



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 12th May 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (online) reports the Australian Medical Association said the re-elected Labor government should “make sure patients don’t expect 100 per cent bulk-billing on November 1.” Health Minister Mark Butler said the \$8.5 billion scheme may not suit all clinics, but it will benefit most and raise the nationwide bulk billing rates by 90 per cent.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that doctors and experts are calling for better medical cannabis industry regulation, citing that some telehealth clinics are offering access to THC products on “flimsy medical grounds” and that imported products lack local testing.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that the Queensland government has extended its \$14 million contract with KNG Health to provide beds for semi-acute patients at the Mantra Hotel, with AMA Queensland president Dr Nick Yim saying it is not a long-term solution, but necessary due to “the chronic underfunding and lack of investment in healthcare for decades.” *Also reported by: The Daily Telegraph, The Mercury*
- **[The Advertiser](#)** (page 3) reports that IVF Australia is trialling a new technique using stem cell-derived ovary-like cells to grow eggs outside the body, which can be a potential alternative to traditional IVF with fewer injections. *Also reported by: The Courier Mail, The Daily Telegraph, The Mercury*

- [**The Herald Sun**](#) (page 9) reports that Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows an early rise in influenza cases, with 63,000 already recorded and flu-related deaths up by 65.7 per cent in 2024, prompting warning from health experts. *Also reported by: The Daily Telegraph, The Advertiser*
- [**The West Australian**](#) (page 11) reports that the Royal Perth Hospital has installed a specialised Behavioural Support Team, which includes a clinical nurse and a social worker, to help manage aggressive or challenging patient situations, with plans of expanding the initiative to other WA hospitals.

MINISTER BUTLER

Albanese sold his big health promise to the people. The fight isn't over yet

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/05/2025, Angus Thomson

As Anthony Albanese basked in electoral glory last weekend, an American eye doctor gave a crowd of surgeons in Sydney a piece of advice that wouldn't be lost on the prime minister. [...] "If you ask people what they think works here much better than America, most Australians would put health at the top," says Health Minister Mark Butler.

Also reported by: [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Anthony Albanese finalising new cabinet as Anne Aly and Tim Ayres set for promotion after Ed Husic and Mark Dreyfus ousted

Sky News Australia, Other, 11/05/2025, Oscar Godsell & Andrew Clennell

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has continued to finalise his new cabinet following an unprecedented election victory for the Labor Party. [...] The vacated attorney-general's position could go to Communications Minister Michelle Rowland or Health Minister Mark Butler, who may be rewarded for his performance during the election.

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MINISTER WELLS

'Knives out' as Husic unloads on Labor

The Australian, General News, 12/05/2025, Sarah Ison & Alexi Demetriadi, Page 1

Members of Labor's Right faction are furious over the treatment of outgoing ministers Ed Husic and Mark Dreyfus, with MPs warning there will be those "in the background sharpening their knives" and waiting to take down factional powerbroker Richard Marles. [...] Questions remain over who will take over management of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the rollout of Labor's aged-care reforms, with incumbent Aged Care Minister Anika Wells seen as a rising party star and due for a change in portfolio.

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DEPARTMENT

Post-election shake-up hits Canberra

Canberra Times, General News, 12/05/2025, Dana Daniel, Page 14

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's thumping electoral victory could have led to expectations of stability and continuity in the Australian public service, but the surprise resignation of the head of his department has shaken things up. [...] Health and Aged Care secretary Blair Comley has also been named as a potential PM&C secretary.

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VACCINES

Virus death toll revealed

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/05/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

The Hunter's health network recorded 882 COVID deaths from 2019 to 2023, national data shows. The death rate, after adjusting for the effects of age, was eight per 100,000 people. The number of COVID deaths in the network, which includes New England and Central Coast, was similar to flu and pneumonia (829) and liver disease (863).

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Quality of support rising but challenges remain

The Australian, Business News, 12/05/2025, Tim Hicks, Page 21

While Australians are living longer and in better health, most people over 65 will need some level of support as they age. This means as the baby boomers hit their 80s, demand for support is growing rapidly.

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The difference between aged care homes, retirement villages

Canberra Times, Business News, 12/05/2025, Noel Whittaker, Page 13

Regardless of the final make up of both houses aged care is shaping up as a major battleground. Operators are struggling to stay afloat, while families trying to navigate the system find it a maze of red tape. And just to make it harder, major changes are about to hit in two months. Here's what you need to know.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

POPULATION HEALTH

Why premenstrual dysphoric disorder diagnoses are on the rise, particularly for women over 35

ABC Online, Other, 11/05/2025

After years of drastic, unexplained mood swings in the lead-up to her period, a Perth mother was handed a lifeline in the form of a four-letter diagnosis. Kris Stanley, 36, went to the doctor in 2021 when she started feeling suicidal every month.

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Reassuring new evidence about the safety of smoking cessation pharmacotherapies during pregnancy

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 12/05/2025

Tobacco smoking during pregnancy is a leading cause of avoidable harms to mothers and children including preterm birth, low birth weight, congenital malformations and even infant death. Despite this, almost 1 in 10 mothers in Australia report smoking during pregnancy. If pregnant women quit smoking during the first trimester, the risk of adverse outcomes is reduced, although not to the level experienced by women who do not smoke at all during pregnancy.

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ABC News, ABC Evening News (Weekend), 11/05/2025, Mariam Saab

Interview with domestic & family violence researcher Dr Kate Fitz-Gibbon, calling for urgent long-term government investment in early intervention and prevention of domestic and family violence. Despite significant improvements under the national plan to end violence against women and children, she says current efforts are still insufficient given the scale of the crisis. Dr Fitz-Gibbon says stricter bail laws and better risk assessments are crucial. However, she argues law enforcement must be coupled with transformative efforts to change societal attitudes and support young boys and men to prevent violence before it starts.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Common household appliance raises kids' cancer risk

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/05/2025, Eleanor Wicklund

A new study has revealed that a common household appliance increases the risk of cancer in children nearly twice as much as it does in adults. Benzene, a toxic substance present in petrol, cigarette smoke, and paint strippers, is recognised as a carcinogen, meaning it is a substance that can cause cancer.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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I felt fit, healthy and was running 10km a day before I started experiencing a strange feeling in my legs. I had stage four lung cancer and I'd never smoked

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/05/2025, Sharon Hunt

It's commonly assumed that people diagnosed with lung cancer must have been smokers. This was not

the case for single mum, Carly Magnisalis, who is one of an increasing number of women who have never smoked but are suffering late stage lung cancer.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Healthy Living, 11/05/2025, Dr Ross Walker & Ned Green

Interview with Research Fellow, Australian Centre for Precision Health at University of South Australia Dr Amanda Lumsden, discussing her team's research to improve early detection of ovarian cancer. She explains how vague symptoms like bloating, fatigue, and abdominal pain make early diagnosis difficult, leading to late detection and plummeting survival rates. Dr Lumsden says her research aims to develop a symptom assessment tool to help identify the cancer earlier. Having such a system, she says survival rates could drastically rise from 49% to 90%.

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2GB, Weekends, 11/05/2025, Luke Grant

Interview with 2025 Women in Super Mother's Day Classic CEO Zara Lawless, discussing the continued inclusion of ovarian cancer research in this year's Mother's Day Classic Foundation's donation to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Lawless notes last year's successful inclusion of ovarian cancer research, raising \$47m in donations.

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PRIMARY CARE

Liberal leader won't show hand on abortion

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/05/2025, Michael McGowan, Page 2

NSW Opposition Leader Mark Speakman is refusing to say whether he will back legislation to amend the state's abortion laws so experienced nurses and midwives can prescribe medical terminations at up to nine weeks. The state's lower house will this week vote on a bill put forward by NSW Greens MP Amanda Cohn to widen abortion access, after a NSW Health review found so-called "abortion deserts" across the state were undermining landmark 2019 legislation that decriminalised it.

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Sick still at hotels

Courier Mail, General News, 12/05/2025, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 1

Sick Queenslanders are still being housed in hotel rooms under a multimillion-dollar contract, despite the LNP government's criticism of the move prior to the election. It can be revealed the government has expanded its contract with its provider KNG Health, in a move that has split Queensland's peak medical and nurses body.

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

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Australia's donor capital no more

Canberra Times, General News, 12/05/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 9

It took Gemma Killen and Yen Eriksen four years, two fertility clinics and tens of thousands of dollars to have their daughter Tao using donor sperm. Treatment was paused during the COVID-19 lockdown, and they experienced pregnancy loss, including having a stillborn baby.

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Harmony at hospital

West Australian, General News, 12/05/2025, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 11

A crack team of specialists has been installed at Royal Perth Hospital to proactively manage patient

aggression and support staff, in a WA-first which will be rolled out at other hospitals. The eight-person Behavioural Support Team (BeST) comprises clinical nurse specialists, a social worker, an occupational therapist, security co-ordinator and an aggression prevention expert and will be called on to assist with challenging patient situations.

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Virtual emergency department expands its reach

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 12/05/2025, Jessica Antoniou, Page 3

A new partnership means the State Government's virtual emergency department can reach more people, including those who live in regional WA. The WA Virtual Emergency Department was launched in September 2023, connecting people with experienced clinicians to be assessed at home rather than in an emergency room.

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'What if they're wrong?' When to get a second opinion from a doctor

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/05/2025, Jackson Graham

Maureen Williams was in her late 20s and on her way to becoming an opera singer in London when she began to feel exhausted. After a while, she stopped being able to reach the high notes that were her forte. "It just progressed from there until I wasn't able to sing."

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New paediatric service provides best of care for children

Adelaide Now, Other, 11/05/2025, David Goldsmith & Cara Jenkin

When 18-month-old Charlotte hurt herself playing at about 7pm on a Sunday night, her mum Julie Power was unsure what to do to make it better. As Charlotte sadly cradled her pulled elbow, Power pondered whether an X-ray was required or if it could wait until the following day to be treated.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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New care centres are making the health of South Australians a priority

Adelaide Now, Other, 11/05/2025, David Goldsmith & Sam Kelton

It is every mother's worst nightmare when their newborn baby has difficulty breathing. For 27-year-old mother-of-three Talisha Wagner, it became reality when faced with her five-month-old daughter Paisley struggling to breathe.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Expert help at hand: Getting the right health advice when you need it most

Adelaide Now, Other, 11/05/2025, Cara Jenkin & Lynn Cameron

An extensive range of health care services is providing a safe, reliable and efficient alternative to South Australians attending hospital emergency departments if they need urgent care. Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, 24/7 pharmacies, Priority Care Centres, Child and Adolescent Virtual Urgent Care Service, the SA Virtual Care Service, a Virtual Women's Assessment Service, SA Health Urgent Care Hubs, Medicare Mental Health Centres and Healthdirect services the health needs of all South Australians.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Mums hold 'real fear' of labouring in waiting room chairs at RDH after private maternity ward shuts

Northern Territory News, Other, 11/05/2025, Lottie Hood

But for a cohort of soon-to-be mums in the NT, the day falls during a time that has been clouded by anxiety, stress and disappointment. Since Healthscope announced that the private maternity ward at Darwin Private Hospital will close on June 6, the NT Government stepped in to try and help.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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'Not a single person shied away': how a year chronicling end-of-life stories changed one photographer

The Guardian, Other, 12/05/2025, Andrew Stafford

Julian Kingma was afraid of dying. [...] He was fascinated by people who wanted to end their lives, long before Victoria became the first Australian state to introduce voluntary assisted dying (VAD) legislation in 2017.

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Palliative project to support stakeholders

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/05/2025, Megan Haggan

Access to core palliative care medicines needed for people receiving end-of-life care The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has joined up as part of a new consortium led by Palliative Care Australia, aimed at delivering targeted education to prescribers, pharmacists and aged care nurses on critical palliative medicines.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Bondi attack inquest told police 'not helpful' in responding to mental health despite increased calls for service

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/05/2025, Clareese Packer

A top cop has acknowledged police involvement is generally “not helpful” in mental health incidents despite one state battling more than 60,000 call outs, with an inquest into the fatal Bondi attack expected to make “serious” recommendations amid the increasing burden. Joel Cauchi, 40, killed six and stabbed another 10 during a stabbing rampage at Westfield Bondi Junction on April 13, 2024.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Mass killer's psychiatric treatment to be probed

Canberra Times, Other, 12/05/2025, Miklos Bolza

The lengthy mental health treatment of a man who went on a stabbing rampage while “floridly psychotic” will be examined at an inquest. Joel Cauchi, 40, had armed himself with a pigging knife when he launched his unprovoked attack at Sydney's Bondi Junction Westfield in April 2024.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#).

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People's mental health goes downhill after repeated climate disasters – it's an issue of social equity

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 12/05/2025

Across Australia, communities are grappling with climate disasters that are striking more frequently and with greater intensity. Bushfires, floods and cyclones are no longer one-off events. And this pattern is predicted to worsen due to climate change.

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2GB, Weekends, 11/05/2025, Luke Grant

Interview with co-director of Health and Policy at University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Centre Prof Ian Hickie, discussing the significance of Esketamine—a new antidepressant nasal spray recently added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Prof Hickie says Esketamine offers a fast-acting alternative for patients who otherwise wouldn't have responded to standard treatment, like serotonin-based treatments. He says the new nasal spray eliminates the need for hospital-based injections as it can be administered in a clinic.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Meteoric rise of care workforce

The Australian, Business News, 12/05/2025, Bernard Salt, Page 21

It is a job requiring skill, empathy and endless patience. It is the job of the aged and disabled carer. It currently ranks second most common job in the Australian workforce with 371,418 workers, according to February estimates.

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Price of inaction steep

Cairns Post, General News, 12/05/2025, Emma Cam, Page 1

A nurses' union has warned a Far North Queensland hospital failure to address staff parking issues could cost more than \$90,000 if safety measures are not prioritised. Queensland nurses revealed in a recent union survey that they no longer feel safe leaving work after evening shifts and are now boycotting them.

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Little more action please

Cairns Post, General News, 12/05/2025, Page 18

A fast solution must be found and implemented to ensure healthcare worker safety in the Cairns Hospital precinct before another worker is badly injured and we end up with a staffing crisis. Much-needed and valued nurses are being pushed to consider if their jobs are worth risking their safety as they travel to and from work in Cairns.

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A cornerstone of health care

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12/05/2025, Zoe Waters, Page 18

Each year on May 12, we mark International Nurses Day an opportunity to reflect on the essential role nurses play in the health and wellbeing of our community. The World Health Organisation estimates that there are approximately 29 million nurses caring for the sick and injured across the globe.

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Frontline heroes carry legacy forward

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/05/2025, Madeline Link, Page 8

Strong women laid the foundations. Now, John Hunter Hospital registered nurses Annie Thornton and Sandra Melchers carry their legacies forward. International Nurses Day on today honours the compassion, resilience and dedication of nurses who serve on the frontlines of healthcare every day - women like Ms Thornton and her mother and Ms Melchers and her grandmother.

Survey says health workers struggling with job satisfaction

Border Mail, General News, 12/05/2025, Ted Howes, Page 4

A survey of Albury Wodonga Health workers appears to show a general downturn in job satisfaction, with the service's management "acknowledging there are challenges". The survey showed work-related stress levels had dropped from 2023 when 33 per cent of people reported "high to severe stress" compared with 29 per cent in 2024.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Drinking dangers a lesson for students

Courier Mail, General News, 12/05/2025, Isabella Pesch, Page 13

The best friend of a British woman who died of methanol poisoning in Laos last year has called on Australian schools to better educate students on the dangers of counterfeit alcohol. Brisbane resident Bethany Clarke had been travelling through South-East Asia with her childhood friend Simone White and was on their second night in Vang Vieng, Laos, when their holiday quickly took a turn for the worse.

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

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SPORT

Crisafulli taps Labor for Olympics funds

The Australian, General News, 12/05/2025, Mackenzie Scott, Page 2

Queensland Premier David Crisafulli will approach the reelected Albanese government for an Olympics funding boost to pay for up to half of the costs for necessary transport infrastructure needed to deliver the 2032 Games. The call comes just two months after the Queensland Liberal National government unveiled its new Olympics vision for venues, when Mr Crisafulli broke his election promise by forging

ahead with a new Brisbane stadium while reaffirming the new plan would not blow out above the agreed \$7.1bn state-federal funding envelope.

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\$350m makeover for Albert Park's pit lane

Age, General News, 12/05/2025, Page 15

Albert Park's Formula 1 pit lane will get a \$350 million upgrade, but works will not begin until after next year's race. A state government announcement confirmed a report by The Age in March that the facilities would not be ready until at least 2028, two years behind the schedule originally agreed to in a contract with Formula 1.

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F1 at the wheel of upgrade

Herald Sun, General News, 12/05/2025, Brendan Kearns, Page 15

The Victorian government has announced a massive upgrade to Albert Park's pit building to support the Grand Prix, but is yet to confirm a dollar figure for the project. Tourism Minister Steve Dimopoulos said the upgrade has "everything to do with the contractual obligations of a licence holder", and Formula One as the licence holder has been able to set the "parameters" of what the event looks like.

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More fed Games funding in sights

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 12/05/2025, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 7

Queensland will be seeking more funding from the re-elected federal Labor government to pay for 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games transport costs, Infrastructure Minister Jarrod Bleijie has revealed. And the state government appears to like its chances, based on the capitulation of Canberra on Bruce Highway funding for which it will fork out an 80 per cent share and the landslide federal Labor win just over a week ago.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

New IVF mimics ovaries in a dish

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/05/2025, Ashleigh Gleeson, Page 3

A new IVF technique that grows eggs in a dish outside a woman's body using stem cells that mimic healthy female ovaries is being trialled for the first time in Australia. At least four women have already used the new technology as part of a study being run by IVF Australia to see if it has higher success rates than existing vitro maturation methods (IVM), where eggs are matured outside the body.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Healing art: medical scans get a cultural makeover

Canberra Times, Other, 11/05/2025, Keira Jenkins

Culturally responsive management of asthma during pregnancy in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women needs some serious attention if we are to improve birth outcomes. Asthma is the most common respiratory illness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (hereafter respectfully Indigenous Australians).

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily](#)

[Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Culturally responsive asthma management is essential for Indigenous women during pregnancy

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 12/05/2025

Asthma is the most common respiratory illness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (hereafter respectfully Indigenous Australians). Indigenous Australians are twice as likely to be hospitalised for asthma, and three times as likely to lose their life to asthma as non-Indigenous Australians.

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Celebrating 40 years of impact: The Menzies Collection

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 12/05/2025

As Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) marks its 40th anniversary in 2025, the release of the Menzies Collection in the Medical Journal of Australia provides a timely reflection on four decades of impactful health research across northern Australia and the Asia-Pacific, particularly in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. The journey of Menzies has been one of continual learning, innovation and strong partnership with communities.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Baby failed by family, system

The Australian, General News, 12/05/2025, Christine Middap, Page 1

During the brief, blighted life of a NSW baby girl known as ML, a dozen calls were made to a NSW government helpline to report safety concerns about the 17-month-old and her two older siblings. [...] The cause of death was acute bronchiolitis caused by respiratory syncytial virus, the coroner found.

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Supercharged deadly flu season looming

Herald Sun, General News, 12/05/2025, Andrew Hedgman, Page 9

Australia is facing a sharp and early surge in influenza, with more than 63,000 cases already recorded and flu-related deaths rising at their fastest pace in years. New data shows a 65.7 per cent jump in influenza deaths in 2024 compared to the previous year, with elevated numbers continuing into early 2025, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Lucy was a fit and healthy uni graduate who thought she was coming down with a cold but ended up in a coma. This is her plea to every Aussie

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/05/2025, Ashley Nickel

A senior state MP and his family have urged Aussies to get the flu shot after his fit and healthy daughter almost died. Lucy Tudehope, a 25-year-old uni graduate, contracted a flu in Sydney that developed into deadly pneumonia within just five days in February.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No relevant coverage

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Medicinal cannabis a '\$1bn drugs racket'

The Australian, General News, 12/05/2025, Matthew Denholm, Page 1

Regulation of Australia's runaway almost \$1bn medicinal cannabis industry is failing, with claims of legalised "drug rackets" and a lack of local testing of surging imports. [...] The Office of Drug Control lists more than 40 companies licensed to grow, produce or manufacture MC in Australia.

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

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Vic support to legalise pot

Herald Sun, General News, 12/05/2025, Alex White, Page 15

Victorians overwhelmingly support the legalisation of cannabis but want restrictions on advertising and branding and strong regulations to limit children from accessing products, research shows. Research by think tank the Penington Institute shows that future governments will have to develop a strong model for cannabis regulation if the drug is made legal.

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

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Demand for weight-loss treatments opens new markets for Tasmania's poppy industry

ABC Online, Other, 11/05/2025, Laurissa Smith

A shortage of the weight-loss drug Ozempic to treat type 2 diabetes has opened up new markets for the Tasmanian alkaloid poppy sector. It's the shot in the arm northern Tasmanian pharmaceutical business Extractas Bioscience needed.

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