



Australian Government
Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 20th May 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 6) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler's expanded portfolio will oversee about \$220 billion in annual spending, which is more than a quarter of the federal budget. New NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister will manage daily responsibilities, and both will join next month's initial meeting with state disability ministers.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that the NDIA is manually auditing NDIS provider Maysan Holdings following allegations of funds misuse, false claims and collusion with doctors to make fraudulent reports to increase funding.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports that prostate cancer is the most expensive cancer in Australia, costing \$1.8 billion annually, including \$644 million spent on medicines under the PBS. Doctors and patients are calling for a national register to track prostate-specific antigen test results to improve early diagnosis.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports that Australia's Privacy Commissioner Carly Kind has warned GPs against using AI scribes to monitor and analyse conversations with their patients, amid concerns over potential misdiagnosis, litigation and the hacking of confidential health data.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 9) reports the TGA has received more than 40 ophthalmic disorder reports from Ozempic and Wegovy users since December 2020. The Royal Australian College

of General Practitioners said the reports highlighted the need for individuals to maintain regular contact with their GP to manage their medications and symptoms.

- **The Courier Mail** (page 15) reports that the Queensland government did not increase the wage offer to nurses and midwives, and warned that those who will take protected industrial action may lose two months of back pay. The QNMU will launch a strike ballot this week and stated the offer “does nothing to recruit, retain and respect Queensland’s nurses and midwives.”
- **The Age** (page 5) leads coverage reporting that the Victorian budget will include an additional \$9.3 billion over the next four years for hospital operating costs as part of a wider \$31 billion investment in the health sector. Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas said the state government would continue to focus on “opening new hospitals, delivering better care and backing our health workforce”. *Also reported by Herald Sun, The Sydney Morning Herald, News.com.au*
- **The Mercury** (page 4) reports that a University of Sydney and The Kids Research Institute study of more than 4,000 students found that vaping is more prevalent among LGBTQA+ teens.

MINISTER BUTLER

Butler to oversee quarter of budget

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 20/05/2025, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 6

Labor minister Mark Butler's expanded portfolio of health, disability and ageing will put him in charge of about \$220 billion in annual government spending, more than a quarter of the federal budget. After flying across the country alongside Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during the election campaign, Butler will have an elevated role that will require him to jump straight into tense negotiations with states and territories over a new system that must take pressure off the ballooning National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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WHO are they to tell us Aussies what to do?

Daily Telegraph, General News, 20/05/2025, Rocco Loiacono, Page 37

Australia's government through Health Minister Mark Butler remains "fully committed" to the WHO Pandemic Treaty, which was stalled at the World Health Assembly last year. However, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is this month pushing yet again to finalise a new pandemic treaty with its member nations, including Australia.

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Disability matters to all Aussies

Canberra Times, General News, 20/05/2025, Lisa Cox, Page 16

Before you think this doesn't concern you, take a moment to consider this: the World Health Organisation says that every one of us will experience disability - temporary or permanent - at some point in our lives. [...] It's not just up to the Minister for Disability, Mark Butler.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#).

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Dart disaster forces ciggy gasper to the black market

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 20/05/2025, Page 4

A man has smoke coming out of his ears after purchasing a pack of Winnie Blues at his local supermarket "forced" him to the black market. [...] As a "direct result," the cigarettes now "taste like s---" to him, which has "forced" him to the "black market" for "untampered" Winnies, something he blames on the honourable "idiot" Mark Butler otherwise known as the Albanese government's health minister.

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RFK jnr's antics show the US is up S*** Creek

Canberra Times, Other, 19/05/2025, John Hanscombe

Put aside for a moment your incredulity that the US president should not only accept the offer of a \$600

million luxury jet - a palace in the sky - from a foreign government but sees nothing wrong in doing so. [...] Imagine the outcry if our own Mark Butler took a dip in Sydney's heavily polluted Cooks River, suggesting by doing so that it was safe.

Also reported by: [The North West Star \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Batemans Bay Post \(Online\)](#), [Lithgow Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Hawkesbury Gazette \(Online\)](#), [South Coast Register \(Online\)](#).

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Drastic new cigarette rules that will change the way Aussies smoke forever

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 19/05/2025, Max Aitchison & Antoinette Milienos

Aussie smokers will see some types of cigarettes banned under tough new rules designed to make smoking as unappealing as possible. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said Australia was 'one of the first countries in the world to include this new public health measure'.

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Bulk-billing specialists are needed, Jennifer Martin of RACP says

Newcastle Herald, Other, 19/05/2025

People in the Hunter health network are much less likely to attend a specialist than wealthy Sydney areas, prompting a call for "fully bulk-billed specialty clinics" in the region. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said recently that a re-elected Albanese government would "help Australians find the best value" among specialists.

Also reported by: [Gloucester Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Scone Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Muswellbrook Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Port Stephens Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Macleay Argus \(Online\)](#), [Port Macquarie News \(Online\)](#), [Dungog Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Hunter Valley News \(Online\)](#), [Manning River Times \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Here's where all those reviews got us

The Medical Republic, Other, 19/05/2025, Holly Payne

A report newly released under Freedom of Information laws reveals the key challenges and learnings across five major health department-led reviews. From the scope of practice review to the GP Incentives Review, reviews were a hallmark of federal health minister Mark Butler's first four years in office.

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MINISTER WELLS

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MINISTER RAE

Sam Rae appointed minister

Melton & Moorabool Star Weekly, General News, 20/05/2025, Page 5

Hawke MP Sam Rae was sworn in with a new title last week, named as aged care and seniors

minister. Mr Rae in a Facebook post said that he was "deeply honoured to be sworn in."

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

One Nation candidate Stuart Bonds creates history in the race to win the Hunter

Muswellbrook Chronicle, Other, 19/05/2025, Louise Nichols

In the wash-up of this month's federal election, it would appear that Stuart Bonds has pulled off what no other One Nation candidate in the House of Representatives could achieve by becoming one of the two preferred candidates for the seat of Hunter. [...] Having been returned in Hunter, Mr Repacholi was taken on a new role by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese as the Special Envoy for Men's Health in the new Parliament.

Also reported by: [Hunter Valley News \(Online\)](#), [Cessnock Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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DEPARTMENT

Middle East respiratory syndrome and Hajj (4 to 9 June 2025)

cesphn.org.au, Other, 19/05/2025, Phoebe Molesworth

The annual Islamic pilgrimage, Hajj, will take place from 4 to 9 June 2025. It is anticipated that approximately 2,000 Australians will travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care maintains MERS information for health professionals on its website, including: A MERS information card for travellers – available in English, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (simplified), Chinese (traditional), Dari, Indonesian, Turkish and Urdu.

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Strongbala Minds Walk-In Talk-In Space opens in Katherine: A new chapter in healing and hope

National Indigenous Times, Other, 19/05/2025, Nicole Brown

Monday marked a proud and powerful moment for the Katherine community with the opening of the Strongbala Minds Walk-In Talk-In Space, a culturally-led Medicare Mental Health Centre that blends cultural wisdom with clinical care. [...] The initiative, supported by NT Primary Health Network, the Australian government's Department of Health and Aged Care, and multiple local partners, is more than a mental health centre; it is a symbol of strength, sovereignty, and what's possible when community takes the lead.

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VACCINES

Covid is still around and a risk to vulnerable people. What are the symptoms in 2025? And how long does it last?

Aged Care Insite, Other, 19/05/2025, Meru Sheel

Five years ago, Covid was all we could think about. Today, we'd rather forget about lockdowns, testing queues and social distancing. But the virus that sparked the pandemic, SARS-CoV-2, is still circulating.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged care benefits from health-literate workforce

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 19/05/2025, Natasha Egan

Allied health, exercise, reablement and restorative care are critical to helping older people maintain independence, dignity, and quality of life, says Peter Williams, the chief executive officer of Tasmanian aged care and retirement living provider OneCare. A health-literate workforce is key to uptake, he adds.

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The surprising new ally in the fight against dementia

Your Life Choices, Other, 19/05/2025, Don Turrobia

Dementia is one of the most pressing health challenges facing Australia's ageing population. With more than 400,000 Australians currently living with dementia—and that number expected to skyrocket in the coming decades—finding better ways to diagnose and manage this condition is more important than ever.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Tobacco tax a disaster that is playing out on our streets and in budget bottom line

Age, General News, 20/05/2025, Shane Wright, Page 8

The tax and policing approach to tobacco across this country is becoming a social, economic and legal disaster. This disaster is playing out in our streets from more than 120 arson attacks across Melbourne that have claimed at least one life to dodgy looking tobacco shops in the suburbs and small "farms" in rural areas with unusual-looking cash crops, it's clear to anyone that the current system is failing.

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

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Governments let illegal tobacco trade run wild

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

After years of warnings about tobacco's lethal cost, Australia tried to tax cigarettes out of existence. But criminals quickly worked a way around that and have turned tobacco shops across the country into black marketeers selling products that kill and make children addicts while they fight gang wars to control their illegal trade.

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

Trans teens more likely to try vaping

Hobart Mercury, General News, 20/05/2025, Page 4

More than one-third of trans and bisexual Aussie teens have tried vaping, and regular vaping is three times as common among gay and lesbian teens as among their heterosexual peers, according to Australian research. The University of Sydney and The Kids Research Institute Australia study of more than 4000 students found that vaping is more common among LGBTQA+ teens, especially trans and bisexual teens, and is associated with cigarette and alcohol use and mental ill health.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#)

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Australians keep dying in tourism paradise Thailand more than any other country

NEWS.com.au, Other, 19/05/2025, Chantelle Francis

Three Australians have tragically died in three separate incidents within just one week in Thailand — a beloved nation which consistently has the highest number of Australian deaths of all international destinations. The latest publicly available data from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) shows 324 Aussies died in Thailand in 2023-24, which was 180 more deaths than the next country, the Philippines. (Thailand also has the most cases of illness and hospitalisation).

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Bid to fight our 'most expensive cancer'

The Australian, General News, 20/05/2025, James Dowling, Page 5

Prostate cancer urologists, oncologists and sufferers are lobbying for a national re-evaluation of how the condition is tracked and diagnosed, arguing a national register could stem rampant spending and sickness. Shortly after revising the national guidelines for prostate cancer detection, the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia has begun campaigning for a national register of prostate-specific antigen tests results, modelled on existing programs for the detection of breast or bowel cancer.

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

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Personal motive for Ainsworth family's \$50m gift

Australian Financial Review, General News, 20/05/2025, Julie Hare, Page 6

The Ainsworth family has donated \$50 million towards research into the chronic disease endometriosis, driven by the personal experiences of two family members.

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

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Top cop 'positive' over lung cancer

Courier Mail, General News, 20/05/2025, Thomas Chamberlin, Page 4

Steve Gollschewski has revealed he is responding well to treatment after his shock diagnosis of lung cancer. The Police Commissioner, who took leave in February after the unexpected diagnosis, wrote to staff on Monday to say he has continued with a treatment plan that combines targeted therapy, immunotherapy, and, intermittently, chemotherapy.

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Victorians urged to get bowels checked

Sunraysia Daily, Letters, 20/05/2025, Page 8

Bowel cancer is the second biggest cause of cancer death in Australia. But if detected early, more than

90 per cent of bowel cancers can be successfully treated. [...] Since 2017, Cancer Council Victoria has led statewide campaigns to encourage Victorians to participate in bowel screening.

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Joe Biden's diagnosis explained

The Australian, Other, 19/05/2025, Penny Timms

With former United States President Joe Biden announcing he has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer that has now spread to his bones, we take a closer look at the illness.

President Biden's diagnosis comes at a time when Australia is considering revolutionary new prostate cancer testing guidelines that one urologist says if implemented should "avoid the situation that Joe Biden is in".

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What does Joe Biden's prostate cancer diagnosis mean? What are the symptoms?

ABC Online, Other, 19/05/2025

Former US president Joe Biden has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer. [...] Compared to other cancers, prostate cancer has one of the highest survival rates if diagnosed early, the Cancer Council NSW's website says "Prostate cancer often grows slowly — even aggressive cases of prostate cancer tend to grow more slowly than other types of cancer."

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 19/05/2025, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia CEO Anne Savage. Savage says they know that prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Australian adults and accounts for 16% of all cancers diagnosed in the country today, including one in three cancers diagnosed among Australian men, so it's incredibly prevalent. She notes at its earliest stages, prostate cancer causes no symptoms, and that's why men cannot afford to be complacent about it.

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FIVEAA, Afternoons, 19/05/2025, Stacey Lee

Interview with Anne Savage, CEO of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. Savage discusses prostate cancer screening, following former US President Joe Biden getting diagnosed with prostate cancer. She notes there is a rise in the number of calls through PCFA for information and support.

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PRIMARY CARE

Medical chatbots spark hack alarms

The Australian, General News, 20/05/2025, Natasha Bitá, Page 5

Privacy Commissioner Carly Kind has warned doctors against using chatbots to eavesdrop on patient conversations without permission, as more medicos embrace artificial intelligence to help diagnose disease and write their correspondence. Amid concerns over potential misdiagnosis, litigation and even hacking of patient secrets, Ms Kind said medical clinics cannot force patients to agree to the use of AI scribes to monitor and analyse conversations with their doctors.

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

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Ramsay gets a healthy boost in bargain sell-off

The Australian, Business News, 20/05/2025, Page 14

Ramsay Health Care's share price is up more than 8 per cent in the past month and it may have its major Australian competitor Healthscope to thank for the rally. As bargain hunters pick through the

rubble of Healthscope, the verdict is that a substantial number of the 37 facilities controlled by the country's second-largest private hospital operator will likely need to close, because they are not viable.

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

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Allan's \$9.3b olive branch to avoid row on hospitals

Age, General News, 20/05/2025, Kieran Rooney, Page 5

Hospitals across Victoria will receive an extra \$9.3 billion to cover operational costs over the next four years as the Allan government seeks to avoid another damaging feud with the sector. As part of her first budget on Tuesday, Treasurer Jaclyn Symes will announce that Victoria will spend an extra \$11.1 billion on health over the forward estimates as the state opens new facilities, expands clinics and seeks to meet the rapidly growing funding needs of health services.

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

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Health to welcome a \$31bn injection

Herald Sun, General News, 20/05/2025, Shannon Deery & Mitch Clarke, Page 6

Jacinta Allan is poised to spruik a back-to-basics budget, with a record \$31bn investment in the Victorian health system. The massive investment will inject an additional \$1.6bn into the system over the next four years and is expected to be the centrepiece of today's budget.

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Helipad fears for medical choppers

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 20/05/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 9

MedSTAR retrieval pilots have raised concerns about fencing at upgraded regional helipads. A report to the Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network governing board meeting in March noted the Murray Bridge and Meningie works were almost complete, work had begun at Loxton and Mannum, but there were delays at Berri due to issues with a lease agreement.

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Inquest to give grieving parents 'truth'

West Australian, Edition Changes, 20/05/2025, Rebecca Le May, Page 4

The devastated parents of a toddler who died two days after being refused a blood test at Joondalup Health Campus hope a coroner finally gives them the answers they sorely need. Sandipan Dhar did not make it to his second birthday, dying on March 24 last year on his second presentation to the emergency department.

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Small improvement in ambulance response times

Shepparton News, General News, 20/05/2025, Sharlene Baldo, Page 4

Paramedics and first responders across Victoria are responding to the most critical 'Code 1' emergencies on average 17 seconds faster than three months ago. Code 1 emergencies refer to cases where patients require urgent paramedic and hospital care.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#)

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Should regional Victorians expect much from budget?

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 20/05/2025, Ben Silvester, Page 4

Regional Victoria is crying out for investment and cost-of-living relief, but the state's huge debt means expectations will be low ahead of Treasurer Jaclyn Symes' first budget. Ms Symes has already sought to lower expectations today. [...] Last year's budget poured an unprecedented \$11 billion into the Victorian health system.

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'More surprises to come': What to expect in Victoria's 'responsible' state budget

NEWS.com.au, Other, 19/05/2025, Alexandra Feiam

The Allan government is set to unveil its state budget on Tuesday, with analysts anticipating debt to hit \$188bn by 2028 as the state tries to claw back spending amid a budget blowout. Premier Jacinta Allan said on Sunday the Victorian public was demanding a "responsible budget that sets up our state for the future" and relief for the cost-of-living crisis.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Far North Queensland parents plead for second paediatric cardiologist

ABC Online, Other, 19/05/2025, Christopher Testa

When Juliana O'Neill's son Levi hops on a bike, she watches him with an eagle eye. Even a simple fall could land the four-year-old in a hospital ward 1,600 kilometres away.

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Queensland IVF patient told her embryo didn't comply with new laws gets go-ahead for transfer

ABC Online, Other, 19/05/2025, Jessica Black, Janelle Miles & Kate McKenna

A Queensland IVF patient who had to cancel her embryo transfer because it did not comply with new legislation has been told she can go ahead with her treatment. The mother of one, who's in her late thirties, had used a donor from the US sperm bank Xytex for her first child, and to fertilise her frozen embryo.

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Health to get \$11.1bn boost in Victorian budget with pharmacist prescribing powers made permanent

The Guardian, Other, 20/05/2025, Benita Kolovos

Victoria's health system will receive an \$11.1bn cash injection in the state budget, with hospitals to receive more funding and pharmacists given greater powers to prescribe medications without the need for a GP visit. The budget, which will be handed down by the state's treasurer, Jaclyn Symes, on Tuesday, includes a \$9.3bn boost for public hospitals.

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Calls for more funding to support families through challenging pregnancies and fertility struggles

7news.com.au, Other, 19/05/2025, Jennifer Bechwati

For many Australians, the journey to parenthood is joyous. But for a growing number of families, that path is anything but easy. Stefanie Jolly, 32, remembers the exact moment her mental health began to deteriorate during her first pregnancy.

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'I don't know where Ryan Park is hiding': mayor riled by hospital stance

The Border Mail, Other, 19/05/2025, Madilyn McKinley

Border mayors will once again be seeking a meeting with the federal Health Minister to discuss the Albury-Wodonga hospital issue. The move comes after the release of the NSW Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding report on Friday, May 16, which revealed the commissioner, Justice Richard Beasley, had concerns the redevelopment wouldn't properly address the region's both current and future healthcare needs.

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Major review of NSW healthcare funding damning of aged care bed shortage

Aged Care Insite, Other, 19/05/2025, Stefanie Schultz

A special inquiry into NSW public healthcare system funding has delivered a stark warning to politicians; "serious problems will continue to bedevil our public hospitals if something is not done urgently to address the lack of aged care beds available." Led by Commissioner Richard Beasley, the Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding delivered its report on Friday after almost 70 hearing days and extensive consultation with health policy experts, patients, consumers, and NSW Health employees.

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Tas govt funds training for expanded scope

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 19/05/2025

The Tasmanian Government has announced a \$5 million investment to fund post-graduate training for pharmacists, to deliver expansion to pharmacist scope of practice. The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and Pharmacy Guild of Australia have welcomed the move as a significant step in realising the full potential of pharmacists to support timely access to essential health care.

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Do better on LGBTQIA health

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 19/05/2025

Health professionals have marked International Day Against LGBTQIA Discrimination (IDAHOBIT) last Sat with a call to better serve the health care needs of LGBTQIA people. The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) acknowledged that LGBTQIA people have poorer physical and mental health outcomes than the general population, with research finding that more than half of the community have experienced discrimination due to their sexual orientation, and almost 80% of people who are trans or gender diverse had experienced discrimination due to their gender identity.

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'Strong perception that MBS rates are inadequate': Inquiry

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/05/2025

'It is time for action, and reform that is funded.' That is according to Justice Richard Beasley – tasked with conducting the Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding in New South Wales. Following 226 written submissions, including from the RACGP, and testimony from 225 witnesses over 70 days of hearings, his final 1000-page report was released on Friday.

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Definition of recurrent miscarriage updated

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/05/2025

A change in the definition of recurrent miscarriage will allow women who have experienced two miscarriages, regardless of whether they are consecutive or not, greater access to care. Previously in Australia, recurrent miscarriage was defined as a woman having three miscarriages, consecutively.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 19/05/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Dr Michael Lumsden-Steele, President of the Australian Medical Association Tasmanian branch. Lumsden-Steele comments on the Transfer of Care Review, and the issue of ambulance ramping. He says they are able to achieve quicker turnaround times, but notes EDs are not achieving greater flow out of the emergency departments into the hospitals.

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MIX 104.9, 360, 19/05/2025, Katie Woolf

Interview with Federal Member for Solomon Luke Gosling. Gosling comments on Healthscope and the issue with the maternity services. He recalls discussing the matter with the Health Minister about what it could mean for patients in Darwin.

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AMA's ACT President Dr Kerrie Aust says every day GPs are working with patients to improve their health, whether through preventative health advice, early screening, or collaboration with the health teams.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Number of mentally ill Victorians killing parents doubles as health reforms stall

Age, General News, 20/05/2025, Grant McArthur & Kieran Rooney, Page 10

The number of parents killed by their mentally ill children has more than doubled in the four years since Victoria's mental health royal commission, as key recommendations intended to prevent such tragedies remain stalled. Frustrated experts say the deaths are the extreme symptom of a far larger and growing mental health crisis and that state government promises to fix the broken system are failing to match reality.

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

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'Perfect teammate': Judd's touching tribute to Selwood

Age, Sport, 20/05/2025, Jon Pierik, Page 40

AFL great Chris Judd has paid a moving tribute to Adam Selwood after the West Coast premiership player died on Saturday. Judd referenced Selwood's running capacity in a touching post to Instagram yesterday, describing "Sellars" as "the perfect teammate".

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We lost a son. The system failed him

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 20/05/2025, Sophie Read-Hamilton, Page 23

The death of our beloved son last year was not just a personal tragedy, it was the result of a failing youth mental health system that is underresourced, fragmented and, in many cases, outright harmful to the young people it is meant to support. While government rhetoric promises investment in mental health, the reality is that families navigating this system find themselves abandoned in a labyrinth of long waitlists, unaffordable services and inadequate crisis support.

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

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Tragic loss examined

Northern Territory News, General News, 20/05/2025, Zizi Averill, Page 1

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 represented NT Police senior constable first class Michael "Micky D" Deutrom to friends, colleagues, mentees and his brother.

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'I knew he was struggling': Charity vows to honour Adam Selwood's wishes

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 19/05/2025, Jon Pierik

The mental health charity that Adam Selwood embraced has offered to work with the former AFL player's family to ensure the legacy he wanted to have will be realised. Selwood, 41, a West Coast premiership player, died suddenly on Saturday.

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Young Australians using AI bots for therapy

ABC Online, Other, 19/05/2025

Taking out her phone and opening ChatGPT, 27-year-old Gracie Johnson began talking to the artificial intelligence (AI) platform about her mental health struggles. She says the advice the bot dispensed was helpful, so she kept going.

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Up where, Cazaly? It's time for a mental health round in the AFL

The New Daily, Other, 19/05/2025, Nick Dyrenfurth

The tragic death of former West Coast premiership player Adam Selwood at just 41 is another devastating reminder of the mental health epidemic gripping young Australians. This is especially so for men – including those who once seemed invincible on the field. Selwood's passing isn't just a personal tragedy for his family, it's a national crisis behoving a national response.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 19/05/2025, Geraldine Mellet

Interview with Adrian Munro, Richmind WA, about men's mental health support. Munro discusses the national suicide prevention plan, noting it does not proportionately prioritise men.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 19/05/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with John Mannion, CEO, Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation. Mannion states their aim and objective obviously is to invest into research, to connect the community and also to provide support and mental health literacy and education. He notes statistics show that 44% of people will experience a mental health challenge in their lifetimes. Mannion states the worst statistic is that they're losing nine Australians to suicide every day, of which seven of those are men.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Nurses blast pay 'betrayal'

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 20/05/2025, Taylah Fellows, Page 15

Queensland's nurses and midwives are in a standoff with the state government, launching a strike ballot this week after being told they would lose two months' back pay if they took protected industrial action. Furious health workers have accused the government of betrayal over its latest and final EB12 pay and conditions offer, with the government warned the fallout will echo across upcoming wage deals for police, fireys and teachers.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Facing financial Medicare scare

Canberra Times, General News, 20/05/2025, Crispin Hull, Page 17

Say you ran a big insurance company that had income from premiums of a little more than \$5 billion and costs of about \$32 billion. You would have only three ways out. Go bankrupt and wind up; increase premiums; and/or cut costs drastically. That is unless you were Medicare.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Telstra's Brady to face grilling over returns

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 20/05/2025, Jenny Wiggins, Page 19

Big Telstra shareholders want to see evidence the telecommunications group, which has been raising prices on mobile phone plans and axing jobs, is increasing returns on invested capital when executives front up next week.

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Digital tools transforming our approach to health

Retail World, General News, 01/05/2025, Page 40

More than half of all Australians are now using digital tools to track their overall health, from food intake to steps and sleep, according to findings from the fourth edition of the 'Living Healthy Report' from Woolworths' health and wellness platform, Healthylife. The findings highlight the opportunities for harnessing the digital world for better health.

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6PR, Drive, 19/05/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Dr Michael Page, WA President of Australian Medical Association, about the issue of ambulance ramping and viability of maternity services in hospitals. Page also comments on the issue with health funding in Australia, noting Federal and State governments and private health want to spend less. He adds private insurers are not adequately rebating patients and hospitals.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

NDIS firm in integrity probe: court files reveal claims of holidays on taxpayers

The Australian, General News, 20/05/2025, David Murray, Page 1

An NDIS firm was accused of using taxpayer money to send clients and carers on holidays, offering people with disabilities cash payments instead of support, and colluding with doctors to inflate plans, court documents state. The tip-offs led the National Disability Insurance Agency to begin in July last year to manually review all claims submitted by Sydney-based Maysan Holdings, trading as Support Services for NDIS and Aged Care.

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

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ABC, 7:30, 19/05/2025, Sarah Ferguson

Data acquired by ABC 7.30 has revealed the scale of the medical cannabis industry in Australia. One pharmacist dispensed almost a million products in a year, while eight practitioners appear to have issued more than 10,000 scripts for high-strength THC products in just six months. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has a task force investigating medical cannabis prescribing issues. AHPRA Executive Director of Regulatory Operations Kym Ayscough comments on cannabis prescription.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Looking for more diversity

Adelaide Advertiser, Sport, 20/05/2025, Jon Ralph, Page 52

The AFL will hire a cultural diversity boss guiding the league's path towards a more diverse group of players, media and club staff as work continues on an exit strategy for Indigenous official Tanya Hosch. Applications close on May 29 for the head of cultural diversity engagement and growth after the league put that new job to market at the start of the month.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#)

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Enough games get on with it

Courier Mail, General News, 20/05/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 1

Outgoing International Olympic Committee boss Thomas Bach has pleaded with Australia's politicians to unite behind the Crisafulli government's venues master plan for the 2032 Games. During a whistlestop trip to Brisbane on Monday, Mr Bach also backed the state government's plans to hold Olympic events outside of the South East. But he could not guarantee that Rockhampton would host the rowing events on the crocodile-infested Fitzroy River, saying "this remains to be seen".

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Bach to the future for Olympic dream

Courier Mail, General News, 20/05/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 5

Incoming International Olympic Committee president Kirsty Coventry is among top Games officials visiting Brisbane this week to be updated on 2032 progress and to tour key sites. Mrs Coventry is in Brisbane alongside outgoing IOC president Thomas Bach and members of the Coordination Commission for the Olympic Games Brisbane 2032 for high-level meetings with the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee.

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League draws the line

Courier Mail, General News, 20/05/2025, Eddie Franklin, Page 9

Threats of physical violence and verbal abuse aimed at referees have forced the Sunshine Coast and Gympie Rugby League to warn of bans. In a statement posted to the SCGRL junior and senior social media pages, it listed seven glaring reports of referee abuse from three rounds of the 2025 season.

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Saffioti distances herself from bare-knuckle fighting bout

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 19/05/2025, Hamish Hastie

The Combat Sports Commission is mulling a decision to allow the world's biggest bare-knuckle boxing organisation, partially owned by UFC fighter Conor McGregor, to stage a major fight in Perth next month. In March, Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship founder David Feldman announced on social media his intention to bring a boxing event to Perth on either July 12 or 19.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Weight-loss surgery fear

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 20/05/2025, Page 3

Bariatric surgery widely recognised as the most effective, long-term, and safe treatment for severe obesity is under threat in Australia, as skyrocketing indemnity insurance premiums and growing malpractice claims drive surgeons out of the field. A new study involving Flinders University, warns that bariatric surgery, a critical tool in combating the country's obesity crisis, could soon become unsustainable to provide.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

RSV season ramps up as government examines whether to expand free vaccine access

ABC Online, Other, 19/05/2025

As winter nears and the cold and flu season sets in, the highly infectious respiratory virus RSV has again begun its spread. [...] Pexels This comes in light of the 2024 Annual Australian Respiratory Surveillance Report from the interim Australian Centre for Disease Control, which states that older Australians are more likely to die from RSV than younger Australians.

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Deadly diseases highlight importance of checks

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 19/05/2025

The lung disease silicosis was again in the news a couple of months ago, when it was revealed that 13 workers on Sydney tunnelling projects had contracted the deadly disease. The condition is caused by inhaling silica dust, similar to how breathing in asbestos fibres causes asbestosis and mesothelioma.

[Read More](#)

Travellers to PNG warned about polio

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 19/05/2025

Papua New Guinea has detected cases of polio, having had been declared polio-free for 25 years. However, vaccination rates have fallen below 50%, well short of the 95% threshold needed for herd immunity.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 19/05/2025, Stephanie Dalzell

Interview with Peter Breadon, Health Program Director at Grattan Institute, about the causes of dropping vaccination rates in Australia. Breadon notes they are now seeing outbreaks of measles in Australia. He says there has been a rise of misinformation about vaccines and their risks.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 19/05/2025, Stephanie Dalzell

Panel discussion with Angie Bell, Liberal MP and Mike Freeland, Labor Member for Macarthur. Bell and Freeland comment on the issue of the declining vaccination rates in Australia. Freeland says the issue is concerning and notes Australia's childhood immunisation rates are very good before the [COVID] pandemic, but it dropped significantly since then.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 19/05/2025, Melissa Downes

Families have reported appointment cancellations as flu vaccine supplies ran low at some pharmacies and GP clinics. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia says Queensland case numbers are up 35% on this time in 2024.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Ozempic blindness link

Daily Telegraph, General News, 20/05/2025, Danielle Gusmaroli, Page 9

Dozens of Ozempic and Wegovy users have reported suffering from eye disorders they claim are associated with the drugs, including eight who have complained of blindness. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has also received two additional complaints of sudden blindness in one eye, among more than 40 ophthalmic disorders logged in Australia between December 2020 and May 5 this year.

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

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Sexyland under investigation over allegations of 'disgusting and traumatic' harassment and sales

ABC Online, Other, 19/05/2025, Stephanie Richards

Jane* said it is not uncommon for her to receive rape threats or see men expose themselves when she is at work. [...] "Sexyland stocks only Therapeutic Goods Administration approved items.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 19/05/2025, Alicia Loxley & Tom Steinfert

Polaris lawyers are investigating a possible class action against Blackmores, after Frankston father Dominic Noonan-O'Keefe suffered nerve damage from taking synthetic B6 vitamins, which is often found in supplements. Chemical pathologist Dr Gemma Day says vitamin B6 can be found in weight loss shakes and supplements. A Blackmores spokesperson has stated their products are developed in strict accordance with the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Pacific kava advocates wary of Australia introducing stricter Kava regulations

ABC Online, Other, 19/05/2025, Cam Lang

A Pacific community leader in Australia who fought for the resumption of commercial kava imports fears they could be stopped again now that kava smuggling into the Northern Territory, where it's banned, has also resumed. The illicit kava trade to remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory is back in full swing since commercial imports resumed a few years ago.

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Medicinal cannabis prescribing practices under scrutiny after scripts issued 'every 4 minutes'

ABC Online, Other, 19/05/2025, Elise Worthington & Emily-Jane Smith

Australian medical practitioners are writing scripts for high-strength medicinal cannabis products with alarming speed, raising concerns some are putting "profit over patient safety", according to the regulator. Since medicinal cannabis was legalised in 2016, the industry has exploded, with cannabis telehealth clinics fuelling a rapid increase in prescriptions of products that contain THC, the psychoactive substance that causes a "high".

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FOOD STANDARDS

Parents are meat in the sandwich of war on ham

Northern Territory News, General News, 20/05/2025, David Penberthy, Page 29

You had better think twice next time you pop one of those ham stackers into your kid's lunch box. The war on ham is under way.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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An alpaca walked into a supermarket and now the matter is before court

Canberra Times, Other, 19/05/2025, Matt Maloney

An anti-discrimination complaint arising from an alpaca being used as an assistance animal in an IGA supermarket has been referred to the Magistrates Court for determination. [...] The store argued that the animal should not be allowed within the store in accordance with its obligations under the state's Food Act and the Food Standards Australia and New Zealand Act.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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