



Australian Government
Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 19th May 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 3) reports that the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit examined Audit Office reports on different agencies, including the Department of Health's regulation of medicines and aged care reforms. The ANAO report found that health regulators tried to use powers that were not legally available to them for audits of aged care providers.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) leads coverage reporting that West Coast Eagles co-captain Oscar Allen has urged people struggling with mental health to seek help, as the team dedicated their win to former player Adam Selwood, who died on Saturday. This added to the call for a mental health round to increase awareness. *Also reported by: The Australian, The Age, West Australian*
- **[The Advertiser](#)** (page 3) reports that a new study from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research found that just two days of eating fatty, processed food can cause "silent" inflammation and lead to chronic inflammatory diseases. However, eating a diet of "good" fats can strengthen gut protection. *Also reported by: The Daily Telegraph, The Mercury*
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (online) reports that Monash University and Peninsula Health's National Centre for Healthy Ageing has developed an AI tool that can detect dementia by analysing medical records and identifying "clues" beyond cognitive symptoms to improve diagnosis and care.

- **NT News** (online) reports that NT coroner Elisabeth Armitage will open a five-day inquest into the 2022 death of police officer Michael Deutrom, one of four police suicides within three months that year, which raised concerns about mental health and wellbeing support for officers.
- **ABC Online** reports that the H5N1 avian flu has spread across Antarctica, affecting flying seabirds, penguins and seals. Experts said the virus is evolving in unexpected ways and warned about increased risk to Australia as more bird species can potentially spread it over longer distances.

MINISTER BUTLER

Investigate, fix NDIS shambles

The Australian, Editorials, 19/05/2025, Page 10

The story of unscrupulous National Disability Insurance Scheme provider Cocoon SDA Care, from a tiny family-run company bought on Gumtree five years ago to a rapidly expanding concern, staying one step ahead of authorities, underlines why its activities, and the administration of the \$48.5bn NDIS, need thorough investigation. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, who has recently been given oversight of the NDIS, must overhaul regulatory systems to protect clients, staff and the public purse.

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

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City up in smoke: 60 tobacconists for every McDonald's

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 19/05/2025, Lucy Macken & Riley Walter, Page 1

There are about 20 tobacco outlets on Newtown's busy main street up from just a handful a decade ago. [...] Shortly before this month's federal election, Health Minister Mark Butler offered a further \$156.7 million to tackle the tobacco black market to add to the \$188.5 million promised early last year on a border force crackdown.

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

The Zap: catch the latest health and aged care news, plus consultations not to miss

Croakey, Other, 18/05/2025, Melissa Sweet

Changes to the Federal Ministry, proposed reforms to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, and recommendations for addressing "the exorbitant cost of prostheses in Australia" are among the topics addressed in this week's column. [...] Mark Butler added the role of Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and his existing title of Minister for Health and Aged Care was changed to Minister for Health and Ageing.

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MINISTER WELLS

Labor's changing face doesn't go to the top

ABC Online, Other, 18/05/2025, Brett Worthington

One arm crossed her body as the other raised to her face. Anika Wells was standing mere metres from the king's representative, who was set to swear her into office as Australia's new communications minister. But she wouldn't be the first in her family to have a vice-regal interaction this morning.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Committee lashes agencies for failures

Canberra Times, General News, 19/05/2025, Connor Pearce, Page 3

To prevent Home Affairs from allowing suspected criminal migration agents from having their registration automatically confirmed, Finance needs to take a more active role in ensuring regulators meet their legal obligations. [...] The committee also examined ANAO reports relating to the Department of Health and Aged Care's regulation of medicines, the Department of Industry, Science and Resources' regulation of measurements, the implementation of Aged Care Reforms and the ATO's oversight of fraud control for the GST.

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Outsourcing 'a concern'

Daily Advertiser, General News, 19/05/2025, Taylor Dodge, Page 1

Concerns have been raised over a lack of access to GP after-hours services in Wagga and plans to replace the service with a new external provider. [...] The decision follows a request from the Department of Health and Aged Care to outsource the service, to enable MPHNS to focus on its core role of funding and supporting services.

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AI enhances dementia detection in hospitals, Monash University study shows

Inside Ageing, Other, 18/05/2025, Amy Clarke

In partnership with Peninsula Health, researchers from Monash University's National Centre for Healthy Ageing (NCHA) have developed a groundbreaking method that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to improve dementia detection in hospitals. The initiative combines traditional medical data analysis with

natural language processing (NLP) to assess electronic health records, identifying signs of dementia with high accuracy.

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Navigating Primary Care: New toolkit empowers allied health clinicians

The New England Times, Other, 18/05/2025

The National Allied Health Practice Engagement Toolkit, a practical and accessible resource for allied health clinicians working in primary care, has been officially launched this month. [...] Implementation and ongoing development of the Toolkit will be overseen by the National PHN Cooperative Allied Health Framework Implementation Group, which includes PHN representatives, the Department of Health and Aged Care Chief Allied Health Officer, and regular input from allied health peak bodies.

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VACCINES

Junk science, vaccine refusers and the return of smallpox: what worries one of Australia's top epidemiologists

The Guardian, Other, 19/05/2025

During the first years of the Covid-19 crisis, the University of New South Wales professor of global biosecurity Raina MacIntyre was a fixture on Australian TVs and news feeds, a voice of authority and warning about the dangers faced by societies grappling with the “Black Swan event” that was the global pandemic. In a new book, she turns her mind to the threats that are coming around the bend.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

The 'game-changer' new AI tool that can help with early diagnosis of dementia

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/05/2025, Sarah Booth

An artificial intelligence tool that detects dementia by analysing medical records for hundreds of “clues” has been developed in Melbourne, paving the way for earlier diagnosis and treatment. The Australian-US team behind the initiative has hailed the responsible use of artificial intelligence as a potential game-changer for dementia research, and said their algorithms could help diagnose people whose illness goes undetected.

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

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Lack of aged care facility in central Qld mining towns worries residents

ABC Online, Other, 18/05/2025, Liam O'Connell

Growing old in a mining town is hard when the nearest aged care facilities are hundreds of kilometres away. The Queensland town of Moranbah is about 190 kilometres south-west of Mackay in central Queensland.

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AI could be the latest tool in battle against dementia

9News, Other, 18/05/2025, Sarah Swain

Dementia is a growing problem in Australia's ageing society and identifying people with it can be difficult. The latest research shows how artificial intelligence could make a difference.

Keep talking: Fun ways to keep chatting with friends who have dementia

The Senior, Other, 18/05/2025, Anthony Caggiano

Noticing that a friend or loved one with dementia is making awkward pauses in speech or jumbling their words can be difficult and confronting. But speech pathologist Jade Cartwright wants people to realise they can keep a relationship with that person going, it's just finding the right tools to help prompt good chats.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Hard to swallow health claims are driving online viral recipes

Central Western Daily, General News, 19/05/2025, Page 7

From microwaveable protein lava cakes to cottage-cheese pizzas, foods once considered unhealthy now find an eager appetite among social media users. One purportedly healthy apple crumble recipe has racked up 9.1 million views on TikTok, while almost 450,000 people have liked a low-calorie edible cake batter video.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Gestational diabetes soars by 70% in Australia: what's driving the surge?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 19/05/2025

Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) prevalence has surged by almost 70% in five years, putting thousands of women and their babies at risk of future health complications. Of particular concern is the Northern Territory, which has almost tripled its incidence of GDM, while Victoria has doubled its incidence. A Monash University meta-analysis was published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health using data from over 1.8 million pregnant women compiled from the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

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Supporting adolescent wellbeing in the digital age

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 19/05/2025

Adolescents must be involved in the development of digital health care initiatives if they are to be engaging and effective. More must be done to combat the growing burden of chronic disease in young people.

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Premature and early menopause: the overlooked risk in endometriosis

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 19/05/2025

People with endometriosis are seven times more likely to undergo surgical menopause and face an increased risk of premature menopause before the age of 40, either naturally or through surgery, than those without endometriosis. Endometriosis is a chronic, oestrogen-dependent condition where tissue similar to the uterine lining grows outside the uterus, leading to inflammation, pain and scarring.

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Michelle's condition 'ruined' her. Treatment was life-changing, but it has a concerning label

A \$793 million investment into women's health has been celebrated, but there are concerns over a lack of specific reference to a condition affecting many women. Heavy menstrual bleeding is often excluded from discussions around women's health despite it being a disruptive, and sometimes crippling, condition.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Townsville doctors lead melanoma fight

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 19/05/2025, Holly Fishlock, Page 3

Three Townsville doctors have been honoured at the World Congress of Melanoma as some of the best in the world. The congress brings together thousands of melanoma experts worldwide, and includes insightful lectures and workshops surrounding advances in melanoma research.

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Renal unit construction tender advertised

Launceston Examiner, General News, 19/05/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 5

The construction tender for the upgraded renal unit in Kings Meadows has been advertised six years after federal funding was announced. The redeveloped facility can't come soon enough for many patients needing dialysis, though some residents have said that increasing the number of chairs won't be enough to match current demand.

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'Critical health challenge' kills many, but help available

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 19/05/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

Diabetes is a "critical health challenge" for the Hunter New England, with one in eight people living with the condition and many more undiagnosed. "If left unmanaged, diabetes can result in serious complications," NSW Health Minister Ryan Park said.

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Happy, healthy and diagnosed with stage 4 bowel cancer at 36

The Australian, Other, 18/05/2025, Sarah Elks

Late last year, Kaz Kelly was a happy, energetic and seemingly healthy 36-year-old newlywed, about to move to Las Vegas with her new husband. [...] And despite the perception it's an old person's disease, according to Bowel Cancer Australia it's the nation's deadliest cancer for people aged 25-44.

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PRIMARY CARE

Era of the sick note should be ended

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/05/2025, Gary Martin, Page 33

If you're too sick to work, you're probably too ill to drag yourself to the doctor's surgery just to snag a medical certificate or sick note. Yet many workplaces still expect proof of illness.

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Doc has optimism under his wing

Herald Sun, General News, 19/05/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 11

The sky is the limit - literally - for a Royal Children's Hospital doctor who will fly around Australia on a

multimillion-dollar fundraiser. RCH senior neurologist Andrew Kornberg will embark on a solo flight in July to help raise \$4.5m for kids with rare, complex illnesses.

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Senator quiet on abortion debate

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 19/05/2025, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer, Page 6

A senior Liberal senator has not confirmed if the Coalition's position on abortion could change, as the opposition rethinks its national platform in the wake of its election decimation. Labor's landslide win on May 3 left the Liberals leaderless and exposed severe tensions within the Coalition, with the Nationals faring far better than their blue colleagues and therefore demanding more power.

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

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The agony of waiting

Border Mail, General News, 19/05/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

The degeneration of his hip left Chris Paull in agony, he could barely walk and cried in frustration at being unable to put on his pants. For more than three years, he was on a waiting list for an operation to fix the joint, but on November 26, four days after his 52nd birthday, he died at his Wodonga home.

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Minister has got no interest in revisiting the 'Albury challenge'

Border Mail, General News, 19/05/2025, Madielyn McKinley, Page 2

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park will pursue Albury hospital's redevelopment, despite a new inquiry questioning the proposal. Mr Park addressed the media in Sydney on Friday after the release of the NSW Health Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding, which found the redevelopment plans do not adequately address current healthcare service needs and the area's future growth.

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MP calling for move to ease pressure on regional hospitals

Border Mail, General News, 19/05/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 3

Albury MP Justin Clancy is appealing to the NSW government to expand extended care paramedic levels in rural communities to ease hospital pressure. He used a speech in the NSW Parliament earlier this month to call for the broader use of the ambulance officers, who are described as having "an advanced skill set to manage presentations ranging from acute injuries to chronic and complex care".

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\$5m investment in pharmacist training

Launceston Examiner, General News, 19/05/2025, Aaron Smith, Page 3

Health professionals have welcomed \$5 million of funding that's set to equip pharmacists with the skills to treat patients who would otherwise have to see a general practitioner. This seven-figure investment features in the state government's 2025-26 budget, which will be presented to Parliament on May 29.

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Top care especially hard

Newcastle Herald, General News, 19/05/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

People in the Hunter are much less likely to attend a specialist than wealthy Sydney areas, prompting a call for "fully bulk-billed specialty clinics" in the region. The cost of seeing a specialist and long wait times to book appointments are causing widespread anger and frustration.

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Townsville salutes end-of-life carers

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 19/05/2025, Holly Fishlock, Page 4

Their work may often go unnoticed by the wider community, but never by those experiencing some of their toughest moments. Palliative care workers and volunteers have been celebrated at Townsville University Hospital during National Palliative Care Week.

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What change must come from these parents' darkest hour

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 18/05/2025

There are few experiences harder to fathom than a parent losing a child in an unexpected and unexplained way. In their darkest hour, parents must navigate the coronial system where, for all the care and professionalism they may encounter, they must answer difficult questions and make what must seem like impossible choices.

[Read More](#)

A coroner couldn't tell Danielle how her son died. Then she lost her daughter

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 18/05/2025, Frances Howe

When Danielle Green's five-month-old daughter Airlie started showing symptoms of gastro, she rushed her to hospital. A little over a year earlier, Green's nine-month-old baby boy, Sonny, had died after a bout of gastro had caused his heart to arrest.

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Virtual hospitals will play an important role in Australia's future, but private providers face roadblocks to innovation

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 19/05/2025

Private virtual hospitals offer an unprecedented opportunity to improve timely access to hospital care, especially for people in rural and remote areas, but critical barriers need to be addressed. In the past five years, we have seen a rapidly growing evidence base for the effectiveness of virtual health care.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

'We played with his spirit': Eagles pay tribute to club legend in emotional win

The Australian, General News, 19/05/2025, Paul Garvey, Page 3

Football's "saddest day" ended in some unexpected joy for West Coast Eagles fans as, amid tears over the tragic loss of former star Adam Selwood, his old team managed an emotion-charged breakthrough win. The death on Saturday of the 41-year-old Selwood, just months after his twin brother Troy took his own life, sent the football world into mourning.

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Selwood tributes amid mental health round call

Age, Sport, 19/05/2025, Jon Pierik, Page 40

The AFL has been urged to introduce a mental health-themed round, as the football world continues to reel after the death of former West Coast premiership player Adam Selwood. Selwood, 41, died suddenly on Saturday, and is the second heartbreaking loss for the Selwood family after one of football's most famous families also lost Adam's twin, Troy, in February.

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Don't suffer alone

Herald Sun, General News, 19/05/2025, Jon Ralph & Eliza Reilly, Page 1

An emotional West Coast cocaptain Oscar Allen has pleaded with anyone struggling with mental health issues to reach out for help, as the Eagles dedicated their first win of the season on Sunday to Adam

Selwood. West Coast players, including Selwood's former teammate Jamie Cripps, were visibly emotional as the Eagles held a minute's silence.

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

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Heartbreaking loss

Herald Sun, Editorials, 19/05/2025, Page 22

The AFL world is in deep mourning and a hugely admired and respected footy family is facing heartbreak that is beyond understanding. The loss of Adam Selwood, 41, who tragically died on Saturday, just 102 days after losing his twin brother Troy has sent shockwaves across the league and the millions of fans throughout Australia.

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That's for you, Adam

West Australian, General News, 19/05/2025, Chris Robinson, Page 1

It was a day that was about far more than just football. By the end of it, the Eagles were celebrating their first win of the season but that came a distant second to the outpouring of love for one of the club's champions.

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We must do more to help everyone

West Australian, General News, 19/05/2025, Samantha Rogers, Page 7

There are growing calls for the AFL to introduce a mental health round in the wake of Adam Selwood's shock death, with a young Eagles star among the strongest voices. Selwood a premiership player at West Coast died on Saturday and plunged the football world into mourning, just months after the death of his twin brother Troy.

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Selwood sorrow

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 19/05/2025, Tributeluke West, Page 1

Former Bendigo footballer and AFL premiership player Adam Selwood has died, just months after his twin brother also passed away. The Selwood family confirmed the death of Adam, 41, on Saturday.

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Players, fans bow heads for adam

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 19/05/2025, Peter Rolfe, Page 3

The AFL world has paused to remember premiership player Adam Selwood following his heartbreaking death. The West Coast Eagles where Selwood won a flag in 2006 linked arms for a minute's silence before Sunday night's match against St Kilda in Perth.

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Hopes pilot trial will help reduce ADHD waitlist

Launceston Examiner, General News, 19/05/2025, Matt Maloney, Page 5

There are more than 2400 Tasmanian children waiting for prolonged times for neurodevelopmental diagnoses, specifically for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. But the government hopes that this waitlist will be reduced through a new ADHD clinic pilot trial, which has been run through the state's 20 Kids Care Clinics since April.

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'Voice of change': Calls grow for AFL to stage mental health round

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 18/05/2025, Jon Pierik & Ashleigh McMillan

The football world continues to reel from the death of former West Coast premiership player Adam Selwood, sparking further debate about the AFL's role in caring for players' mental health. Selwood, 41, died suddenly on Saturday.

These schools wanted to give students hope. A landmark study shows they're on the right track

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 18/05/2025, Noel Towell

There are effective tools to improve young people's mental health, a new landmark study has found, but only with teachers, parents and school communities in it for the long haul. An academic analysis of the Resilience Project's schools program, Australia's largest and one of its longest-running education mental health initiatives, has found clear benefits to the mental health and wellbeing of its young participants.

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Andrew Bolt: Suicide is not just cruel to survivors but socially contagious

The Courier Mail, Other, 18/05/2025, Andrew Bolt

Three months ago, I saw Troy Selwood's life celebrated before a crowd at Geelong's football ground after he had killed himself. I thought: "Oh, no." Now his twin brother Adam has killed himself, too, causing an ocean of grief to his wife, parents and brothers, and especially his two children.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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NT Coroner to open inquest into NT Police Michael 'Micky D' Deutrom's suicide on Monday

Northern Territory News, Other, 18/05/2025, Zizi Averill

The emotional devastation from a life on the Territory's front lines can be represented by a four digit police call sign: 2061. For decades, this was the number that his friends, colleagues, mentees and brother knew represented NT Police senior constable first class Michael 'Micky D' Deutrom.

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

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Touching update after second brother's death rocks football

NEWS.com.au, Other, 18/05/2025, Tyson Otto & Ben Talintyre

Adam Selwood's final act for his twin brother Troy has been honoured in touching fashion following the West Coast premiership star's death on Saturday. News of the 41-year-old's death has left the AFL world in deep mourning — coming just three months after Troy took his own life.

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

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Victorian research finds surfing can reduce youth mental health symptoms

ABC Online, Other, 18/05/2025

Montana Tagg says that, two years ago, her health problems and her school's lack of support for them got so bad she dropped out of high school. The 16-year-old lives in constant pain with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, which causes joint hyper-mobility and frequent dislocations.

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As more Australians use AI chatbots as personal therapists, experts have urged caution

ABC Online, Other, 18/05/2025, Ruby Littler

Would you confide in an AI chatbot and tell it vulnerable, personal information about yourself? For some this might seem like the far-fetched plot of a sci-fi movie but for others, it's a reality much closer to home.

AFL pre-match stops for emotional tribute to Adam Selwood

7news.com.au, Other, 18/05/2025, Justin Chadwick

More tributes have poured in for Adam Selwood, with the former AFL premiership player remembered fondly before West Coast's clash with St Kilda on Sunday. Selwood died at the age of 41 in Western Australia on Saturday, just three months after his identical twin and fellow former AFL player Troy Selwood died.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

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Sad reality revealed as trees turn blue across Australia: 'Confronting'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 18/05/2025, Joe Attanasio

Australia's mental health crisis is one many have experienced firsthand, and now a striking campaign is aiming to help spark important conversations in a visible and unexpected way. The Blue Tree Project is a national initiative that encourages communities to paint dead trees blue as a visual reminder to reduce stigma around mental health and suicide.

[Read More](#)

Selwood fondly remembered as AFL world mourns

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 18/05/2025, Justin Chadwick

More tributes have poured in for Adam Selwood, with the former Eagle remembered fondly before West Coast's shock 28-point win over St Kilda on Sunday. Selwood died at the age of 41 in Western Australia on Saturday, just three months after his identical twin and fellow former AFL player Troy Selwood died.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Doctor forced to cut hours

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/05/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 5

A Hobart GP has told how a lack of before and after school care for her children forced her to cut back her working hours and reluctantly relocate from her eastern shore home. Dr Samantha Goss, who lived at Lindisfarne for eight years, said it was a "constant stress" to access the care she needed so she had to shorten her working hours.

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Fake crash, very real lessons

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 19/05/2025, Page 1

On Sunday, State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers, paramedics, firefighters and police converged on Wallington after a passenger bus collided with a delivery truck following a fictional food and wine festival. The emergency, thankfully, was not real, but rather a mock exercise designed to put our emergency services and officials to the test.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 18/05/2025, Fauziah Ibrahim & Thomas Oriti

Interview with University of Queensland pharmaceutical supply chain researcher Peter Coomber, discussing a shortage of medicines in Australia with medicinal imports reaching 90%. Coomber attributes the shortage to small market size, geographic isolation, and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. While some drugs are locally manufactured, he says large-scale manufacturing will only be viable if exports exist. He calls for national stockpiling and a more centralised, coordinated drug acquisition.

Interview continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Banks' ID neglect opens the door to scammers

Age, General News, 19/05/2025, Aisha Dow, Page 1

Online Australian banks are allowing new customers to set up accounts without providing any identification documents, opening the door to scammers funnelling millions of dollars into the hands of criminals. Australia's biggest banks shut down more than 10,000 bank accounts known as "mule accounts" in the last financial year because of their suspected links to fraud.

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

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Governments are pressing ahead with stadium plans to the detriment of our revered cultural institutions

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/05/2025, Greg Barns, Page 16

Elsewhere in the world, a symphony orchestra would not come second to sport nor receive merely lip service, Back in September, the state's Arts Minister, Madeleine Ogilvie, boasted in a budget media release that the "government will also continue to invest in the state's most beloved iconic cultural institutions", including the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

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The real cost of putting stadium on sidelines

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/05/2025, Andrew Moore, Page 16

Make no mistake, this is a call to arms. Tasmania, it's time to think a little differently and flip the stadium conversation "what is the cost of not building this stadium", rather than protesting around what is the cost of building the stadium.

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Don't let the harness slip

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 19/05/2025, Andrew Potts, Page 1

Grand plans to make the Gold Coast the state's home of harness racing have stalled, sparking fears the multimillion-dollar project will be abandoned. The former state government spent more than \$8m to buy a giant 72ha property at Norwell in 2022, where facilities were to be built to replace the sport's crumbling Albion Park headquarters.

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Shock true costs of Riverway upgrades

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 19/05/2025, Leighton Smith, Page 1

A special gathering to discuss the importance of investment in Townsville's sports heard that it would cost up to \$15m to properly upgrade Riverway Stadium with broadcast-level lights and supporting infrastructure. The revelation was provided by former Olympian, Basketball Australia director, and Townsville City Councillor Suzy Batkovic during her keynote address to the Property Council of Australia's well-attended The Power of Investment In Regional Areas luncheon on Friday.

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Maroons Foundation to raise funds to do more for rugby league across the state

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 18/05/2025, Peter Badel

Queensland coach Billy Slater calls the Maroons the people's team. Now here's the evidence to prove it. On the eve of this year's Origin series, the Queensland Rugby League has created the Maroons Foundation as part of a multimillion-dollar plan to invest in the people of the Sunshine State.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Bad fats a silent assassin

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 19/05/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 3

Just two days of a fatty, processed-food diet is enough to start causing hidden damage to our gut health, surprising new research suggests. Melbourne scientists have found eating just a few meals consistently high in saturated fats triggers "silent" inflammation in the body, well before any physical symptoms such as weight gain appear.

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

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Understanding the genetic basis of eating disorders: insights from the EDGI2 study

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 19/05/2025

The Eating Disorders Genetic Initiative (EDGI2) aims to identify the genes that predispose individuals to eating disorders to revolutionise future research into causes, treatment and prevention of the illness. Eating disorders are a growing public health concern in Australia, affecting individuals across various demographics, with prevalences that have remained persistently high over the past decades.

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2GB, Weekends, 18/05/2025, Luke Grant

Interview with the University of Sydney's School of Life and Environmental Sciences senior lecturer Dr Sandro Ataide, discussing his gene editing research, which differs from CRISPR. His research allows the direct insertion of whole new genes rather than relying on the cell's own repair mechanisms. By using methods like sick RNA and delivery systems similar to mRNA COVID vaccines, Dr Ataide's technology targets specific cell types and offers promising potential for treating rare genetic diseases.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

The alarming letter that made the premier change his mind

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 18/05/2025, Daniel Lo Surdo

An urgent document exposing the presence of a deadly synthetic drug 100 times more powerful than heroin in NSW pushed Chris Minns to launch the state's landmark pill testing trial months after he ruled out the move. In a letter delivered to Minns and Health Minister Ryan Park, co-chairs of the state government's drug summit Carmel Tebbutt and John Brogden warned of growing evidence that nitazenes, a lab-manufactured synthetic opioid often masquerading as less potent illicit party drugs, were spreading in the NSW drug supply and pre-existing protective measures weren't keeping up with the deadly risks they posed.

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'Pandemic potential' on our doorstep

ABC Online, Other, 18/05/2025, Tom Hartley & Paul Johnson

Soaking up the Antarctic summer sun, a herd of crabeater seals lay oblivious to the impending threat. The killer virus that infiltrated Earth's most remote ecosystem continues to jump between animals, leaving a trail of death and devastation in its wake.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

'How in the hell is this legal?'

Courier Mail, General News, 19/05/2025, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 9

Teenagers are having deadly so-called "nangs" delivered to their door in as little as 15 minutes by companies openly flouting their wares on social media. Residents of Gold Coast unit blocks have reported finding piles of the noxious drug canisters littered around complexes after being used by partying youths.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

FOOD STANDARDS

Apple to launch new accessibility features for people with vision or hearing impairments

The Guardian, Other, 18/05/2025, Josh Taylor

Apple has announced a broad range of new accessibility features for iOS focused on people with vision or hearing impairments, with the company downplaying the notion that the price of Apple hardware means accessibility comes at a cost. On Wednesday, before Global Accessibility Awareness Day on Thursday 15 May, Apple announced new accessibility features to launch on iOS later this year, including live captions, personal voice replication, improved tools for reading, braille reader improvements and "nutrition labels" in the app store.

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Fresh outbreak of tomato disease

Shepparton News Online, Other, 18/05/2025

A new outbreak of a highly contagious tomato virus has been found in a Katunga glasshouse. Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) was detected again at Katunga Fresh on May 11, just as the business was emerging from months of quarantine and cleaning out the facility after the original infection in January.

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AICIS

More questions than answers in PFAS report

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 19/05/2025, Page 18

The dangers of "forever chemicals", known as PFAS, have been known for more than a quarter of a century, yet NSW water authorities could not join the dots to protect our water supplies. We now know for certain that some Blue Mountains residents may have been drinking water with elevated levels of the cancer-causing chemical for up to 32 years.

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

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