



Australian Government
Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 23rd May 2025

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) |
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| [Department](#) | [Vaccines](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability](#)
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| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#) |
[Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) |
[Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 5) reports Queensland's Health Minister has called for the Federal Government to up the state's aged care capacity following new data showing \$592 million is being spent by hospitals on long-stay elderly patients.
- The [West Australian](#) (page 6) reports the father of a 21-month-old child who died due to complications from acute lymphoblastic leukaemia said he was turned away on the family's first hospital visit despite requesting blood tests, and treated like he was wasting doctors' time.
- [The Australian](#) (page 7) reports NDIS firm Cocoon SDA, currently under investigation by the NDIA, spent tens of thousands of dollars gaining access to politicians in a bid to strengthen their public image of legitimacy.
- The [West Australian](#) (page 7) reports more than 1.5 million Australians have accessed Medicare Urgent Care Clinics as of May 16, saving an estimated \$254 million in avoided hospital visits, Mark Butler says.
- [The Australian](#) (page 8) reports breakthrough early Alzheimer's therapy Kisunla has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in a move experts believe could prolong the cognitive decline of patients by up to two years. *Also reported by:* [Courier Mail](#), [West Australian](#), [ABC Online](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#)

- The [Northern Territory News](#) (page 9) reports Northern Territory's opposition says it has begun work on a private member's bill to legislate voluntary assisted dying in a bid to force the Territory Government to action.

MINISTER BUTLER

Elderly stuck in hospital

Courier Mail, General News, 23/05/2025, Chris Burns and Nikita McGuire, Page 5

Queensland is spending more than half a billion dollars a year keeping the elderly in hospital longer than needed because there is nowhere else to go, new data has revealed. It has prompted Health Minister Tim Nicholls to urge the federal government to "step up" and add more agedcare capacity rather than the buck being passed to Queensland's struggling healthcare system. [...] Federal Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler said the government was spending more than \$120m to get Queensland's elderly long-stay patients out of hospital beds and into aged care.

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

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Medicare clinics key milestone

West Australian, Edition Changes, 22/05/2025, Page 7

The Albanese Government is hailing a milestone for its Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, which played a key role in Labor's election campaign. More than 1.5 million Australians have turned to one of the clinics for treatment as of May 16, saving an estimated \$254m in avoided hospital visits. Health Minister Mark Butler said the clinics had become a vital part of the health system.

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Drastic new cigarette rules to change way Aussies smoke forever

Weekly Times, General News, 21/05/2025, Page 5

Smokers will see some types of cigarettes banned under tough new rules designed to make smoking as unappealing as possible. The new measures, which are set to come into force from July 1, will outlaw certain ingredients, flavours and accessories. [...] 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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Minister advocates for town's health

Eyre Peninsula Advocate, General News, 22/05/2025, Charlotte Martin, Page 7

State Health Minister Chris Picton has made good on his word to advocate for Kimba District Council as it seeks to be reclassified from remote community (MM6) to very remote community (MM7) in the Modified Monash Model (MMM) Rating. Minister Picton sent a letter to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on April 13 requesting the change, stating Eyre and Far North Local Health Network (EFNLHN) was the largest local health network by area in South Australia and one of the largest in the country.

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Aged care lifeline

Goondiwindi Argus, General News, 23/05/2025, Sarah Murphy, Page 1

Wattle and River Home Health (WRHH) has officially submitted a major grant application to the Federal Government's Aged Care Capital Assistance Program an ambitious and urgent proposal to build dedicated housing for aged care staff in Goondiwindi. The submission comes after last week's urgent call for help to secure federal government support for the project, which risked being scuttled by government red tape, Federal Member for Maranoa and Leader of the Nationals David Littleproud held a successful emergency intervention in parliament last week, urging Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler to allow the grant to be processed on its merits, despite not having received confirmed provider approval.

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Game plan for pandemics

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 22/05/2025, Page 1

The Australian Government and Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) have broadly welcomed and endorsed the World Health Organization's (WHO) new Pandemic Agreement, which lays out a coordinated global response against future outbreaks. The framework follows three years of negotiations and work to identify and close gaps and inequities which emerged as part of the WHO's overall response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [...] Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Health Minister Mark Butler said the framework is an important step forward.

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

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Australia approves new drug to treat early Alzheimer's disease

The Guardian, Other, 22/05/2025, Natasha May

Australia's medicines regulator has approved a new drug to treat the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, but experts warn that less than one in five people with dementia will be eligible for the treatment that could cost more than \$80,000 out of pocket. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, on Thursday said "there is still a fair way to go, though, to determine whether or not this will be reimbursed by the federal government and, if so, for which patients".

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Australian news and politics live: One dead, three missing as NSW Mid North Coast flood disaster worsens

Countryman, Other, 22/05/2025, Matt Shrivell

Australia's banks are rolling out disaster relief measures as flood damage mounts across the Hunter and Mid-North Coast, with affected customers now able to apply for financial assistance. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says Australia's Medicare Urgent Care Clinics have marked a new 1.5 million-visit milestone.

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Aged care reform in 2025: an agenda for the Australian government

Health Services Daily, Other, 22/05/2025, Kathy Eagar

As the first of the Boomers turn 80 this year, the federal government and opposition share an ideological commitment to the private market and to make older people pay more for aged care. Neither side has the details right. [...] However, federal health minister Mark Butler announced in 2024 that CHSP would not transition to Support at Home until "at least 2027".

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ABC News, ABC National News, 22/05/2025, Joe O'Brien

A new treatment for Alzheimer's disease has been approved for use in Australia and may benefit people in the early stages of the illness. Health Minister Mark Butler says it remains unclear if the drug will be subsidised by the federal government or which patients would qualify.

Also reported by: [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC \(Perth\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

Officials condemn 'steroid games'

Herald Sun, Sport, 23/05/2025, Julian Linden, Page 67

Dismissed by global drugbusters as a "clown show" and a "circus", Australian authorities have joined in condemning the "Steroid Games", a money-grabbing competition which allows elite athletes to freely use performance-enhancing drugs. [...] "SIA condemns competitions that promote drug use and doping

methods in sport, particularly those that may seek to exploit athletes for financial gain and influence," Sport Integrity Australia chief executive Sarah Benson said.

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

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Riverway Stadium struggles to secure \$15m while billions spent on 2032 Olympics

Cairns Post, Other, 22/05/2025, Leighton Smith

With billions being spent on the 2032 Olympics, Townsville's still scratching around for \$15 million to upgrade infrastructure at Riverway Stadium. Find out how our polities have responded. [...] Federal Minister for Sport Anika Wells pledged \$15m towards a High-Performance Training Centre for Cairns to help Labor's candidate for Leichhardt Matt Smith get elected.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 22/05/2025, Chris Bath and Dom Knight

Interview with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on tensions within the Coalition. Albanese says his focus is on delivering good government rather than commenting on the Coalition's issues. He then highlights recent ministerial changes, naming Kristy McBain as the new Minister for Emergency Management and noting Jenny McAllister's move to oversee the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

Australian unions present demands amidst recent strike activity

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/05/2025, Stephen Johnson

A trade union leader has vowed to inflict the most disruptive strikes in history on Australia, collapsing freight and passenger transport networks and choking supermarket food supplies. [...] The TWU counts Labor MPs and senators among its members including Tony Sheldon and new Ageing and Seniors Minister Sam Rae.

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New Minister for Ageing meets with Aged Care Transition Taskforce as sector seeks staggering of reforms

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/05/2025, Caroline Egan

With only 26 working days until the new Aged Care Act takes effect and key details still unclear, there is growing pressure from within the sector to delay implementation. The 1 July 2025 start date can't be changed - it would require an amendment to legislation and parliament doesn't sit again until August. [...] Sam Rae, the newly appointed Minister for Ageing, met with the Aged Care Transition Taskforce during the week.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

VACCINES

Will changes in US COVID-19 booster policy influence Australia's vaccine approach?

SBS, Other, 22/05/2025, Cameron Carr

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is set to revise its approval process for COVID-19 vaccines, potentially limiting future boosters to older adults and those at higher risk of severe illness. The move has sparked questions about how this change could influence Australia's vaccine strategy and access to boosters in the future.

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

New collective website for AACG

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/05/2025

AACG has launched a new, consolidated website that incorporates information on all three of its aged care homes. Victoria-based aged care provider Australian Aged Care Group has merged its four websites – AACG, Kew Gardens, Banfields and Mt Eliza Gardens – into a single site, delivering a more intuitive and user-friendly platform.

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Vic state budget targets cost-of-living, health

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/05/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The Victorian public aged care sector will receive \$50 million in the next financial year, according to the 2025-26 Victorian State Budget, with a further \$25 million set aside to support people to age at home. Victorian Treasurer Jaclyn Symes announced her first budget on Tuesday, saying it was designed to provide cost-of-living relief through investing in crucial services – including public aged care – and give people hope.

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Allied health central to quality of life for seniors

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/05/2025, anita westera

Allied health professionals must be better considered within broader health policy to support equitable access and sustainable provision of these essential services, writes Anita Westera. The value of allied health services in supporting people as they age is well established, particularly for those with chronic and complex health and care needs.

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Residents enjoy texture-modified hot breakfast

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/05/2025

Lutheran Services aged care residents on texture modified diets no longer need to rely on warm Weetbix or porridge for breakfast, thanks to the rollout of a new IDDSI compliant menu. Lutheran Services has partnered with New Zealand-based The Pure Food Company to trial a new texture-modified breakfast range.

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Should residents be allowed to bring their pets into aged care? Have your say

HelloCare, Other, 22/05/2025, Jakob Neeland

With 95% of people believing that pets contribute to improved health outcomes for older people*, having access to pet-friendly aged care should be far more common, says national animal welfare charity Companion Animal Network Australia (CANA or Australia CAN). Yet, as of 2023, only 18% of aged care facilities allow residents to keep pets, and just 9% of older pet owners living at home – who rely on government-funded Home Care Packages (HCPs) – receive any assistance with their pet's care, according to CANA's 2023 Aged Care Survey: Status of Pets in Aged Care.

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Everlasting blooms: Why fake flowers are becoming a favourite in senior living spaces across Australia

The Senior, Other, 22/05/2025

In the serene and thoughtfully designed interiors of senior living communities across Australia, a quiet revolution is taking place—one that has nothing to do with technology or healthcare, but everything to do with beauty, comfort, and joy. The humble artificial bloom is making a grand comeback.

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Smart care, safe ageing: How NDIS client management systems are powering the next era of senior support

The Senior, Other, 22/05/2025

As Australia's population continues to age, the demand for smarter, safer, and more personalised senior care has never been greater. With increasing life expectancy and growing expectations for autonomy in later years, service providers are under pressure to deliver care that is not only efficient but also deeply person-centred. In this evolving landscape, one tool is standing out for its ability to meet the complex needs of older Australians: the NDIS client management system.

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In-home aged care helps visually-impaired Krysta de Bue live independently

The Senior, Other, 22/05/2025, Anthony Caggiano

Krysta de Bue lives a life of vibrance and colour with her can-do attitude and a little support around the house. The independent woman who spent decades painting while raising a family said she focuses on having a positive attitude. "I'm trying to concentrate on what I can do," she said.

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Fix it or fail: Australia's health system can't last another five years

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/05/2025, Lauren Broomham

Last week, I was fascinated by the Fin Review's latest 'Lunch with the AFR' interview with Chris Blake, CEO of St Vincent's Health Australia. His prediction? Australian hospitals, in their current form, have

only about five years left to survive – and the aged care sector may face collapse even sooner. You can read the piece here if you have a subscription.

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“An Everest moment”: home care providers face near-impossible feat conquering Support at Home

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/05/2025, Caroline Egan

Speaking to home care providers about the implementation of Support at Home in just over a month, a common theme emerged: providers can not properly inform customers while the final details of the changes have not been provided by the Government. Yvonne Timson, CEO of WA home care and disability provider Community Vision, told The Weekly SOURCE they are at an "Everest moment".

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Kiama Council settles \$60M loan ending disastrous venture in aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/05/2025, Caroline Egan

On 7 May, the NSW South Coast Council made the final \$14.6 million repayment on its debt to TCorp, the NSW Government's lending body, finally ruling a line under an expensive foray into aged care development. The repayment clears Kiama Council of a \$60 million debt, taken out in 2018 for the construction of the 134-bed Blue Haven Bonaira Residential Aged Care Home.

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Aged care erased: no mention of sector in Shadow Aged Care Minister interview

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/05/2025, Caroline Egan

The words "aged care" were not uttered once in last Sunday morning's Insiders program on the ABC which featured the Shadow Minister for Aged Care Anne Ruston. The scene was set when Senator Ruston was mistakenly introduced as the Shadow Minister for Health, ignoring her high profile advocacy for the aged care sector in achieving bipartisan support for the new Aged Care Act and highlighting the number of elderly older Australians on the home care wait list.

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Govt awards ACIL Allen contract worth \$4.5K per day to review innovation in aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/05/2025, Caroline Egan

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has awarded economics, policy and strategy firm ACIL Allen a \$186,704 contract to review innovation in aged care, including if Government incentives on offer are effective. The contract runs for two months from 1 May 2025 to 30 June 2025, meaning it's worth nearly \$4,500 per day.

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HammondCare's \$63M final restoration of its aged care heartland begins

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/05/2025, Ian Horswill

HammondCare's final transformation of its flagship Hammondville site, 31km southwest of Sydney's CBD, with two new multi-storey aged care homes began on Wednesday with the demolition of the original 93-year-old Bond House nursing home. The two new aged care homes, designed to meet National Aged Care Design Principles and Guidelines , will provide beds for 90 residents and turn the Hammondville precinct into a contemporary, integrated village.

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14% of aged care homes increase RAD to new \$750,000 threshold: Mirus

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/05/2025, Caroline Egan

From 1 January 2025, aged care providers were able to charge Refundable Accommodation Deposits

(RADs) of up to \$750,000 without gaining approval from the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA), an almost 50% increase on the former \$550,000 maximum limit.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY

NDIS firm accused of cash for access bid

The Australian, General News, 23/05/2025, David Murray, Page 7

An NDIS firm being investigated by federal authorities spent tens of thousands of dollars to gain access to prominent politicians as it sought to strengthen its appearance of legitimacy. Cocoon SDA Care co-founder Zaffar Khan stood with then-Liberal National Party treasury spokesman David Janetzki in front of the Speaker's chair in parliament in a photo the firm posted to social media three weeks before the Queensland election.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Patients in the dark with Better Movement Clinic set to be liquidated

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 22/05/2025, Michael Nolan

It has been a week since the Better Movement Clinic closed abruptly and its patients have serious questions about why it collapsed and who now holds their medical records. Better Movement Clinic clients living with acute disabilities and illness are searching for alternative health care providers after the business abruptly collapsed. [...] Greg Vincent suffers from Atypical Parkinsonism and through his NDIS package he received specialised physio treatment at Better Movement Clinic.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Dangers of the tape trend

West Australian, General News, 23/05/2025, Rhiann Rhianna and Mitch Mitchell, Page 20

Parents are being warned about the dangers of mouth taping their children in an attempt to improve sleep or stop mouth breathing, as new research finds the celebrity-endorsed practice could pose serious health risks. Growing awareness about the health impacts of mouth breathing, which is linked to sleep disorders, has spawned an industry promoting mouth tape which claims to improve sleep, reduce snoring and enhance overall health by encouraging nasal breathing.

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Secret source: have we forgotten this simple rule for living well?

The Australian, Other, 22/05/2025, Michael Wright

These days, wherever we look, people are trying to sell us ways to slow or stop the dreaded march of time, from anti-ageing products to life-prolonging diets and miracle supplements. But the truth is, the easiest way to live a longer, healthier life is to find a GP and spend more time with them. Studies have shown patients who regularly see the same GP live longer, go to hospital less and are more productive and happier.

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Gippsland mother pleads for help after son's mental health ordeal

ABC Online, Other, 22/05/2025

When Mary discovered her 14-year-old son was suicidal, she rushed him straight to hospital, assuming he would get the care he desperately needed. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and

Welfare, there are almost 13,300 specialised mental health beds around Australia, including almost 7,000 in public hospitals.

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AFL urged to go beyond mental health round with player voices to tackle stigma

The Guardian, Other, 23/05/2025, Jack Snape

From sharing more first-person stories to using destigmatising language in community football, the AFL can do more to improve mental health outcomes according to experts, whether or not the league pursues a themed round explicitly dedicated to the cause. [...] A week of grief is a reminder to reflect on the magnificent triviality of sport Read more As many as 43% of people aged 16–85 experience a mental disorder at some time in their life according to the ABS, and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has found suicide is the leading cause of death for people aged 15-44.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 22/05/2025, Tom Connell

The WA Nationals move to disallow new gun law regulations in Parliament. The laws require gun owners to get a certificate from their GP confirming their physical and mental fitness. Premier Roger Cook urges support for the changes despite concerns from doctors and the GPs' peak body.

Report continues on: [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

I refuse to let cancer beat me

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/05/2025, Adella Beaini, Page 19

At just 22, Jayda Regler's life should be centred around raising her baby boy and building a future with her husband. Instead, she's confronting a devastating and rare terminal cancer diagnosis Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumour (DSRCT) and preparing to travel overseas in a last-ditch effort to save her life. Ms Regler was diagnosed in April this year after being plagued by abdominal pains.

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

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Call to check blood pressure

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 23/05/2025, Tom O'Callaghan, Page 7

Dr Mario Fernando is among health workers reaching out to people for May Measure Month, which targets high blood pressure. "It's the first time many of these people have checked their blood pressure and if it is high - or it's somebody who is already on medication and blood pressure is too high - then we tell them 'please, follow up with your GP,'" he said.

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Sound care from Sprakel

Border Watch, General News, 23/05/2025, Page 16

When Holly Sprakel returned to Mount Gambier 18 months ago, she brought with her more than just a suitcase she brought a vision. That vision has grown into Sound Audiology, a thriving local business dedicated to providing expert audiological care for people of all ages. Starting small, Holly began her business from a single rented room at Open Door Health.

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Keep on moving

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 23/05/2025, Wade Stephens, Page 1

Fight Parkinson's health team, clinical and support services manager Victor McConvey and chief

executive Emma Collin visited Mildura and spoke to more than 40 people, providing a range of advice and information. The meeting was arranged at the request of Mildura Parkinson's Support Group member Cheryl Barnes, who sought updated information about health and research.

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'She's my pillar'

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 23/05/2025, Nikita Mcguire, Page 1

Magnetic Island resident Melia Hinks faced one of the darkest chapters of her life as a student as she helped her mother battle cancer. Now the disease has altered her life forever again. After supporting her mother in her fight against stage 4 bowel cancer, the 22-year-old is now in a fight for her own life against a rare and aggressive illness that affects 200 Australians each year.

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Familiar foe

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 23/05/2025, Page 14

Living in Queensland, not just North Queensland, allows you to be a part of an exclusive, and lucky, club. Beautiful beaches, the best cold beer, the mighty Maroons and so much more that sets our state apart. Unfortunately, there is a tragic undercurrent. Our lifestyle, our temperate climate and our love of the sun mean our cancer rates are some of the highest in the world. Particularly skin cancer, which is something we've all known to be the case.

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Rare genetic diseases rapidly detected under new test

Canberra Times, Other, 23/05/2025, Allanah Sciberras

Louise Gray knew something was wrong when her five-month-old son failed to meet the same early milestones as his older sister. Acting quickly, she took him to the GP, which led to an MRI and a series of further tests. Eventually, Kye was diagnosed with Leigh's disease, a rare and serious mitochondrial condition. Kye is now two and is the only known case in Australia with the ABAT gene.

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

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Young Aussie nurse is handed shock diagnosis at 30 after bruising on her legs for years - and one in nine women are at risk

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/05/2025, Sharon Hunt

A Perth mother had always dismissed her unexplainably bruised legs until a shock diagnosis finally offered answers. Registered nurse and personal trainer Taylor O'Malley discovered just two weeks ago that her years of leg bruising were a result of little known condition, lipoedema. The 30-year-old woman posted about her diagnosis in a now viral TikTok video, explaining in the caption that she had 'always felt strongly it was abnormal how easily I bruise'.

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Key insights on menopause and hormone therapy

Medical Forum, Other, 22/05/2025

Breast cancer risk is one of the most common concerns expressed by both patients and healthcare practitioners when discussing menopausal hormone therapy (MHT). Professor Robert Langer, one of the principal investigators of the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) trial, helped clarify several misconceptions about MHT. The WHI study, which contributed to widespread fear, suggested that oestrogen and progestin (CEE+MPA) increased breast cancer risk.

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6PR, Drive, 22/05/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Asthma Australia's medical advisor John Blakey on the growing concern about RSV in older Australians. Blakey says RSV often causes flu-like illness and can be more dangerous for older people or those with chronic conditions. He explains that RSV has always circulated but was previously

underdetected because testing was limited. He says new test kits now detect RSV alongside other viruses, making tracking more accurate across Australia.

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Final flourish of star who rode his fortune

Herald Sun, General News, 23/05/2025, Glenn McFarlane, Page 14

Football great Robert Walls had one last MCG message for his family and fans Robert Walls left strict instructions for his celebration of life at the MCG on Thursday, including a five-minute warning for the speakers and a tongue-in-cheek threat of a headlock being applied if the time limit was exceeded. [...] This was an inspirational farewell to the Australian Football Hall of Fame member, three-time Carlton premiership player and onetime premiership coach, who died last Thursday aged 74 after choosing voluntary assisted dying over a second gruelling cancer fight.

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

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CLP mute on push for VAD

Northern Territory News, General News, 23/05/2025, Fia Walsh, Page 9

The Northern Territory Opposition has started the process of developing a voluntary assisted dying private member's bill, in an attempt to force action from the government which remains mute on the topic amid another inquiry. On Tuesday Labor Leader Selena Uibo started the process of drafting a private member's bill to legislate voluntary assisted dying in the Territory.

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Staff under pressure

Border Watch, General News, 23/05/2025, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

The Mount Gambier and Districts Hospital remains severely understaffed, three months following a union review. In February, South Australian Salaried Medical Officers Association (SASMOA) conducted a review on the hospital's emergency department. The report detailed a number of concerns including workers reporting inadequate beds and bays in the emergency department, long wait times, long emergency department stays, ambulance ramping and a crowded corridor.

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Chopper, hospital projects crash

Cairns Post, General News, 23/05/2025, Samuel Davis, Page 10

Tim Nicholls has conceded it will be years before Cairns Hospital has a new helipad with Labor's projected \$378m infrastructure blowout also stalling construction of a new surgical centre. The landing site, located at the northern end of the popular Cairns Esplanade, has posed safety concerns for years with the LNP committing to finding a safer location away from tourists and pedestrians last month.

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Don't split health district, says chief

Newcastle Herald, General News, 23/05/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 8

Splitting the Hunter New England Health district would be "disruptive, costly and ultimately detrimental to the people". So says the district's chief executive, Tracey McCosker, who has "strongly urged" a NSW parliamentary committee to back keeping the district "unified". The district serves almost one million people in the Hunter, New England and Lower Mid North Coast areas.

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Busselton Health Campus to conduct preterm pre-eclampsia screening trial

The Busselton Health Campus has been named as the Western Australian site to conduct a preterm pre-eclampsia screening trial with a \$5.3 million funding boost from the Federal Government. Busselton will join eight other sites across the country for the trial as part of the national Every Week Counts Preterm Birth Prevention program.

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State Government yet to confirm if funding for Geraldton RFDS base will be included in next month's Budget

West Australian, Other, 23/05/2025, Matthew Paddick

The State Government is remaining coy about funding for a Geraldton base for the Royal Flying Doctor Service in its upcoming Budget. One of Labor's commitments ahead of the State election was to provide \$7.5 million for a local RFDS base, which at the time was estimated to be about half the required amount to deliver the facility.

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Ballarat's surgical future: AI and robotic breakthroughs

Ballarat Courier, Other, 22/05/2025, Michelle Smith

Dr Joshua Kovoov and Dr Harleen Aulakh met while working at Ballarat Base Hospital in 2024 and are now heading to Los Angeles after Dr Kovoov was granted a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to study AI in medicine. Picture by Australian-American Fulbright Commission. Dr Joshua Kovoov wants to bring the future of robotics and AI in surgery to Ballarat and other regional health settings.

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Cairns mum, Tegan Catalano, calling for the immediate appointment of a second pediatric cardiologist

Cairns Post, Other, 22/05/2025, Emma Cam

A Cairns mother is calling for a second cardiologist in Far North Queensland after her four-year-old daughter was forced to wait nearly four months for a critical heart check-up. A Cairns mother is calling for a second cardiologist in Far North Queensland after her four-year-old daughter was forced to wait nearly four months for a critical heart check-up.

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ERC push for new hospital

Shepparton News Online, Other, 22/05/2025

At its meeting on Tuesday, council supported a recommendation from CEO Jack Bond that paves the way for a new hospital being a local priority. Council insists the hospital must be part of a broader health precinct. A 'position statement' from Mr Bond and Mayor Ashley Hall was unanimously supported by council at its monthly meeting. On Wednesday, a copy was presented to NSW Member for Murray Dalton to take to Parliament.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Bondi killer's 'red flags' before murderous rampage

The Australian, General News, 23/05/2025, Steve Zemek, Page 7

Joel Cauchi was exhibiting "red flags" that he was relapsing months after he was taken off antipsychotic medication five years before he went on a horrific rampage through Westfield Bondi Junction in Sydney's east, a psychiatrist has told an inquest. An inquest is examining the events that led to Cauchi, 40, killing six people on April 13, 2024.

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

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

Force's mental health hubs go

Herald Sun, General News, 23/05/2025, Carly Douglas, Page 8

Traumatised frontline police will no longer have access to critical mental health facilities as the force faces an "extremely challenging fiscal environment". Officers dealing with joy-riding youth criminals and machete-wielding gangs will lose two new and four planned mental health and wellbeing hubs.

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

'Finish what he started'

Herald Sun, Sport, 23/05/2025, Eliza Reilly, Page 74

A group of former West Coast players and staff have pledged to finish what Adam Selwood started and complete Sunday's HBF Run For a Reason halfmarathon in his honour. Selwood died on Saturday in Perth, aged 41. The Eagles premiership player had planned to complete the charity run in memory of his twin, Troy, who died by suicide in February.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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

Reforms 'trivialise' mental health illnesses

Border Mail, General News, 23/05/2025, Kabel Dawes, Page 5

Riverina residents have expressed fears over proposed changes to Australia's largest workers' compensation scheme, saying it risks trivialising mental health. NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey believes the system has to change because, he says, businesses are shouldering the financial burden of multi-faceted mental illness contributors.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#)

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

Push for better mental health this June

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 23/05/2025, Page 35

Whether push-ups are part of your daily routine or if you haven't attempted one in a while, Lifeline South Coast is calling on our community, from Eden to Helensburgh, to Push for Better Mental Health this June by joining Australia's largest mental health and fitness event, The Push-Up Challenge. Participants will take on 3214 push-ups across 23 days to honour the 3214 lives lost to suicide in Australia in 2023.

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

Tom Elliott's idea to help those sleeping rough on Melbourne streets

3AW, Other, 22/05/2025, Tom Elliott

Tom Elliott has come up with an idea to help give Melbourne's roughest sleepers a place to sleep, as he condemns the lack of action. The Morning's host says it's an idea the state government should seriously consider as Victoria's mental health and homelessness crises worsen.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 22/05/2025, Liz Trevaskis

Interview with Northern Territory Police Association president Nathan Finn on a coronial inquest into the suicide of NT police officer Michael Deutrom and the broader mental health challenges faced by police officers. Finn says the inquest is a crucial opportunity to understand the factors that led to these tragedies. He adds that the police force must prioritise the health and well-being of its members and their families.

[Play Now](#)

3AW, Drive, 22/05/2025, Jacqui Felgate

Interview with Police Association Victoria secretary Wayne Gatt on concerns about mental health trauma and suicide among police officers, especially with the closure of a 24/7 advice line. Gatt

stresses the seriousness of the issue, highlighting that the BlueHub program has become a key support service for Victoria Police. He says funding will need to continue and likely expand, given the high rates of mental health injuries and their cost to the force.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Unions blast Labor's workers' comp plans

Newcastle Herald, General News, 23/05/2025, Matthew Kelly, Page 11

Hunter unions are on a collision course with the region's state Labor MPs over a proposed overhaul of the NSW workers' compensation system. About 70 union members gathered at Charlestown yesterday to hear from speakers who warned that injured workers would be further disadvantaged if the proposed reforms were implemented. [...] "Over a nine-year period, there's been a 150 per cent increase in the number of psychological injury claims by nurses and midwives.

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

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

WHO estimates global nurse shortage at 5.8 million

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/05/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Widespread shortages and vast inequities continue to plague the global nursing workforce, a new report has revealed. The World Health Organization's (WHO) 2025 State of the World's Nursing (SoWN) report uses data collected from 194 countries to paint a detailed picture of the nursing experience across borders, reporting on education, employment, migration, regulation, working conditions, leadership and more.

[Read More](#)

20 babies born in Weipa after one year of re-opened birthing unit

Cairns Post, Other, 22/05/2025, Molly Frew

Twenty mums have given birth in Weipa since the maternity service opened a year ago. The birthing unit runs as a part of the Weipa Integrated Health Service and services surrounding areas including Napranum, Mapoon and Aurukun. The service hadn't been open since 1999, with staff shortages delaying the reopening in late 2021 and again in late 2022.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Health staff rocked

Cairns Post, General News, 23/05/2025, Emma Cam, Page 1

Healthcare workers in Far North Queensland are being attacked with rocks by youths using slingshots, as staff call for armoured vehicles to take them to and from work. Teens have been targeting vehicles travelling in and out of Yarrabah, 60km from Cairns, with Indigenous leaders and corporations condemning the attacks.

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

Expanded pharmacist roles in Victoria offer new treatments

Ballarat Courier, Other, 22/05/2025, Michelle Smith

Creswick pharmacist Jeff Unmack is looking forward to being able to help even more people. Mr Unmack and hundreds of other Victorian pharmacists have been part of the Community Pharmacist Statewide Pilot to treat minor ailments without needing a doctor, in a bid to free up more appointments at busy GP clinics.

Rural pharmacy challenges overlooked

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/05/2025

The Remote and Isolated Pharmacists Association of Australia (RIPAA) has welcomed new initiatives expanding pharmacist scope of practice for Tasmania and Victoria, but warns remote and isolated pharmacies are not currently being adequately supported to provide these services. RIPAA acknowledges that pharmacist prescribing and expanded pharmacy services are a vital step forward in addressing healthcare disparities in rural and remote communities, where access to doctors and specialists can be limited.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacists step up: no doctor needed

Shepparton News Online, Other, 22/05/2025, Adam Palombi

Terry White Yarrawonga owner and lead practitioner Russell Ingram hopes the community pharmacist pilot program will become permanent. The Victorian Community Pharmacist Statewide Pilot has expanded the roles of pharmacists, to assist growing pressures on general healthcare practices.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 22/05/2025, Michael Thomson

Experts say artificial intelligence is set to enhance jobs rather than replace them, with the biggest growth expected in the healthcare sector. A KPMG report shows WA is on track to create 192,000 new jobs in five years, with health now the state's top job creator after mining. But the AMA says the system still relies heavily on overseas doctors, as not enough local professionals are being trained.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

New Alzheimer's drug approved in Australia

ABC Online, Other, 22/05/2025, Kimberley Price and Luke Radford

The World Today A new drug promising to treat early stage Alzheimer's disease has been approved for use in Australia - the first in nearly 25 years. Featured: Associate Professor Michael Woodward, Head of Dementia Research at the Memory Clinic at Austin Health

[Read More](#)

New drug to treat early Alzheimer's adds to hopes for better treatment

SBS, Other, 22/05/2025, Asha Abdi

Health authorities in Australia have approved a new drug that could slow the progression of Alzheimer's. Listen to Australian and world news, and follow trending topics with SBS News Podcasts. [...] It's not currently listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, and costs around \$4,700 a month, with treatment lasting 12 to 18 months.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, A Current Affair, 22/05/2025, Peter Overton

Interview with Alzheimer's disease patient Joel Fulton, his wife Diane Fulton, and Austin Health Memory Clinic's Dr Michael Woodward on the approval of a new drug that could treat the disease. Fulton says the disease makes everyday tasks frustrating and confusing. Woodward says the drug targets amyloid plaques in the brain and could remove them within 18 months, calling it the first significant treatment in over 30 years.

Interview continues on: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 22/05/2025, Peter Mitchell

A new Alzheimer's drug called Kisunla, which targets the underlying disease, has been approved for use in Australia. However, some doctors remain unconvinced due to side effects such as bleeding in the brain.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 22/05/2025, Chris Bath and Dom Knight

Interview with UNSW A/Prof Peter Gonski on the approval of a new drug that could treat Alzheimer's disease. Gonski says the drug, donanemab, targets the disease's underlying pathology. He says it dissolves amyloid plaques in the brain, which are linked to symptoms of memory loss and reduced function. He says this could help restore brain function to an earlier state and improve symptoms for those recently diagnosed.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 22/05/2025, Stacey Lee

Interview with Southern Neurology's A/Prof Raymond Schwartz on the approval of a new drug that could treat Alzheimer's disease. Schwartz says the treatment is for people with mild Alzheimer's or mild cognitive impairment. He says it is not suitable for those with more advanced disease, certain genotypes, or those on strong blood thinners due to potential side effects like brain swelling or bleeding.

Interview continues on: [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 22/05/2025, Steve Austin

A new drug that's been found to slow the progress of Alzheimer's disease has been approved for use in Australia. After years of clinical trials, donanemab will be available for those in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease which is the most common form of dementia.

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

I was made to feel like a time-waster

West Australian, Edition Changes, 23/05/2025, Rebecca Le May, Page 6

"The truth is, they destroyed our lives." In gut-wrenching testimony on the final day of the inquest into his young boy's death, Sanjoy Dhar revealed the full extent of the heartbreak that shattered his family. His 21-month-old son, Sandipan, died at Joondalup Health Campus on March 24 last year, two days after being denied blood tests.

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Deepfake videos of Norman Swan are tricking people into buying unproven supplements at a risk to their own health

ABC Online, Other, 22/05/2025, Hannah Meagher

It started about 18 months ago. It was shocking then and is even more so now. Listeners, viewers, friends, colleagues and family started to contact me, all with roughly the same question, then and now:

"Is this ad I've seen with you in it real? And should I buy the product?" What they had seen was a video or article, via Facebook or Instagram, which featured me flogging supplements or weight loss products purporting to treat heart disease, diabetes or obesity.

[Read More](#)

ABC, 7:30, 22/05/2025, Sarah Ferguson

AI-generated videos are being used to trick Australians into stopping prescribed medications and buying unproven supplements. The likeness of physician, journalist, and broadcaster Dr Norman Swan is among those being misused by scammers to promote questionable treatments online.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

Building delay warning on Brisbane Games

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/05/2025, James Hall, Page 7

Brisbane 2032 boss Andrew Liveris says he is concerned by soaring construction costs and building constraints as the organising committee sets out to deliver major infrastructure ahead of the Olympic Games. The former Dow Chemical executive said the indus...

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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

Australian founder defends 'Steroid Olympics' at Las Vegas launch

Australian Financial Review, International News, 23/05/2025, Jorge Garcia and Arafat Barbakh, Page 12

The Enhanced Games have set their inaugural competition for May 2026 in Las Vegas, with swimming, athletics and weightlifting on the agenda for athletes using substances banned in official competition to the consternation of anti-doping bodies...

Also reported by: [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#).

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

Charm offensive

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/05/2025, Page 1

The Devils' talks with key stakeholders in the Macquarie Point stadium squabble has uncovered a key aspect lost in the debate the AFL's \$358m investment in the state, almost as much as the state government has officially committed to building the venue. The anti-stadium lobby was fuelled by the AFL's "no stadium, no team" licence condition, but Tasmania Football Club CEO Brendon Gale has come to the defence of the league with a reminder of the enormous injection of money coming for Tasmanian football at every level.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Crikey \(Online\)](#).

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

You'll be missed, TC

Northern Territory News, Sport, 23/05/2025, Nathaniel Chambers, Page 38

The NT footy community is mourning following the death of a Top End player known for his "silky skills and bubbly personality". Darwin Buffaloes Football Club posted that a club junior had died this week. The club initialled the player's name as "TC" because of cultural reasons.

'Mental health round' trivialises this issue

Northern Territory News, General News, 23/05/2025, Jeff Kennett, Page 27

Any suicide is sad, not so much for the person but for those who are left behind. After the deaths of the Selwood twins, Troy and Adam, people are asking why? Remember, more than 3000 Australians take their lives every year. That is double the national road toll. It is fine to talk about suicide, but it's also important to identify how we try to reduce it. And I very much oppose the calls for the AFL to hold a mental health round every year.

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

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Pacer tests positive to human mind health drug

West Australian, Edition Changes, 23/05/2025, Ernie Manning, Page 48

Perth pacer Chaco Eagle has tested positive to human mental health drug clozapine and delivered a first in WA horse racing's detection of prohibited substances. Trotting stewards revealed clozapine was found when Chaco Eagle, trained by Tonia Stampalia, was swabbed before racing at Gloucester Park.

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

Channel 9, Today , 22/05/2025, Sarah Abo and Karl Stefanovic

A new sporting competition encouraging athletes to compete while on performance enhancing drugs now has a launch date. The first Enhanced Games will take place this time next year in Las Vegas with 100 athletes competing across swimming, athletics and weightlifting events.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 22/05/2025, Renee Krosch

Interview with Monash University philosopher and bioethicist Julian Savulescu on the Enhanced Games. Krosch says in Las Vegas, the Enhanced Games launch occurs with plans for events in swimming, athletics, and weightlifting in May 2026. Savulescu supports the concept, arguing that doping is already widespread in the Olympics and needs better regulation. He suggests rethinking the current zero tolerance approach as it is unfair and inconsistently applied.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Changing the way Aussies understand pain

Border Watch, General News, 23/05/2025, Page 12

A world first research project is making its way to the Limestone Coast. Happening in June, UniSA's Professor Lorimer Moseley will help shape a major pain education campaign designed by and for the region. The research project is in collaboration with local health networks with the EQUIPP team working alongside communities in Western Victoria and the Limestone Coast over the next four years.

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Aussie researchers and ASX biotechs driving paediatric drug breakthroughs

The Australian, Other, 22/05/2025, Nadine McGrath

Australia has become well-known for its paediatric drug discovery with several life-altering treatments CSL is a global leader in developing therapies for children with haemophilia and other serious blood disorders Neurotech International is at forefront of developing cannabinoid-derived therapies for paediatric neurological disorders

Vitamin D supplements could counter ageing, study suggests

The Australian, Other, 22/05/2025, Eleanor Hayward

Taking vitamin D supplements could help to turn back the clock on biological ageing, research has suggested. A clinical trial found that adults who took the vitamin every day saw less age-related damage to their DNA, which has been linked to diseases including Alzheimer's and cancer.

[Read More](#)

ASX medtechs chasing FDA De Novo for a shot at big US markets

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/05/2025, Eddy Sunarto

When Nanosonics (asx:nan) landed FDA De Novo clearance for its CORIS system back in March, the market took notice, and for good reason. The CORIS system is not only a world-first device designed to clean the complex inner channels of endoscopes. It also walked the De Novo path – a route the US FDA reserves for genuinely new technologies.

[Read More](#)

Thousands of Australian women recruited for major study revealing truth about menopause

7news.com.au, Other, 22/05/2025, Jennifer Bechwati

For millions of Australian women, menopause is a silent struggle. Typically beginning in their 40s, it can last up to a decade and for some can cause severe life changes. Their experience is often overlooked, dismissed by doctors and misunderstood by society. But that could be about to change. In a landmark development, Australian researchers have conducted the country's most comprehensive study on menopause.

[Read More](#)

Scientists confirm 'baby brain' is real. Here is what's happening

9News, Other, 22/05/2025

Science has pretty well established that the brain isn't static; it changes and adapts throughout our lives in response to life events in a process called neuroplasticity. Researchers are discovering this is especially true of female brains, which get remodelled significantly during the three Ps: puberty (as do the brains of adolescent males), pregnancy and perimenopause.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 22/05/2025, Peter Mitchell

Australian researchers are close to a breakthrough that challenges current understanding of menopause. Monash University's Prof Susan Davis leads the largest menopause study in Australia, involving 8000 women, and says the findings will change everything known about menopause and its symptoms.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#).

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'Change Direction' initiative for Jilya Institute addresses crisis in Aboriginal communities

National Indigenous Times, Other, 22/05/2025, Giovanni Torre

Leading Aboriginal voices, creatives and mental health professionals have come together to launch an awareness initiative focused on the devastating rate of suicide in First Nation communities. A short film,

Change Direction, directed by filmmaker Warwick Thornton, with support from advertising agency Apparent and production company Photoplay, explores the role culture can play in reversing the crisis.

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[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

'Polio outbreak' in PNG: WHO

Daily Advertiser, General News, 22/05/2025, Page 8

The World Health Organisation says circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 has been detected in stool specimens of two healthy children in Papua New Guinea on May 9. The detection of wild poliovirus or vaccine-derived poliovirus, including from samples taken from healthy children, is considered a serious public health event, the WHO said in a statement.

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

'Wake-up call' as flu rages

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 23/05/2025, Bella Munro, Page 4

The Darling Downs is experiencing an avalanche of flu cases compared to previous years, and across the country there have been over 80,000 cases reported before winter has even hit. The Darling Downs has recorded 31 per cent more cases than the same time last year and the flu season is only just beginning with the season usually running from May to September.

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

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Health expert warns Aussies to prepare for a triple virus surge this winter

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/05/2025, Caitlin Powell

Experts are warning of a triple virus surge this winter, with COVID-19, influenza, and RSV already spreading rapidly - and say the best protection is to get vaccinated before the end of May. 'We're dealing with an early wave of a significantly infectious virus diseases,' Infectious Disease Physician at the University of Queensland Professor Paul Griffin said on Wednesday. 'When one person brings something home, it can sweep through the whole household in days.'

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Australia has had record flu cases this year – and that's before winter arrives. What's going on?

The Guardian, Other, 23/05/2025, Natasha May

Australia is being struck by a surge in respiratory illnesses, with record breaking inter-seasonal flu cases since the start of the year. However, flu remains the "underdog of infectious diseases", in that people underestimate its severity, and as a result vaccinations rates remain stubbornly low, Prof Julie Leask from the University of Sydney, says.

[Read More](#)

The Queensland melioidosis outbreak is still growing. What's keeping this deadly mud bug active?

Medicine Today, Other, 22/05/2025, Thomas Jeffries

The outbreak of the deadly "mud bug" melioidosis in north Queensland has not yet abated since it began at the start of this year. So far there have been 221 cases and 31 deaths from the disease in 2025. This encompasses a 400% increase in cases in Cairns and a 600% increase in Townsville compared to the average over previous years.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

New drug hope for dementia patients

The Australian, General News, 23/05/2025, Duncan Evans, Page 8

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved a new drug tipped to revolutionise the treatment of hundreds of thousands of Australians suffering through early-stage Alzheimer's disease. The breakthrough therapy called Kisunla, also known as donanemab, is designed to slow cognitive decline in patients by clearing amyloid plaques from the brain.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Australian Seniors News \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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The Aussie business making millions in a menopause fear factory

The Nightly, General News, 22/05/2025, Kristin Shorten, Page 14

An Australian "nutraceutical" business has been slammed for its marketing campaigns and claims about the extraordinary results women can expect to achieve from using its expensive dietary supplements. [...] Happy Mammoth says its products most of which are registered with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) under Happy Natural Living Pty Ltd are produced in Australia, the Netherlands and the US.

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Euky Bear vaporiser recalled over heating element warning

9News, Other, 22/05/2025

A popular vaporiser which is designed to create a better night's sleep has been recalled over fears it could cause burns. A product safety warning was issued by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) yesterday over the Euky Bear Warm Steam Vaporiser. "If you do not turn off the device after steaming has stopped, the base of the blue heating module may overheat and start to disintegrate, producing smoke and fumes," the TGA said.

[Read More](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 22/05/2025, Janice Petersen

The TGA approves a first-of-its-kind treatment in 25 years to slow early Alzheimer's symptoms. The prescription medication is only available to some patients due to major side effects, such as brain swelling and bleeding.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 22/05/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

Australians with early Alzheimer's may soon access a new treatment approved by the TGA. Doctors say the drug offers hope by slowing the disease's progression.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 22/05/2025, Sharyn Ghidella

The TGA approves a new drug for treating early-stage Alzheimer's. Experts say it offers more time for patients, but its absence from the PBS may limit access.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 22/05/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Wicking Dementia Centre director James Vickers on the approval of a new drug that could treat Alzheimer's disease. Baxter says the TGA has approved donanemab for treating early-stage Alzheimer's, which supports the immune system in clearing protein build-up in the brain. Vickers says the drug does not cure or reverse the disease but slows its progression. He notes that the next step is for the company to seek PBS approval to make it more accessible. He also says the drug has specific side effects and may only be available through specialised centres.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 22/05/2025, Stacey Lee

The TGA approves donanemab, sold as Kisunla, offering hope to some of the half a million Australians with early Alzheimer's by targeting amyloid plaques in the brain. Experts say it is not a cure, only slows decline, suits certain patients, and comes with side effects like nausea and dizziness.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 22/05/2025, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Pre-recorded interview with consultant neurologist Dr Cathy Short on the approval of a new drug that could treat Alzheimer's disease. Mitsopoulos says the TGA has approved a new Alzheimer's drug in Australia for the first time, called donanemab and sold as Kisunla. Short says the drug removes the abnormal protein amyloid, which plays a role in disease progression. She adds it has already been used overseas and welcomes Australia catching up.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Access blocked to pill review

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 23/05/2025, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 6

A Queensland Government department has sensationally blocked key stakeholders from viewing a review into Queensland's pill testing services, which cost taxpayers almost half a millions dollars. It can be revealed the state's peak body for the alcohol and drugs sector attempted to obtain the interim report by a freedom of information request in March, but were denied on the grounds of "cabinet confidence".

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

Fewer teens are drinking alcohol as social media, schools warn of danger

ABC Online, Other, 22/05/2025, Michelle Wakim and Justina Ward

Alcohol is considered part of Australian culture, but more teenagers are opting out. Unsplash: Alyona Yankovska For a long time, drinking has been seen as a rite of passage for young Australians. [...] In 2001, 70 per cent of young people in Australia, aged between 14 and 17, had consumed alcohol in the past 12 months, according to the National Drug Strategy Household Survey (2022–2023).

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Parents warned after FSANZ issues urgent recall for Coco2 Infant Formula

West Australian, Other, 22/05/2025, Peta Rasdien

An urgent recall has been issued for a plant based infant formula sold across Australia. Marketed as a "trusted plant-based choice for growing babies", Coco2 claims to be the world's first coconut-powder-based formula for babies and infants. Food Standards Australia and New Zealand has urged anyone

who bought Stage 1 Coco2 Infant Formula 800g, Stage 2 Coco2 Follow-on Formula 800g, or Stage 3 Coco2 Toddler Drink 800g with an expiry date of 01/2027 to return it to the place of purchase for a refund.

[Read More](#)

Oyster industry appeals for seafood lovers to return as toxic algae scares off customers

7news.com.au, Other, 22/05/2025, Lauren Thomson

No oyster farms have been closed in South Australia due to the toxic algae event unfolding on the Fleurieu Peninsula. The rare toxic algae outbreak plaguing South Australian beaches on the Fleurieu Peninsula has had a knock-on effect on the state's \$60 million oyster industry.

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[Back to Top](#)

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