



Australian Government
Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 28th May 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports that state and territory health ministers are seeking assurances from the Albanese government regarding funding for critical care if Healthscope's private hospitals close. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler met with his state and territory counterparts yesterday, and said that Healthscope had assured him that no closures were imminent.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports that an unlocked cupboard at NDIS provider Cocoon SDA Care was found to contain blank prescription pads, including one belonging to a doctor who hadn't worked at the firm for seven years, posing a potential risk of misuse.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports that nurses and midwives in Queensland have voted overwhelming to strike for the first time in 23 years after rejecting a modest pay increase offered by the Crisafulli government which had earlier promised "nation-leading wages" for the profession. *Also reported by: Courier Mail, Sydney Morning Herald*
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 2) reports that the Adelaide Community Healthcare Alliance, which owns three of the city's major Healthscope-operated private hospitals, has assured the public that the hospitals are performing well and are not at risk of sale.

- **The West Australian** (page 4) reports that a new survey has found that 45 per cent of teens have reported missing school due to body image issues, while 75 per cent wish they were thinner, prompting calls for earlier intervention from GPs and better education for parents regarding eating disorders.
- **The Age** (page 3) reports that new data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics has revealed that 97 per cent of Australians have detectable levels of PFAS in their bloodstreams, with concentrations highest among men and older people. The Department of Health says that studies have linked PFAS exposure to a range of biological effects such as higher cholesterol, lower birth weights and delayed menstruation. *Also reported by: Herald Sun, Sydney Morning Herald*
- **ABC Online** reports that NSW Health will investigate allegations made by senior doctors at one of the state's largest regional hospitals that cancer patients had seen their urgency downgraded and surgeries delayed in order to artificially meet waitlist targets. *Also reported by: 7News*
- **The Herald Sun** (page 12) reports that Australia has the world's highest rates of early-onset bowel cancer, with one in nine new cases occurring in patients under 50.

MINISTER BUTLER

States seek hospital care guarantees

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/05/2025, Michael Smith & Michael Read, Page 1

State and territory ministers have sought assurances that the Albanese government will pay for critical care if Healthscope hospitals close, as the collapsed private health giant's future now lies controlled by hedge funds.

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

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Brookfield's fall is no reason for complacency

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/05/2025, Page 1

The collapse of Healthscope into receivership is quite the embarrassing comeuppance for one of the masters of the global private equity universe.

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

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Substandard NDIS management

The Australian, Editorials, 28/05/2025, Page 10

The struggles and suffering of Adelaide man Peter Wilson, 55, who had two strokes, went blind and developed vascular dementia, highlight why the NDIS is vital for our most vulnerable citizens with severe disabilities. [...] As NDIS Minister Mark Butler seeks reform, he must step up due diligence on provider firms.

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

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

Healthscope's owners never had right medicine

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 28/05/2025, Elizabeth Knight, Page 22

To say the collapse of private hospital giant Healthscope was an accident waiting to happen feels like a statement of the bleeding obvious. [...] Health minister Mark Butler would prefer not to characterise the private hospital sector as one in crisis, rather suggesting that Healthscope is something of a unique case.

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

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Banks save Healthscope

Troubled private hospital company Healthscope has been handed a lifeline by the Commonwealth Bank and Westpac to the tune of \$100 million to keep it running as it looks for a new owner. [...] "While Healthscope have announced they will remain operating as normal with no change to patient care or staffing, this will still be difficult for the hospital's employees, and their patients," acknowledged Health Minister Mark Butler.

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

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Healthcare provider's collapse prompts reform demands

Canberra Times, Other, 27/05/2025, Allanah Sciberras

The viability of private healthcare is under the microscope following the collapse of a major hospital operator, with one union casting doubt on private equity management in the sector. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the provider would be a "very different beast going forward in terms of the ownership".

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Receivers appointed to private hospital operator Healthscope as lenders swoop on \$1.4bn debt pile

The Courier Mail, Other, 27/05/2025, Kathleen Skene & Chris Herde

Australia's second largest private hospital operator is in administration after lenders swooped over a staggering debt pile. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stuck by his pledge that taxpayers would not bail out the flailing company, despite the potential ramifications of a group-wide collapse.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Healthscope insists 'business as usual' at Darwin Private Hospital, amid receivership

ABC Online, Other, 27/05/2025, Rick Hind & Samantha Dick

Healthscope has moved to quell fears the Northern Territory could lose its only private hospital, as financial troubles cast uncertainty over the medical centre's future. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said he recognised the situation was "highly distressing to patients, staff and local communities".

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The fall of Healthscope: bad luck, bad decisions, or is Australia's private health model sick?

The Guardian, Other, 28/05/2025, Jonathan Barrett & Natasha May

Investing in hospitals is viewed as a safe bet. People regularly get sick and the population ages. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, told the ABC on Tuesday the federal government would not bail out private operators.

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Joe Massa's parents demand NSW Govt acquires Northern Beaches Hospital after Healthscope enters receivership

Sky News Australia, Other, 27/05/2025, James Harrison

The parents of a toddler who died hours after entering the emergency department of a Healthscope hospital has called on the NSW government to purchase it after the company was forced into receivership on Monday. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stressed that while the staff and patients were assured the hospitals will continue to operate, "this will still be difficult for the hospital's employees and their patients".

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Retailers welcome Queensland's proposed new tobacco laws

The Australian Association of Convenience Stores (AACS) has welcomed new legislation proposed by the Queensland Government aimed at cracking down on the illegal tobacco and vape trade. [...] "The Albanese Federal Government and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler need to realise that adults who choose to smoke or vape will continue doing so, just illegally, because the price hikes are sending them there."

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Medicare clinics continue to reduce emergency department pressure

Grapevinenewsonline.com, Other, 27/05/2025

Across the nation, more than 1.5 million Australians have received free, urgent care at a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, without waiting hours in a busy hospital emergency department, saving the health system an estimated \$254 million in avoided hospital visits. Minister for Health, Mark Butler said, "Medicare Urgent Care Clinics have reached a new milestone, with over 1.5 million Australians getting free urgent care, without waiting hours in a hospital emergency department."

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Foundational supports held hostage by health funding negotiations

Health Services Daily, Other, 27/05/2025, Caitlin Wright

The disability community has sounded the alarm after Mark Butler confirmed that foundational supports won't be rolled out on 1 July.

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'We owe private hospitals nothing', say insurers

Health Services Daily, Other, 27/05/2025, Cate Swannell

The eternal bickering between hospital operators and private health funds shows no sign of abating. What chance does the sector have? Mark Butler may yet step in.

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Healthscope has entered voluntary administration. Here's what that means for hospitals and staff

Nursing Review, Other, 27/05/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Australia's second largest private hospital operator is in administration after lenders swooped to secure their \$1.4bn in debt. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler acknowledged the "highly distressing" nature of the news and assured the public that all planned procedures will continue to go ahead.

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Australia welcomes WHO Pandemic Agreement as part of post-COVID analysis

PS News, Other, 27/05/2025, John Murtagh

The Australian Government has expressed support for a Pandemic Agreement policy adopted by the World Health Organisation as part of a long-term post-COVID analysis of world reactions to the coronavirus outbreak. [...] "The next pandemic is not a matter of if, but when," Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Disability and the NDIS Mark Butler said.

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Are we at a 'watershed moment' for weight-loss drugs?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/05/2025, Jolyon Attwooll

With millions of prescriptions written each year and their popularity only increasing, a review delves into whether general practice is prepared for the rise of GLP-1 RAs. [...] With that background, it is no wonder that Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler has clearly acknowledged the tension between systemic sustainability and access for the drugs.

[Read More](#)

Healthscope will be sold. What does that mean for patients?

The Daily Aus, Other, 27/05/2025

Australia's second-largest private hospital group, Healthscope, has fallen into receivership due to financial struggles. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the news would be "highly distressing to the patients, staff, and local communities that depend on Healthscope's services."

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Duckett: the government will get its 90% BB rate

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/05/2025, Holly Payne

A photoshopped image of federal health minister Mark Butler's face over that of a knife-brandishing Paul Hogan in Crocodile Dundee is not necessarily what one expects in a presentation from a leading health economist, but Professor Stephen Duckett had a point to make. Speaking at the RACGP's Practice Owners Conference on Sunday, Professor Duckett told the 700-strong audience to consider Mr Butler as (hopefully) using the proverbial bowie knife of policy to cut through governmental inertia and opposition to reposition the health system into a place where it can meet the quintuple aim.

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Brisbane Private Hospital operator vows wards will stay open

WEB InQueensland, Other, 27/05/2025

The CEO of the operator of the Brisbane and Gold Coast Private hospitals has vowed there will be no staff redundancies after appointing receivers yesterday. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the move was no surprise and made clear taxpayers would not be footing the bill for the healthcare provider.

Also reported by: [WEB InDaily SA \(Online\)](#).

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National Capital Private Hospital's parent company in receivership

WEB Region Canberra, Other, 27/05/2025, Claire Fenwicke

National Capital Private Hospital patients have been assured there will be no impact on care after the parent company of its operator, Healthscope, went into receivership yesterday (26 May). [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said despite Healthscope announcing that its hospitals would continue to operate as normal, this would still be "highly distressing" news for patients, staff and communities that depend on Healthscope's services.

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Healthscope collapse raises questions about the viability of private hospitals

Your Life Choices, Other, 27/05/2025

The collapse of Australia's second-largest private hospital group is an early warning sign for the financial viability of private hospitals, according to a health policy expert. [...] Although Federal Health Minister Mark Butler described Healthscope's struggle as "unique," he recognised there were "challenges" for the profitability of private hospitals.

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ABC Radio Darwin , 12:00 News, 27/05/2025

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has ruled out a public bailout for Healthscope, Australia's second-largest private hospital operator. The company, which runs 37 hospitals nationwide, went into receivership yesterday. Healthscope's CEO says there are no plans to close any hospitals and that services will continue. Butler says the collapse was the result of a failed private equity venture and is not a matter for taxpayers.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 27/05/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Rachel Stephen-Smith, ACT Health Minister, on the health system and the collapse of

Healthscope. Stephen-Smith assures that its 37 hospitals, including National Capital Private Hospital, will continue operating safely with financial support from banks. She notes that all available state and territory health ministers met with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler today to discuss the situation. She also outlines plans for expanding GP roles to diagnose and prescribe for ADHD in the ACT, noting thorough consultation and training to address concerns.

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6PR, Drive, 27/05/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Tony Farley, CEO of the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, on the collapse of Healthscope and ongoing challenges in Australia's health system. Farley highlights the difficulties private providers face when managing public hospitals while trying to make a profit. He says that public hospitals generally operate efficiently and deliver comparable outcomes to private hospitals. He says the newly re-elected Albanese government and Health Minister Mark Butler are conducting a review of primary healthcare networks.

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ABC NewsRadio, Mornings, 27/05/2025, Chris Mitchell

Interview with Brett Heffernan, CEO of the Australian Private Hospitals Association, on the collapse of Healthscope. Heffernan expresses concern about the future of private hospitals amid ongoing funding shortfalls and strained relations with private health insurers. He says that private hospitals approached the federal government over two years ago over a growing funding gap. He says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has yet to take meaningful action despite his campaign promise to consider regulation if private health insurers did not improve their funding to hospitals.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 27/05/2025, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler about the collapse of Healthscope. Butler rules out a taxpayer-funded bailout for Healthscope, describing the company's collapse as the result of a failed private equity venture by a large overseas firm. He says the company's unusual financial structure, including high equipment rent costs, contributed to its downfall. He notes that while the government does not have direct visibility on a potential buyer, the company has indicated there are already 10 to 12 interested parties.

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

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ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 27/05/2025, Hamish Macdonald

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler about the collapse of Healthscope. Butler says the government has been closely monitoring Healthscope for some time amid ongoing speculation about its future, given its critical role in Australia's healthcare system. He says that while the government will not offer a bailout, they are committed to ensuring there is no disruption to operations or procedures at the company's 38 hospitals nationwide, including around a dozen in NSW.

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

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MINISTER WELLS

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Chemical reaction with us forever

Herald Sun, General News, 28/05/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 11

Almost all Australians have 'forever chemicals' in their blood, results from the first national PFAS test have revealed. [...] The federal Health Department's website said there is "limited evidence of human disease or other clinically significant harm" but some studies had found "associations" with health outcomes.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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Aged care residents in limbo as council tries to find solution

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/05/2025, Madeline Link, Page 8

Elderly residents of one of Merriwa's two aged care homes, Gummun Place Hostel, are facing possible eviction as Upper Hunter Shire Council scrambles to find a solution. At a meeting this week, council staff urged councillors to consider starting to close the facility in consultation with the Department of Health and Aged Care on July 1 unless a genuine offer was made to run the home, or the government fronted up with continued funding.

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Engage with us early on AI, says TGA

Pulse+IT, Other, 27/05/2025, Reesh Lyon

Suppliers of AI technologies in healthcare should identify early on whether they need TGA approval, while users should look for proof that AI's "benefits outweigh the risks," according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)'s Tracey Duffy.

VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Eight die in care homes attacks

Herald Sun, General News, 28/05/2025, Miles Proust, Page 4

A coroner is examining how aged-care residents can be better protected, after eight elderly Victorians died from "resident-on-resident" aggression in just nine months. The deaths occurred at six separate aged-care facilities in 2021, after the residents, many frail and vulnerable, were pushed or struck by other residents with cognitive impairments including dementia.

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Growing old grievously

Cairns Post, General News, 28/05/2025, Samuel Davis, Page 1

An elderly pensioner says she will be forced to decide between funding her husband's ongoing cancer treatment, or paying Cairns Regional Council's proposed 800 per cent rate rise on dwellings inside retirement villages, if approved. Kay Nyland, 76, will join dozens of retirees protesting outside the council's Spence St office on Wednesday morning, calling for councillors to vote against the rate change.

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

Inquest investigates deaths from resident aggression in Victorian aged care homes

HelloCare, Other, 27/05/2025, Jakob Neeland

A coronial inquest has commenced in Victoria following the deaths of eight elderly residents in aged care facilities, all linked to acts of aggression from fellow residents. The incidents occurred over a nine-month period in 2021, prompting a wide-ranging examination of how aged care services manage and prevent harm between residents, particularly those living with dementia.

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A rare journey home: An aged care resident reclaims her independence

HelloCare, Other, 27/05/2025, Jakob Neeland

When most people enter an aged care home, the reality is that returning to the comfort of their own home often feels like an unattainable dream. The transition can seem like a final chapter, with independence slipping away.

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Practical tips for home care workers: Preparing for a day trip with a client

HelloCare, Other, 27/05/2025, Jakob Neeland

Taking a client on a day trip can be a rewarding experience, offering them a change of scenery and a chance to engage with the community. However, home care workers in Australia must plan meticulously to ensure the trip is safe, comfortable, and enjoyable for their client.

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DISABILITY

Blank prescriptions at Cocoon's HQ

The Australian, General News, 28/05/2025, David Murray, Page 2

Boxes of blank doctors' prescription pads were left in an unlocked cupboard in the headquarters of NDIS firm Cocoon SDA Care, where they could have been accessed and used by anyone. The pads are connected to a home doctor service and their unsecured presence in an open-plan office near the entrance to a communal kitchen has been described by a Cocoon whistleblower as startling evidence of the company's careless practices.

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Disability accommodation company NDISP shut down leaves investors and contractors scrambling

ABC Online, Other, 27/05/2025, Ben Butler, Jessica Longbottom & Liam Walsh

More people have been left scrambling in the wake of a disability accommodation company shutting down operations, including subcontractors, a former AFL footballer and a finance group from Asia. NDISP, which ceased operating this month, has also faced complaints from investors whose properties it oversaw, and from a parent over the care of his son who has a disability.

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POPULATION HEALTH

We've got issues, but we're still a lucky country

The Australian, General News, 28/05/2025, Zachary Hayward, Page 11

Australia is a country on the rise. On almost every economic and social indicator you choose, we are close to historic success. [...] Much has been made of our declining life expectancy. A child born today can expect to live about 81.3 years - a decline of 0.1 years since 2022 but the same as someone born just a few years earlier in 2019.

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Is there a least bad type of alcohol?

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/05/2025, Caroline Hopkins Legaspi, Page 33

If you've heard that red wine is better for you than beer or liquor, or that clear liquor like vodka or gin is less harmful than dark liquor such as rum or whiskey, we have bad news.

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

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Cannabis views change

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 28/05/2025, Jonathon Magrath, Page 1

Bendigo opposition to cannabis is going up in smoke, with an increasing number of residents now in favour of legalising it for personal use. Eighty-three per cent now believe the possession of cannabis for personal use should not be a criminal offence, according to figures released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Support for legalising cannabis use grows

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 28/05/2025, Jessica Howard, Page 4

A growing number of south-west residents believe possessing cannabis should not be a criminal offence, while the sale of e-cigarettes and vapes should be banned. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) Attitudes and Perceptions Towards Drugs by Region report, released on

May 27, showed only 37 per cent of people opposed or strongly opposed legalising cannabis, compared to 60 per cent in 2010.

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Buying nangs in Perth is as easy as ordering UberEats despite tough new laws

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/05/2025, Connor McGoverne

Despite touting them as the toughest laws in the country, Western Australia's Department of Health has not issued a single fine to retailers selling potentially fatal nitrous oxide gas – also known as "nangs" – more than six months after the new regulations were introduced. A 9News Perth investigation found the popular party gas remains readily available from corner stores in Perth's central business district, and from online distributors who deliver them door-to-door within 30 minutes.

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Toddler narrowly misses car after running into traffic

NEWS.com.au, Other, 27/05/2025, Ella McIlveen

Heart-stopping footage has emerged of a three-year-old narrowly missing oncoming traffic on a busy road. [...] According to a 2023 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare study, the leading cause of death for children between 1-14 is land transport accidents.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Growing support for drug decriminalisation in NSW central west

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 27/05/2025, Allison-Hore

A growing number of people support the decriminalisation of drugs, a survey has revealed. New data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) revealed a majority of residents in the Central West and Orana regions support the decriminalisation of cannabis.

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

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in custody – urgent prison reforms are overdue

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/05/2025, Hannah McGlade & Pat Dudgeon

Since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1987–1991), Aboriginal deaths in custody continue to grow. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that 43 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in prison have a history of a mental health condition, and 14 per cent reported their mental health had worsened upon entering prison.

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"No amount of money will make up for the trauma inflicted on Stolen children, but redress is validation of their experience"

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/05/2025, Jarred Cross

Stolen Generations survivor support organisations have responded to the WA government's redress scheme announcement, calling it a "powerful moment of truth-telling", while noting that nothing can undo what has been done. [...] A 2021 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report estimated more than one third of Indigenous people in WA over the age of 46 self-reported they had been removed from their families as children; the highest rate nationally.

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ADHD and autism: Experts urge caution as social media blurs diagnostic boundaries

SBS, Other, 26/05/2025, Wing Kuang & Cameron Carr

Social media is re-shaping the lines between autism and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) as an increasing number of people identify as having both conditions in online forums. Researchers

from The University of Melbourne analysed 470,000 Reddit posts over a ten-year period from the forum's ADHD and autism communities.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Beating diabetes with diet

Courier Mail, General News, 28/05/2025, Ashleigh Gleeson, Page 7

A low-carb diet plan for people with type-2 diabetes helped half of participants in a study lower their average blood-sugar readings to non-diabetic levels in just three months results in a similar range to some trials involving medications like Ozempic. Almost 100 type-2 diabetics took part in the La Trobe University research, which centred on using the Defeat Diabetes mobile app, which offers advice, recipes and cooking demonstrations.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Bowel cancer rising in younger women

Herald Sun, General News, 28/05/2025, Page 12

Australia now has the highest rates of early-onset bowel cancer in the world, with a faster increase found in women than in men. Bowel Cancer Australia chief executive Julien Wiggins said the risk of being diagnosed before 40 had more than doubled since 2000, and one-in-nine new bowel cancer cases now occurred in people under 50.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Asthma project at HMRI changing lives

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/05/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 9

People with asthma are gaining benefits from an exercise and diet program run through the Hunter Medical Research Institute. The study, which is open to newcomers, involves appointments with health professionals and aims to improve lifestyle habits.

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Note symptoms of blood cancers

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 28/05/2025, Page 7

The Leukaemia Foundation is calling on all Australians to be aware of the five key symptoms of blood cancer and act promptly. They are fatigue that doesn't go away, frequent or recurrent infections, unexplained bruising or bleeding, unexplained weight loss and swollen lymph nodes (usually painless).

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Australia now has the world's highest rate of bowel cancer for people under 50

7news.com.au, Other, 27/05/2025, Jen Bechwati

Australia now holds a grim record — the highest rate of bowel cancer in people under the age of 50 anywhere in the world. [...] "We don't know why rates are rising," said Julien Wiggins, CEO of Bowel Cancer Australia.

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Australian researchers make massive breakthrough in search for lupus

treatment

9News, Other, 27/05/2025, Stephanie Anderson

Scientists from Monash Health have made a remarkable breakthrough in the treatment of lupus, using a method originally developed to attack leukemia to treat patients of the chronic autoimmune disease. CAR T-cell therapy is currently under trial conditions but has shown promising results.

[Read More](#)

Caley Ashpole grieves future after terminal breast cancer diagnosis

ABC Online, Other, 27/05/2025, Madeline Grace

Queensland mum Caley Ashpole is grieving her future after she was diagnosed with aggressive and terminal breast cancer on Christmas Eve last year. [...] Cancer Council Queensland senior psychologist Jacqui de la Rue said "anticipatory grief" often followed a terminal diagnosis.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 27/05/2025, Sharyn Ghidella

A national education campaign is being launched to raise awareness about atrial fibrillation, a potentially deadly heart condition affecting around 500,000 Australians. The initiative follows new research showing that one in three Australians aged 50 and over with symptoms delay seeking medical help, often ignoring symptoms multiple times before visiting a doctor. Cardiologist Dr Tomos Walters warns that untreated AF significantly increases the risk of stroke, heart failure, and even psychological distress, with over 20% of patients reporting mental health struggles.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 27/05/2025, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

Australia now has the highest rate of bowel cancer in the world among people under 50, with diagnoses in those under 40 more than doubling since 2000. Bowel cancer is now the deadliest cancer for men under 50 and the second deadliest for women in that age group. Julien Wiggins, CEO of Bowel Cancer Australia, says the rising trend is unexplained and calls for the national screening program to be expanded to include younger Australians. University of Melbourne's Professor Mark Jenkins suggests possible causes include diet, obesity, and changes to gut bacteria. To raise awareness, Kleenex has partnered with Bowel Cancer Australia and will soon print symptoms on its toilet rolls.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 27/05/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Megan Varlow, Director of Cancer Control Policy, Cancer Council Australia. Cenatiempo reports that half of Australians believe the country is unprepared for a rise in cancer diagnoses. Varlow says a survey found that seven in ten Australians are significantly concerned about developing cancer during their lifetime. She notes that younger people tend to be more health-conscious, making lifestyle choices that impact their future health. She notes a trend of certain cancers being diagnosed at earlier ages than before.

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PRIMARY CARE

Healthcare would seize up without private hospitals

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/05/2025, Mark Fitzgibbon, Page 35

Insurance premiums must reflect the costs of the claims and activities they are designed to fund. Australia's private hospitals are essential to the high-quality healthcare we expect as a nation.

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An unhealthy alliance: public health and private profit

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/05/2025, Tony Harris, Page 21

Merging hospital services with for-profit businesses, creating a quasi-capitalistic-socialistic entity, is a complex task. We see this in the financial difficulty facing Healthscope and its 38 hospitals, now under receivership.

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

Hospital firm fallout

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/05/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 2

Major Adelaide private hospitals appear safe from being sold in the fallout of the \$1.4bn Healthscope descent into receivership but are rushing to work out new arrangements to keep operating. Ashford, Flinders Private and Memorial hospitals are operated by Healthscope but are owned by Adelaide Community Healthcare Alliance (ACHA), a South Australian not-for-profit registered charity.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

Spurrier steps in for algal bloom

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/05/2025, Brad Crouch & Taylor Mason, Page 7

Chief public health officer Nicola Spurrier will consult with GPs on the algal bloom crisis following The Advertiser's revelations coastal GPs dealing with a surge in algae-related illnesses had received no support from SA Health on what advice to give patients. It comes as marine biologist Mike Bossley warns Mondays' storms won't be a quick fix for the algae problem.

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

Private hospitals on 'life support'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/05/2025, Martyn Goddard, Page 25

A crisis, long ignored by state and federal governments, now threatens to bring down many of the nation's private hospitals. That means the entire health system - public and private - is in deep trouble.

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

Unfair cost of getting cancer care

West Australian, General News, 28/05/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 3

Lung cancer patients in Perth's eastern and northern suburbs are being forced to make the decision between forking out money to receive treatment closer to home or travelling long distances for free care. Those needing radiation treatment for lung cancer which can be daily for months in Mandurah and Rockingham can receive free care through private practices after the State Government partnered with Icon Cancer Centre and GenesisCare.

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

Healthcare provider's collapse sparks reform demands

West Australian, Business News, 28/05/2025, Page 26

The viability of private health care is under the microscope after the collapse of a major hospital operator, with one union casting doubt on private equity management in the sector. Healthscope, which operates 37 hospitals across every State and Territory, has vowed it will be business as usual for patients and staff after entering receivership.

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

Family is 'broken'

Central Western Daily, General News, 28/05/2025, Riley Krause, Page 1

The "broken" family of a toddler whose death at Orange Hospital is the subject of a coronial inquest has issued heart-breaking statements on the first day of the hearing. At around 2pm on Sunday, June 12, 2022 Pippa Mae White was admitted to Cowra hospital by her mother with a fever, low oxygen levels and laboured breathing.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#).

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

State should run the rule over hospital

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 28/05/2025, Keith Woods, Page 6

It would be a serious investment, but amid enormous demand on our health service, should the state government consider taking an interest in Gold Coast Private Hospital? Along with more than 30 other hospitals operated by private hospital operator Healthscope, it is up for sale as part of a receivership.

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

What will the extra \$11.9m be spent on?

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 28/05/2025, Katrina Lovell, Page 5

An extra \$11.9 million will be spent on the Warrnambool hospital redevelopment but South West Coast MP Roma Britnell says it remains unclear what it will be spent on. The funding increase was included in the state budget but Ms Britnell took aim at what she said looked like another "cost blowout".

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

Patients at Brisbane hospital told to prepare for its imminent closure

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/05/2025, Sean Parnell

The financially stricken Toowong Private Hospital is set to close after administrators brought in only weeks ago found no viable option to keep it open. After a creditors' meeting on Monday, administrators EY flagged the closure with staff, who in turn advised consulting psychiatrists and patients at one of the few private mental health facilities in Brisbane.

[Read More](#)

Why has Healthscope entered receivership?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/05/2025, Supratim Adhikari

One of Australia's biggest private hospital operators, Healthscope, has gone under, putting a 'for sale' sign on 37 hospitals across the country. Healthscope, which treats about 650,000 Australians each year and employs about 19,000 staff nationally, appointed receivers on Monday after lenders voted to end their support for the company's current owner, Brookfield.

[Read More](#)

Acacia Inquiry: \$63 million over budget, 'fraught with issues' and no end in sight

Northern Territory News, Other, 27/05/2025, Lottie Hood

An investigation into the Territory's flagship \$259m – now \$320m – patient health records system Acacia has unveiled a timeline plagued by delays, problems and costs. Issues with the Northern Territory's "largest and most complex digital project" ever undertaken have been well documented.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Doctor claims cancer surgeries delayed so hospital could hit wait time targets

7news.com.au, Other, 27/05/2025

Doctors allege a regional facility contravened health guidelines to meet waitlist targets. Health authorities will launch a review at a major regional hospital following explosive patient care breach claims, according to reports.

[Read More](#)

How to claim your slice of \$260 million in unpaid Medicare refunds

9News, Other, 28/05/2025

More than a quarter of a billion dollars in Medicare refunds are sitting untouched, ready for Australians to claim. Fortunately, there's an easy fix for the cash to land back in your pocket much sooner than you might think.

[Read More](#)

Cancer surgeries are getting delayed at Orange Hospital to hit waitlist targets, doctor claims

ABC Online, Other, 27/05/2025, Joanna Woodburn

Inside one of NSW's largest regional hospitals doctors allege there are patient care breaches that contravene NSW health policy. Those alleged breaches include downgrading the urgency of cancer patients and delaying their surgery without clinical justification.

[Read More](#)

Glen Innes Health Hub brings essential GP services

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 27/05/2025, Simon Chamberlain

A 10-year plan dedicated to providing better health outcomes for regional and rural NSW will finally bloom with the opening of the Glen Innes Rural Health Hub on Monday, May 26. Providing the service is Tamworth's Rural Fit.

[Read More](#)

Do patient enrolment systems lead to better care?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/05/2025

Enrolment programs may have varying impacts on continuity of care and other health outcomes, says a research team including the RACGP President. International experiences indicate both advantages and disadvantages in patient enrolment initiatives.

[Read More](#)

What voluntary assisted dying options are available for those with dementia?

Your Life Choices, Other, 27/05/2025

John Griffiths suspects his mind is starting to fail. It is a horrifying prospect for the father-of-three, former Monash University engineering lecturer and CSIRO research scientist. [...] Although voluntary assisted dying (VAD) will be legal in every Australian jurisdiction except the Northern Territory by the end of this year, it remains entirely off-limits for people with dementia.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Territory-wide Mornings, 27/05/2025, Rick Hind

Interview with Jim Cooper, Senior Director of Corporate Affairs at Healthscope. Copper says that although the company's parent entities are in receivership, its 37 hospitals, including Darwin Private Hospital, continue operating normally with financial backing from the Commonwealth Bank. He says the sale process to find new owners is expected to take 8 to 12 weeks, but may extend if needed. He clarifies that the planned closure of maternity services at Darwin Private is due to a significant decline in birth numbers over the past decade and is not related to the receivership.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Mornings, 27/05/2025, Bill McDonald

Interview with Queensland AMA President Dr Nick Yim on the financial collapse of Healthscope and its implications for Queensland's healthcare system. Yim reassures that all Healthscope hospitals will remain open with no current impact on patients, staff, or care, despite the company's \$1.4b debt. He notes uncertainties about the future for regional areas that heavily rely on private hospitals, noting the importance of a strong private sector to relieve pressure on public hospitals. He reiterates the AMA's proposal for an independent authority to oversee private healthcare.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 27/05/2025, Stacey Lee

Interview with SA Chief Public Health Officer Professor Nicola Spurrier on concerns about algal bloom in Southern Fleurieu. Lee says Dr Emily Kirkpatrick, Royal Australian College of GPs, has raised concerns about the growing number of patients with respiratory problems and the lack of communication from SA Health. Spurrier confirms her team is now actively working to improve

communication with GPs, promising that information will be shared soon. She explains that the symptoms are likely due to direct irritant effects from the bloom and not from toxins.

[Play Now](#)

ABC, 7:30, 27/05/2025, Sarah Ferguson

Surgeons at Orange Hospital in regional NSW are raising serious concerns over delays to cancer surgeries, alleging management pressured them to downgrade patients' urgency categories to avoid breaching waitlist targets. Director of Surgery Rob Knox and urologist Dr Clair Whelan say these changes were made without clinical justification and against policy. Knox warns of underused theatre space and blocked hiring of more staff, despite growing patient demand. A spokesperson for the Western Local Health District said it rejects claims that surgeons have been asked to reclassify surgical procedures and prioritise waiting list targets over patient care.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Schools 'sites of female trauma'

The Australian, General News, 28/05/2025, Natasha Bitá, Page 2

Limits on laptops in classrooms to help stop "sickening and vile" cyber abuse of teachers and students have been flagged by Liberal senator Sarah Henderson. Demanding urgent action to stop classrooms becoming "sites of trauma", the opposition education spokeswoman warned that abuse is exacerbating teacher shortages as women quit the profession.

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

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

The torment of Amber

West Australian, General News, 28/05/2025, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 1

Suffering in silence, consumed by loneliness, children as young as seven are succumbing to a relentless eating disorder epidemic that teenager Amber Trought describes as "rotting from the inside out" to "fit the beauty standard". Amber, 15, has bravely agreed to tell her very personal story, through poetry, hoping to help others battling the crippling disorders a leading Perth doctor says is a national crisis.

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

Eating disorders at epidemic level

West Australian, General News, 28/05/2025, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 4

One of Western Australia's leading doctors has described the prevalence of eating disorders in young people as a national crisis, with children as young as seven showing disordered eating patterns and obsessing over their diet and appearance. Dr Andrew Leech has also criticised the public health response to eating disorders as "a disgrace", claiming that some of his severely ill young patients have been turned away from emergency departments because they are "not sick enough".

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Kids health alarm

Herald Sun, Editorials, 28/05/2025, Page 26

The rise in Australian children now prescribed ADHD, depression or anxiety medication illustrates the size of the mental health challenge being faced particularly after Covid. But questions are also raised about over-diagnosis in some areas, softer symptom criteria, inconsistent treatment standards and even a risk of profit-driven diagnoses.

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

ACT to allow GPs to diagnose ADHD, prescribe medication

The ACT government will be looking to NSW as it prepares to allow general practitioners to diagnose and prescribe medication for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). ADHD is a developmental disorder that starts in early childhood and impacts the brain's executive functioning.

[Read More](#)

Guild welcomes GP expanded scope

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/05/2025

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed news that GPs in NSW will be able to do more to support patients with ADHD (PD 27 May). "Expanding the services offered by GPs, once they have undertaken additional training, will lead to better health outcomes and more effective services," said Guild National President, Professor Trent Twomey.

[Read More](#)

Building mental health into the business plan

The Farmer, General News, 01/06/2025, Camilla Herbig, Page 12

Supporting mentally healthy workplaces and opportunities to access support is a primary role of the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP), with agriculture a priority industry throughout the program's 18 years. RAMHP understands the complexity of family farming businesses and unique way this can impact mental health.

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

Channel 10, The Project, 27/05/2025, Georgie Tunny, Waleed Aly, Sam Taunton, & Kate Langbroek

Interview with Professor Ian Hickie, co-director of the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Centre, on the NSW Government's reforms that will allow GPs to diagnose and treat ADHD. The state government aims to cut long wait times and reduce costs, but Hickie warns of the risk of over-diagnosis and over-prescription by commercial clinics lacking rigorous assessment. He stresses the need for proper evaluation, team-based care, and tracking of outcomes to ensure medication is appropriate and safe.

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2GB, Afternoons, 27/05/2025, Michael McLaren

Interview with Sarah O'Doherty, President of the Australian Association of Psychologists, on the new government reform allowing GPs to be trained to diagnose and treat ADHD. O'Doherty highlights a recent rise in ADHD diagnoses among adults and women, saying that medication is not the sole solution and psychological therapy is also crucial. She says the proposed approach is a partnership where GPs provide initial diagnosis and medication support, with psychologists involved in comprehensive assessments and ongoing treatment.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Nurses reject Crisafulli pay deal

The Australian, General News, 28/05/2025, Mackenzie Scott, Page 2

Queensland nurses and midwives have voted in favour of industrial action after failing to come to a pay agreement with the Crisafulli government, claiming the promised "nation-leading wages" never

eventuated. It is the first time in 23 years the state's nurses have moved to take protected industrial action against the government, with 96.5 per cent of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union's members voting to strike.

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

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Nurses in strike vow

Courier Mail, General News, 28/05/2025, Taylah Fellows & Mikaela Mulveney, Page 7

Tens of thousands of nurses and midwives will begin walking off the job from next week in the first such strike in more than two decades. Queenslanders seeking care across public hospitals have been promised no disruption to service, although nurses and midwives will stop non-frontline work including administration and ordering.

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

\$40k incentives for state's trainee GPs

Courier Mail, General News, 28/05/2025, Taylah Fellows, Page 11

A new cash bid to steer doctors into general practice won't require them to live or work in the regions. The state government on Tuesday unveiled a \$24m program to give GP trainees \$40,000 to keep them going in the industry in a partial revival of an old Labor scheme.

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

Trainee GPs enticed to regions with one-off \$40k

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 28/05/2025, Samantha Scott, Page 5

Hundreds of trainee GPs will be eligible for a one-off payment of \$40,000 as Queensland grapples with a shortage of qualified healthcare professionals in rural, remote and First Nations communities. North and North West Queensland have been battling to secure GPs to service rural and remote communities, with massive salaries used to entice doctors to Julia Creek and a rethink under way to find medical services for Cloncurry.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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Mater on minister's radar

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/05/2025, Jamieson Murphy, Page 1

The state's health minister will meet with Calvary Mater Hospital management this week, after describing the building's mould outbreak and leaks as unacceptable. The meeting follows the Newcastle Herald's ongoing coverage of the hospital's maintenance mess, which the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association has labelled "appalling" and a "dangerous environment".

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Nurses to strike as cops seek big pay rise

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 28/05/2025, Taylah Fellows, Page 14

Tens of thousands of nurses and midwives across the state have voted to strike, as police seek a jaw-dropping pay rise three times higher than what frontline health workers have been offered. More than 96 per cent of Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU) members on Monday night voted to undertake Protected Industrial Action following threats from Queensland Health to withhold eight weeks' backpay if they moved to strike.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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

Expanded scope pay pharmacy's next IR battleground

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/05/2025, Jo Sorensen

Securing appropriate remuneration for expanded scope of practice is the top issue for Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA), the union's president, Leon Yap, says.

[Read More](#)

Queensland launches \$40,000 GP incentive

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/05/2025, Michelle Wisbey

The General Practice Trainee Incentive payment is available to those beginning their GP training anywhere in the state in 2025. The Queensland Government says 575 doctors are expected to be eligible for the new incentive.

[Read More](#)

Queensland nurses vote to strike for first time in decades

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/05/2025, Savannah Meacham

Thousands of nurses and midwives have voted to strike for the first time in 20 years, saying promised "nation-leading" wage increases never transpired. More than 96 per cent of Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union members voted in favour of protected industrial action as a stoush with the state government escalated.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 27/05/2025, Max Futchter & Katrina Blowers

Queensland nurses may strike for the first time since the early 2000s as pay negotiations with the state government stall. While the government claims its offer is 'nation-leading,' the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union argues it falls short for more than two-thirds of its members.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 27/05/2025, Melissa Downes

Queensland nurses have voted to take strike action after rejecting the state government's latest pay offer, which proposed an 11% increase over three years. The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU) argues the offer fails to deliver the nation-leading wages promised during the state election campaign.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 27/05/2025, Tom Connell

Interview with Mandy Burns, Chief Executive of CF Together, who calls for the cystic fibrosis medication Trikafta to be added to the PBS scheme. Burns explains Trikafta has been available under the PBS since 2022, but only for patients with specific gene mutations. She says those with a rarer genetic form of the disease have been excluded until recently, when the TGA approved it for use in this group. She urges the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) to recommend PBS coverage.

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

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Ferraris, Lamborghini, McLaren seized in PBS fraud probe of Sydney pharmacist

7news.com.au, Other, 27/05/2025

A collection of exotic vehicles has been seized from a New South Wales pharmacist who allegedly made false claims under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for almost a decade. A Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce (CACT) led by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) has seized more than \$20 million in assets from the 58-year-old pharmacist, who is alleged to have made false claims between 2014 and 2023 with a value of more than \$10 million.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, Credlin, 27/05/2025, Peta Credlin

Interview with Tasmanian Liberal Senator Claire Chandler on the case of Mel Jeffries, a 33-year-old woman suing Monash Health and two doctors for alleged medical negligence in gender-affirming treatment. Jeffries claims she was prescribed testosterone and underwent a double mastectomy without adequate psychiatric assessment. Chandler says the case exposes serious flaws in the current care model and underscores the urgent need for stricter safeguards and thorough mental health evaluations before irreversible treatments are offered.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Budget hope to commit to bold change

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/05/2025, Paul Lupo, Page 12

As the Tasmanian Government prepares to hand down its state budget, we stand at a critical crossroads. With some of the poorest health outcomes in the country, this budget must be more than a financial statement.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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SPORT

Gateway to glory

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/05/2025, Darcy Jennings, Page 1

Hockey NT is continuing to build its stature as a field hockey stronghold within Australia through the announcement of a four-year master plan. A Territory led model that has the backing of major national and international bodies, the Northern Gateway Initiative (NGI) is aimed at delivering "sustainable sporting growth", "regional diplomacy", and "high-performance opportunities" across the Asia-Pacific.

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Keeping our kids on the ball

Herald Sun, General News, 28/05/2025, Peter Rolfe, Page 17

Sporting clubs struggling to find the finances to keep kids in sport during the cost-of-living crisis are increasingly relying on donations to play on. New data to be released on Wednesday reveals grassroots Victorian clubs are among a rising number of Australian community groups asking for help to get juniors on the field.

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How Ozempic works, and natural alternatives

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/05/2025, Emily Craig, Page 32

They have been the most talked-about drugs of the past decade, maybe even the century. The fat-shedding jabs can help people lose up to a fifth of their body weight and bring health benefits, including reduced risk of diabetes and heart disease.

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

Zombie cells impact health and ageing

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/05/2025, David Cox, Page 32

At last year's British Society for Research on Ageing conference, an annual meeting to discuss the latest ideas for improving healthy ageing and lifespan, one theme kept cropping up how best to rid the body of senescent cells?

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

Dr Boreham's Crucible: This pancreatic cancer tackler has faith its 'good science will prevail'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/05/2025, Tim Boreham

In the barren drug development landscape, Amplia Therapeutics is making strides with its candidate that works on the anti-fibrotic path to tackling pancreatic cancer. With some common types of cancers including breast and lung, therapies have developed at a rapid clip.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Could your diet be ageing your brain?

Prevention, Other, 27/05/2025, Korin Miller

New research explores how what's on your plate could shape what you remember. Dementia is a leading cause of death in Australia, affecting over 421,000 people as of 2024, with numbers expected to nearly double by 2054.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 27/05/2025, Leon Delaney

A breakthrough study from Griffith University has found that low-dose naltrexone, typically used to treat opioid addiction, may help ease long COVID symptoms. Professor Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik says the drug works by restoring calcium levels in cells.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Trailblazers leading the way

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/05/2025, Darcy Fitzgerald, Page 8

Whether it's at Indigenous urban health services like Danila Dilba or remote health clinics in the bush, Aboriginal Health Practitioners (AHP) are the vital link connecting their communities to healthcare providers. However, a critical kink disrupts this essential chain in Indigenous healthcare provision - a stark gender imbalance.

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

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Kids at risk due to flu vax hesitation

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 28/05/2025, Page 7

Emergency rooms around Australia are noticing a spike in children's flu admissions, as a survey reveals one in six kids are unvaccinated. Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital has seen a 27 per cent increase in flu cases compared to the previous year, with many unvaccinated children requiring hospitalisation.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

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Sydney choked by dust storm as air quality hits 'extremely poor'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/05/2025, Andrew Hedgman

A thick cloud of dust and dangerous airborne particles has descended on Greater Sydney, prompting urgent health warnings from authorities advising residents to stay indoors and monitor for symptoms. Landmarks usually visible from across the city, including the iconic harbour, skyline and the Blue Mountains, were completely obscured on Tuesday morning as the dust storm blanketed the region.

[Read More](#)

Aussies warned to take precaution after dengue fever outbreak in Cook Islands

The Courier Mail, Other, 27/05/2025, Karen Grace Prince

Cook Islands – a popular travel spot for Australians – is warning travellers to take precautions after seven cases of dengue fever prompted a health emergency. The Cook Islands Health Ministry confirmed two cases of illness last week, taking to seven cases reported within a 18-day span.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Sydney air quality: Dust storm sparks urgent health warning, NSW residents told to 'stay indoors' Sydney air quality: Dust storm sparks urgent health warning, NSW residents told to 'stay indoors'

7news.com.au, Other, 27/05/2025, Max Corstorphane

A dense cloud of dangerous particles has swallowed the entire greater Sydney area, with health authorities telling locals to 'stay indoors' and 'actively monitor for symptoms'. A dense cloud of dangerous particles has swallowed the entire greater Sydney area, with health authorities telling locals to 'stay indoors' and 'actively monitor for symptoms'.

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Misinformation, needle phobia blamed for slow flu vaccination take-up

9News, Other, 27/05/2025, Selina Zhang

Misinformation and needle phobia are being blamed for the slow take-up of kids' flu vaccinations this year, with only 17 per cent of 3200 parents surveyed across the country having made the trip to get their children jabbed so far. Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital conducted the poll, revealing 39 per cent were either unsure about or not planning to vaccinate their children against influenza.

[Read More](#)

Travel warning after Cook Islands declares dengue fever outbreak

9News, Other, 27/05/2025, Adam Vidler

An outbreak of dengue fever has been declared in a Pacific country beloved by Australian travellers. The Cook Islands Ministry of Health declared the outbreak last week, with a total of seven cases of the illness in the past 18 days now confirmed.

[Read More](#)

Dust haze descends on Sydney and Illawarra, causing hazardous air quality conditions

ABC Online, Other, 27/05/2025, Nabil Al Nashar

A dust haze has descended over NSW, blanketing cities including Sydney and Wollongong. The dust reduced visibility in places like Camden to below 300 metres and created hazardous air quality that can have health effects after a few hours of exposure.

[Read More](#)

The gonorrhoea vaccine is an incredible breakthrough. It could also be a terrible missed opportunity

The Guardian, Other, 27/05/2025, Benjamin-Weil

Last week, the UK announced a world first in sexual health programming: a vaccine that can protect against infection by gonorrhoea bacteria is to be made available in sexual health clinics across England, Scotland and Wales. Now comes the rollout – which will require avoiding the mistakes of the past to make sure it reaches those most in need.

[Read More](#)

Geelong on track to record worst flu season

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 27/05/2025, Olivia Shying

Geelong is on track to record its worst flu season, with the number of cases recorded double that of the same time last year. And there are fears vaccine hesitancy could be preventing some people from getting jabbed, as doctors urge people to get the flu shot.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 27/05/2025, Sharyn Ghidella

New research has revealed a growing number of parents are hesitant to immunise their children against the flu. A recent survey found nearly one-third of parents are reluctant to vaccinate, and 36% were unaware that even healthy children can become seriously ill from the virus. More than 2,000 people have been hospitalised with the flu so far this year in Queensland.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 27/05/2025, Peter Mitchell

Health experts are raising concerns over low vaccination rates among children in Victoria, which has seen nearly 19,000 cases so far. A new survey by the Royal Children's Hospital reveals that nearly a quarter of Victorian families have no flu vaccination plan in place, and around 40% of parents say they do not intend to vaccinate their children at all. The hesitancy is being driven by a mix of misinformation, cost concerns, needle phobia, and busy schedules.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Popular baby product recalled over glass fragment fears

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/05/2025, Matt Jones

A 'critical' product recall has been issued after a customer complained about glass fragments inside a bottle of baby teething powder. [...] The TGA advised that customers should stop using the product immediately.

[Read More](#)

Australia approves new drug to slow Alzheimer's progression

SBS, Other, 27/05/2025, Asha Abdi

Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia, affects nearly 600,000 Australians. But there is renewed hope, with Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration approving a new medication that could offer relief to those living with the condition.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 27/05/2025, Tom Connell

Interview with Mandy Burns, Chief Executive of CF Together, who calls for the cystic fibrosis medication Trikafta to be added to the PBS scheme. Burns explains Trikafta has been available under the PBS since 2022, but only for patients with specific gene mutations. She says those with a rarer genetic form of the disease have been excluded until recently, when the TGA approved it for use in this group. She urges the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) to recommend PBS coverage.

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

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

Aussie bid to end centuries of 'confusion' around plants at centre of \$5 billion industry

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 27/05/2025, Michael Dahlstrom

Growing in a sunny flower bed at the Botanic Gardens of Sydney are evergreen shrubs that thousands of visitors have strolled past without a second thought. [...] Food Standards Australia New Zealand confirmed with Yahoo News consumers will still see familiar names like 'hibiscus' or 'roselle' on their labels.

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AICIS

97% have 'forever chemicals' in blood

Age, General News, 28/05/2025, Adam Carey, Page 3

More than 97 per cent of Victorians aged over 12 have a detectable concentration of PFAS in their bloodstream, with the "forever chemicals" more likely to be found in men than women, and more often in older people. The synthetic chemicals perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances are found in everyday products ranging from the linings of take-away coffee cups and pizza boxes to carpets and non-stick cookware.

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Sewage responsible for build-up of forever chemicals in Sydney

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/05/2025, Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Page 11

Sewage treatment plant outfalls are discharging dangerous forever chemicals into creeks and rivers in Sydney's drinking water catchment, a new study has found, and the pollution is occurring without oversight from the environmental watchdog. The news comes as the Australian Bureau of Statistics revealed NSW has the highest proportion of residents with cancer-causing PFAS chemicals in their blood and urine in the country.

Hidden toxins skin deep

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/05/2025, Page 4

Almost all Australians have 'forever chemicals' in their blood, results from the first national PFAS testing have revealed. New ABS data, released amid growing public concern about PFAS' health effects, show more than 98 per cent of the adult and adolescent population had a common type, PFOS, detected in their blood.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 27/05/2025, Liz Trevaskis

New figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that PFAS chemicals have been detected in the blood of over 85% of Australians aged 12 and over. The ABS tested for 11 types of PFAS and says the results will help establish a national baseline to better understand chemical exposure across the population.

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