tests for respiratory issues linked to working in a rural administration building infested with pigeons. Last week, SA Health relocated about 100 employees from the Community Health administration building at Port Pirie, after bacteria was found as a result of "contaminated dust" from pigeon droppings.

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## Would-be parents caught in IVF trap

Doctors say Australian women are pulling money from their superannuation to fund fertility treatments that are available for free elsewhere, and are calling for access to public services to be expanded across all states. Tasmania, South Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory do not provide IVF through their public state systems and are also devoid of dedicated bulk-billing private clinics offering low-cost cycles.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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## Having your say on our ambos

Northern Territory News, General News, 09/05/2025, Darcy Fitzgerald, Page 5

Patient satisfaction with the Territory's ambulance service has recorded near-perfect results for the second consecutive year. In 2024, patients' overall satisfaction with the Territory's ambulance provider St John NT was 99 per cent the equal highest across Australia. The near-perfect score was two points above the Australian average of 97 per cent.

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## Ambulance station 'is worth fighting for'

Daily Advertiser, General News, 09/05/2025, Jac Marshall, Page 9

A proposal to use a community volunteer model in a growing Riverina town that has spent more than a century campaigning for its own ambulance station is a "stopgap at best", according to its mayor. Tocumwal does not have an ambulance station dedicated solely to its needs, according to Berrigan Shire Council mayor Julia Cornwell McKean, and instead is served by paramedics stationed between 20 and 80 kilometres away.

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## Surgery crisis at Sydney's Children's Hospital at Westmead

The Australian, Other, 08/05/2025, Natasha Robinson

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

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## Paul Connolly appointed to head Primary Health Network

Northern Territory News, Other, 08/05/2025, Camden Smith

Paul Connolly, a long-time NT Primary Health Network officer, has been appointed the organisation's chief executive. Currently the executive responsible for NT Primary Health Network's Rural Workforce Agency and Primary Health Care Branch, Paul will bring eight years of leadership experience in the Northern Territory Health Sector. A champion of health system reform, Paul has a history of supporting health care access and sustainability for communities and leading high-performing teams.

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## Flying Doctor Day: Broome's Paul Boon shares how RFDS saved his life after heart attack

West Australian, Other, 08/05/2025, Cain Andrews Broome

Broome man Paul Boon hit the water during January's cyclone swell but within minutes, he was struggling to breathe and feeling a sharp pressure in his chest. Surfing on his e-foil, the muso and art consultant knew something was wrong but didn't know what. "There was cyclone surf, so all the guys were out there on their boards, and I've got an efoil, and I fancied myself in the bigger waves . . . but once I got out there it, it was a bit of a washing machine, and I just fell off quite a few times and got quite tired," he said.

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Interview with University of Adelaide professor Dr Joanna Howe on a proposed NSW bill aiming to improve abortion care access. Howe opposes the bill, saying it threatens religious freedom. Credlin questions why such a measure is needed when abortion services are already widely available across Australia. Howe says telehealth abortions can be accessed in any location for as little as \$6.80 and argues the claim about rural access is just a smokescreen for a broader agenda.

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### **Channel 9, Nine News, 08/05/2025, Melissa Downes**

Leaked data shows most SEQ hospitals are not meeting deadlines to investigate unexpected deaths and serious harm cases. Queensland Health says it is working on new strategies, but concerns remain about delays in giving families answers and making necessary changes.

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### **2CC, Canberra Live, 08/05/2025, Leon Delaney**

The ACT Government plans to consider extending voluntary assisted dying laws to include people who lose decision-making capacity, but not before 2026. Liberal MLA Chiaka Barry says the requirement to maintain mental capacity adds complexity to the current legislation.

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### **Channel 10, 10 News First, 08/05/2025, Sandra Sully**

NSW MPs prepare for an all-night sitting as Parliament debates abortion rights and the growing illegal tobacco trade. The Greens' push to expand abortion access includes allowing nurse practitioners and midwives to prescribe and removing mandatory reporting. Meanwhile, a new probe investigates the rise in illegal tobacco and the rapid increase in tobacco numbers.

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### **ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 08/05/2025, Spence Denny**

Interview with general practitioner and psychotherapist Dr Naomi Rutten on a new health awareness program from Charles Darwin University aimed at educating young people from age 14 about the Australian healthcare system. Rutten believes the system should be more flexible and include education for both parents and teenagers. She says tasks like setting up MyGov accounts are not simple, and many young people struggle with the requirements.

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## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

### **Psychs on Bikes to make first stop to Albany RSL to deliver free mental and physical health checks**

West Australian, Other, 08/05/2025, Melissa Sheil

A group of medical practitioners aiming to destigmatise the mental health of regional men will roll into Albany on their motorbikes for the first time on Sunday, in the second stop of a 12-day regional tour. The 15 members of will attend Albany RSL on May 11, where psychiatrists, psychologists, and mental health nurses will perform free mental and physical health check-ups.

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### **World-first Telethon-funded Curtin University program helps young WA kids deal with grief**

West Australian, Other, 08/05/2025, Rhianna Mitchell

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 meet a huge unmet need among six to 12-year-olds suffering from grief, such as the loss of a family member or pet, or a parental separation.

## 4BC, Afternoons, 08/05/2025, Sofie Formica

Interview with University of Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research assoc prof Divna Haslam on proposed changes to Qld's laws on corporal punishment and the long-term impacts of smacking children. Formica explains that the proposed changes would ban punishment involving injury or use of implements, especially to a child's head, face, or neck. Haslam says the evidence shows corporal punishment has no positive outcomes for children. She says it leads to poor mental health, damaged relationships, and a greater likelihood of violence in adulthood.

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

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### MP invokes Nazis in debate on abortion

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/05/2025, Alexandra Smith, Page 2

A moderate NSW Liberal MP has invoked the Nazis' genocide of Jews in a parliamentary debate over amending the state's abortion laws, saying it was "bizarre" that the termination of a pregnancy was categorised "as a human right to healthcare". Upper house MP Chris Rath, who is seen as one of the leading progressive Liberals in the party room, has told parliament that he could not support an amendment to NSW's abortion laws, which would allow nurses and midwives to prescribe medical terminations up to nine weeks.

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

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### Celebrating International Nurses Day

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 08/05/2025, Robert Fedele

Every year, we take time to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible contributions of midwives around the world. On International Nurses Day (12 May), we recognise the dedication, skill, and compassion of these essential professionals who provide care when it is needed most.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Local health team wins prestigious award

Border Watch, General News, 09/05/2025, Page 5

A team within the Limestone Coast Local Health Network has received a prestigious Premier's Excellence Award for their continued work in the award's 'Driving Innovation' team category. At this year's Premier's Excellence Awards, 11 awards were presented to winners across six categories which recognised diversity of services across the South Australian public sector.

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### Widow of doctor loses her compo bid

Burnie Advocate, General News, 09/05/2025, Benjamin Seeder, Page 10

The widow of a respected Launceston General Hospital doctor has failed in her legal bid for compensation over her husband's fatal Christmas Day heart attack in 2023. The wife of former LGH Director of Medicine Dr Alasdair MacDonald applied to the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal last year, claiming staff shortages and strenuous working conditions at the hospital contributed to her husband's death.

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## Scope pilot marks milestone

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/05/2025, Megan Haggan

One hundred community pharmacists across Queensland are now fully trained and authorised to participate in the Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot. Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland president Chris Owen, made the announcement and said that this represented a significant milestone in the pilot.

[Read More](#)

## Pharmacists to re-vote on HPS pay deal

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/05/2025

Pharmacists working for hospital pharmacy group, HPS Pharmacies, will be asked to vote on an enterprise agreement weeks after backing the deal, after a newly acquired pharmacy was excluded from the process.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### From \$10k to \$31.70: Massive savings for severe epilepsy sufferers after drug added to PBS

7news.com.au, Other, 08/05/2025, Jessica Cragg

A life-changing medication for those battling a rare form of epilepsy has been added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Fenfluramine, an additional treatment option for those with Dravet syndrome, is a ray of hope for families dealing with an already non-responsive epilepsy. By the time this drug is recommended, people enduring the syndrome are normally on at least two other medications.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### NDIS firm's secret bonuses exposed

The Australian, General News, 09/05/2025, David Murray, Page 1

NDIS provider Cocoon SDA Care offered staff secret extra bonuses for signing up clients with significant disabilities, in a program condemned for creating an incentive to pressure those needing support to act against their own best interests. Outlined in documents leaked to The Australian, the program offered staff up to \$5000 for signing up each new NDIS client needing one-on-one around-the-clock support.

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### The outrageous reason a registered nurse was sacked by a care home after nine years in the job - as her shamed bosses are ordered to pay \$400,000

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 08/05/2025, Harrison Christian

A nursing home has been ordered to pay almost \$400,000 to a nurse who was sacked because she was Chinese and her manager preferred Filipino workers. Wei Han worked as a registered nurse for St Basil's Homes on a permanent part-time basis for more than nine years at its facility in Lakemba, western Sydney. Before she was sacked in January 2020, Ms Han complained she was bullied and discriminated against because she was Chinese, according to a Tuesday decision from Justice Yaseen Shariff in the Federal Court.

[Read More](#)

## **'No one will be deregistered' over difficulties with new AHPRA portal**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/05/2025

Nurses and midwives are reporting "challenges" renewing their registration through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA's) new system. The regulator introduced the new system for all health practitioners in March to cut red tape and make it simpler to apply for, renew and...

[Read More](#)

## **'Those sorts of interactions can really just beat down at your ego'**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/05/2025

"From systemic erasure in medical education to outright discrimination in our care settings" – LGBTQIA+ patients face a lot of barriers to care and medicines access, says one pharmacist advocating in this space. "LGBTQIA patients often face fear of judgement, misgendering or having to show up in discomfort when they have to educate their own..."

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## **HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES**

No relevant coverage

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## **SPORT**

### **Bears fans back club's NRL Perth move sort of**

Australian Financial Review, General News, 09/05/2025, Andrew Hobbs and Zoe Samios, Page 11

They're back A 25-year hibernation ends with the team's move west. Tim Hamilton's uncle managed the North Sydney Bears for 30 years. In his playing days, the now 57-year-old Tim was good enough to compete for the club...

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

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

### **Aussies' war zone alert**

The Australian, Sport, 09/05/2025, Robert Craddock and Ben Horne, Page 24

Ricky Ponting's Indian Premier League team could have its next match moved away from the Himalayas as a safety response to escalating tensions on the nearby India-Pakistan border. Cricket Australia and the Australian Cricketers Association have thrown their support behind a large group of Australian players competing in both the IPL and the PSL in Pakistan as the two nations exchange fire.

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### **Johnson steps down from FA chief role**

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 09/05/2025, Vince Rugari, Page 44

James Johnson has resigned as chief executive of Football Australia, bringing to a close a transformative five-and-a-half-year reign at the helm. Johnson has informed FA's board of his decision to leave the job and will stay on for a period to support the transition to a new CEO. Former Matilda

Heather Garriock, a board member since 2021, will serve as interim CEO during the search for a full-time replacement.

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

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

## I was in tatters

Herald Sun, Sport, 09/05/2025, Jay Clark, Page 88

St Kilda defender Liam Stocker has opened up on his battle with prescription medications that wiped out a season of his career at Carlton and left him "in tatters". In an exclusive interview with the Herald Sun, Stocker, 25, detailed the night in the Queensland hub in 2020 when he "lost control" of his life and abused prescription medications to "quieten the noise" amid some serious mental health issues.

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

## World champs a line in sand

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/05/2025, Erin Jones, Page 12

Volleyball SA is urgently seeking a new home three years after its Pirie St site was sold off by Adelaide City Council and as the state prepares to host 75,000 spectators later this year. The FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships at The Drive in November will mark the first time it has been held in Oceania and is expected to pique interest in the sport.

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## Games bosses' premier pay

Courier Mail, General News, 09/05/2025, Hayden Johnson, Page 1

Three of the executives leading the planning for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympics are paid more than Premier David Crisafulli, it has been revealed but the salaries have been defended as being in line with the Brisbane jobs market. And its board members at least those who are not politicians are paid \$50,000 a year for their work, meaning the looming reduction in its numbers will save the organisation \$600,000 annually.

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## Marnus to be a wicket keeper

Courier Mail, General News, 09/05/2025, Hayden Johnson, Page 7

Australian top order batsman Marnus Labuschagne has called for Brisbane's new Olympic stadium to keep the magic of the Gabba wicket alive once the historic ground is demolished. The Queensland cricketer, who scored his maiden test century at the Gabba with a 185-run knock against Pakistan in November 2019, lamented the loss of the notorious quick wicket.

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## This is why

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/05/2025, Duncan Abey, Page 1

The Tasmania Football Club has made a detailed submission to the Tasmanian Planning Commission of why Macquarie Point stadium would be a "gamechanger" for football in the state and to the futures of young Tasmanians, while providing the Devils with access to the largest professional sports competition in the country.

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

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

## AFL has 'no fears' over WA team

West Australian, General News, 09/05/2025, Page 9

Afl chair Richard Goyder has rejected speculation from some league pundits that the code had been lobbying against the new WA team. "Zero chance," the prominent WA company director told The West Australian on Thursday after an announcement by the State Government and ruby league chiefs.

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

## NRL Women in League round: How Rabbitohs are breaking down barriers

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/05/2025, Pamela Whaley

It may be Women in League Round, but the reality is many young girls still don't have access to the sport - see how South Sydney is helping to break down rugby league barriers. Aaliyah Wighton watched the Jillaroos jet off to Las Vegas earlier this year, and hasn't stopped talking about it since.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Hope for dementia sufferers

Courier Mail, General News, 09/05/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 1

A world-leading experimental dementia drug designed to prevent the disease before it begins will be trialled in Australia for the first time from next month. Local researchers will test whether a new injectable drug can delay or even stop the onset of Alzheimer's disease when given to patients before they begin having noticeable symptoms. Royal Melbourne Hospital will be one of more than a dozen sites around Australia taking part in the major global trial for the new drug, named remternetug.

*Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).*

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

### Happier, healthier ageing

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 09/05/2025, Toni Penny, Page 15

Appropriate antidepressant treatment in older adults may help extend the number of years they live in good health, according to new research from Deakin University's Institute for Mental and Physical Health and Clinical Translation (IMPACT). The study, led by Dr Najmeh Davoodian and Associate Professor Mohammadreza Mohebbi, found that appropriate antidepressant treatment was linked to an average increase of almost three years in healthy life expectancy.

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### Health Check: Neuren says more patients are staying the course as US Daybue sales lift

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/05/2025, Tim Boreham

Neuren Pharmaceuticals' (asx:neu) global marketing partner Acadia has reported strong March quarter sales of the duo's treatment Daybue in the US, for the rare neurological disorder Rett syndrome. More heartening is a drop-off in patient discontinuation rates – a sensitive topic given the drug's known side effects (diarrhoea, vomiting, possible weight loss). A rare genetic disorder evident mainly in girls, Rett syndrome affects brain development, resulting in slower development and often a shorter lifespan.

[Read More](#)

### Betting on the little guy: Could small molecule drugs be a solution to dengue fever?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/05/2025, Phoebe Shields

About 4 billion people are now at risk of contracting dengue fever. Small molecule treatments targeting virus replication mechanisms could be an effective answer. Treatment options currently only include symptom management, with no approved methods to fight the virus directly. Dengue fever poses a growing global threat, putting 4 billion people at risk with no targeted treatments available.

[Read More](#)

### Dr Boreham's Crucible: The strategy is clear for this x-ray imaging house – can it see it through to profitability?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/05/2025, Tim Boreham



Many life science companies stress the virtue of diversity: multiple programs to protect against one of them failing. Diversity can be helpful: after its failed phase III eye disease programs, Opthea would be wishing it had another drug candidate up its sleeve. But chasing too much stuff can spread resources too thinly and create investor confusion.

[Read More](#)

## **Edith Cowan University research links neurological, mental health symptoms of long-COVID to obesity**

West Australian, Other, 08/05/2025, Hannah Cross

People who are overweight are more likely to experience long-term neurological and mental health symptoms after COVID-19, new research has revealed. Visiting PhD scholar at Edith Cowan University's Centre of Precision Health, Debora Barbosa Ronca, found symptoms including headache, vertigo, smell and taste disorders, sleep disturbance, and depression were more prevalent in people carrying excess weight.

[Read More](#)

## **"We really want to make a difference": Professor Richard Scolyer's hope for the future of cancer research**

ABC Online, Other, 08/05/2025, Saskia Mabin

Former Australian of the Year Richard Scolyer hopes his own revolutionary cancer treatment will inspire proper clinical trials soon. Professor Scolyer revealed in March that doctors had given him three months to live. "I still feel pretty fortunate that I'm still here," Professor Scolyer said.

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

[Read More](#)

## **The foods sold in Australia that have been linked to Parkinson's disease**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 08/05/2025, Harrison Christian

People who regularly eat ultraprocessed foods have nearly triple the risk of developing Parkinson's disease, a study suggests. Chinese scientists found people who ate 11 or more servings of ultra-processed foods a day were 2.5 times more likely to have early signs of the progressive movement disorder Parkinson's disease than those eating three or fewer servings.

[Read More](#)

## **It's not all in your head: the complex psychology of pain management**

SBS, Other, 08/05/2025, Peggy Giakoumelos

Anyone who has ever had the occasional backache or a migraine knows how debilitating pain can be. But for those with chronic pain conditions, ongoing management poses many challenges. A new study looks at what role emotional regulation strategies can play in helping people manage chronic pain.

[Read More](#)

## **Innovation strategy to unlock how NSW Health maximises medical research**

The Mandarin, Other, 08/05/2025, Melissa Coad

Collaboration, equity, and cutting-edge infrastructure converge to transform NSW into a global health research leader. NSW Health has released a five-year blueprint to establish the state as an "innovation and investment powerhouse" for health and medical research. The research and innovation strategy 2025 to 2030 focuses on collaborations between the state government, health, academia, and industry, and gives research and innovation programs a cohesive streamlined direction.

[Read More](#)

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## Diabetes: 'too much sorry business'

The Australian, General News, 09/05/2025, James Dowling, Page 2

The number of Indigenous Australians with diabetes has risen almost 40 per cent in a decade, new data shows, with unprecedented levels of pediatric diabetes casting the next generation into danger. The Australian Bureau of Statistics found that from 2022 to 2024 one in six Indigenous adults suffered from diabetes, and 18 per cent of cases went undiagnosed. Results were collected by testing blood samples, allowing cases to be caught and recorded for the first time among the cohort.

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

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## Mock tactics

Canberra Times, General News, 09/05/2025, Tim Piccione, Page 1

A senior ACT police officer taunted an Aboriginal teenager in custody saying he 'wouldn't have the guts' to kill himself shortly before he was violently pinned down in a cell and had clothing cut off his body. The troubling watch-house interaction was revealed in a sentencing hearing and is now under review by police internal investigators.

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## How care on country is being strengthened

Northern Territory News, General News, 09/05/2025, Thomas McLean, Page 7

A group of Aboriginal health practitioner students have taken part in a two-day emergency training course aimed at strengthening lifesaving skills in some of the Northern Territory's most remote communities. The program, delivered by CareFlight and Batchelor Institute, blended classroom learning with real-time, simulated exercises covering everything from trauma and cardiac emergencies to infant respiratory illness and severe infection.

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

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## NACCHO delegates vote to change constitution

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/05/2025, Dechlan Brennan

The national peak body for Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations has voted overwhelmingly in favour of adopting a new constitution. At a meeting on Kurna Country on Wednesday, over 80 per cent of members of the National Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), the peak body representing 146 ACCHOs nationwide, voted for a model change.

[Read More](#)

## Terminally ill Aboriginal man dies in custody

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/05/2025, Callan Morse

An Aboriginal man has died in custody in Western Australia. The 51-year-old, who was incarcerated at Casuarina Prison, south of Perth, died in hospital on Wednesday morning. He was terminally ill, and had been transferred to Fiona Stanley Hospital by ambulance in the early hours of the morning. Since the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, close to 600 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have died in custody in Australia.

[Read More](#)

## Community-led solutions key, expert says as new data reveals dire Indigenous diabetes and cholesterol figures

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/05/2025, Giovanni Torre

New data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics reveals Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people suffer one of the highest rates of diabetes in the world. Almost one in six (15.5 per cent) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults have diabetes and one in four (25.7 per cent) have abnormally high total cholesterol levels, according to data released this week by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

[Read More](#)

## Labor said all the right things, but gap is still widening: Experts urge structural change

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/05/2025, Dechlan Brennan

A focus on bringing down the number of children being removed from their homes and families, and stronger leadership on helping close the gap are among the expectations for Indigenous people after Saturday's election. In the wake of Labor's clear electoral victory, Indigenous organisations and experts have urged the government to do more, as the rates of Indigenous incarceration, both adult and children, suicide, and children in out-of-home care (OOHC) continue to rise.

[Read More](#)

## Labor's win an opportunity to accelerate action on health outcomes in the NT

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/05/2025, Dechlan Brennan

The peak body for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in the Northern Territory has welcomed Labor's win in the federal election, calling it an opportunity to "accelerate action" on closing the gap challenges. The election campaign saw both Labor and the Coalition commit to aged care funding in the NT, with the government promising a \$60 million health and aged care plan for the Territory, part of which will be used in partnership with a local aged care provider to deliver residential care homes for the Darwin region.

[Read More](#)

## Sleep program aims to boost mental health of Indigenous kids

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/05/2025, Joseph Guenzler

A five-year national project is aiming to improve the mental health of Indigenous children through better sleep habits. Led by the University of the Sunshine Coast, the initiative will be co-designed with Elders and delivered across 18 rural and remote communities in Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

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## Primary care focus for Voices in Agreement

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/05/2025

At the second Voices in Agreement session held yesterday, Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) discussed preliminary recommendation themes around primary care with stakeholders as part of its co-governance role toward a new pharmacy programs agreement. The session heard from medical, nursing, indigenous, rural and consumer stakeholder groups, including representatives from the Australian Medical Association (AMA); the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP); National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO); the National Rural Health Alliance; and the Consumers Health Forum of Australia.

[Read More](#)

## First Nations leadership change

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/05/2025

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced the appointment of a new leadership group for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Practice (ATSIPP) Community of Specialty Interest (CSI), which will be chaired by respected pharmacist and proud Nywaigi Mamu woman, Chastina Heck (pictured).

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### RFDS warns of booming flu season

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 09/05/2025, Em Jensen, Page 5

As cases of the flu exceed 20,000 in New South Wales, the Royal Flying Doctor Service is urging the

public to get vaccinated to help stop the spread the disease. Between January 1 and April 6 this year, state health authorities reported 20,350 laboratoryconfirmed influenza cases, even before official flu season begins.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Aged Care Insite \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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## Immunisation handbook updates

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 08/05/2025, Page 3

The Department of Health and Aged Care has advised of updates to the chapters on COVID and vaccination procedures in the Australian Immunisation Handbook. The COVID updates include increased clarity of recommendations, a revised immunocompromising and medical conditions list to align with other chapters, and outdated products removed.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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## Sexually transmitted diseases on rise in MLHD, sparking reproductive fears

The Border Mail, Other, 08/05/2025

Women of reproductive age across the Riverina are being urged to keep on top of theirsexual health testingwith syphilis and gonorrhoea rates on a steep incline. Loginor signup to continue reading Murrumbidgee Local Health District clinical nurse consultant Lauren Coelli said there was an upward trend in syphilis and gonorrhoeanationally, statewide and at a local level, with chlamydia notifications remaining at a steady high.

[Read More](#)

## Immunisation efforts get shot in the arm

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/05/2025

The NSW government is giving pharmacist immunisers the green light to administer flu shot to children aged two years and older, as part of efforts to improve access to vaccination services.

[Read More](#)

## Sexually transmissible infections in WA: stay up to date and keep testing

Medical Forum, Other, 08/05/2025

Last year saw the highest ever number of gonorrhoea notifications in WA, following a decline in notifications in 2020 and 2021due to COVID-19-related travel restrictions limiting importation of overseas strains. Opportunistic testing is important for prompt diagnosis and treatment because 80% of people with uncomplicated gonococcal cervicitis, most people with gonococcal pharyngitis or proctitis, and 10-15% of people with gonococcal urethritis have no symptoms.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 08/05/2025, Peter Overton

Flu vaccinations for children under five years old are now available from pharmacists in NSW, making access easier and more affordable. The change removes the need for GP visits and helps free up appointments for others.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 08/05/2025, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

Pharmacists across NSW can now give flu vaccinations to children from the age of two to ease pressure on GPs and improve immunisation rates. NSW Minister for Health Ryan Park says the change helps shift some services from GPs to pharmacists.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News First, 08/05/2025, Sandra Sully

Pharmacists are now allowed to give flu vaccinations to children from the age of two. The NSW government says this change improves access, as vaccination rates for under-fives have dropped to 25%.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC News, News Breakfast, 08/05/2025, James Glenday and Catherine Murphy

Scientists are urging communities to get the flu vaccine, as Australia reports over 71,000 flu cases this year. The Royal Australian College of GPs says low vaccination rates across the country should be ringing alarm bells.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Greens' bid to ensure access to abortion reopens political rifts

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/05/2025, Jack Gramenz, Page 5

NSW politics nurses and midwives would be able to prescribe drugs for medical abortions in a plan causing rifts within major parties and prompting a former prime minister to speak out. [...] "That reflects what's happening in other jurisdictions and the changes that the (Therapeutic Goods Administration) has made," he said.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 08/05/2025, Craig Reucassel

Interview with Amanda Cohn, Greens MLC, about the bill that will improve access to abortion services. Cohn states the bill allows nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives to prescribe medical abortion tablets, which has been allowed by the TGA since 2023 and is already in place in other states and territories. She notes the bill also proposes a duty on the minister to ensure that abortion services are actually provided throughout the state at a reasonable distance from where people live.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Shock at move to green-light cannabis in cars

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/05/2025, Madeleine Bower, Page 18

Medicinal cannabis users in NSW with a valid prescription could soon be able to drive with THC in their system provided they are not impaired, under a proposal the Minns government is tipped to support. While medicinal cannabis is legal in NSW, it is currently illegal to drive with THC (tetrahydrocannabinol, the main psychoactive compound in cannabis) in your system, regardless of impairment level.

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### Pill testing call after nitazenes found in meds

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/05/2025

In the wake of fresh warnings regarding the presence of the dangerous synthetic opioid nitazene in pharmaceuticals, the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) is calling on state and territory governments to embrace drug testing services to save lives. Nitazene was recently detected in fake pharmaceuticals, including counterfeit pain medications, by the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

[Read More](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

### Shell-shucked: Fears for oyster industry

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/05/2025, James Gratton, Page 9

Frustrated oyster farmers fear a toxic algae off the coast of the Yorke Peninsula could bring the \$100m local industry to its knees. Six Stansbury oysters farmers have been forced to temporarily close their operations while health officials check for the presence of brevetoxins in Oyster Bay.

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

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

### Teenagers get drunk on vanilla extract

West Australian, General News, 09/05/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 22

Perth teens are buying vanilla extract in bulk from supermarkets and it's not for baking. They're drinking it to get drunk due to its high alcohol content. The alarming admission came about when GP Andrew Leech was talking to a 16-year-old patient, who nonchalantly divulged: "heaps of teens do it". Dr Leech was dumbfounded.

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### Baker's Delight in Dickson shut down

Canberra Times, General News, 09/05/2025, Lucy Arundell, Page 3

A north Canberra bakery has been shut down for violating food and safety standards, but ACT Health has refused to disclose the nature of the breach. Baker's Delight in Dickson was closed by ACT government public health officers on May 7 for breaches of the Food Act.

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

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

### Health claims can confuse

West Australian, General News, 09/05/2025, Page 23

More than 8.6 million Australians aged 18-65 are misled by sugar and carbohydrate claims such as "low carb" and "low sugar" on alcohol products, thinking these claims mean these products are healthier and better for them. Research from Cancer Council Victoria's Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer also shows that between 2013 and 2023, nearly one in three new alcohol products featured a health-oriented or nutrition claim, such as "no added sugar" or "low carb" an increase of 13 per cent in the past decade.

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### South Australia bans "unhealthy" food ads on public transport

ABC Online, Other, 08/05/2025

We've been warned for years about the dangers of processed foods. And we know advertising shapes what we eat, especially kids, who are still figuring out what a healthy diet looks like. Now, the South Australian government is stepping in banning ads for "unhealthy" foods on public transport from July, hoping to curb rising obesity rates. But not everyone's on board with soy milk and a humble ham-and-salad sandwich possibly on the chopping block, critics say the ban might be throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

[Read More](#)

### FIVEAA, Afternoons, 08/05/2025, Stacey Lee

Interview with SA Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton on the state's new policy to ban junk food advertising on public transport. Picton says the government will stop junk food ads on buses, trains, and trams it owns from 1 July as part of efforts to address rising obesity rates. He says Preventive Health SA will oversee the guidelines, with input from nutritionists and dietitians.

## AICIS

No relevant coverage

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