



Australian Government
Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 24th 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 Weekend Australian](#)** (page 1) reports the AFL has been accused of negligence over its management of concussions while critics say they should be held liable for workplace manslaughter over at least four deaths resulting from traumatic brain injury for alleged deliberate failures to conduct medical tests to diagnose TES in players.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports executives at the government-funded Coonamble Aboriginal Health Service have been accused of spending significant amounts on travel and non-clinical expenses while patients have been unable to access services due to workforce shortages.
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 1) reports a woman who has de-transitioned from being a transgender man is suing the health service and doctors who facilitated her transition, claiming her mental illness meant she was unable to consent to the treatment.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports the AMA is calling on the WA State Government to intervene over a planned bare knuckle fighting event in Perth, saying condoning the event is tantamount to sanctioning a "blood sport" and raising concerns over how this aligns with the government's stated goals to reduce family and domestic violence.

- **The Weekend Australian** (page 2) reports the injectible cosmetic industry is being audited by the TGA following a number of contraventions of advertising guidelines, with a majority of websites monitored found to be non-compliant.
- **The Saturday Age** (page 3) reports progress on reforms recommended by the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System require more transparency, according to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission who says goals marked as "fully delivered" remain unfinished and data on the remaining reforms is unavailable.
- **The Courier Mail** (page 3) reports the Nurses' Professional Association of Queensland says security is standing by while assaults on nurses occur within metres of hospital entrances as they are not authorised to intervene in incidents outside hospital grounds, with the union calling on Queensland Health to address the ongoing safety concerns of nurses. *Also reported by: Cairns Post*
- **The Courier Mail** (page 7) reports Cocoon SDA has fired 1200 staff over email amid the ongoing fallout over its investigation by the NDIS and subsequent banning from providing services. *Also reported by: Daily Telegraph, Adelaide Advertiser, Courier Mail*
- **The Herald Sun** (page 7) reports a measles warning has been issues for several locations across Melbourne, bringing the total exposure sites to almost 30 locations as authorities warn vaccination rates have fallen below 95 per cent in the state.

MINISTER BUTLER

Crosshairs focus on telehealth drug suppliers

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 24/05/2025, Michael Smith & Amelia Mcguire, Page 21

Getting medicated has never been easier. Millions of Australians are losing weight, getting high, and getting off thanks to online consultations that are virtually guaranteed to ping their smartphones with a digital prescription within minutes.

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Minster downplays costing concerns, spruiks benefits of home care changes

The Border Mail, Other, 23/05/2025, Rowan Cowley

Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler has insisted the new Aged Care Act will be fairer for everyone amid concerns over rising home care costs and the sector's ability to adapt to the changes by the specified deadline. The new act is set to come into effect on July 1. Mr Butler said it will offer a number of benefits for home care recipients, including lowering wait times for new applicants, increasing the number of support homes available, and offering additional funding for home modifications.

Also reported by: Southern Cross (Online), Harden Express (Online), The Queanbeyan Age (Online), Eastern Riverina Chronicle (Online), The Senior (Online), St George & Sutherland Shire Leader (Online), Redland City Bulletin (Online).

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The week in Australian foreign affairs

Australian Institute of International Affairs, Other, 23/05/2025, Anthony Albanese

On 17 May, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese spoke with the media from Rome, where he was attending the inauguration of Pope Leo. [...] On 21 May, Wong joined Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Disability and the NDIS Mark Butler to announce the adoption of the World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Agreement.

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'I think we have to step up and help him to understand that he's got to deliver on it'

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 23/05/2025

"Mark Butler has a mammoth task, now that he has responsibility for the NDIS, but he has committed

to HTA reform. There is an opportunity for him to be more directive to officials, which is something we might need," said Medicines Australia chief executive Liz de Somer.

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Concerns about 'managed care' as Bupa makes moves in primary health

Medical Forum, Other, 23/05/2025

This week Bupa announced it would be delivering a network of about 60 mental health clinics across the country, with the first one opening before the end of May. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has said the private hospital sector is facing a number of challenges.

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Alzheimer's drug Kisunla approved for early-stage treatment in Australia

Proactive Investors Australia, Other, 23/05/2025, Jonathan Jackson

Australia has approved a new drug to treat early-stage Alzheimer's disease, with Kisunla (donanemab) now available for prescription by specialists following registration by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the registration was "a landmark welcome development".

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Australia backs weakened WHO pandemic treaty after global pushback

WEB NewsBlaze Australia, Other, 24/05/2025, Alan Gray

Australia supported the adoption of the WHO Pandemic Treaty this week, despite it being a dramatically diluted version of the original plan that drew global criticism for threatening national sovereignty and enabling censorship. [...] Both Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Health Minister Mark Butler issued official statements welcoming the adoption of the Pandemic Agreement, praising it as a vital step towards pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

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ABC News, ABC Late News , 23/05/2025

Breakthrough treatment drug Denosumab, used by Alzheimer's patients, has been approved for use in Australia. The drug could assist more than 800 people who are living with the early stages of the illness. It will be considered for inclusion on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme mid-year, but there are no guarantees. Health Minister Mark Butler says there "is still a fair way to go" to decide if the federal government will add the drug to the PBS.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Crosshairs focus on telehealth drug suppliers

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 24/05/2025, Michael Smith & Amelia McGuire, Page 21

Getting medicated has never been easier. Millions of Australians are losing weight, getting high, and getting off thanks to online consultations that are virtually guaranteed to ping their smartphones with a digital prescription within minutes.

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SaH allied health price policy 'untenable'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/05/2025, Scott Lynch

A critical flaw lies within the Guidance for setting Support at Home prices fact sheet published by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing two months ago. Specifically, the policy regarding how allied health services are to be billed is, frankly, untenable and threatens the very quality of care we strive to provide.

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Full details of incoming CDM changes revealed

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 23/05/2025

The long-awaited details of Medicare chronic disease management (CDM) item changes have been revealed, but with just weeks left for GPs to prepare for the systemic shift, the RACGP says it has been left frustrated by the lack of warning. Late on Thursday, the Federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) confirmed the change will go ahead on 1 July.

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\$5m for dementia

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/05/2025

As pharmacists both develop and embrace emerging technologies to support patients with dementia, a new funding round is now open to back innovations that could further transform care. [...] The Federal Government-funded program, which is a partnership between Brandon BioCatalyst, ANDHealth, and Dementia Australia, offers up to \$5 million per project - delivered in tranches upon reaching agreed milestones - and also provides access to digital health expertise.

Fighting to stay open: how a regional cooperative could reshape aged care in Australia

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/05/2025, Lauren Broomham

When Karen Hodgson (pictured above) walks into her 19-bed aged care facility in Coleambally, a small town in the Riverina region of New South Wales, she doesn't just see residents and staff – she sees a community fighting to survive. [...] Funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care and delivered by the Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM), the program provides advisory support, legal structure, and business guidance to help establish co-operative care models in regional and remote areas.

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Australia backs weakened WHO pandemic treaty after global pushback

WEB NewsBlaze Australia, Other, 24/05/2025, Alan Gray

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[Back to Top](#)

VACCINES

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Inside \$360m projects

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/05/2025, Tom Gillespie, Page 1

One of Queensland's most prominent retirement village developers will start construction within months on the first of two new over-50s communities in Toowoomba, worth more than \$360m and nearly 420 homes once completed. Adrian Puljich's newest family-owned venture Aliria has received council approval for the two new projects, called Cotswold Hills and Cotswold Rise, on adjoining parcels in the city's western corridor.

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Belrose, Forest Way: New plan for \$32m nursing home with dementia care ward approved

The Courier Mail, Other, 23/05/2025, Jim O'Rourke

An up-market, 99-bed aged care facility on the northern beaches has been given the go-ahead — eight years after the complex was first proposed. Regis Aged Care can now build the \$32m facility, which includes ocean views and dementia wing on Forest Way, Belrose.

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

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Opportunities under new legislation

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/05/2025, Natasha Egan

As Bolton Clarke chief executive officer Stephen Muggleton put it, “increased longevity can also lead to an expansion of morbidity.” It means, without intervention, future older Australians will spend more time

managing several chronic health conditions and associated increased frailty than living well. But as he also pointed out, “it doesn’t have to be” this way.

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How to embed reablement, wellbeing and more

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/05/2025

Positive ageing is more than just living longer; it is about living optimally. Everyone, regardless of age or health status, has the right to experience a life filled with dignity, purpose, and wellbeing. Individuals receiving aged care services are also entitled to this right. Aged care providers play a critical role in ensuring their clients not only receive the support they need but are empowered to continue living a meaningful and socially connected life.

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Global partnerships key to a stronger future

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/05/2025, Tom Symondson

The recent World Ageing Festival in Singapore was a global gathering of people whose hearts and minds are committed to improving the lives of older people. It reminded that we are not alone in the challenges we face – and by sharing and learning with our international partners, we can turn these challenges into opportunities.

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Older LGBTI+ people feel ‘forced back into closet’

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/05/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Older LGBTI+ people feel pressured to appear heterosexual in order to blend in at aged care facilities, research from the University of South Australia shows. The meta-synthesis research project combined findings from 55 studies – which included responses from over 3,000 LGBTI+ people aged 50-94 – from 11 countries who had experienced aged care.

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Why the new Aged Care Act is a golden opportunity for boards

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/05/2025, Lauren Broomham

With weeks to go before the 1 July rollout of the new Aged Care Act and Support at Home program, one message is clear: governance is no longer a back-office function. It's a frontline enabler of quality, innovation, and trust.

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Meet iAgeHealth – McLean Care's award-winning virtual nursing and allied health platform that's revolutionising aged care in the bush.

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/05/2025, Lauren Broomham

Australia's aged care sector is 4,000 nurses short – and counting. For regional and remote providers, that gap isn't just a workforce issue, it's a crisis.

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Opinion: providers and communities are stepping up – it's time Governments caught up

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/05/2025, Lauren Broomham

With an ageing population nearing crisis levels, Australia's aged care sector can no longer afford to wait for someone else to fix the problem. Funding shortfalls persist.

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Staying in Place: the rural WA model keeping older Australians at home and in community

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/05/2025, Lauren Broomham

In the small Wheatbelt town of Pingelly, Western Australia, an innovative aged care model is quietly

transforming lives – and it's being led not by bureaucrats or large operators, but by the community itself. At the heart of this success is Staying in Place, a person-centred, flexible home care model championed by the Pingelly Somerset Alliance Inc (PSA), a volunteer-run, Not-for-Profit aged and community housing provider.

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ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 23/05/2025, Mark Gibson

Interview with Dr Diane Hosking, Head of Research, National Seniors Australia, speaking about some new research into the assumptions made about older people that are considered annoying. Hosking points out that they've had 2000 people respond to the question and write down what they felt about them. He states that one of the things that people got frustrated about is assumptions about how old people have a feeble mind and body.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY

NDIS staff out in cold

Herald Sun, General News, 24/05/2025, Anthony Piovesan & Julie Cross, Page 2

Disability support staff employed by banned NDIS provider Cocoon SDA have lost their jobs effective immediately, according to a company email sent to workers in Victoria. Staff were already in limbo with many unable to pay mortgages and fearful of losing their homes due to not being paid for more than two months as Cocoon's finances were frozen under a fraud probe.

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

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Mother starts new, near-identical NDIS business after son's company liquidated

ABC Online, Other, 23/05/2025, Evan Young

The mother of a man who headed a disability housing provider that entered liquidation days after an NDIS participant died, has been able to start a near-identical business on the same premises. In April, ABC NEWS revealed the death of a man with disability at housing owned by an NDIS provider in the Brisbane suburb of Acacia Ridge.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Perth's sneeze spots that can suddenly start hay fever hell

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Edition Changes, 24/05/2025, Katie Hampson, Page 16

They beautify cities, provide physical, mental and environmental health benefits, and can even boost property values. But for one-in-four hay-fever sufferers including most of the 2.8 million Australians living with asthma some of WA's most attractive trees are bringing nothing but allergy misery.

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Finding strength: Jan Hudson's heart recovery journey in Bathurst

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 23/05/2025, Alise McIntosh

One year ago, Jan Hudson had a heart attack. "I'd had some medical intervention a couple of years prior to the incident, with some stents, but then I just started feeling a little bit tired, and it all just went downhill from there," she said.

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We need to get this right

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/05/2025, Marie Alford

It would be hard to talk about supporting a holistic approach to ageing without talking about dementia. Whilst it isn't just a normal part of ageing, the odds are you will know someone living with dementia, be supporting someone living with dementia or you yourself will develop dementia.

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Diagnosing endometriosis no longer requires surgery

Medical Forum, Other, 23/05/2025

Surgery is no longer required as a first-line option to diagnose endometriosis. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) published a new resource that provides the best available scientific evidence to assist the detection, diagnosis and management of the disease.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Receivers poised to move in on Healthscope

Weekend Australian, Business News, 24/05/2025, Bridget Carter, Page 25

Private hospital operator Healthscope is set to enter receivership by Monday, leaving the future of its workforce of about 18,000 staff uncertain. A meeting on Thursday night involving about 20 of its lenders, owed around \$1.4bn, voted for the move.

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Nurses run the gauntlet

Courier Mail, General News, 24/05/2025, Brendan O'Malley & Emma Cam, Page 3

Patients and staff outside Queensland hospitals are being forced to fend for themselves against violent thugs because security guards are being told not to intervene, a breakaway nurse union has claimed. It comes after a frightening incident at a hospital in the state's southeast in which three nurses were allegedly bashed by a patient who was thrown out of the emergency ward for being aggressive.

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

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'Homely' birth centre recommended

Canberra Times, General News, 24/05/2025, Bageshri Savvasachi, Page 16

Soft lighting, private bathrooms with birthing pools, and a space for silent births are all part of recommendations for a new "homely" birthing centre in Canberra's north. A feasibility study commissioned by the ACT health directorate said women and birth-givers who preferred to avoid a non-clinical experience would benefit from such a centre close to North Canberra Hospital.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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Hospital set to expand

The North West Regional Hospital will have an expanded emergency department, a new ambulance drop-off, upgrades to the acute care facility and more carparking after a \$57m investment in the upcoming state budget. The figure includes \$40m secured for the mental health precinct slated for the site.

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Polities still dragging the chain on euthanasia

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/05/2025, Matt Cunningham, Page 19

Consultation hasn't been the Finocchiaro Government's strong suit. It did little consultation on its changes to bail and justice laws and was forced into some token consultation on its Territory Coordinator legislation.

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Health split 'detrimental'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 24/05/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

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".

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

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Rockliff denial at oddswith budget papers

Burnie Advocate, General News, 24/05/2025, Sarah Fittock, Page 2

Premier Jeremy Rockliff has denied the new North West Mental Health Precinct has been delayed, in spite of what his government's budget papers say. Mr Rockliff was at the North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) on Friday to spruik the government's investment in capital upgrades ahead of next week's budget.

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Helping families say goodbye in hospital

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/05/2025, Tom Gillespie, Page 5

Bruce McGowan held his wife Belinda in his arms as she took her final breath in Warwick Hospital four years ago an experience he wouldn't trade for the world. "When you share and hold that person and actually see the life go out of them, it's a very calming experience it was for me anyway," he said, reflecting on the hospital's decision to push together two beds to allow them to cuddle.

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Health district split is unlikely the cure

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/05/2025, Page 42

How big should a health district be? It's a diagnosis that is under significant analysis at the moment. The Hunter New England health district serves almost a million people and covers a vast geographical area.

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Shadow health spokesperson Libby Mettam cites concern at doctor rating for WA Country Health Service

West Australian, Other, 23/05/2025, Warren Hatelly

Vasse MLA and shadow health spokesperson Libby Mettam says any decline in standards for the WA Country Health Service was of concern. One of the key findings from the Australian Medical Association WA's Hospital Health Check 2025 was a D-grade for rosters and workloads, with the AMA also citing burnout among junior medicos.

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

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'Burnt-out' country volunteers fundraising for new ambulance

ABC Online, Other, 23/05/2025, Chela Williams , Jacqueline Lynch & Stan Shaw

The West Australian government is being called upon to increase support for country ambulance centres amid fears volunteers are burnt out after years of fundraising for vehicle and substation upgrades. Volunteers in the South West town of Pemberton are working to raise \$300,000 to replace one of their ambulances.

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Nurses call for more autonomy in primary care

Newcastle Herald, Other, 23/05/2025, Melissa Freeman

The landmark health funding report by Justice Richard Beasley SC makes the case for more state involvement in primary health care where there are gaps. As one of the few nurses running my own practice in primary health care, I strongly agree.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 23/05/2025, Rory McClaren

Interview with Dr Peter Subramaniam, Associate Professor and new AMA SA head. Subramaniam says he has been a vascular surgeon for about 25 years, and he started working at Queen Elizabeth in 2001, and now works at Royal Adelaide.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 23/05/2025, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Dr Kerrie Aust, President, AMA ACT. Aust points out that there are currently special programmes where somebody's GP might have a chat with their palliative care physician. He states that physicians might decide that medical cannabis is a helpful thing to help with their pain and other symptoms.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Sex change patient sues two doctors

The Saturday Age, General News, 24/05/2025, Michael Bachelard, Page 1

Mel Jefferies, born female, who transitioned and then detransitioned, is suing doctors and a health service who treated her, claiming her mental illness at the time made her not capable of giving consent, which is something the relevant legislation requires. "For years I just kept getting affirmed by the medical fraternity and the trans community for something I wasn't," Jefferies said.

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Mental health funds haven't made beds

The Saturday Age, General News, 24/05/2025, Grant Mearthar & Kieran Rooney, Page 3

Vulnerable patients are languishing without beds, waiting eight hours in hospital emergency for treatment, and ill children are being secluded, even as the government collects \$1.1 billion in taxes earmarked to improve the mental healthcare system. Victoria's mental health watchdog says it is in the dark about how well the state government is delivering reforms recommended by the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, unable to get a clear answer on how many extra psychiatric care beds there are across the state.

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

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'Ripple effect' of suicide not to be underestimated

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/05/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 11

South Australia's newly-crowned volunteer of the year says the death of AFL footballer Adam Selwood - just three months after his twin brother, Troy, died - exposes a shocking reality about the ripple effect of suicide. Suicide prevention advocate Danica Gates, whose younger brother took his own life in 2016, candidly admits she was triggered last weekend by news the former West Coast Eagles star, one of four AFL-playing brothers, had died.

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Diagnosis overload

The Nightly, General News, 23/05/2025, Andrew Leech, Page 20

I'm seeing a lot of letters from school teachers asking for children to be assessed for ADHD. The reasons vary - daydreaming, zoning out, disrupting classmates, or simply falling behind in schoolwork.

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Bondi killer's 'red flags'

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 24/05/2025, Steve Zemek, Page 6

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

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Helping those most at risk

Big Rigs, General News, 23/05/2025, Graham Cotter, Page 36

I am writing this article as a Lived Experience suicide thriver and my role as a CORES Suicide Intervention Facilitator. I realise the subject of suicide is in our faces that much that the majority of us switch off whenever we hear the word suicide.

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Sub-acute mental health unit to move from Bathurst to Orange

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 23/05/2025, Rachel Chamberlain

In less than a month, Bathurst's sub-acute mental health inpatient unit will relocate to Orange. The Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) has announced that the move to the Wattlegrove building, located on the Bloomfield Hospital campus, will occur on June 13, 2025.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

I treated a stabbed inmate as tear gas burned my eyes

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/05/2025, Madeline Crittenden, Page 28

For a group of nine nurses in NSW, arriving at work everyday is like moving through the airport, first they declare their items, then they empty their bags, then they walk through metal detectors and body scanners. But what waits on the other side of their morning checks isn't a flight overseas, it's the locked iron gates of one of the state's prisons.

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

Roles not just a headcount

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 24/05/2025, Page 40

The Rockliff government's hiring freeze, announced with the assurance it would spare frontline services, is beginning to show troubling cracks. A recently released document suggests that while no one is being sacked outright, essential healthcare roles including nurses have been quietly left vacant, frozen on a list of 60 positions since March.

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Hospital parking fix vow

Weekend Post, General News, 24/05/2025, Marnie Buchanan, Page 5

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service boss Leena Singh says an additional 100 carparks will be available for staff within eight weeks connected by shuttle service as longer-term plans are finalised to improve parking and safety around the hospital. Health service chief executive Ms Singh said the temporary park'n'ride solution was being negotiated with Cairns Regional Council around an existing parking site in the city area.

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Nurse practitioner boosts local healthcare

Shepparton News Online, Other, 23/05/2025

A new rural generalist nurse practitioner has joined Murrumbidgee Local Health District, and will be shared between Deniliquin, Barham, Hay and Finley. The good news was shared with the Deniliquin Local Health Advisory Committee by cluster manager Craig McColm at this week's LHAC meeting.

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The unholy alliance against new laws that 'disproportionately' impact women

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/05/2025, Alexandra Smith

NSW Liberal MPs and the unions representing nurses and teachers have found common ground in their opposition to the Minns government's overhaul of workers' compensation laws, warning women workers would be significantly and unfairly affected by the proposed changes.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Tasmanian obstetrician and gynaecologist Dr Brett Daniels charged with indecent assault and assault with indecent intent

ABC Online, Other, 23/05/2025, Georgie Burgess

A Hobart obstetrician and gynaecologist who has been working in Tasmania for more than 20 years

has been charged with two sexual offences. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) suspended his registration to practise as a medical practitioner last month, pending an investigation.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

Soccer's biggest show not kicking goals financially

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 24/05/2025, Zoe Samios, Page 22

The EPL has become a headache for Optus. In a matter of months, the English Premier League will reap the benefits of what it claims is the largest domestic sports rights agreement Britain has seen.

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Code of silence: AFL fails concussion test

Weekend Australian, General News, 24/05/2025, Jessica Halloran & Stephen Rice, Page 1

The AFL faces calls it should be prosecuted for workplace manslaughter over the deaths of at least four players who suffered traumatic brain injuries, with the sport's governing body accused of deliberately ignoring crucial evidence in a bid to avoid liability for up to \$2.5bn in legal claims. The Australian can reveal that brain scans of nearly 20 former AFL players show catastrophic injuries worse in some cases than car-crash and war-related blast victims causing neurological dysfunction ranging from depression, anger and wild mood swings to domestic violence and suicide.

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'Do not get involved': Arbib's warning to Australian athletes on Enhanced Games

The Saturday Age, General News, 24/05/2025, Vince Rugari, Page 26

Australian Olympic Committee chief Mark Arbib has warned any Australian athletes who are considering a tilt at the Enhanced Games next year to think again, saying their involvement would not be supported or sanctioned. Arbib has taken a dim view of plans for the Enhanced Games to be launched next year in Las Vegas, including events in swimming, athletics, and weightlifting and with a format that will pit clean athletes against those who have taken performance-enhancing drugs under supervision for the same lucrative prize money.

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Anger at 'blood sport'

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 24/05/2025, Jessica Page, Page 1

Doctors say the State Government will be sanctioning a "blood sport" if it allows a controversial bare knuckle fight night to go ahead. The Australian Medical Association has raised "profound concern" with the Premier over the event slated for RAC Arena in July.

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

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'Devils extinct' without stadium

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/05/2025, Josh Barnes, Page 4

Tasmania Devils boss Brendon Gale has conceded his growing team will be "out of a job" if a looming vote on the Macquarie Point stadium falls over, as the new club continues to build while facing the

prospect it could teeter off the edge within two months. The Tasmanian government will begin debate over a bill to fund the Hobart stadium next month, and a vote is expected by early July, which could either confirm the new AFL team or put it on the edge of folding.

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Netball's trans boycott threat

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/05/2025, Carly Douglas, Page 11

A peak netball body is investigating whether transgender players pose a safety risk to women players. Netball Victoria launched the review after a series of complaints, and as one club threatened to boycott matches against a team with transgender players amid concerns for players' safety.

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Leveraging the AFL to boost and reshape

Launceston Examiner, General News, 24/05/2025, David Adams, Page 27

The proposed stadium and most of the AFL team action, including the high-performance sports centre, will be in Southern Tasmania. So, we in the North should be looking more closely at leveraging the AFL community-building promise of some \$123 million over 10 years (out of a promised \$360m overall AFL contribution) for game development, talent development, and grass-roots football.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Blood test milestone

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/05/2025, Page 28

Australian researchers have developed a revolutionary blood test capable of rapidly diagnosing rare genetic diseases in babies and children, eliminating the need for costly and invasive procedures and giving families earlier access to treatment. The University of Melbourne and Murdoch Children's Research Institute researchers say the blood test rapidly detects abnormalities in up to 50 per cent of all known rare genetic diseases in just days by analysing the pathogenicity of thousands of gene mutations at once.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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Changes to cut strokes

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/05/2025, Page 7

Subarachnoid haemorrhage, the third most common type of stroke, accounting for 5-10 per cent of all cases, could be drastically reduced worldwide through health and lifestyle changes. A team including researchers from the University of Sydney found that from 1990 to 2021, while the burden has more than halved relative to the world's population, the absolute number of subarachnoid haemorrhages are increasing.

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

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Three bad sleeps 'risk'

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 24/05/2025, Paul Murray, Page 32

We've long known that a lack of sleep is bad for the heart, but scientists are now starting to understand exactly how it causes harm. In a new study from Uppsala University in Sweden, researchers found that just three nights of restricted sleep about four hours a night triggered changes in the blood linked to a higher risk of heart disease.

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

Weight-loss drugs may lower cancer risk in people with diabetes, a study suggests

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/05/2025

Excess body weight can raise the risk of certain cancers, leading researchers to wonder whether blockbuster drugs like Wegovy, Ozempic and Zepbound could play a role in cancer prevention. Now, a study of 170,000 patient records suggests there's a slightly lower risk of obesity-related cancers in U.S. adults with diabetes who took these popular medications compared to those who took another class of diabetes drug not associated with weight loss.

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Developing miniature 'organs' to improve cancer treatment

Medical Forum, Other, 23/05/2025

Biobank Chief Investigator at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research Dr Louise Winteringham told Medical Forum the new funding would support work to develop patient derived organoids – 3D miniature tumour-like organs – from cancer patients in a lab setting. The cancer biologist said while the Institute already had an existing node of Phenomics Australia, this grant of about \$500,000 would fund a specialised role known as a bioinformatician for three years.

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Endo treatment

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/05/2025

Two local studies to be shared at an upcoming health summit suggest medicinal cannabis could play a role in the potential treatment of endometriosis. The 16th World Congress on Endometriosis is underway this week in Sydney, featuring global experts on the chronic inflammatory condition.

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Eating disorders volunteers needed

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/05/2025

QIMR Berghofer and InsideOut Institute researchers are recruiting more than 4,000 Australian adults with lived experience of an eating disorder for the world's largest genetics study, to identify genetic variants and calculate an individual's risk of developing an eating disorder. The project team has appealed to pharmacists, often the first health professional that a person with an eating disorder will come in contact with, to alert potential volunteers to the study.

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Study finds benefits of multidisciplinary networks

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 23/05/2025

The wellbeing of Australia's busy mental health workforce improves when they formally connect through place-based peer support networks, according to a new study. New research from the Mental Health Professionals' Network (MHPN) and Latrobe University reveals the significant benefits of multidisciplinary networking and peer support for mental health practitioners.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Health bosses rack up \$400,000 travel bill

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/05/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 1

Senior bosses at a taxpayer-funded health charity in regional NSW spent more than \$750,000 on new cars and all-expenses-paid trips to New Zealand, Canada and Las Vegas while turning away patients

waiting weeks to receive healthcare. Staff at CTG Aboriginal Health Services, which receives more than \$10 million in state and federal funding annually on top of nearly \$5 million in nongovernment revenue, say they are infuriated with the charity, which is also facing allegations its board limited access to medical abortions at its Dubbo clinic and did not properly investigate a staff member who inappropriately accessed patient records.

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Official launch: Welcome Wundirra

Western Advocate, General News, 24/05/2025, Page 47

The countdown was on for weeks, but now, Wahluu Health has finally opened at the Kelso Community Hub. The official launch of the Aboriginal Health Service, 'Wundirra' was held on April 28.

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[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Pill test denials hard to swallow

Courier Mail, General News, 24/05/2025, 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 was denied on the grounds of "cabinet confidence".

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

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New measles cases spark health alert

Herald Sun, General News, 24/05/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 7

A measles alert has been issued for Chadstone Shopping Centre and several other Melbourne locations after Victoria recorded two new locally transmitted cases. Health authorities issued an alert on Friday, warning that the confirmed cases had visited several places while infectious, including the popular shopping centre, a hospital and a metro train line.

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

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Warning on triple wave of viruses

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/05/2025, Page 23

Australians are being warned to prepare for a triple virus surge this winter, with Covid-19, influenza, and RSV already spreading rapidly, and are urged to get vaccinated before the end of May. "We're dealing with an early wave of a significantly infectious virus diseases," said Professor Paul Griffin, the Daily Mail has reported.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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4BC, Afternoons, 23/05/2025, Sofie Formica

Queenslanders are being urged to book a free flu vaccination as winter approaches. Nearly 8,000 cases have been recorded in Brisbane so far, and the viral infection has hospitalised more than 1,800

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Compliance or defiance? Cosmetic injectables turmoil

Weekend Australian, General News, 24/05/2025, Penny Timms, Page 2

Audits of the non-surgical cosmetics industry are under way to check compliance with legislation at both state and federal levels. The Australian understands the largest of the audits is being undertaken by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, which has been monitoring the websites and social media accounts of practitioners who work in cosmetic injectables.

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Natural healer is ready for next adventure

Daily Advertiser, General News, 24/05/2025, Maryam Sulaiman, Page 9

A Wagga hub will close down after helping clients and patients heal in a different way for well over a decade. [...] Ms Falk said her salt room therapy was the third room in Australia after the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved salt therapy in Australia.

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Mixed news on medicines scheduling

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 23/05/2025, Chris Brooker

Regulators confirm that no change is to be made to astrodrimer sodium gel scheduling despite opposition from leading pharmacy groups. However another change is confirmed The Therapeutic Goods Administration's Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling (ACMS) has confirmed its previous decision to reject the rescheduling of astrodrimer sodium vaginal gels for the treatment, relief and prevention

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Call for med cannabis action

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/05/2025

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) has called for "robust regulation" of the medicinal cannabis industry, saying it is needed to tackle the "highly concerning" and rapid increase in medicinal cannabis prescribing. [...] In a submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the AMA noted its members had been appalled by the behaviour of some medicinal cannabis entities, most notably in the dispensing of medicinal cannabis.

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Precious time: New Alzheimer's drug could mean the world to Joel and Diane

The Senior, Other, 23/05/2025, Rowan Cowley

As a sales representative for multiple book publishers, memorising and selling new titles was a vital part of Joel Fulton's job. [...] A new drug that has just been registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration may give new hope to people like Joel.

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Donanemab approved in Australia for treatment of Alzheimer's disease

Your Life Choices, Other, 23/05/2025

A drug that's been found to slow the progress of Alzheimer's disease by clearing proteins in the brain has been approved for use in Australia. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved a drug called Donanemab for those with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease.

2GB, Mornings, 23/05/2025, Mark Levy

Compere mentions that the Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved a new drug tip to revolutionise the treatment of thousands of Australians suffering from Alzheimer's Disease. He states that the therapy called Kisunla is designed to slow down cognitive decline in patients. Compere says that according to Professor Peter Gonski, Alzheimer's specialist, the treatment could give two years back to patients.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Barking mad over decision to ban dog

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 24/05/2025, Kate McIlwain, Page 14

For about three years, the Illawarra Hotel had a regular pub dog. Jacko the staffy would visit two or three days a week to hang out in the courtyard and, according to publican Ryan Aitchison, became a much-loved part of the inner-city venue.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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