



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 13th May 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 4) leads coverage reporting that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has moved the National Disability Insurance Scheme into the Health Department, under Minister Mark Butler. Disability advocates have criticised the decision, saying it “risks medicalising disability and undermines the scheme’s social model foundations.” *Also reported by: Australian Financial Review, The Sydney Morning Herald, ABC Online*
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) leads coverage reporting that Anika Wells has been appointed as new Communications Minister and remains Sport Minister, with Sam Rae taking over Aged Care and Seniors. While Rebecca White will be the new Assistant Minister for Health, Aged Care, Indigenous Health and Women. *Also reported by: The Australian, The Canberra Times, The Sydney Morning Herald*
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 4) reports that changes to NSW’s abortion legislation will allow experienced nurses and midwives to prescribe abortion medication in the first nine weeks of pregnancy. Provisions on conscientious objection have been removed, and the bill is expected to go to a vote tomorrow. *Also reported by: The Herald Sun, The Mercury*
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 3) reports that Ambulance Victoria has appointed Andrew Crisp as its new board chair, following his term as interim CEO since 2024.

- **The Herald Sun** (page 4) reports that about 400 medicines are in short supply in the country, with 30 considered as critical, including medications for pain relief, heart conditions and cancer, according to a University of Queensland research.
- **The Advertiser** (page 1) reports that hundreds of parents travel overseas for non-medical sex selection, which is banned in Australia. A spokeswoman for the Fertility Society of Australia and New Zealand said consultation on NMSS was done 10 years ago, and “amid a falling Australian birthrate and an evolving ethical landscape, it may be time to revisit the discussion.”
- **The Mercury** (page 1) reports that healthcare workers in Tasmania are urging the state government to invest on nurses and midwives, and ensure safe staffing levels and workforce planning to tackle burnout in hospitals. Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma said nearly 3,000 professionals have been recruited since last year.
- **The Advertiser** (online) US President Donald Trump will sign an executive order to slash American drug prices by up to 80 per cent. The move raised concerns that it could affect Australia's PBS, with the Federal Government possibly forced to raise non-concession medication prices despite freezing pensioner and concession costs until 2029.

MINISTER BUTLER

Watt the? PM's big reshuffle

The Australian, General News, 13/05/2025, Geoff Chambers & Sarah Ison, Page 1

Anthony Albanese has used his post-election ministerial shake-up to shaft longtime factional rival Tanya Plibersek and promote close ally Murray Watt to finalise Labor's contentious naturepositive reforms and a decision on the \$34bn North West Shelf gas project. [...] Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler, a close factional ally of Mr Albanese, will take charge of the NDIS, supported by Jenny McAllister in the outer ministry.

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

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Leader looks to fix cabinet mistakes with focus on Home front

The Australian, General News, 13/05/2025, Simon Benson, Page 1

Anthony Albanese has sought to project stability and continuity in his new cabinet after the controversial factional execution last week of two cabinet ministers threatened to undermine unity. [...] The NDIS community won't be happy that the portfolio has been brought under Mark Butler's remit as Health Minister.

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

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Passing the buck to Butler 'risks undermining NDIS'

The Australian, General News, 13/05/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 4

Disability advocates have slammed Anthony Albanese's move to shift the NDIS to Mark Butler and the broader health portfolio, warning the decision "risks medicalising disability and undermines the scheme's social model foundations". The Prime Minister on Monday confirmed the NDIS would be absorbed by Mr Butler, who will be assisted by Jenny McAllister in the outer ministry, and said the pair would continue to work of reining in the cost of the scheme and cracking down on fraud.

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

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Reverse productivity slump to improve living standards

The Australian, Editorials, 13/05/2025, Page 10

Less than a week after promising that improving flatlining productivity would be the focus of the government's second term, Jim Chalmers has back-pedalled, suggesting the problem will take a third term to turn around. [...] It also should be a plus that Mark Butler, a good performer as Health Minister, is adding the NDIS to his responsibilities.

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

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Plibersek sidelined, fixers take environment, NDIS

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/05/2025, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

Health Minister Mark Butler has been given the Herculean task of bringing the National Disability Insurance Scheme under control, while Tanya Plibersek has been pushed out of the environment portfolio and replaced by Murray Watt.

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

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Albanese starts fixing, Coalition starts breaking

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/05/2025, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

Two key areas of unfinished business for the government from the last term were the uncontrolled growth of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and repairing the nation's broken environment laws.

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

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Board reset for a high-stakes game

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/05/2025, Jennifer Hewett, Page 1

Factional brawls and low blows in politics? Who would have thought? Despite the hot fury of a dumped Ed Husic and the cold anger of Mark Dreyfus, Anthony Albanese's announcement of his new ministry did not stop him from confidently presenting a government of stability with a useful splash of team renewal.

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Healthscope to hand over reins

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 13/05/2025, Michael Smith, Page 12

Australia's second-largest hospital operator, Healthscope, has asked its lenders to take control of the board and oversee the search for a new owner in a bid to stave off insolvency and keep its network of 38 hospitals open.

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

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PM rings in the big changes for cabinet

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/05/2025, David Crowe, Page 1

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will fly to Rome within days to join world leaders at the inauguration Mass for Pope Leo XIV, after overhauling federal cabinet by naming new ministers to workplace relations, environment and social services. [...] " The National Disability Insurance Scheme will be overseen by two members of the executive, with Health Minister Mark Butler gaining responsibility for the NDIS at cabinet level.

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

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Ups, downs and sideways shuffles as PM rejigs his A-team line-up

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/05/2025, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 4

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's one-time Left faction rival Tanya Plibersek will remain in cabinet as the minister for social services after weeks of speculation about her future. Plibersek's move to a different role was widely anticipated after Albanese refused to confirm she would stay on in the environment portfolio after the prime minister stepped in to overrule her on an environment protection agency and salmon farming. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler acquires additional responsibility for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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Libs fight with side of Angus beef

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/05/2025, Clare Armstrong, Page 1

Anthony Albanese has rewarded loyal supporters and honoured the preferences of Labor's powerful factions in a new ministry that elevates Michelle Rowland to Attorney-General and pushes Tanya Plibersek out of the prized environment portfolio. [...] South Australian Amanda Rishworth has taken on Employment and Workplace Relations, while Health Minister Mark Butler added the NDIS to his responsibilities, supported by a dedicated NDIS Minister in NSW's Jenny McAllister, who will remain in the outer ministry.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Brookfield exits Healthscope with a black eye. It doesn't want another

Australian Financial Review, Other, 12/05/2025, James Thomson

If it wasn't already clear Brookfield has done its dough at private hospital operator Healthscope, it is now.

[Read More](#)

It will be all smiles at the swearing in, but there's blood on the floor

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 12/05/2025, David Crowe

Anthony Albanese has been coldly rational in learning from some of the weaknesses of his first term in power, so he can hold on to that power for several terms to come. [...] But he reports to the cabinet minister in his portfolio, Mark Butler, one of the prime minister's most trusted allies.

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

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Anthony Albanese unveils new-look frontbench after historic victory

ABC Online, Other, 12/05/2025, Maani Truu

Anthony Albanese has unveiled his rearranged second-term ministry, naming former communications minister Michelle Rowland as attorney-general after Mark Dreyfus was dumped from the frontbench due to factional negotiations. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler will keep his original role but will take on additional responsibility for the National Insurance Disability Scheme, while Jenny McAllister will be sworn in as the standalone NDIS minister.

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Aged care shake-up as PM Albanese announces new ministers

HelloCare, Other, 12/05/2025, Alex Jacobs

Following the Australian Labor Party's decisive victory in the 2025 Federal Election, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has unveiled a significant cabinet reshuffle, marking a transformative period for the nation's aged care sector. [...] As one of the most senior members of the Albanese Government, Minister Mark Butler has seen his portfolio grow.

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Mark Butler to stay on as Health Minister

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/05/2025

RACGP President Dr Michael Wright has welcomed the re-appointment of Mark Butler as the Federal Health Minister. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese revealed the cabinet for his newly re-elected Government on Monday afternoon following several days of behind-the-scenes discussion.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC News, 12/05/2025, Joe O'Brien

PM Anthony Albanese has announced his Cabinet. Mark Butler will remain as Federal Health Minister, but now also has the NDIS portfolio.

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

Channel 9, Nine News, 12/05/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

Minister Tanya Plibersek is thrilled to be selected after being appointed Minister for Social Services, as Amanda Rishworth takes on Minister for Employment. Meantime, Health Minister Mark Butler will take on NDIS portfolio.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 12/05/2025, Tiffany Warne

PM Anthony Albanese has revealed his new Cabinet after Labor's historic Federal Election victory. The Minister for the NDIS will be Jenny McAllister, but she sits in the outside ministry so the NDIS will be represented by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler around Cabinet table.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 12/05/2025, Cheng Lei

PM Anthony Albanese has revealed his new Cabinet ministry following Labor's election victory. Minister Mark Butler takes on Health and NDIS portfolios.

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MINISTER WELLS

Ambition, new talent feature in fresh cabinet

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 13/05/2025, Page 20

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's cabinet reshuffle certainly brings the battle to the Liberal Party, with more women ministers than ever, and many lower-level changes suggesting an appetite for nurturing fresh talent. [...] Albanese named Anika Wells as minister for communications and sport, indicating perhaps a chance to deal with gambling reform.

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Fresh faces shuffle in

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/05/2025, Clare Armstrong, Page 8

Albo follows factions, rewards loyalists National politics editor Anthony Albanese has rewarded loyal supporters and honoured the preferences of Labor's powerful factions in a new ministry that elevates Michelle Rowland to Attorney-General and pushes Tanya Plibersek out of the prized environment portfolio. [...] Queensland's Anika Wells was promoted to Communications Minister and retained her role as Sport Minister.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Qld wins in shuffle

Courier Mail, General News, 13/05/2025, Clare Armstrong, Page 1

Anthony Albanese has rewarded loyal supporters and honoured the preferences of Labor's powerful factions in a new ministry that elevates Murray Watt into the complicated environment portfolio and promotes Anika Wells. Cairns-based Senator Nita Green was elevated into the assistant ministry.

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Albo's thank you to WA

West Australian, General News, 13/05/2025, Katina Curtis, Page 1

Anne Aly has emerged as a big winner from the post-election reshuffle, taking on three portfolios and joining Madeleine King to double Western Australia's representation in Cabinet. [...] Michelle Rowland

becomes Attorney-General, Amanda Rishworth takes on workplace relations, Anika Wells adds communications to her sport portfolio and Tim Ayres also joins Cabinet as industry and science minister.

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Providers want more time

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/05/2025, Desiree Savage, Page 8

It's less than 100 days until the aged care sector gets a major shake up with the implementation of new laws - including switching existing home care recipients onto the new Support At Home Program - but there are concerns providers won't be ready. [...] Anika Wells, Minister for Aged Care, was asked why the government is opposed to delaying its implementation.

Also reported by: [The Senior - QLD \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Senior - WA \(Perth\)](#), [The Senior - VIC \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Senior - TAS \(Hobart\)](#), [The Senior - SA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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

Plibersek punted as PM stamps authority on ministry

Canberra Times, Other, 12/05/2025, Dominic Giannini

Anthony Albanese has dumped Tanya Plibersek from her environment portfolio as part of a shake-up of his ministry. [...] Anika Wells takes on the communications portfolio alongside sport, meaning she will take carriage of the contentious gambling advertising restriction policy Labor shelved before the election.

Also reported by: [Cessnock Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [Hawkesbury Gazette \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Leeton Irrigator \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#).

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Anthony Albanese new cabinet: Anne Aly emerges as big winner as WA wins second spot in frontbench

West Australian, Other, 12/05/2025, Katina Curtis

Anne Aly has emerged as a big winner from the post-election reshuffle, taking on three portfolios and joining Madeleine King to double Western Australia's representation in Cabinet. [...] Michelle Rowland becomes Attorney-General, Amanda Rishworth takes on workplace relations, Anika Wells adds communications to her sport portfolio, and Tim Ayres also joins Cabinet as industry and science minister.

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Rising political star Sam Rae appointed Minister for Aged Care as Anika Wells takes on a new portfolio

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/05/2025, Caroline Egan

Sam Rae, 39, who was elected to the Victorian seat of Hawke in 2022, has been appointed Minister for Aged Care and Seniors as part of the re-elected Albanese Government's ministerial reshuffle today (Monday, 12 May). [...] The former Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells, who often spoke of her experience working in the aged care sector as a young law student, has been promoted to the Communications portfolio, but will retain Sport.

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Aged care minister no longer in cabinet

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 12/05/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Catholic Health Australia, Council on the Ageing and Ageing Australia have been quick to congratulate the new aged care minister and other appointees following Prime Minister Anthony Albanese ministerial reshuffle announced at a press conference this afternoon. Victorian MP Sam Rae, from the new seat of Hawke, has been appointed Minister for Aged Care and Seniors in an out-of-ministry position, meaning aged care no longer has a dedicated minister in cabinet seven weeks out from the once-in-a-generation reforms coming into effect on 1 July.

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Ministry transformation: Anika Wells departs aged care, new faces inherit imminent reform

Helloladers.com.au, Other, 12/05/2025, Alex Jacobs

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese revealed his new-look ministry on Monday afternoon, with Anika Wells' departure from the Health and Aged Care portfolio one of the biggest shake-ups. Minister Wells becomes the Minister for Communications, while retaining her Sports portfolio.

[Read More](#)

Aged care loses cabinet status in Albanese reshuffle

Inside Ageing, Other, 12/05/2025, Amy Clarke

Aged care has lost its cabinet status following Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's ministerial reshuffle announced today, a move that comes just seven weeks before sweeping aged care reforms take effect on 1 July. [...] Sam Rae, newly appointed Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Mr Symondson acknowledged the contributions of former Minister Anika Wells, saying, 'We worked closely with Anika and the opposition to garner rare bipartisan support for the new Aged Care Act.

[Read More](#)

Anika Wells the new Communications minister, Michelle Rowland becomes Attorney-General

Radio Today Australia, Other, 12/05/2025

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has today announced his new cabinet with the ALP looking like they will have more than 90 seats in the House of Representatives. [...] Stepping into Rowland's shoes is North Brisbane MP Anika Wells (main picture).

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC News Afternoons, 12/05/2025, Kathryn Robinson

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has unveiled his new look frontbench following Labor's win at the recent federal election. Michelle Rowland has been named the new Attorney-General while Mark Dreyfus was dumped from the frontbench. Tanya Plibersek will take on Social Services and Murray Watt the Environment portfolio. Minister Anika Wells will now pick up the role of Communications Minister.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Who's in and who's out in the new-look ministry

Age, General News, 13/05/2025, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 4

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's one-time Left faction rival Tanya Plibersek will remain in cabinet as the minister for social services after weeks of speculation about her future. Plibersek's move to a different role was widely anticipated following Albanese's refusal to confirm she would stay on in the environment portfolio. [...] Assistant ministers Patrick Gorman, Matt Thistlethwaite, Andrew Leigh, Emma McBride, Anthony Chisholm, Josh Wilson and Julian Hill all keep their roles, albeit with a few tweaks.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Victorian MPs set for promotions as Anthony Albanese unveils frontbench shake-up

The Courier Mail, Other, 12/05/2025, Jade Gailberger

Anthony Albanese has unveiled his new frontbench with several Victorians receiving promotions in the shake-up. [...] Cooper MP Ged Kearney, who was previously the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, will become the Assistant Minister for Social Services and Prevention of Family Violence.

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

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Who is in Anthony Albanese's new Labor cabinet? The frontbenchers and portfolio holders revealed

West Australian, Other, 12/05/2025, Nicola Smith & Ellen Ransley

Michelle Rowland has been appointed Attorney-General and Tanya Plibersek replaced by Murray Watt in the "central role" of Environment Minister in a cabinet reshuffle heralding the start of Labor's second term. [...] Freshman Tasmanian federal MP Rebecca White will be the assistant minister for health and aged care, indigenous health, and women.

Also reported by: [Narrogin Observer \(Online\)](#), [Great Southern Herald \(Online\)](#), [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Malarndirri McCarthy to continue as Minister for Indigenous Australians; Marion Scrymgour promoted

National Indigenous Times, Other, 12/05/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Northern Territory Senator Malarndirri McCarthy will continue as Minister for Indigenous Australians in Labor's new ministry after Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the new cabinet on Monday. [...] Incoming MP Rebecca White, a former Tasmanian Labor opposition leader, has taken Ged Kearney's role as Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Departmental shake-up

Canberra Times, General News, 13/05/2025, Connor Pearce, Page 1

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has flagged a number of machinery of government changes as he announces his new ministry. So far, the Prime Minister has confirmed that responsibility for the National Disability Insurance Scheme will move to the Department of Health and Aged Care from the Department of Social Services.

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Fetal disability world first

Cairns Post, General News, 13/05/2025, Molly Frew, Page 7

World-first national guidelines for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder have been released in Australia, with hopes to improve assessment and diagnosis of the condition. [...] The four-year project to develop the guidelines was led by Dr Reid's team at the University of Queensland's Child Health Research Centre, in collaboration with more than 40 organisations, and with funding from the Department of Health and Aged Care.

Flu shot should be a must

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/05/2025, Anthony Caggiano, Page 14

Older Australians are dying from the flu as vaccination levels drop amid faded memories of how bad it can be and confusion about new jabs for other conditions. [...] Department of Health and Aged Care data showed 445 people aged 60 and over died of influenza in Australia in 2024, and 2139 died of COVID-19.

Also reported by: [The Senior - VIC \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Retirement Living Council: Operators “hamstrung” in forming new pricing for Support at Home services

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/05/2025, Ian Horswill

In a hook-up with retirement village members last Friday, the sector's peak body heard operators were still missing vital compliance material for the new Aged Care Act on 1 July from the Department of Health and Aged Care. The Weekly SOURCE reported last Tuesday the Retirement Living Council (RLC) called on the Commonwealth to delay the rollout of the Act and adopt a transitional approach to ensure operators can support clients seamlessly and to allow compliance with legal requirements.

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VACCINES

'Omicron wasn't mild': Hunter's four-year COVID death total revealed

Newcastle Herald, Other, 12/05/2025

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.

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

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

How did we get so poor?

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/05/2025, Desiree Savage, Page 4

Cost-of-living is currently one of the top concerns for many, but some argue poor planning for retirement is the problem. "Everyone has had 60 years to prepare for old age - the pension is meant to supplement one's savings, not be the next wage source," said Greg Myles of Strathpine in an email to The Senior.

Also reported by: [The Senior - QLD \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Senior - WA \(Perth\)](#), [The Senior - SA \(Adelaide\)](#), [The Senior - TAS \(Hobart\)](#), [The Senior - VIC \(Melbourne\)](#).

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How Warrigal invests in nurses to create a better future

Canberra Times, Other, 12/05/2025, Nicki Davey

With 5.5 million Australians projected to access aged care services by 2043 (2023 Intergenerational Report), the need for a well-supported workforce is more urgent than ever. It's not just about expanding infrastructure or services, it's about investing in the people who are at the heart of aged care - our nurses.

[Read More](#)

Over 100 social housing homes for seniors being built in Sydney

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/05/2025, Lauren Broomham

The homes are being delivered across inner east and west Sydney through a joint investment by the Albanese and Minns Governments, supported by the \$2 billion Social Housing Accelerator Fund (SHAF). So far, 61 homes have been completed across Northmead, Riverwood, Matraville, and North Parramatta, with another 55 under construction – including a major 33-home development in Pagewood due in 2026.

[Read More](#)

How to find the right information for your Support at Home transition

HelloCare, Other, 12/05/2025, Alex Jacobs

Australia's government-subsidised home care system is undergoing a significant transformation that will directly affect older people accessing services they need to continue living at home. From July 1, 2025, the new Support at Home Program will replace existing programs such as the Home Care Package Program, which helps close to 290,000 older Australians. It is linked to the new Aged Care Act, which also commences from July 1.

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POPULATION HEALTH

I picked a girl

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/05/2025, Tamara McDonald, Page 1

Selecting your baby's gender should be allowed in Australia, according to a US doctor who says it's "absolutely ridiculous" the option is not available. Hundreds of parents head overseas each year to undergo the controversial practice of gender selection.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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Smoking hot cops

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/05/2025, Isabel McMillan, Page 11

Police seized seven million cigarettes and nearly four tonnes of loose tobacco following a raid at a storage shed, which they allege is at the centre of an illicit distribution racket in South Australia. Two men have been charged over the raid, which came after a truck was stopped and searched in Whyalla, leading police to an industrial unit at Salisbury.

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

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Police seize millions of cigarettes, tonnes of tobacco in SA raids

ABC Online, Other, 12/05/2025, Duncan Bailey

South Australian police say organised crime syndicates have been dealt a major blow after the seizure of more than \$22 million in assets, including \$9m in cash, in recent raids. Eyre Western Police stopped a vehicle at about 12pm on May 6 on the Lincoln Highway at Whyalla and allegedly located a large quantity of illicit tobacco products.

[Read More](#)

Dentist reveals the dangerous myth stopping Aussies from getting their teeth checked - and the toothpaste you should be buying at the supermarket

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/05/2025, Matt Jones

A leading dentist has warned a common misunderstanding is stopping people from booking appointments. Figures released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showed 32.1 per cent

of people were avoiding the dentist due to the cost, but many are also falling into the mistake of thinking they do not need to.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Disparities in breast cancer care uncovered

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/05/2025

A new study has deepened understanding of why Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women can experience poorer outcomes from breast cancer compared to non-Indigenous women. The research, co-designed with Aboriginal communities and published in Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention, focused on the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Victoria who continue to face both higher incidence and mortality rates from breast cancer than non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

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PRIMARY CARE

Healthscope sale: Barrenjoey is in to advise St Vincent's Health

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 13/05/2025, Page 14

HMC Capital may have dropped out of Healthscope's \$1.6 billion debt stack, but buyers for Australia's second-largest private hospitals group are still on the scene.

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

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Crisp to head up ambo board

Herald Sun, General News, 13/05/2025, Alex White, Page 3

Andrew Crisp will become the head of the Ambulance Victoria board after finishing up as interim CEO later this year. Mr Crisp was revealed as the new chair on Monday afternoon and is seen as a wise choice after being a steady pair of hands while running the troubled-plagued organisation since 2024.

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

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Vets need action now to support their wellbeing

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/05/2025, Greg Melick, Page 16

With the Labor Government reelected on May 3, RSL Australia is calling on all MPs and Senators to make a firm commitment of support for our current and former Defence personnel and their families. These Australians have served our nation with distinction, often at great personal cost.

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

New maternity theatres could save lives, doctor says

Canberra Times, General News, 13/05/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 7

Canberra Hospital will soon open two refurbished operating theatres and a new care unit at the cost of \$5.5 million. Two dedicated obstetric operating theatre suites and a post-anaesthetic care unit will open at Canberra Hospital at the end of May.

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Western suburbs NIMBYs plot to stop dying kids seeing 'their ocean'

West Australian, General News, 13/05/2025, Page 5

Opponents of a park planned to brighten the view of terminally-sick kids at Perth's first children's hospice have been slammed for suggesting it could cost locals access to the beach or the right to walk their dogs in the area. A pamphlet purporting to be from a group called Friends of Allen Park has been spotted in Swanbourne, claiming the parcel of A-class reserve earmarked for the nature park was "under threat" and being "targeted by the WA Government."

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

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She has the diagnosis, can she find a cure?

West Australian, General News, 13/05/2025, Jessica Page, Page 8

Her new office is bare, with only a set of Budget papers on the bookshelf, three small plants and a solitary painting that was left behind by Attorney-General Tony Buti when he vacated the space. Health Minister Meredith Hammat hasn't had time to decorate since being handed one of the toughest jobs in State politics as she focuses on treating WA's ailing health system.

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State's innovative hotel hospital bed solution rolled out in SA

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 13/05/2025, Ashleigh Jansen & Mikaela Mulveney, Page 3

A successful state hospital-private sector collaboration - to put up sick Queenslanders up in hotels via a Gold Coast medical provider - is being rolled out around the country. It was revealed on Monday the new LNP state government had expanded a contract with provider KNG Health in a move splitting Queensland's peak medical and nurses body.

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'Dangerous' mould at Mater

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/05/2025, Sage Swinton, Page 1

A mould that poses a risk to vulnerable patients has been found in the Calvary Mater Hospital as the nurses' union raises the alarm about the "dangerous" conditions. Moisture has become an issue in the Waratah hospital, where leaking windows are being patched up with plastic and drained into garbage bins.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Paramedics' mental health role

The Australian, General News, 13/05/2025, James Dowling, Page 3

NSW's most "dynamic" paramedics have been ordered to handle mental health interventions, despite union protests, after fears of understaffing were aired at an inquest into the Bondi Junction killings. A plan to incorporate a small group of paramedics trained to provide support in situations that place their own health at risk known as special operations team paramedics was formulated in January by NSW Ambulance in reaction to a staffing exodus in the mental health sector.

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Killer under 'satanic control'

The Australian, General News, 13/05/2025, Clareese Packer, Page 3

Bondi killer Joel Cauchi had asked for a "porn-free phone" and had left notes suggesting he believed he was under "satanic control" months after he stopped taking all medication, with his mother raising concerns he might have been hearing voices. An inquest into the Bondi Junction shopping centre stabbing attacks is examining how the 40-year-old fell through the cracks of the mental health system, with a nurse who treated him saying on Monday that she "vomited" when she found out he was behind the rampage.

Killer's mum sought help, inquest told

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/05/2025, Perry Duffin, Page 1

Five years before Joel Cauchi killed six shoppers in Bondi Junction Westfield, his mother had begged doctors for help as he scribbled notes suggesting he was "under Satanic control", that he had become obsessed with pornography, showered compulsively and had even changed how he moved. But Cauchi's father told the same experts he, too, had been "traumatised by demons" and did not want his son on medication, the coronial inquest into the attack heard yesterday.

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Nurse's shock at Bondi news

Courier Mail, General News, 13/05/2025, Clareese Packer, Page 1

A Queensland psychiatric nurse who treated Bondi mass killer Joel Cauchi vomited when she first learnt he was responsible, an inquest into the tragedy has been told. Cauchi, 40, originally from Toowoomba, killed six people Dawn Singleton, Yixuan Cheng, Faraz Ahmed Tahir, Ashlee Good, Jade Young and Pikria Darchia in the stabbing rampage at Westfield Bondi Junction on April 13 last year.

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Mall stabber's father 'did not want' son medicated

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

A man who killed six shoppers at a mall was encouraged by his father not to take anti-psychotic medication years before the tragedy. Joel Cauchi, 40, armed himself with a pigging knife when he launched his unprovoked attack at Sydney's Bondi Junction Westfield in April 2024.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Nurse 'vomited' when told former patient Joel Cauchi fatally stabbed six, Bondi Junction inquest hears

ABC Online, Other, 12/05/2025, Courtney Barrett Peters

A nurse who treated Joel Cauchi while he was still medicated for his schizophrenia said she "vomited" when she heard he was responsible for the Bondi Junction Westfield stabbing attack. The mental health nurse monitored Cauchi while he was taking antipsychotic medication for his treatment-resistant schizophrenia at a clinic in regional Queensland between August 2015 and October 2017.

[Read More](#)

AddictionZ highlighting the power of cultural connection against substance abuse

National Indigenous Times, Other, 12/05/2025, Joseph Guenzler

The AddictionZ Conference returns to the Gold Coast this week, bringing together over 250 professionals, advocates and researchers working across addiction, mental health and behavioural health sectors. Running from 13-14 May, the two-day event hosted by the Australian & New Zealand Mental Health Association will feature more than 30 sessions focused on prevention, trauma, treatment, and recovery.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 12/05/2025, James Glenday & Bridget Brennan

The NSW Industrial Relations Commission will today attempt to resolve a dispute with the state's paramedics over a new mental health program. The 12-week trial would send specialist paramedics with nurses on mental health callouts, which the unions say will tie up resources and risk staff and patient safety.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

State of the World's Nursing 2025 report: Inequities threaten global health goals

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 12/05/2025

While the global nursing workforce continues to grow, widespread disparities in the availability of nurses remain across regions and countries, exacerbating inequities, according to the State of the World's Nursing 2025 report, released on International Nurses Day. Published by the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Council of Nurses (ICN) the report provides the latest comprehensive and up-to-date analysis of the nursing workforce at global, regional and country levels.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Nurse back to health

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/05/2025, Duncan Abey, Page 1

Tasmanian healthcare workers have used International Nurses Day to call on the state and federal governments to ensure safe staffing levels in the local hospital system, better support for junior staff and long-term workforce planning to address ongoing burnout concerns. As Health Minister Jacquie Petrusma spruiked the results of a year-long recruitment "blitz" that has attracted nearly 3000 new employees into the state's healthcare system, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Tasmania) acting branch secretary Phoebe Mansell said her members deserved to be heard, respected, and adequately resourced.

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Support for vital workers

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 13/05/2025, Page 14

International Nurses Day should be a moment of appreciation one where we honour the compassion, resilience, and tireless service of those who keep our healthcare system running. But in Tasmania this year, the message from the frontline couldn't be clearer. Celebration is hollow without real change.

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Abortion changes 'helpful': Catholics

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/05/2025, James O'Doherty, Page 4

Catholic leaders say amendments to contentious abortion reform legislation are a "helpful development", with a watered-down bill set to pass parliament this week allowing doctors to object to facilitating a termination. Experienced nurses and midwives will be allowed to prescribe abortion drugs to women in the first nine weeks of pregnancy under the legislation, which is expected to go to a vote tomorrow.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

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Doctor 'boredom searching'

Canberra Times, General News, 13/05/2025, Hannah Neale, Page 2

A doctor has claimed he accessed the confidential medical records of a female colleague because he was "boredom searching". In an ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal decision published last week, Dr James Lachlan Morris McClymont was found to have behaved in a way constituting professional misconduct by improperly accessing the medical records of a colleague.

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Orthopaedic surgeons take back hospital resignations

Canberra Times, General News, 13/05/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

Three of six orthopaedic surgeons who planned to leave Canberra Hospital due to policy and pay changes have rescinded their resignations. Joint replacement expert Alexander Burns and two others will remain working from Canberra Health Services.

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Midwives labour of love event

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/05/2025, Page 9

Midwives from across the state will gather in Townsville this week for a special two-day conference this weekend. The event will highlight the achievements of Queensland's midwives, with the conference theme being Change Through Collaboration and Connection.

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Doctor engaged in professional misconduct by accessing female colleague's health record 14 times, tribunal finds

ABC Online, Other, 12/05/2025, Elizabeth Byrne

A former Canberra doctor who accessed a female colleague's medical records has been found to have engaged in professional misconduct by the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The Medical Board of Australia initially suspended Dr James McClymont when the breach was discovered in 2022 after a complaint from the doctor, who said she had been subjected to threatening and intimidating behaviour.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Medicine shortage

Herald Sun, General News, 13/05/2025, Page 4

About 400 medicines are in short supply in Australia, research from The University of Queensland suggests. Of these, about 30 are categorised as critical. These are ones with a life-threatening or serious impact on patients and with no readily available substitutes.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Aged Care Insite \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).

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Budget boosts retail sales but value is vital

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/05/2025, Bruce Engeman, Page 30

The 2025-26 Federal Budget outlines a significant push to reform and strengthen the healthcare system with a focus on accessibility. Under a \$784.6 million investment, the maximum co-payment for medicines under the PBS will be lowered from \$31.60 to \$25 per script, which is a 20-year low (\$7.70 will remain frozen for pensioners).

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Trump new executive order to smash Aussies

Adelaide Now, Other, 12/05/2025, Sarah Keoghan

Donald Trump is about to sign an executive order described as a "game changer" that could hit Australians harder than any of his previous moves since taking office. [...] Without a concession card, the maximum cost of a script in Australia for a drug under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is \$31.60.

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

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Everything you need to know about the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

The Australian Women's Weekly, Other, 12/05/2025, Ashleigh Austen

Whether it's filling a script for your child's asthma puffer or picking up your blood pressure pills, there's one unsung hero quietly working behind the scenes to keep medicine costs manageable: the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, or PBS. If you've ever paid less than full price for prescription medication, chances are you've already benefited from it.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 12/05/2025, Natalie Forrest

Australia preparing for US President Donald Trump's executive order that could affect the cost of medicines and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. This comes as the US and China agree to a 90-day pause on massive trade tariffs.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

AI start-up Heidi Health 'growing quicker than Canva, Leonardo'

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 13/05/2025, Amelia McGuire, Page 16

Australia's biggest venture capital firm says little-known artificial intelligence company Heidi Health has overtaken Canva and Leonardo AI as the fastest-growing company ever in its portfolio.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Tennis Australia reveals chair

The Australian, Business News, 13/05/2025, Lilly Vitorovich, Page 15

Tennis Australia chair Jayne Hrdlicka will step down at the end of the year as she prepares to take over the reins of drinks group Endeavour. Ms Hrdlicka joined the board in February 2016, and became the organisation's first female chair in October 2017.

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Study finds link between poor sleep and autism

The Australian, General News, 13/05/2025, Page 3

Poor sleep in infancy could be an early indicator of childhood autism, research suggests. Scientists have found that each extra hour of sleep a baby got at six months old was associated with fewer characteristics of autism at two years old.

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Big BMI, big baby: study

Courier Mail, General News, 13/05/2025, Page 11

The greater a woman's BMI in early pregnancy, the more likely her child is to develop overweight or obesity. A University of Adelaide and South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute study found that the greater a woman's BMI in pregnancy, the greater her child's weight from birth to the age of 10.

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Bub sleep in autism link

Courier Mail, General News, 13/05/2025, Page 16

Babies who sleep less or have poorer sleep quality are more likely to develop autistic traits and be diagnosed with autism. In a cohort of just more than 1000 mother-infant pairs, researchers including Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health scientists surveyed parents about their baby's sleep patterns at six and 12 months of age.

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

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WA uni spearheads study of everyday tablet that could cut cancer deaths

West Australian, General News, 13/05/2025, Bethany Hiatt, Page 8

People with chronic liver disease will be prescribed a daily dose of aspirin under a trial to try to lower their chances of developing cancer. Researchers led by Curtin University Medical School professor, John Olynyk, will study the effect of aspirin use to reduce the occurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma, a type of liver cancer, as part of the five year clinical trial.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'Decolonise health': New report backs First Nations-led care

National Indigenous Times, Other, 12/05/2025, Dechlan Brennan

A new report has indicated First Peoples are losing trust in the health system, with decolonising needed in primary health care to ensure cultural safety. Funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Decolonising Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Project (2018-2024) has highlighted the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services and how decolonising strategies offer a holistic health care approach.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Flu season hits Australia

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/05/2025, Samantha Crawford, Page 59

Australia's influenza season typically runs from May to October. Experts are warning the community to prepare, as flu cases have almost doubled in some states compared to last year. Community pharmacies are essential as community hubs and vaccination providers, treating and preventing flu cases.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 12/05/2025, Tiffany Warne

Health authorities are urging parents to vaccinate their young children against whooping cough, amid a rise in the number of cases. The number of South Australians diagnosed is nearly tenfold on this time in 2024, and immunisation rates are dropping.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Push to reform drug-drive laws

The Australian, General News, 13/05/2025, Matthew Denholm, Page 7

Reform of roadside drug tests to legally protect patients using medicinal cannabis is being pushed by Australia's medicinal cannabis industry and some policy experts. The use of medicinal cannabis has exploded in Australia since prescriptions were legalised in 2016, but only two jurisdictions have so far changed drug-driving laws to reflect the situation.

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FOOD STANDARDS

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