



Australian Government
Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 30th May 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has directed the Department of Health to investigate the rise of unregistered, private ultrasound clinics which offer pregnant women "souvenir" scans with no medical or diagnostic report to accompany them.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that NDIS provider Cocoon SDA Care has entered liquidation following a permanent ban from the NDIS for serious misconduct, including falsely claiming services for deceased or incarcerated participants
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that Queensland is experiencing a surge in Covid-19 cases driven by the highly contagious NB. 1.8.1 subvariant of Omicron, prompting officials to urge the public to get vaccinated.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports that a male cleaner at Port Pirie Health Service was attacked by a mentally ill patient, who was being held on a mental health restraining order.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 5) reports that Cancer Council's Australia Generation Vape study found that 18 per cent of young adults aged 18-24 regularly vape, down from 33 per cent in 2023, with the decline attributed to decreasing social acceptability and government crackdowns on retailers.

- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 9) reports that the Tasmanian government will invest \$14.5 billion in the health system over the next four years, focusing on reducing the elective surgery backlog and redeveloping major hospitals.
- **Northern Territory News** (page 4) reports that six graduates from Charles Darwin University have become the first in Australia to earn the title of "Doctor of Pharmacy," an advancement that those in the field say recognises the the evolving clinical responsibilities of pharmacists and brings pharmacy in line with other health professions.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 3) reports that the federal government is investing \$27 million in Melbourne-based biotech PolyActiva to support the development of an eye implant called Prezia designed to replace daily eye drops for people with glaucoma.
- **The Courier Mail** (page 10) reports that the build-up to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games will include the cultural and economic participation of First Nations people through a newly formalised Reconciliation Action Plan.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 18) reports that GPs are seeing a 50% increase in patients with mental health problems, leading to GP burnout and so-called "compassion fatigue".

MINISTER BUTLER

'Ageing' added as Albo reshuffles his Cabinet

Local Ipswich News, General News, 29/05/2025, Page 14

Major changes are underway for Australia's leadership on ageing and aged care following the Federal Election. Following Labor's election victory, Mark Butler is now Minister for Health and Ageing, with newcomer Sam Rae appointed Aged Care and Seniors Minister.

Also reported by: [Local Ipswich News \(Online\)](#), [Local Ipswich News \(Online\)](#).

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

Mental health meeting 'first test' for Anthony Albanese

The Australian, Other, 29/05/2025, Sarah Ison

A major mental health meeting of state and Commonwealth ministers is being branded as the re-elected Albanese government's "first test" on mental health and its ability to address the needs of people not eligible for NDIS but with mental illnesses too complex for primary care. [...] While this system of "foundational supports" was expected to be rolled out from the middle of the year, Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler sought to distance himself from that time frame earlier this week.

[Read More](#)

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler investigating 'souvenir' ultrasound clinics targeting pregnant women

ABC Online, Other, 29/05/2025, Lucy Kent & Thomas Sam

With a sonographer shortage nationwide a growing number of women are going to have "souvenir scans" on their pregnancies at private enterprises. [...] It is information that has led Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to have his department investigate reassurance clinics and their practices.

[Read More](#)

Receivers called in for Healthscope

Northern Beaches Advocate, Other, 29/05/2025, Dale Cohen

Northern Beaches Hospital will continue operating despite its parent company being placed into receivership. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has also said there will be no Commonwealth bail out for Healthscope.

[Read More](#)

160 aged care providers asked to take over Hunter Shire Council's Gummun Place Hostel – only one responded

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/05/2025, Caroline Egan

In a meeting on Monday, Upper Hunter Shire Council voted for the remaining 16 residents of Gummun House Hostel in Merriwa, 275km northwest of Sydney, be found alternative accommodation, as the Council continues to try and find a new provider. [...] In November, The Weekly SOURCE reported the Mayor had written to the Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler asking for "immediate and ongoing" assistance to keep Gummun Place Hostel open.

[Read More](#)

The Health Wrap: yet more turmoil in the United States, COVID updates, health reform priorities – and the Walk for Truth

Croakey, Other, 29/05/2025, Melissa Sweet

Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Ageing, and Disability and the NDIS, has some serious heavy lifting ahead, and The Health Wrap identifies several key priorities for the Albanese Government's attention. Meanwhile, as turmoil continues in science and health spheres in the United States, an average of 350 people are dying there every week from COVID-19, and many countries are actively recruiting American scientists.

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Extension to Medicare Heart Health Checks

Have a Go News, Other, 29/05/2025

The Heart Foundation has welcomed the three-year extension to the Medicare Heart Health Checks. The announcement by Health Minister Mark Butler secures Medicare funding for the Check through to June 30, 2028.

[Read More](#)

Does the federal government have the guts for obesity reform?

Health Services Daily, Other, 29/05/2025, Mariella Attard

It's clear the public wants action on sugary drinks. Will Mark Butler listen and will the government step up to the legislative plate?

[Read More](#)

DA lodged for new Launceston heart centre

Inside Local Government, Other, 29/05/2025, Kelly Nealon

The Northern Heart Centre at the Launceston General Hospital has reached a major milestone, with a Development Application for the project submitted to the City of Launceston Council. [...] Federal Minister for Health, Mark Butler said the DA submission was another major step forward to delivering better heart health care for northern Tasmanians.

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Taming the NDIS

Open Forum, Other, 29/05/2025

Ensuring the provision of high quality disability services will pose a significant challenge for the Albanese government's second term. [...] While Butler will sit in Cabinet, Jenny McAllister has been appointed to the outer ministry as Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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Research reveals strong public support for government action on sugary and sweetened drinks

Pharmacy ITK, Other, 29/05/2025

Public health experts are urging the new Albanese Government to prioritise tackling obesity, with new research showing widespread public support for the implementation of strong measures to curb the consumption of sugary and sweetened beverages. [...] "Minister Mark Butler and the Albanese government have implemented strong and effective measures to curb smoking and vaping, we believe similarly decisive action is needed to tackle obesity.

[Read More](#)

ABC, 7:30, 29/05/2025, Sarah Ferguson

Report by ABC's 7.30 program producer Alysia Thomas-Sam on concerns about unregulated ultrasound practices. Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists president Dr Nisha Khot says ultrasounds are increasingly being done by non-medical professionals. She adds that there are rising cases where sonographers fail to conduct proper scans or provide reports. There has also been a rise in private reassurance scans offered to pregnant women. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he is investigating these clinics through the relevant health authorities.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Drive, 29/05/2025, Nikolai Beilharz

Interview with Private Healthcare Australia CEO Rachel David on Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's push for private health insurers to increase payments to hospitals. Beilharz says that soon after Healthscope announced its plans to enter receivership, Butler called on insurers to increase the percentage of premium income paid to hospitals rather than on profits or management expenses. David says Butler should be satisfied with the latest data showing a 7.7% increase in payments to private hospitals over the past year. She warns that increasing this figure further could harm smaller not-for-profit funds and impact areas like IT and cybersecurity. She adds that if an essential private hospital is at risk of closing and there are no alternatives, insurers are willing to work with the federal government to find a solution.

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MINISTER WELLS

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Taming the NDIS

Open Forum, Other, 29/05/2025

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MINISTER RAE

'Ageing' added as Albo reshuffles his Cabinet

Local Ipswich News, General News, 29/05/2025, Page 14

Major changes are underway for Australia's leadership on ageing and aged care following the Federal Election. Following Labor's election victory, Mark Butler is now Minister for Health and Ageing, with newcomer Sam Rae appointed Aged Care and Seniors Minister.

Also reported by: [Local Ipswich News \(Online\)](#), [Local Ipswich News \(Online\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Free mental health care

Bundaberg Today, General News, 30/05/2025, Page 1

Free mental health support is now available to Bundaberg and Wide Bay residents with the Medicare Mental Health Centre officially opening its doors in Bourbong St on Wednesday. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride MP opened the centre on Wednesday where she said the Albanese Government was putting mental health at the heart of Medicare, and quality care in the heart of communities.

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ABC Sunshine Coast, Mornings, 29/05/2025, Sarah Howells

Interview with Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride, about the Medicare Mental Health Centre opening today. McBride says she is pleased to be on the Sunshine Coast to officially open the new Medicare Mental Health Centre. She notes the Medicare Mental Health Centre is free, and someone doesn't need a referral from a doctor, they don't need an appointment, and they'll be able to receive wraparound support and care to meet their mental health needs.

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DEPARTMENT

Wagga MP disappointed Palliative Care Task Force yet to be established

Region Riverina, Other, 29/05/2025, Erin Hee

There is an urgent demand for palliative care specialists in an ageing population in regional Australia that is not being met, experts warn. [...] Barriers patients face when seeking palliative care generally fall within administrative issues, according to the Department of Health and Aged Care , including lack of clear advance care planning, late transferrals or referrals and confusion among staff over task delegations.

[Read More](#)

Department recognises crucial role of allied health

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/05/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Allied health professionals are critical for the effective delivery of care, Anita Hobson-Powell tells the PAS audience on day 1, but collaboration between the sector, government and older people is needed for allied health to reach its true potential. Australia's Chief Allied Health officer Anita Hobson-Powell has told this week's Positive Ageing Summit audience that allied health professionals could be the largest healthcare workforce in Australia, but with no consistent workforce data or agreed definition on what the profession includes, the sector is misrepresented and at times, accidentally excluded from policy.

AusMedtech is coming to Perth, WA in May 2026-here's why you should fly west to attend

mtpconnect.org.au, Other, 29/05/2025, Tracey Wilksinson

Australia's early stage medtech conference, AusMedtech, is coming to Perth, Western Australia in May 2026 - here's why I think you should fly west to attend. [...] Tracey Duffy, First Assistant Secretary, Medical Devices and Product Quality Division, Therapeutic Goods Administration shared an overview of the significant reform that has been taking place at the TGA over the last 5 years, including the SaMD and AI regulation review, mandatory reporting of medical device related adverse events, unique device identifier (UDI), electronic patient use instructions, recalls.

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VACCINES

COVID strain to hit hard

Courier Mail, General News, 30/05/2025, Isabella Pesch & Rachel Riley, Page 1

Vulnerable Queenslanders are under threat as the most contagious strain of Covid-19 ever recorded rips through the state. The new wave comes at a time when vaccination protection has fallen to the lowest since the jab was introduced.

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

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Easy way to be safe from Covid wave

Courier Mail, Editorials, 30/05/2025, Page 24

The days of pandemic lockdowns in this state are thankfully over but the trade off is we all have to do our part to keep each other healthy and safe. A new Covid-19 strain which early reports indicate could be the most contagious yet has put the spotlight on Queensland's less than impressive vaccination rates for the virus.

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

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A new COVID variant is driving up infections in Australia. Here's what to know about NB.1.8.1

SBS, Other, 29/05/2025, Lara Herrero

As we enter the colder months in Australia, COVID is making headlines again, this time due to the emergence of a new variant: NB.1.8.1. Last week, the World Health Organization designated NB.1.8.1 as a "variant under monitoring", owing to its growing global spread and some notable characteristics which could set it apart from earlier variants.

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Rapid growth of virus strain

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 30/05/2025, Andrew Hedgman, Page 3

A new Covid-19 subvariant, NB. 1.8.1, is beginning to take hold in NSW and Western Australia, sparking concern among health authorities as Australia heads into the winter months. According to the latest NSW Respiratory Surveillance Report, Covid-19 and influenza activity remain low overall, but early signs point to a gradual increase in Covid-19 infections, with test positivity rising to 5.7 per cent in the week ending May 17.

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Deaths caused by resident-on-resident aggression spur coronial inquest

Aged Care Insite, Other, 29/05/2025

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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Restorative care must be default approach

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/05/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Day 1 of the Positive Ageing Summit kicked off with discussions on research into holistic approaches to ageing by Dr Justin Keogh, while Jo Boylan provided a provider perspective on practically implementing exercise programs. Many people in the community have pre-existing perceptions of what ageing looks like, keynote speaker Associate Professor at Bond University Justin Keogh told the Positive Ageing Summit's day 1 audience, but holistic ageing aims to make it a more positive experience by increasing strength, mobility and maintaining independence.

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MACs need support, resourcing: author

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/05/2025, Megan Haggan

A new national audit led by Monash University has shed light on how medication use is governed in Australian residential aged care. The audit has revealed wide variation in the structure and function of Medication Advisory Committees (MACs) across the country, the authors say.

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OPAN welcomes reappointment of Aged Care Minister

Australian Seniors News, Other, 29/05/2025

The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) has welcomed the re-appointment of Senator Anne Ruston as Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care. OPAN CEO, Craig Gear OAM congratulated Senator Ruston, noting her "dedication and commitment to older people and the aged care sector".

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What providers and clients are asking about the new aged care reform

The Senior, Other, 29/05/2025, Anthony Caggiano

Several topics of concern were raised during an Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) webinar on May 27, which included delegates from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Seniors Rights Service (OPAN's NSW member) and Council of Elders. Costs over the new Support At Home program were discussed, along with concern over existing Home Care Package clients signing amended agreements by July 1.

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Opal HealthCare's cheeky marketing campaign inspires uptick in admissions

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/05/2025, Caroline Egan

An advertising campaign featuring the antics of aged care residents as they live life to the full has not only sparked conversations about what it means to age well, it has resulted in increased enquiries and admissions in the locations the ads have been shown. "Our campaigns are always inspired by our purpose – to bring joy to those we care for," a spokesperson for Opal HealthCare told The SOURCE.

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Average wait time for Home Care Packages blows out to seven months

Medium priority customers assessed as needing a Level 4 Home Care Package, the highest level of care, are waiting on average 13 months to receive the care they need, according to the latest data from My Aged Care. Aged care consumers were waiting for a medium or high priority Home Care Package (HCP) for seven months on average as of the end of April, up from six months only three months earlier.

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Aged care bed shortage will 'bedevil' hospitals: NSW Health Inquiry

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/05/2025, Caroline Egan

A Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding in NSW has recommended the State Government step in to provide additional aged care beds when bed shortages are impacting hospital operations and care. Commissioner Richard Beasley, who led the inquiry over 70 hearing days and through consultation with policy experts, consumers, and NSW Health employees, wrote in the 1,062-page report, "On any given day, there are significant numbers of elderly patients occupying beds in public hospitals that could, if an aged care bed were available, be discharged.

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More than 500 aged care patients in Queensland hospital beds - how many nationally?

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/05/2025, Caroline Egan

Queensland's Health Minister, Tim Nicholls, has demanded the Federal Government invest more in building aged care beds in the state, after data revealed there were 783 older patients in its hospitals ready to be discharged, with more than 500 waiting for residential aged care. Long-stay patients waiting for an aged care bed are costing the State Government \$443 million annually.

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Home care hellscape: why the wait list should be the new Minister's first priority

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/05/2025, Lauren Broomham

On paper, Australia's home care system is expanding. Another 107,000 Home Care Packages are set to be rolled out from 1 July.

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Liquidity ratios relief: Ageing Australia updates members on consultations

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/05/2025, Caroline Egan

Aged care providers will be able to meet new liquidity standards by demonstrating to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) that they have robust liquidity management processes in place, rather than adhering to a strict financial ratio, according to a member alert from Ageing Australia, the peak body for aged care providers. The ACQSC has yet to confirm the final liquidity ratios, which, when first released for consultation in February, unexpectedly required residential aged care operators with independent living units (ILUs) and retirement village operators to retain 10% of refundable amounts from ILU and village residents starting 1 July this year.

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Aged care providers on challenges of care minute targets

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/05/2025, Caroline Egan

A panel of three aged care CEOs, hosted by Managing Director and Founder of Anchor Excellence, Cynthia Payne, shared the advantages - and pitfalls - of being a mid-size provider at the 2025 LEADERS SUMMIT. Cameron McPherson, CEO of Medical & Aged Care Group Diana Horvatovic , CEO of St. Basils Aged Care NSW/ACT , and Tim Humphries, CEO of Homestyle Aged Care , highlighted the challenges they face meeting the care minute targets and the shortfall in associated Government funding, but they stressed the advantages of their size.

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\$1M per bed: Victorian Govt completes Rutherglen aged care home

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/05/2025, Caroline Egan

With the cost of a new bed sitting at around \$500,000 per bed for For Profit and Not For Profit operators, the Victorian Government has completed the \$57.1 million construction of a 50-bed aged care home in Rutherglen, located 300km northeast of Melbourne – population 3,000 – at the eye-watering cost of \$1 million a bed. Construction began in August 2023, taking nearly two years.

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DISABILITY

Cocoon shuts up shop after NDIS ban

The Australian, General News, 30/05/2025, David Murray, Page 3

Disability provider Cocoon has gone into liquidation after federal authorities found it had been involved in serious and systemic misconduct. Horizon Solsolutions Australia, trading as Cocoon SDA Care, entered liquidation on Wednesday, the same day The Australian revealed it had been permanently banned from the NDIS.

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

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Firm fined after labelling appliances 'NDIS -approved'

Canberra Times, General News, 30/05/2025, Brittney Levinson, Page 7

The parent company behind kitchen brand Thermomix has been fined after allegedly labelling some of its appliances as "NDIS-approved" or "NDIS-assistive technology". The consumer watchdog alleges the company misled customers by suggesting two of its household appliances were endorsed by the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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Wind-up for NDIS provider

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 30/05/2025, John Rolfe, Page 2

The owner of disgraced NDIS provider Cocoon has called in liquidators after being permanently banned from the scheme for allegedly billing taxpayers for fake services to people who were dead or in jail. In a statement on Thursday, Horizon Solsolutions said that on legal advice it had formally resolved to enter liquidation after the banning of Cocoon SDA Care and its director by the NDIS.

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Heat is on for Thermomix

Courier Mail, General News, 30/05/2025, Judith Kerr, Page 19

One of Australia's biggest kitchen appliance brands, Thermomix, has paid \$79,200 in penalties after the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission issued four infringement notices over misleading claims that its products were endorsed by the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Vorwerk Australia Pty Ltd received four infringements after promoting its \$2579 Thermomix TM6 and Kobold cordless vacuum and mop as "NDIS approved", "NDIS-registered product", "NDIS-consumables", "NDIS assistive technology", and "NDIS equipment".

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Thermo's NDIS roast

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 30/05/2025, Page 6

A massive kitchenware company allegedly falsely claimed its products were "NDIS approved" to drive sales but has copped a massive fine instead. Vorwerk Australia, trading as Thermomix in Australia, has been fined nearly \$80,000 by the competition watchdog for allegedly falsely suggesting two of its household appliances were endorsed by the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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Thermomix fined \$79k

West Australian, Business News, 30/05/2025, Page 40

The company behind all-in-one blender Thermomix has copped a \$79,000 fine for allegedly claiming its products were endorsed by the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Vorwerk is the second company in a week to be hit with infringement notices from the consumer watchdog, alleging Thermomix falsely promoted its TM6 cooking product and Kobold cordless vacuum and mop as being endorsed through the NDIS or registered by an entity administering the NDIS.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 29/05/2025, Liz Trevaskis

Pre-recorded interview with First Peoples Disability Network CEO Damian Griffis by ABC presenter Meredith Lake on the death in custody of a 24-year-old disabled Warlpiri man from Yuendumu, highlighting concerns raised by Indigenous advocates. Griffis says the criminalisation of disability disproportionately affects First Nations people and leads to preventable deaths. Lake points to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showing almost 39% of people entering prison have a disability, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities making up 32% of the prison population. Griffis says these figures are likely under-reported due to undiagnosed disability and high rates of hearing impairment. He calls for stronger recognition of the voices of First Nations people with disability and a national effort to address their treatment in the justice system.

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

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POPULATION HEALTH

Vaping on nose but still popular

Courier Mail, General News, 30/05/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 5

Almost one in five young people regularly vape a new report has found, but there are signs government crackdowns are making the harmful habit less socially acceptable. The Australia Generation Vape study, led by Cancer Council, found nearly one in five (18 per cent) of young adults aged 18-24 regularly vaped daily, weekly, or monthly during October to December 2024.

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

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State's smoke reform plan cops a blast

Herald Sun, General News, 30/05/2025, Page 6

More needs to be done across Victoria to tackle smoking and vaping, with a national report showing it is lagging some other states in enforcing reforms designed to improve health. A nationwide scorecard assessing the performance of each state and territory across nine key areas from cracking down on illegal sales and enforcing vape laws, to protecting kids from marketing and ensuring smoke and vape-free public spaces shows Victoria behind both Queensland and South Australia, which are leading the charge.

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Lunches on the menu

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/05/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 8

Thousands of additional Tasmanian schoolchildren will be able to enjoy free, healthy lunches as the state government looks to expand the initiative to more schools. The boost to the Healthy School Lunches Program, funded under the 2025-26 state budget, will enable more families to save up to \$950 a year.

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There is a smoking gun: Anti-tobacco campaigns do save lives and need to have all their funding restored

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/05/2025, Abby Smith, Page 22

Can you imagine our shock when we recently learnt that 50 per cent of our Tasmanian government funding for anti-tobacco campaigns would not continue beyond June 30, 2025? This funding cut couldn't come at a worse time and is a dangerous retreat from proven investment in public health.

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Kids' health at risk unless WA laws catch up to vape trends

West Australian, General News, 30/05/2025, Laura Hunter, Page 44

World No Tobacco Day should be the day that Australia celebrates its world-leading stance on reducing smoking and vaping. After all, last year we defied a worldwide trend to legalise vapes and introduced some of the most stringent laws yet seen.

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Remote women at higher risk of attack

Ballarat Courier, General News, 30/05/2025, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 6

The number of women being killed is on the rise, with those in rural areas far more likely to be admitted to hospital after assaults, often at the hands of an intimate partner. There were 63 homicides in 2022/23, up from 48 in 2017/18, according to a national report on injuries to women compiled by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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If you're over 65 years of age you have a 'slim chance' of this happening

Canberra Times, Other, 29/05/2025, Carla Mascarenhas

A recruitment firm has found that most Australians in its survey believe employers rarely or never hire people near or past the age of retirement and those over 65 years of age are generally excluded from employment. [...] By 2066, it is projected that older people will make up between 21 per cent and 23 per cent of the total Australian population, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found.

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

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Priceline Pharmacy launches annual conference by announcing industry-leading menopause project

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 29/05/2025

The 13th Priceline Pharmacy Franchise Conference officially commenced yesterday with over 600 attendees gathering in Melbourne to hear updates on the brand's performance and strategic direction, and to celebrate some of the top performers in its 470-strong store network. Attendees were the first to hear about a market-leading project set to launch soon in Priceline Pharmacy: Anything Menopause.

[Read More](#)

'Tech neck' a growing health concern

Shepparton News Online, Other, 29/05/2025

Got a kink in your neck? You are not alone, according to the data from 'The impact of tech neck and neck pain in Australia' survey. As part of Spinal Care Week this week, the Australian Chiropractors Association has released new data revealing tension neck syndrome, commonly known as 'tech neck' or 'text neck', is a significant public health concern.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 29/05/2025, Deborah Knight

Medicare-funded heart health checks are extended for another three years, offering a 20-minute GP assessment of heart attack or stroke risk. These checks are available to all people aged between 45 and 79.

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

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2CC, Canberra Live, 29/05/2025, Leon Delaney

New data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows one in 10 patients aged 65 and older in ACT public hospitals experienced an adverse event in 2023 to 2024. Liberal MLA Deborah Morris says the result reflects ongoing issues in the health system.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Magda diagnosed with 'very aggressive' blood cancer

The Australian, General News, 30/05/2025, Penny Timms, Page 3

Australian comedian and actor Magda Szubanski has been diagnosed with what she says is a "very rare, very aggressive, very serious" advanced form of blood cancer. Szubanski made the shock announcement in an Instagram post to followers, saying it was "not good news" but she was buoyed by the support she was receiving from her medical team and family.

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

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Szubanski reveals battle with cancer

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/05/2025, Louise Rugendyke, Page 10

Magda Szubanski has announced she has stage four cancer. The beloved comic actor, famous for Kath and Kim character Sharon Strzelecki, said in an Instagram post yesterday she had "stage four mantle Cell lymphoma - a rare and fast-moving blood cancer".

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

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Magda's cancer diagnosis

Courier Mail, General News, 30/05/2025, Annette Sharp, Page 1

Comedy star Magda Szubanski has revealed she is fighting a "nasty" and "rare", stage 4 cancer. The 64-year-old has begun treatment.

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

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Magda keeps smiling despite cancer pain

West Australian, General News, 30/05/2025, Alex Mitchell, Page 1

Magda Szubanski has been diagnosed with a "very rare, very aggressive" cancer. The Kath And Kim star announced she had stage-four mantle cell lymphoma, describing it as a "fast-moving blood cancer".

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Nothing to lose: Mum's cancer treatment overseas pays off

Burnie Advocate, General News, 30/05/2025, Rodney Woods, Page 3

Time with your children is precious enough for any parent, but when you are diagnosed with a rare cancer, you do whatever you can to extend the time you have with them. That's exactly what Sunnyside's Lauren 'Lotti' Rayner has done, and her first trip to Germany for treatment has paid off.

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'It's one of the nasty ones': actor Magda Szubanski reveals cancer diagnosis

Entertainer Magda Szubanski is battling stage 4 Mantle Cell Lymphoma, a rare and fast-moving blood cancer. Szubanski said the cancer was picked up during a routine breast screening, but admitted she had been feeling "rats****" for some time.

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

[Read More](#)

It is a serious and common condition but it's misleading name has caused delays in diagnosis. This is why it's going to change.

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/05/2025, Robyn Riley

A common, but poorly understood condition affecting one in eight Australian women will get a new name after health experts and patients agreed the current one was not only misleading, but causing a delay in diagnosis. In a major study, 7708 patients and health professionals from six continents were asked about Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) and 87 per cent said it needed a new identity.

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

[Read More](#)

Magda Szubanski has a rare stage four blood cancer. What is mantle cell lymphoma?

ABC Online, Other, 29/05/2025, Dannielle Maguire

Australian actor Magda Szubanski, best-known for her iconic role as Sharon in Kath and Kim, has been diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer. [...] It affects the outer edge — also known as the mantle zone — of a type of white blood cell called B-cells or B lymphocytes, the Leukaemia Foundation says.

[Read More](#)

What are the early signs of bowel cancer? And how can young Australians get tested for it?

The Guardian, Other, 29/05/2025, Natasha May

Australia is in the unenviable position of having the highest rates of bowel cancer in people under 50 in the world. [...] Bowel Cancer Australia says people should not delay talking to their GP if they are experiencing any of these symptoms for two weeks or more – when diagnosed early, almost 99% of cases can be successfully treated.

[Read More](#)

Catastrophic rise in early-onset bowel cancer among under-50s

Ballarat Courier, Other, 29/05/2025, Michelle Smith

Simon Ward is part of a group no one wants to be in, but is growing faster than ever before. [...] "In 2024, it is estimated to be the deadliest cancer from men and the second deadliest cancer for women under 50," said Bowel Cancer Australia chief executive Julien Wiggins.

[Read More](#)

Embattled GP reveals the biggest losers of Albo's Medicare overhaul

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/05/2025, Nick Wilson

Labor's plans to reform chronic health funding will cripple community medical practices and put Australia's most vulnerable at risk, a leading doctor has warned. From July 1, the federal government will overhaul its approach to funding treatment for patients with chronic diseases like cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes as part of its reforms to Medicare.

[Read More](#)

Australia sets grim new world's worst cancer rate - as the possible reasons for the surge in cases are revealed

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/05/2025, Caitlin Powell

Young Aussies have been warned they are facing a 'stark reality' and to be vigilant for symptoms as cases of a serious form of cancer surge. [...] Bowel Cancer Australia advocate Stephanie Bansemer-

Brown was 42 when she was diagnosed with stage three bowel cancer in 2012.

[Read More](#)

How to identify if you have 'stage 0' cancer before any symptoms appear

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/05/2025, Sharon Hunt

There's a myriad of reasons – and excuses – people will use to skip a cancer health check screening. [...] Catching cancer risk sooner than later is the reason why doctors and organisations like Cancer Council Australia continuously spruik the message: 'Early detection saves lives'.

[Read More](#)

Priceline menopause initiative

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/05/2025

Priceline Pharmacy is set to launch a new project, Anything Menopause, a dedicated resource to guide women through this stage of life. Designed to assist women who are experiencing menopause symptoms like hot flushes, mood changes and vaginal dryness, the project complements services and products already offered at Priceline Pharmacy.

[Read More](#)

Learn the 5 signs that could save your life

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 29/05/2025

Today (28 May) is World Blood Cancer Day, and to commemorate the day the Leukaemia Foundation is urging Australians to learn the 5 key signs of blood cancer – an action the Foundation says could increase survival by up to 40%. With blood cancer projected to become the leading cancer in both diagnosis and mortality in Australia by 2035, early detection and diagnosis is the most effective defence.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 29/05/2025, Alicia Loxley & Tom Steinfort

Patients with arthritis now have access to a free AI-powered app called Clara that offers trusted advice, exercise routines, diet plans, and community discussions. The app helps both patients and doctors by sharing activity data to support personalised treatment plans.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

The five Healthscope hospitals hot with suitors

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 30/05/2025, Page 14

Collapsed private hospital operator Healthscope operates 37 sites across Australia from Perth to Sydney, Darwin and Hobart. But if the group is broken up and sold to a reported group of 10 hungry buyers, which will be the most sought after?

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

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Lenders dash hedge fund hopes of quick return from private hospital operator Healthscope

The Australian, Business News, 30/05/2025, Bridget Carter, Page 16

Healthscope's lenders may take a year to sell its hospitals, according to sources, with financiers holding out hope the government will force insurance firms to the negotiating table to provide more funding for their services. DataRoom understands Australia's top four banks which are lenders to

Healthscope have committed to providing the private hospital operator with the breathing space it needs to iron out its problems.

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

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Hospital staffer in fear of life

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/05/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 1

A male cleaner was begging for his life as he was being punched in the head and dragged down a hallway by a berserk woman being held in hospital on a mental health restraining order. Horrified staff at Port Pirie Health Service called an emergency code black and alerted police about the terrifying attack about 1am on Sunday.

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

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

Hospital staff must be better protected

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 30/05/2025, Page 26

The latest horrifying attack on staff in a regional hospital is a stark reminder of the risks our regional and rural health workers take just going to work each day. The attack at Port Pirie Health Service in the early hours of Sunday morning on a non-clinical male employee by a woman patient under a mental health restraining order is the stuff of nightmares.

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

The age of austerity

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/05/2025, Duncan Abey, Page 1

Guy Barnett has delivered a no-frills state budget which cuts spending in real terms, forecasts a \$1bn deficit and debt that balloons out to \$10.4bn in four years. [...] Major initiatives in the budget some of which had been announced well before Thursday included \$91m for the completion of the Royal Hobart Hospital emergency department redevelopment, \$70m for the government's new elective surgery plan, and \$296m over the four years of the forward estimates to upgrade Tasmanian schools.

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Relief for backlog on elective surgeries

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/05/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 9

The Liberals will pump \$14.5bn into the health system over the next four years, spending big on reducing the elective surgery backlog and redeveloping the state's four major hospitals amid surging demand for health care. Total government expenditure on health will increase by 12 per cent across 2025-26 and the forward estimates.

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Healthscope future fears

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/05/2025, Lottlehood, Page 8

Following Healthscope's decline into administration on Monday, many people are asking what it means for its 37 hospitals, particularly Australia's most isolated and the NT's only private hospital in Darwin. Uncertainty around Healthscope's future has been building for the past few months amid news of its financial woes.

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

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

Big wait for heart care

Cairns Post, General News, 30/05/2025, Emma Cam, Page 9

The president of Australia's peak medical body says one heart doctor covering Far North Queensland is unsustainable, as families wait up to 18 months to see a pediatric cardiologist. Australian Medical Association Queensland has joined the calls for Cairns to have a second cardiologist based in the region.

New Rural Fit GP services is a perfect fit

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 30/05/2025, Simon Chamberlain, Page 7

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

Man nearly dies after consuming partner's Voluntary Assisted Dying drug

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/05/2025, Ashleigh Jansen

A man has narrowly escaped death after allegedly taking Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) drugs intended for his partner. The drama unfolded at Gold Coast University Hospital's VAD unit earlier this month after the couple allegedly took shots of alcohol with a health worker.

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

[Read More](#)

The Tasmanian budget has been handed down. What's in it?

ABC Online, Other, 29/05/2025, Loretta Lohberger, Adam Holmes, Chris Rowbottom & Scout Wallen

The Tasmanian government has released its 2025-26 state budget, which paints a picture of a challenging economic environment. New investments for this year's budget and over the next four years include more than \$1 billion for health services, including to support "demand pressures" and improve elective surgery wait times.

[Read More](#)

Orange Hospital bed shortages delay cancer, emergency surgeries

ABC Online, Other, 29/05/2025, Joanna Woodburn

When a "code black" is declared at a New South Wales hospital it means staff safety is at threat. For clinicians it also signals their hospital is at capacity. Senior doctors at Orange in the state's central west say this declaration is being made at the city's public hospital, Orange Health Service, too often.

[Read More](#)

Man almost dies after allegedly taking partner's VAD drugs at Gold Coast University Hospital

ABC Online, Other, 29/05/2025, Rory Callinan

Queensland's voluntary assisted dying (VAD) procedures have been "tightened" after a man nearly died allegedly taking the drugs his partner had just used to end her life. The incident at the Gold Coast University Hospital's VAD unit earlier this month is currently under investigation, Queensland Health has confirmed.

[Read More](#)

ADHD treatment set for change with GP prescribing powers

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 29/05/2025, Maryam-Sulaiman

Riverina health experts have welcomed news that treating and managing ADHD will soon be as simple as visiting your GP, while acknowledging "there is still a long way to go". GPs will be enabled to prescribe and diagnose those with ADHD, aiming to reduce wait times and the cost of appointments.

[Read More](#)

Stakeholder blames insurers for private sector crisis

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/05/2025, Megan Haggan

Former pharmacist and now Australian Medical Association Queensland president Dr Nick Yim has spoken to ABC Radio Brisbane about the fate of Toowong Private Hospital, which is set to close its doors in June.

GP pharmacists hit 'tipping point'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/05/2025, Megan Haggan

"We're not just knocking on doors anymore—we're being welcomed in," says one leading pharmacist, of the change in the way GPs see practice pharmacists. It was standing-room only at a session presented by two pharmacists and a GP registrar, at last weekend's Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Practice Owners Conference.

[Read More](#)

Shaping the future of multidisciplinary team-based care

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 29/05/2025, Anastasia Tsirtsakis

The college is seeking member input as it develops its national position on multidisciplinary team-based care, placing GPs at its centre. Member consultation is now open until 30 June.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 29/05/2025, Nakari Thorpe

Senior doctors at Orange Health Service in NSW's central west say patient care is being compromised due to the hospital operating at full capacity. Elective surgeries have been postponed or cancelled when no intensive care beds are available, and emergency surgery is reportedly being given lower priority. The doctors have proposed using nearby private hospital theatres and investing in robotic surgical equipment to help manage the pressure.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Drive, 29/05/2025, Clinton Maynard

Interview with Health Services Union national president Gerard Hayes on Healthscope's management of Northern Beaches Hospital and concerns over the risks of private companies running public health services. Maynard Healthscope has gone into receivership, and the government is negotiating to take control of the hospital's public services. Hayes says private-public partnerships do not work in health because profit motives interfere with safe service delivery.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Struggling with exhaustion

Herald Sun, General News, 30/05/2025, Elissa Doherty, Page 18

Aussies are running on empty with a third of us so stressed we are failing to get enough sleep each week. New research has revealed the toll our mental health woes are having on our sleep, with 14 per cent locked in a daily struggle with exhaustion.

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

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'Compassion fatigued' GPs take time off

Herald Sun, General News, 30/05/2025, Kate Jones, Page 18

GPs are seeing a sharp increase in the number of patients with mental health problems and it's taking its toll on doctors. Myhealth's chief medical officer and practising GP Dr Mohammed Hasan said mental health presentations had sky-rocketed in the past four years.

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

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'You can't function when you are not sleeping': My insomnia fight

Megan Hayward can only dream of getting a good night's rest. For 10 years, the Adelaide woman has battled with insomnia, which has taken a toll on her mental health.

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

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Bondi victim's mother slams health system

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 30/05/2025, Clareese Packer, Page 10

The mother of a Bondi stabbing victim has taken aim at the Queensland and federal mental health systems, saying the fact case workers were doing their best was cold comfort for loved ones. Elizabeth Young described her daughter Jade one of six stabbed to death by Queensland man Joel Cauchi in April 2024 as loving, clever, compassionate and at times goofy.

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

In Kahi's honour

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/05/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

A new hub for people facing mental health challenges will open in Charlestown today. Kelly Kay has raised more than \$100,000 to establish the Evolve Health and Wellbeing Hub, honouring her son Kahi, who took his life at the age of 20.

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

Volatile world has us on edge

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 30/05/2025, Elissa Doherty, Page 15

Money, conflict in relationships and feeling lonely are the top three daily issues that are getting us down, as nearly half of Australians grapple with stress. New research, as part of News Corp's Can We Talk? campaign with Medibank, has revealed the everyday factors negatively affecting our mental wellbeing.

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

The noises you make every day fill me with disgust. Now I'm not afraid to tell you

The Guardian, Other, 30/05/2025, Rebecca Shaw

In case you aren't related to me and didn't know, it was my dad's birthday last week. [...] I have explained misophonia before , but essentially it is a disorder where specific sounds or movements from people around you act as triggers, causing extreme disgust, distress or even hatred.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 29/05/2025, Tiffany Warne

SA taxpayers are funding \$1.5m over four years to support body positivity programs led by Embrace Collective's Taryn Brumfitt. The programs give children, parents, and teachers tools to tackle body shaming issues influenced by social media. 77% of Australian adolescents report body image distress, and 33% meet the criteria for an eating disorder.

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4BC, Drive, 29/05/2025, Gary Hardgrave

Interview with RACGP Rural chair Michael Clements on the NSW government's plan to allow general practitioners to diagnose and manage ADHD. Hardgrave says Qld, only psychiatrists can diagnose and prescribe ADHD medication to adults, but since 2017, GPs have been able to prescribe certain medications to children. Clements says this has improved access to care, especially in regional areas where specialists are unavailable. On why children can be diagnosed by GPs in Qld but adults cannot, Clements explains this is due to equity and safety concerns.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Afternoons, 29/05/2025, Sofie Formica

Formica discusses the upcoming closure of Toowong Private Hospital. She says administrators are working with psychiatrists to continue care for current and future patients. RANZCP Qld chair Prof Brett Emmerson says a lack of psychiatrists in private hospitals is due to poor financial incentives and support. He urges the federal government to raise Medicare rebates, improve private health payouts, expand psychiatry training, and for the state to invest in new beds.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

'Smoke and mirrors' budget that's set to have Tasmania remain in the red

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/05/2025, Genevieve Holding, Page 8

It may have been a budget that promised "what matters for Tasmanians", but industry bodies and MPs have labelled the 2025-26 state budget "smoke and mirrors", pushing Tasmania into an inescapable spiral of debt. [...] Australian Medical Association Tasmania president Dr Michael Lumsden-Steel also shared his concerns for the stressed workforce, which was playing "catch-up" in the budget with what is required to operate hospitals and health services statewide.

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What's up Doc? Pharmacy

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/05/2025, Fia Walsh, Page 4

A group of Charles Darwin University graduates are the first in Australia to be awarded the title 'Doctor of Pharmacy'. One of the six graduates, 26-year-old Mahsa Mosalla, hoped becoming a doctor would create more career opportunities as well as open more doors to specialise within the profession.

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

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Carers, book your seminar spot

Border Watch, General News, 30/05/2025, Page 9

Carers of those with life-limiting illnesses will soon be better supported. In Home Hospice Care will host a range of seminars aimed at empowering those looking after vulnerable people.

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Queensland nurses and midwives vote to strike

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 29/05/2025

More than 96% of Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU) members have voted to strike for the first time in decades as they ramp up the fight for improved wages and conditions. QNMU Secretary Sarah Beaman said the strong yes vote in the EB12 Protected Industrial Action (PIA) ballot, which ended on Monday, demonstrated an "incredible show of unity and courage" in the face of repeated and unprecedented government threats.

[Read More](#)

First Doctor of Pharmacy graduates

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/05/2025

Six pharmacy graduates from Charles Darwin University (CDU) have become the first in Australia to be awarded the title of Doctor of Pharmacy. Accreditation changes announced by the Federal Government

late last year, and taking effect 01 Jan this year, recognise extended Master's programs under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Level 9, with students now able to use the title Doctor of Pharmacy.

[Read More](#)

RACGP calls for stronger Tasmanian rural GP workforce

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 29/05/2025, Anastasia Tsirtsakis

GPs have come together for a Tassie road trip, calling on governments to invest more into training and retaining doctors in the state. The RACGP is calling on both state and federal governments to turn their attention to rural Tasmanian communities, to ensure people living in these regions do not miss out on vital general practice care.

[Read More](#)

Anglicare slashes workforce turnover from 30% to 14% with Workday AI platform

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/05/2025, Lauren Broomham

Anglicare Sydney is reporting significant gains in recruitment, retention, and workforce efficiency across its aged care operations following the implementation of Workday's Human Capital Management (HCM) platform. With more than 5,500 employees and a large network of volunteers serving communities across Greater Sydney and the Illawarra, the Christian Not For Profit sought a modern, unified HR solution to replace its legacy systems and manual processes.

[Read More](#)

New GP clinic opens in South Hedland amid doctor shortage

West Australian, Other, 29/05/2025

A new general practice clinic has officially opened its doors in South Hedland, offering a much-needed boost as the region continues to grapple with a critical healthcare professional shortage. Hedland Medical Clinic is now accepting new patients and offers bulk-billing for concession card holders and children under 16.

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 29/05/2025, Stacey Lee

Interview with Calvary SA and NT regional CEO Sharon Kendall on the health care organisation's work and the emerging trends and current challenges in SA's health and aged care sector. Kendall says there is growing innovation in virtual care and service models, with AI playing a larger role across care areas. Kendall also discusses industry challenges, such as workforce fatigue, shortages, and funding reforms across aged care, home care, and private hospitals.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Public reminded to use phone health service

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 30/05/2025, April Shepherd, Page 6

New South Wales Health Minister, Ryan Park, has launched a campaign urging the public to use phone service Healthdirect as cold and flu season ramps up. The phone service is free, available 24 hours a day seven days a week, and seeks to provide people with instant health advice.

New 'doctor in your pocket' app to aid pain management for millions of Aussies

9News, Other, 29/05/2025

Developers of a new app touted as the "doctor in your pocket" are hoping to aid in the medical journey of millions of Australians living with a common musculoskeletal condition. Arthritis sufferers like Geraldine Keating have turned to AI-powered smartphone app Clara to navigate their pain management.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 29/05/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Tasmanian Council of Social Service CEO Adrienne Picone on new budget investments, including over \$1b for health services over four years. Picone points out that how the money is spent is critical and adds that more focus is needed on preventive health. She recommends that at least 5% of the health budget go to prevention and says there should have been more early intervention programs.

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SPORT

Why AFL can't kick Goyder out

Australian Financial Review, General News, 30/05/2025, Helen Bird, Page 1

All is not well at AFL headquarters, otherwise known as the AFL Commission. It's time to seriously address who should take responsibility for its problems.

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

NSW Origin win draws biggest audience in years

Australian Financial Review, General News, 30/05/2025, Sam Buckingham-Jones, Page 8

The first State of Origin clash that saw NSW triumph over Queensland was the most-watched television event of the year so far, drawing 3.8 million people, almost a million of whom watched on streaming platforms.

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US scientist delivers warning to AFL

The Australian, Sport, 30/05/2025, Wendy Carlisle, Page 28

The AFL has been urged to "get its head out of the sand" and immediately eliminate unnecessary full contact training to make the game safer. The call follows the publication of a new scientific paper by 22 brain injury experts including the chief medical officer of the NFL Dr Allen Sills and Dr Grant Iverson, a scientific adviser to the NRL which calls on sports to dramatically cut back contact training sessions.

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

Brutal overhaul to end turmoil

The Australian, Sport, 30/05/2025, Michael Warner, Page 28

The AFL has announced a major shake-up of its executive ranks after months of turmoil at league headquarters. [...] Dillon has also announced the immediate departure of long-term social and inclusion boss Tanya Hosch.

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Relief in clubland after AFL shake-up

Age, General News, 30/05/2025, Sam McClure, Page 1

AFL boss Andrew Dillon's move to dramatically restructure his executive team midway through the season has been met with relief from clubland. [...] As part of the restructure, First Nations engagement and inclusion will fall into the corporate affairs portfolio at AFL House.

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

Games in formal vow to include First Nations

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 30/05/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 10

Brisbane 2032 organisers have formalised their commitment to include First Nations peoples in the build-up to the Games by establishing a Reconciliation Action Plan. The initial 'Reflect' RAP contains 14 actions across four subcategories for Brisbane 2032 to achieve.

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

Netballer ban the right call

Herald Sun, Editorials, 30/05/2025, Page 30

The decision by two Victorian netball leagues to ban a transgender player from competition is one of common sense. People are free to identify on gender as they wish it is entirely a personal matter.

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

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 29/05/2025, Chris Bath / Dom Knight

Interview with neurologist Dr Rowena Mobbs on the risks of concussion and chronic traumatic encephalopathy in contact sports. Mobbs says more research is needed in Australia to understand how much CTE is present and how it varies across sports like AFL, Rugby League, Rugby Union, and soccer. She says the four key ways to reduce risk include delaying contact, retiring earlier, reducing training exposure, and limiting competition load.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

\$27m to see in new glaucoma implant

Herald Sun, General News, 30/05/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 3

Technology being developed in Melbourne to potentially replace daily eye drops for glaucoma has moved a step closer with a \$27m funding boost to be announced today. Glaucoma is a chronic eye disease that affects about 300,000 Australians, and is a leading cause of irreversible blindness.

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

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Double gene is danger for men

Herald Sun, General News, 30/05/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 5

Australian researchers have discovered a gene variant linked to dementia that doubles men's risk of the disease but has no impact on women. The team found Melbourne men in their mid-70s who had two copies of a variant known as H63D had about a 10 per cent chance of -developing -dementia.

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

Parkinson's discovery

Herald Sun, General News, 30/05/2025, Page 23

Considered the natural "hunger hormone", ghrelin could be the key to preventing debilitating chronic constipation experienced by people living with Parkinson's disease. University of Queensland researchers have discovered the body's receptor for ghrelin has a critical role in the normal function of the spinal defecation centre an area of the body in the lower spinal cord that controls our bowel movements.

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

New hope in dementia fight

West Australian, General News, 30/05/2025, Katie Hampson, Page 36

Men who carry a common genetic variant are twice as likely to develop dementia, a ground-breaking Australian study has found. Scientists investigated more than 12,000 healthy older people in Australia and were surprised to discover men but not women who had a "very common" variant in the haemochromatosis gene showed a heightened risk of developing the devastating brain condition.

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

Free quit help for smokers

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 30/05/2025, Page 16

Smokers across North Queensland ready to ditch ciggies can access free nicotine replacement therapy and potentially lifesaving lung cancer screening just by participating in a research study. A University of Queensland trial started late last year across Queensland in a bid to help smokers aged between 50 and 80 quit.

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

Families with 'bond deeper than blood' unite to find cure for rare disease SPG56

ABC Online, Other, 29/05/2025, Jessica Ross

It's a cosy scene in the Whitrod home, with the family of four nestled on a rug as they play with a wooden shop. [...] They moved from the Northern Territory to be closer to research labs, sold their dream home, set up the foundation Our Moon's Mission and hired a team of scientists.

[Read More](#)

Jawun Institute officially launched in Cairns

National Indigenous Times, Other, 29/05/2025, Joseph Guenzler

CQUniversity has officially launched the First Nations Jawun Research Institute during National Reconciliation Week in Cairns. Previously operating as a research centre since 2017, its transition to an institute recognises its impact on improving First Nations health and wellbeing through culturally informed research and practice.

[Read More](#)

Breakthrough Australian drug may calm dementia symptoms—Without sedation!

Your Life Choices, Other, 29/05/2025, Don Turrobia

Dementia is a word that strikes fear into the hearts of many Australians, especially those who may have seen its effects up close, whether in a parent, partner, or friend. [...] An innovative new drug, developed right here in Australia, is being trialled across several states.

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Shining a light on trailblazers in Indigenous medicine

Canberra Times, Other, 29/05/2025, Keira Jenkins

Tatum Bond is one of those "lucky people" who truly loves her job. [...] Dr Bond was the first Indigenous emergency department specialist in Queensland, and is one of just 10 across the country. Bringing her knowledge of culture and her passion for caring for her people to the job means Dr Bond can break down barriers for patients, sometimes in the most difficult moments of their lives, she said.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 29/05/2025, Chris Bath / Dom Knight

Interview with producer, writer, and director Karla Hart on their new SBS show Our Medicine. Bath says SBS launches a new series called Our Medicine, showing First Nations health practitioners and traditional healers improving patient care in hospitals and remote clinics. Hart says she sees the ongoing challenges firsthand, especially the differences in care between culturally safe services and those that are not. The series highlights how culturally aware healthcare can lead to better outcomes for First Nations communities.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Two top jobs, two Kiwis and a police scramble

The Australian, General News, 30/05/2025, Mohammad Alfares, Page 7

A seasoned pandemic veteran and public health leader from New Zealand will take the reins as Victoria's next chief health officer, becoming the second Kiwi to step into a top position in one of the state's most scrutinised roles. Caroline McElnay QSO, who steered New Zealand through the Covid-19 pandemic alongside then-prime minister Jacinda Ardern, has been appointed by the Victorian government following a global search.

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

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Sudan on brink of public health disaster after cholera outbreak, aid groups warn

SBS, Other, 29/05/2025

Aid groups have warned Sudan is on the brink of a full scale public health disaster after an outbreak of cholera in the country's capital Khartoum. Sudan's Health Ministry reports more than 170 people have died of the disease in one week.

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Victoria appoints chief health officer

The Mandarin, Other, 29/05/2025, Dan Holmes

Victoria's next chief health officer will be the second major hire from across the ditch this month, following the recruitment of Mike Bush. Caroline McElnay will be Victoria's next chief health officer.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 29/05/2025, Sharyn Ghidella

Authorities issue a warning as the new COVID-19 Omicron sub-variant NB. 1.8.1 arrives in Australia and spreads more easily than previous strains. Experts are testing current vaccines against it while case numbers continue to rise.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#).

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Channel 9, Nine News, 29/05/2025, Brenton Ragless & Kate Collins

A new COVID variant, NB.1.8.1, is spreading in Australia and appears to be more contagious. It is part of the Omicron family, so current vaccines should still offer protection.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Metformin shortages prompt SSSI

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/05/2025, Leopold Hamulczyk

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI) in response to shortages of various brands of metformin 1000 mg immediate-release tablets.

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The vexed question of phenylephrine

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/05/2025

On 20 Dec last year, when big news was starting to get lost in the lead up to Christmas, Brisbane law firm JGA Saddler filed a class action against pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson for allegedly selling "ineffective" cold and flu medicine containing phenylephrine to Australians (PD Breaking News). [...] In Australia, a spokesperson for the TGA told Pharmacy Daily it actively monitors the actions taken by other comparable overseas regulators and is aware of the FDA's ruling that phenylephrine is ineffective.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Dope smoke hits the heart

West Australian, General News, 30/05/2025, Page 36

Chronic cannabis use whether it's smoked or consumed in edible form has been associated with significant cardiovascular risks. Researchers in San Francisco found that people who regularly used marijuana in either form had reduced blood vessel function that was comparable to tobacco smokers.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

The a2 Milk Company product pulled from shelves over listeria contamination fears

7news.com.au, Other, 29/05/2025, Bryce Luff

A popular brand of milk sold at major retailers is being stripped from supermarket shelves over contamination concerns. [...] "The general population can also become ill from consuming food contaminated with listeria monocytogenes," read a recall notice from Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

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Popular milk sold at Coles, Woolworths and Aldi is urgently recalled

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/05/2025, Nicholas Comino

The a2 Milk Company is calling its a2 Light Milk 2L over fears bottles have been contaminated with bacteria that can cause serious illness. [...] According to Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ), the bacteria, listeria monocytogenes, poses a significant health risk.

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AICIS

4BC, Afternoons, 29/05/2025, Sofie Formica

Interview with University of Sydney's School of Civil Engineering head Stuart Khan on the widespread presence of PFAS chemicals in Australians' bodies. Formica says ABS data shows that over 97% of Queenslanders aged 12 and over have detectable levels of PFAS, or forever chemicals, in their bloodstream. She says the public has little control over exposure and has wrongly trusted that these chemicals are safe. Khan says PFAS have been used globally for decades without proper research into their environmental or health impacts. He adds that the persistence of these chemicals in the environment should have raised concerns before their widespread use.

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