



Australian Government
Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 25th May 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Mail Adelaide](#)** (page 1) reports Horizon SolSolutions is facing further legal action as a South Australian family seeks over \$4.5 million in unpaid commission payments for providing homes for Cocoon SDA, while Horizon has filed a counterclaim disputing the allegations.
- **[7news.com.au](#)** reports Health Minister Mark Butler has said increasing access for women's health and increasing capabilities for GPs to diagnose and treat issues such as chronic pelvic pain and endometriosis is a priority for the Federal Government in an interview with 7NEWS. Mr Butler also discussed the need for increased policy benefits from private insurers for lower tiers amid maternity ward closures and additional funding for mental health services and ovarian cancer as the government seeks to combat medical misogyny.
- **[The Sun Herald](#)** (page 1) reports health experts and industry groups have called for further research into stenting as a treatment for chronic pelvic pain following promising results in treating PCS in several studies and amid growing awareness about the prevalence of the issue, affecting up to 25 per cent of Australian women. *Also reported by:* [Sunday Age](#)
- **[The Sun Herald](#)** (page 2) reports growing indemnity insurance premiums and an increase in malpractice claims could be putting bariatric surgery at risk as surgeons leave the field,

according to Flinders University who surveyed a number of surgeons in the industry. *Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#), [Sunday Tasmanian](#)*

- **[The Sunday Age](#)** (page 6) reports mental health advocates are calling for more research into gender-focused mental health strategies for men as suicide rates persist despite an increase in men seeking help. Last month Health Minister Mark Butler announced \$11.3 million to train 60,000 nurses, doctors and mental health workers in the treatment of men's mental health.
- **[The Sunday Territorian](#)** (page 8) reports the future of Darwin Private Hospital remains unclear as assessments of Healthscope show as few as six of their 37 hospitals are turning a profit and Brookvale looks to sell the health provider, while the CLP has been criticised for failing to address the closure of Darwin's Private Maternity Ward until recently, despite knowing of the sale 9 months ago.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports a hiring freeze for public service jobs in Tasmania has included jobs in frontline health services, despite Premier Jeremy Rockliff stating they would be exempt, according to a list provided in Parliament showing roles in the Health Department have been rejected under the policy.

MINISTER BUTLER

'I'd lost myself': how Steve found a way into the light

Sunday Age, General News, 25/05/2025, Wendy Tuohy, Page 6

When someone asks Steven Smith about the tattoo on his arm, he invites them to touch it while he tells what he is determined "does not become a shame story but an opportunity for human connection". [...] Last month, federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced \$11.3 million in funding to deliver Movember's men's mental healthcare training program to 60,000 mental health workers, doctors and nurses.

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

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Health care in Territory hanging on life support

Sunday Territorian, General News, 25/05/2025, Lottie Hood, Page 8

As expectant families navigate uncertainty with the closure of Darwin's private maternity ward just two weeks away, it seems the whole of the private hospital's services are in the balance. [...] However, it appears NT Health Minister Steve Edgington only wrote to federal Health Minister Mark Butler with regards to Darwin's private maternity services at the beginning of May.

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How Labor pulled off a landslide no one saw coming

ABC Online, Other, 25/05/2025

Anthony Albanese knew exactly where he wanted to go on the first day of his re-election campaign and that was straight into enemy territory. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, who appeared alongside his leader, didn't say the president's name but the subtext was clear when he claimed Peter Dutton preferred "American healthcare, where everyone pays to see a GP".

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Federal government commits to fixing Australian healthcare system to better help women Federal government commits to fixing Australian healthcare system to better help women

7news.com.au, Other, 24/05/2025, Jennifer Bechwati

Federal health Minister Mark Butler has told 7NEWS women seeking help in Australia's healthcare system for a range of issues "haven't got the proper attention" conceding more needs to be done to fix the crisis. As part of women's health week on 7NEWS, dozens of women have come forward revealing misdiagnoses that could have cost them their lives.

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Channel 7, Seven News (Weekend), 24/05/2025, Michael Usher & Katrina Blowers

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister, about the gaps in diagnosis and treatment of women's health issues. Butler says the government wants to see the gap closed, whether it is through access to medicines or the nurse and navigation support that patients and families need.

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

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DEPARTMENT

Junk food ads are flooding your teenager's social media feeds and it's influencing what they choose to eat

ABC Online, Other, 24/05/2025, Anastasia Safioleas & Eddy Diamond

Social media's harmful impact on the mental health of children and teenagers is well documented. [...] When asked about the federal government's response to the issue, a spokesperson from the health department said the government has provided more than \$500,000 for the University of Wollongong to deliver a feasibility study to examine the current landscape of unhealthy food marketing to children.

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VACCINES

COVID on the rise again as new subvariant hits

Sunday Times, General News, 25/05/2025, John Flint, Page 14

A new COVID-19 subvariant is driving an increase in infections in WA, with hospitalisations increasing to an average of 38 per day in the latest figures. That was up from an average of 31 per day in the previous week.

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

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Elderly must be protected

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 25/05/2025, Page 58

They are suffering manipulation, theft, torment and outright physical abuse and most of the hideous crimes perpetrated against elderly Queenslanders are hidden behind closed doors. It was December 10 last year that the Queensland Legislative Assembly agreed to an inquiry into elder abuse in Queensland.

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

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Aged care policy revamp after Ballarat resident's death

Ballarat Courier, Other, 24/05/2025

A Ballarat aged care facility says it has implemented several new policies and measures after an elderly resident was found to have taken her own life. Lorraine Joy Wight, a resident at the Cavalry Kirralee Aged Care in Ballarat East, was found dead in her room on the night of September 12, 2023.

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DISABILITY

Court feud over \$4.5m NDIS claim

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 25/05/2025, Stephen Drill, Page 1

An NDIS provider is being pursued for more than \$4.5m in unpaid "referral" payments to a company that built disability support homes. [...] They are in dispute over "referral", or commission, payments for NDIS clients in properties the family built in SA to be used by Cocoon SDA Care company.

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NDIS-approved disability accommodation company shuts down amid investor allegations

Leanne Crumpton's daughter Sally was only three when she died with cerebral palsy. [...] Asked about investor complaints, sector watchdog the NDIS Commission said it was "looking into concerns raised about this provider".

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ABC News, ABC Evening News (Weekend), 24/05/2025, Mariam Saab

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission is investigating NDISP, after the company was pursued by the Australian Tax Office. Disability advocates including Summer Foundation's Jessica Walker comment on the issue.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Lucrative vape war ready to explode

Sunday Telegraph, Edition Changes, 25/05/2025, Josh Hanrahan, Page 13

Underworld vape wars have led to a recent spate of shootings, bashings and arson attacks on Sydney streets, with industry experts claiming "weak" laws are allowing crime gangs to cash in on the black market trade. Crime networks are making huge profits importing and selling vapes, through street sales and distribution to convenience stores to be illegally sold, with vapes only available to the public legally via prescription at a pharmacy.

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We are losing war on vapes

Sunday Telegraph, Editorials, 25/05/2025, Page 73

It is now beyond clear that the war on illegal vapes is a losing battle. Shootings, bashings and arson attacks are now rife on Sydney's streets. It is all but impossible to walk down a footpath without tripping over a new "tobacconist" that has sprung up in a shopfront virtually overnight.

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Warning to Aussie gardeners after string of deaths: 'People should be frightened'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 24/05/2025, Sophie Coghill

Victims of a "life-changing" disease that has killed dozens of Aussies this year are urging others to stay vigilant, with those who spend time outdoors or tending to gardens at greatest risk There have been 221 cases and 31 deaths from melioidosis in north Queensland this year, and authorities are scrambling to understand what brought on the sudden surge.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Rich vein of research holds hope

Sun Herald, General News, 25/05/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 1

"What did you do to me?" is not a phrase doctors want to hear from a patient after surgery. But for vascular surgeon Laurencia Villalba, it became a welcome pattern among her female patients with varicose veins.

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

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Lily shines light on Crohn's

Sunday Territorian, General News, 25/05/2025, Aden Hill, Page 5

A Top End woman living with Crohn's disease has shared how the illness affects her day-to-day life as part of a national movement for IBD (inflammatory bowel disease) Awareness Month. Lily Daniel was diagnosed with Crohn's in 2020 while completing her final year of high school.

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

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Agonising treatment gets under your skin

Sunday Times, General News, 25/05/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 11

Eczema sufferers are calling for more research into treatments for the painful skin condition, raising the alarm about the long-term use of steroid creams. Also known as atopic dermatitis, the chronic condition ranges from a mild itch to a debilitating and painful condition impacting quality of life.

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How prostate cancer can appear in each decade

Sun Herald, General News, 25/05/2025, Nick Harding, Page 19

Prostate cancer is one of the most common forms of the disease in men with more than 26,000 cases diagnosed last year in Australia yet it is often misdiagnosed or discovered too late. When former US president Joe Biden was diagnosed with prostate cancer last week, it was discovered that it had spread to his bones.

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Health system must take women in pain seriously

Sun Herald, Editorials, 25/05/2025, Page 34

"First, do no harm" has long been a guiding principle of medicine. What if instead it was, "first, listen to the patient"? For Lilli Staff, it might have saved years of pain.

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PRIMARY CARE

'What if they're wrong?' When to get a second opinion from a doctor

Sunday Age, General News, 25/05/2025, Page 28

Maureen Williams was in her late 20s and on her way to becoming an opera singer in London when she began to feel exhausted. After a while, she stopped being able to reach the high notes that were her forte. "It just progressed from there until I wasn't able to sing."

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

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Obesity fight in danger

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 25/05/2025, Page 2

Bariatric surgery for severe obesity including gastric banding is under threat as rocketing indemnity insurance premiums and growing malpractice claims drive surgeons out of the field, experts warn. The result could be more people turning to new weight loss medications, including GLP-1 "skinny jabs", which come with multiple health risks.

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

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More agony for dental patients

Distressed patients of rogue dentist David Hurst are urging his widow to do what she can to facilitate insurance claims over their botched implants and other expensive treatments gone wrong. Patients who've been stranded for months say they hope Clara Hurst can do something to assist their claims against her late husband's professional indemnity insurance.

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Bite the super use bullet

Sunday Times, General News, 25/05/2025, Page 35

There's more at stake than just wellbeing in the spate of dental wrongdoing exposed recently by The Sunday Times. The integrity of a much-needed scheme for people to draw from their superannuation early in case of emergency is also under scrutiny.

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Drone delivers urgent supplies to cancer patients in isolated NSW flood-hit community

9News, Other, 24/05/2025, Emily Bennett

A drone has delivered urgent medical supplies to cancer patients in a community isolated by floodwaters on the NSW mid-north coast. Volunteers flew the critical supplies across the Manning River to Harrington last night after a request from residents.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Bone dry & desperate

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 25/05/2025, Alex White & Carly Douglas, Page 1

Farmers and country advocates are sounding the alarm over a steep decline in mental health in regional Victoria as the big dry continues. Troubling reports of people under increasing stress with mounting debts and reports of suicides in farming communities have prompted advocates to ask locals to speak up if they think someone is at risk.

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Starving but Abby didn't tell

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 25/05/2025, Kate Uren, Page 16

Ingrid Martin was terrified when her smart, sporty 11-year-old daughter began skipping meals and secretly exercising in the early-morning hours while the family slept. "I never anticipated that anorexia would affect one so young," said the mother of two.

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Is the inquest into the Bondi Junction murders further stigmatising schizophrenia?

The Guardian, Other, 24/05/2025, Natasha May

When Sandy Jeffs was diagnosed with schizophrenia in 1976, "it was an absolute death sentence because schizophrenia and recovery weren't spoken of in the same sentence back in those days". "To have your future taken away from you like that, at 23 years of age, was just awful," she says, "and I bought into the pessimism of my diagnosis because that's what I was told by all those clinicians."

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Stoush: Coatsworth criticisms slammed as 'anti-surgeon'

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 25/05/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 6

Resigning orthopaedic surgeons have called criticisms by Nick Coatsworth disrespectful, "Canberra Health Services spin doctoring" and "anti-surgeon". Surgeons Professor Paul Smith, Sindy Vrancic and Damian Smith resigned from their part-time work at Canberra Health Services due to pay and policy changes.

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

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Patients losers in war against doctors

Sunday Canberra Times, Editorials, 25/05/2025, Page 23

The public war of words between senior Canberra doctors could have been avoided if the ACT government consulted staff before announcing unexpected pay changes. Senior doctors working for Canberra Health Services as visiting medical officers found out existing contracts would change in an email sent earlier this year.

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Tasmanian government accused of freezing nursing and other frontline service jobs

ABC Online, Other, 24/05/2025, Jessica Moran

Tasmanian Labor has accused Premier Jeremy Rockliff of breaking his promise to exclude nurses and frontline services from job cuts. In March, the state government announced a hiring freeze for non-essential public service positions in an effort to reel in the state's finances.

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Queensland Premier David Crisafulli keeps clear of Coalition chaos in Canberra

ABC Online, Other, 24/05/2025, Alex Brewster

Amid the chaos and confusion of this week's federal coalition breakdown, Queensland's Premier David Crisafulli kept his Liberal National Party well clear of the commotion. [...] Nurses and midwives are currently voting on whether to strike for the first time since 2002 after pay negotiations with the state government broke down.

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2GB, Weekends, 24/05/2025, Luke Grant

The Breakaway Nurses Professional Association of Queensland has claimed 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. This followed an attack in Ipswich Hospital on Anzac Day, where a nurse was repeatedly kicked and two other nurses had to intervene. The union President Kara Thomas has commented on the issue.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor faces charges

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 25/05/2025, Genevieve Holding, Page 7

A Tasmanian obstetrician and gynaecologist has been charged by Tasmania Police detectives in relation to sexual offences. [...] Police said the man had been previously stood down by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) prior to the charges.

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Gavin Bevins: Former Robina Hospital mental health nurse reprimanded by tribunal

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 24/05/2025, Alex Treacy

A tribunal has reprimanded a Gold Coast mental health nurse who pushed over an argumentative, mentally ill patient, who responded by punching the nurse in the face. Gavin Sean Bevins, 51, who was a mental health nurse at Robina Hospital at the relevant time, was found by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal on April 10 to have behaved in a manner constituting professional misconduct.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Musk says Doge didn't cut HIV programs – but it threw a 'miracle drug' into chaos

The Guardian, Other, 24/05/2025, Nick Robins

Although Elon Musk said Doge didn't cut Aids programs, global health officials describe widespread and disastrous effects resulting from the White House's throttling of foreign aid. The disruptions have caused new HIV infections to surge in recent months and threaten to derail plans to eradicate the virus as a public health threat by 2030.

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SPORT

Concussion crisis hits amateur footy

Sunday Times, General News, 25/05/2025, Jackson Barrett, Page 4

An increasing number of amateur WA footballers are walking away from the game they love amid ongoing debate about how the code handles concussion. With stars like West Coast's Jeremy McGovern sweating on AFL assessments, those who play at other levels are facing up to the possible risks from repeated head knocks.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Winter flu vaccination push

Sunday Times, Edition Changes, 25/05/2025, Page 15

West Australians are being urged to get their flu jabs as soon as possible, with health authorities warning that influenza and respiratory syncytial virus cases will rise heading into winter. State-funded free flu jabs are available for all West Australians aged five to 64.

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