



Australian Government
Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 31st May 2025

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) |
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Radio National** features an interview with Health Minister Mark Butler discussing the closure of Healthscope, an ATAGI review into recommendations for the measles vaccine, rising bowel cancer rates in young people and a new strain of Covid, with Mr Butler urging Australians to receive a free Covid booster as cases of the new variant increase. Mr Butler said they will not bail out the overseas owners of Healthscope but assured Australians that he is working with the receivers to ensure a sale to a responsible operator, while noting that hospitals will operate as usual in the meantime.
- **The Canberra Times (page 1)** reports the union representing ACT paramedics has called for more support from police and improved response frameworks as they say bureaucracy and overstaffing is leaving ambulance workers in dangerous situations when threatened or attacked by patients.
- **The Saturday Age (page 1)** reports Health Minister Mark Butler has praised the success of a national ban on vaping as the latest data shows a significant reduction in use by young adults and high schoolers, with 18 - 24 year olds showing a 50 per cent reduction since early 2023. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*
- **The Courier Mail (page 4)** reports Queenslanders are being urged to vaccinate amid a spike in flu and Covid cases across the country, with AMAQ President Dr Nick Yim pointing to vaccine

fatigue and hesitancy behind falling immunisation rates.

- **[ABC Online](#)** reports advice surrounding measles vaccinations is being reviewed by ATAGI, while research from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute has suggested children should be recommended the vaccine at an earlier age. Health Minister Mark Butler said the research "will be an important input" into the ongoing review of guidelines. *Also reported by: [Herald Sun](#), [Northern Territory News](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#)*
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports the WA Combat Sports Commissions says they have received an application for a proposed bare knuckle boxing event in Perth that the president of the WA branch of the AMA says carries significant risk of inducing CTE through increased risks of concussion, while WA Premier Roger Cook has said regulating the sport is important to ensure "we don't drive combat sports underground".
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports 3M has been ordered to clean up PFAS contamination in NSW at an old testing site for firefighting foam, the first time 3M has been ordered to do so, with fines of up to \$2 million the penalty for failing to produce a management plan within 60 days. *Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald](#)*

MINISTER BUTLER

Healthscope's prognosis may just be start

AFR Weekend, General News, 31/05/2025, Michael Smith, Page 16

<https://readnow.isentia.com/articlepresenter.aspx?&guid=0e83cec6-aeae-4e51-ba6e-650755972977&ArticleId=1092839323&serid=186408&output=pdf>

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

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Private equity has hard row to hoe after Healthscope

AFR Weekend, Editorials, 31/05/2025, Page 38

It's hard to go past the \$2.2 billion Myer float for top spot in the list of Australian private equity disasters of the 21st century.

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

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

Young ditch illegal vapes as prices soar after ban

The Saturday Age, General News, 31/05/2025, Paul Sakkal, Page 1

Vaping rates are falling among young adults and high schoolers, prompting Health Minister Mark Butler to claim Australia's worldfirst vape ban is working. Prices for the fruity-flavoured puffers illegally sold at tobacco and corner stores have risen from about \$25 to between \$50 and \$60 since the middle of last year when Labor introduced one of the strictest public health measures of its term by banning vapes they are now only legally purchased as antismoking aids at pharmacies and clamping down on importation.

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

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New COVID strain strikes

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 31/05/2025, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 15

Health Minister Mark Butler has urged Australians to get their COVID booster jab after a surge in infections from the new sub-variant NB.1.8.1. The variant is behind surging infections in parts of Asia, with the World Health Organisation reporting it is spreading faster than other circulating strains.

Also reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The North West Star \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Hunter Valley News \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Broome Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph](#)

[Australia \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Gloucester Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The Armidale Express \(Online\)](#), [Inner East Review \(Online\)](#), [Great Lakes Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Midwest Times \(Online\)](#), [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [North West Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [South Western Times \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Hepburn Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Thenightly.com.au \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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Hospitals escalate attack on insurers

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 31/05/2025, Simone Grogan, Page 132

Australian private hospitals claim they are being squeezed out of existence and that more closures are imminent following new health insurance data they argue shows insurers aren't coughing up. [...]

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler in November acknowledged costs in the private hospital sector had risen faster than revenue, but ruled out any "silver bullet from Canberra" to fix the issue.

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Private ire at health insurers

The Nightly, General News, 30/05/2025, Simone Grogan, Page 29

Australian private hospitals claim they are being squeezed out of existence and that more closures are imminent following new health insurance data they argue shows insurers aren't coughing up. [...]

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler in November acknowledged costs in the private hospital sector had risen faster than revenue, but ruled out any "silver bullet from Canberra" to fix the issue.

Also reported by: [South Western Times \(Online\)](#), [Busselton Dunsborough Times \(Online\)](#), [Sound Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [Bunbury Herald \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Narrogin Observer \(Online\)](#), [Geraldton Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [Manjimup-Bridgetown Times \(Online\)](#), [North West Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [Midwest Times \(Online\)](#), [Great Southern Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Australian measles vaccine advice reviewed as research suggests earlier jabs

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2025, Paige Cockburn

Some Australian babies could face an increased risk of measles infection because of current vaccination guidelines, according to new research which suggests babies as young as four months may need to be vaccinated. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the MCRI research would help ATAGI assess the suitability of doses and timing in Australia.

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

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Fresh Labor push for a new that will impact every Australian: What it means for you

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/05/2025, Nick Wilson

A Labor MP has issued a call for a new tax on sugary drinks such as Coke, fruit juices and sports drinks - a year after a controversial national inquiry into the diabetes epidemic recommended the levy. [...] "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."

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Healthscope's financial troubles 'a wakeup call'

Medical Forum, Other, 30/05/2025

Healthscope has indicated Perth's Mount Hospital, along with its other 36 private hospitals around the country, will continue to operate as normal while a receiver works to organise the sale of the business. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told ABC Radio this week that he was considering taking regulatory action in regard to the private health industry.

[Read More](#)

Butler shuts down sugar tax chatter

Health Services Daily, Other, 30/05/2025, Holly Payne

The Public Health Association of Australia may consider a tax on sugary drinks to be the next logical step in public health, but the health minister does not. [...] Officially, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is still considering a levy on sugar-sweetened beverages as a recommendation from the 2024 parliamentary inquiry into the state of Diabetes Mellitus in Australia

[Read More](#)

Catholic sector backs Health Minister's call for insurers to increase hospital funding

CathNews, Other, 30/05/2025, Rebecca Comini

Catholic Health Australia has backed Health Minister Mark Butler's call for private health insurers to increase their funding to hospitals, with new data showing that insurers are paying hospitals and patients less while generating large profits. Quarterly data released by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority reveals private health insurers returned just 80.9 per cent in the previous quarter.

[Read More](#)

Private health insurers paying out less to patients

Catholic Health Australia, Other, 30/05/2025

Federal health Minister Mark Butler has ruled out a sugar tax for the immediate future, saying that the government would instead focus on education initiatives. It follows renewed interest in the tax from the Public Health Association of Australia, which released research earlier this year finding that more than half of Australians would support a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages.

[Read More](#)

Dear Mr Butler, please get between these two and sort 'em out

Health Services Daily, Other, 30/05/2025, Cate Swannell

I used to be a sports reporter. Seriously. If you had told me 20 years ago that I would be spending a fair chunk of my working day trying to understand data from the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, I would have laughed in your face. [...] In the meantime, people need to stop asking Mark Butler if the federal government is going to bail out Healthscope.

[Read More](#)

Access to care, sustainability and workforce – the new Health Minister's priorities for WA

Medical Forum, Other, 30/05/2025

Meredith Hammat was named Minister for Health following this year's State election, taking on her first ministerial portfolio in the re-elected Cook Government. [...] Now that the Federal election is over, I look forward to engaging with the reappointed Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to advocate strongly that WA receives its fair share of funding commitments, including the expansion of GP training places, junior doctor rotations in primary healthcare, and an increase in Commonwealth Supported Places.

[Read More](#)

Hospital pressure grows as rural health gap widens

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 30/05/2025

Remote and very remote communities have Australia's highest rates of 'potentially preventable hospitalisation'. [...] At the same time as hospitals are under this immense pressure, Federal Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler marked a milestone in the Federal Government's urgent care clinics (UCC) initiative.

[Read More](#)

Call to bring measles vaccine forward amid global surge

The Medical Republic, Other, 30/05/2025, Amanda Sheppeard

Australian experts say babies as young as four months may need protection, as cases rise and most

lose immunity before the current vaccine schedule begins. [...] Speaking on ABC Radio National this morning, federal health minister Mark Butler said described MCRI's research as "incredibly interesting".

[Read More](#)

How three aged care providers are preparing for an industry shake-up

The Senior, Other, 30/05/2025, Anthony Caggiano

There's so much debate about the upcoming changes to the Aged Care Act and how it's affecting both aged care providers and those using the services, but it's not all doom and gloom. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler previously told The Senior there would be 300,000 support places available under Support at Home.

[Read More](#)

President's update: Federal Council, Healthscope, chronic disease management and our AGM

Australian Medical Association, Other, 30/05/2025

It's been another hectic week in healthcare, both here at the national AMA and of course more broadly with the events surrounding hospital operator Healthscope. [...] I wrote to Health Minister Mark Butler just last week urging the federal government to take a stronger role.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Mornings, 30/05/2025, Lorna Dunkley

Experts want the measles vaccines to be brought forward in the immunisation schedule after a new report warns of a potential immunity gap. Health Minister Mark Butler says they are looking to adjust the current doses being administered, as well as the timing of when to provide them and adds that the new research aims to inform any changes.

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Channel 7, National News At Noon, 30/05/2025, Natarsha Belling

The practises of sonographers are expected to be reviewed by the Federal Health Department after a national shortage has led to an increase in pregnant women seeking out "souvenir scans" from unqualified private providers. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has now ordered an investigation into the matter.

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Hope 103.2, 13:00 News, 30/05/2025

According to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, a substantial number of interests have been lodged to take over the Northern Beaches Hospital, which embattled private hospital operator Healthscope runs. Butler clarified that the Federal Government won't be getting involved in a rescue deal.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 30/05/2025, Saskia Mabin

A private psychiatric hospital in Brisbane has announced its closure, causing the AMA to say that private health insurance companies' customers are now reconsidering their investments. AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen says it's really important that the governments come together with their insurers and private hospitals. Additionally, according to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, both the insurers and the hospital should work together.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [2SM \(Sydney\)](#).

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Radio National, Breakfast, 30/05/2025, David Rutledge

Interview with Mark Butler, Minister for Health, Disability, and the NDIS, speaking about COVID cases increasing due to a new variant. Butler explains that the new COVID variant that's spreading is another member of the big Omicron family. He advises Australians to recall when they last took the COVID

boosters, and if a person is 75 years old, they should get another booster after six months from the last one, and if they're 74 to 65 years old, they should get another booster after 12 months from their last.

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MINISTER WELLS

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Reform fatigue

The Saturday Paper, General News, 31/05/2025, Rick Morton, Page 10

A senior executive at the National Disability Insurance Agency has resigned a week after another set of controversial changes to the program were sprung on participants with little warning. [...] Jenny McAllister is the new minister for the NDIS, working alongside Mark Butler to deliver the scheme.

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MINISTER RAE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Free mental health service opens in Bundaberg CBD

Bundaberg Today, Other, 30/05/2025

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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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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Breast density screens coming

Courier Mail, General News, 31/05/2025, Isabella Pesch, Page 13

Queensland will finally make breast density reporting mandatory during mammograms in line with other states in a bid to improve early diagnosis of cancer and save lives. [...] A federal Department of Health spokesman said implementation would be phased to allow states to implement "at a pace that suits their specific needs and capabilities".

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

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Australian measles vaccine advice reviewed as research suggests earlier jabs

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2025, Paige Cockburn

Some Australian babies could face an increased risk of measles infection because of current vaccination guidelines, according to new research which suggests babies as young as four months may need to be vaccinated. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the MCRI research would help ATAGI assess the suitability of doses and timing in Australia.

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

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Australian clinic offering new pain-free breast screen technology

9News, Other, 30/05/2025

Pain-free breast cancer CT scans are now being offered for the first time in Australia. Conventional mammograms require compressing the breast which can be painful, particularly for women with dense breasts.

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Strengths and opportunities of Medication Advisory Committees

agedhealth.com.au, Other, 30/05/2025

Medication Advisory Committees (MACs) — according to the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care — provide “overarching governance of medication management within residential care homes”, the department recommending that all residential aged care facilities have access to a MAC, to support safe use of medications and, ultimately, mitigate risks associated with inappropriate prescribing — such as polypharmacy, the use of nine or more medications simultaneously.

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Nurses and midwives foster parental trust for improving childhood vaccination

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 30/05/2025, Kim Gibson & Micah Peters

New data from the Australian National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance on vaccination coverage reveals a continuing decline in vaccination rates among Australian children and adolescents since the onset COVID-19 pandemic. [...] A 2022 report from the Department of Health and Aged Care revealed that strong support for childhood vaccination among parents of children aged 0–5 dropped from 72% in 2017 to 50% in 2022.

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Butler shuts down sugar tax chatter

Health Services Daily, Other, 30/05/2025, Holly Payne

The Public Health Association of Australia may consider a tax on sugary drinks to be the next logical step in public health, but the health minister does not. [...] Officially, the Department of Health, Disability

and Ageing is still considering a levy on sugar-sweetened beverages as a recommendation from the 2024 parliamentary inquiry into the state of Diabetes Mellitus in Australia

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NBN Central Coast, NBN News, 30/05/2025, Gavin Morris & Natasha Beyersdorf

New pain-free breast cancer screening technology is being rolled out for the first time at a clinic in Brisbane. The screening is not available to all women yet, with a review by BreastScreen on the latest advances in screening technology yet to be released. A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing says at present there is no consensus on the optimal screening pathway for those with increased breast density.

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VACCINES

Covid strain threat in Qld

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 31/05/2025, Isabella Pesch & Rachel Riley, Page 3

Vulnerable Queenslanders are under serious threat from the most contagious strain of Covid-19 ever recorded, with experts warning the new wave comes as vaccination protection hits new lows. More than 15,000 Covid-19 cases have been recorded across Queensland so far this year a rate of more than 100 a day.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Should I vaccinate my child against COVID-19 this winter? Here's the current advice for parents

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2025, Georgie Hewson

As winter approaches and respiratory viruses spike, changing advice on childhood vaccines and knowing when to get each one can be confusing. This week, the US announced it will no longer recommend COVID-19 vaccines for children and healthy pregnant women, with Health Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr calling it a "commonsense" decision grounded in sound science.

[Read More](#)

COVID variant prompts vaccine calls

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/05/2025, Kate Cowling

Health authorities are calling for vulnerable Australians to get vaccinated against COVID-19 at their pharmacy, as new variant NB.1.8.1 was detected locally.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 30/05/2025, Joe O'Brien

The NB181 strain, which is a new and more infectious strain of COVID-19, has been found in Australia. There are currently 84 detected cases of the new COVID variant, and it has been found in every state. This comes after the number of people taking the COVID-19 vaccine has lessened.

Also reported by: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#).

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Dementia treatment must be holistic

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 30/05/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

A positive ageing approach to dementia care requires carers and medical professionals to go back to basics and know the person, move away from overcomplicating care and prioritise person-centred care, say dementia sector leaders at the Positive Ageing Summit in Adelaide. The early morning discussion included HammondCare general manager for growth and innovation Marie Alford, Dementia Doulas International managing director Wendy Hall, HammondCare general manager Dr Duncan McKellar and Dementia Support Australia living experience associate consultant William Yeates.

[Read More](#)

Mandatory Code of Conduct introduced as major reforms to Victoria's Retirement Villages Act pass

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/05/2025, Ian Horswill

The Victorian Government has passed the most significant reform of the Retirement Villages Act 1986 to date, reshaping the economic and operational foundations of retirement villages across the state.

The main details: 1. Standardised contracts and enhanced transparency.

[Read More](#)

Geelong Council backflips on proposal to quit home care after union and community outcry

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/05/2025, Caroline Egan

Victoria's City of Greater Geelong Council has voted to continue delivering home care services, after efforts last month to transfer operations to specialist providers were opposed by the local community, unions, and members of State Parliament. Following a vote on Tuesday (27 May), the Council is now taking action to ensure it will be able to transfer Home Care Package services to the new Support at Home program and that services, including the Commonwealth Home Support Program, comply with the new Aged Care Act, which comes into effect on 1 July – only a month away.

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DISABILITY

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 30/05/2025, Manny Tsigas

A family's heartache over the death in custody of a young Walpree man from Yundamu, now referred to as Kumanjai White. [...] They're pushing for NDIS providers and the Public Guardian to facilitate on-country visits for Aboriginal people with disabilities and want answers over who was supposed to be looking after their loved one.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Beach tourist strip 'smoke-free' push

Weekend Australian, General News, 31/05/2025, Duncan Evans, Page 9

A major thoroughfare running through one of South Australia's highest-profile beach suburbs could soon be a smoke-free zone. Port Adelaide and Enfield councillors voted unanimously this month for a report into making the western section Semaphore Rd which connects Semaphore Beach and its famous jetty with a line of shops and restaurants free of cigarettes and vapes.

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

Vaping goes up in smoke

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/05/2025, Page 32

Vaping is becoming less socially acceptable among young Australians. The number of vapers is on a downwards trajectory, with fewer than one in five (18 per cent) people aged 18-24 regularly vaping (daily, weekly or monthly) from October to December 2024, the Generation Vape study led by Cancer Council reveals.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Decriminalisation of cannabis supported

Daily Liberal, General News, 31/05/2025, Allison Hore, Page 10

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.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Ovarian cancer tool in gestation

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/05/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 24

Researchers are developing an early warning symptom check tool for ovarian cancer and need women who have had the disease to help. Just 49 per cent of women diagnosed with the disease survive five years, making it one of the most lethal reproductive cancers.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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Cancer curse for disabled

Courier Mail, General News, 31/05/2025, Page 24

People with disability are more likely to die from cancer than people without disability. The University of Melbourne research shows that people with disability are missing out on screening programs that could help detect cancer early and, after diagnosis, are less likely to survive.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Snuffing out can have huge health gains

Hobart Mercury, General News, 31/05/2025, Adrienne Picone, Page 41

In Tasmania, we can pinpoint the leading cause of preventable disease and death. A single factor that underpins so many of our chronic illnesses, including heart and lung disease, stroke, cancer and more.

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Magda Szubanski cancer diagnosis

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2025, Kathleen Oconnor

There's been an outpouring of grief and support for one of Australia's most loved comedians Magda Szubanski after she revealed her blood cancer diagnosis. She has Mantle Cell Lymphoma - a rare blood cancer that impacts around 70 Australians every year and is almost impossible to detect.

[Read More](#)

New MS health and wellbeing resource

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 30/05/2025

Many Australians living with multiple sclerosis (MS) want to make lifestyle changes that could improve their MS symptoms and overall quality of life, but struggle to find good quality information. A new publication, Living Well with MS, has been launched today, World MS Day, and was developed in direct response to this need in collaboration with health professionals, researchers, service providers and people living with MS.

[Read More](#)

What is the Nordic Protocol, Magda Szubanski's cancer treatment?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/05/2025, Gemma Grant

On Thursday, beloved Australian actress Magda Szubanski announced that she has stage four cancer. The 64-year-old, known for her performances in Kath and Kim and sketch show Fast Forward , also revealed she was starting "one of the best treatments available" – the Nordic protocol.

[Read More](#)

New AI test can predict which men will benefit from prostate cancer drug

The Guardian, Other, 30/05/2025, Andrew Gregory

Doctors have developed an artificial intelligence tool that can predict which men with prostate cancer will benefit from a drug that halves the risk of dying. Abiraterone has been described as a "gamechanger" treatment for the disease, which is the most common form of cancer in men in more than 100 countries. It has already helped hundreds of thousands with advanced prostate cancer to live longer.

[Read More](#)

What is mantle cell lymphoma? Magda Szubanski's 'rare and fast-moving' cancer explained

The New Daily, Other, 30/05/2025, John La Marca & Sarah Diepstraten

Beloved Australian actor Magda Szubanski has revealed she's been diagnosed with a "very rare, very aggressive, very serious" blood cancer called mantle cell lymphoma. In a post on social media on Thursday, Szubanski said she would be starting treatment in a few weeks for the stage four cancer, which she called "one of the nasty ones, unfortunately".

[Read More](#)

The subtle dementia warning sign that can appear 20 years before symptoms hit

Your Life Choices, Other, 30/05/2025, Lexanne Garcia

Dementia is a word that strikes fear into the hearts of many Australians, especially as we get older. But what if the first signs of this memory-robbing disease could appear decades before the classic symptoms we all know—like memory loss and confusion—set in?

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 30/05/2025, Brenton Ragless & Kate Collins

Cone-Beam Breast CT, a new painless way of detecting breast cancer, has arrived in the country. The technology is not part of the current BreastScreen program, which provides free mammograms for women over 40yos. Vicki Durston, Breast Cancer Network, says all states and territories need to adopt this standard.

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

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 30/05/2025, Michael Thomson

A quick, pain-free approach to detecting breast cancer has arrived in Australia. The new technology doesn't require dreaded breast compressions and evidence from overseas suggests it has a promising

PRIMARY CARE

Private sector is out of sorts

Adelaide Advertiser, Business News, 31/05/2025, Tim Boreham, Page 55

Private hospital operator Healthscope's lapse into administration this week highlights the whole sector's financial woes, that have been brewing for years along with that of the private equity owner's excessive debt. As the country's second biggest hospital operator, the unlisted Healthscope is a case of "too big to fail".

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

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Insurers accused of playing people'

Canberra Times, General News, 31/05/2025, Page 21

Health insurers are spending more but leaving Australians with higher out-of-pocket expenses sparking scorn from private hospitals. A record \$12.3 billion was dished out by private health insurers in the year to March, according to official data released on Friday.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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Premiums for profits

Courier Mail, General News, 31/05/2025, Page 18

Health insurers are paying out less to hospitals and patients. Private health insurers returned just 80.7 cents of every dollar they received in premiums in the March quarter, down from 82.9 per cent in the previous quarter, Australian Prudential Regulation Authority data reveals.

Also reported by: [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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

Centre one step closer to completion

Launceston Examiner, General News, 31/05/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 7

The submission of a development application for the \$120 million Northern Heart Centre in Launceston brings the project one step closer to completion. The new centre at the Launceston General Hospital will include a new 24-bed cardiac inpatient unit, two cardiac catheterisation labs and dedicated diagnostic testing and monitoring facilities.

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

Reason popular health care provider collapsed

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 31/05/2025, Michael Nolan, Page 7

Better Movement Clinic staff have expressed their anger and heartbreak after they were suddenly laid off when the Darling Downs health care provider collapsed. "This makes me feel sick," one staff member said "It is heartbreaking to read about this in the news."

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The topic we need to talk about

Border Mail, General News, 31/05/2025, Sophie Else, Page 12

When a group of Border residents found themselves repeatedly having deep, meaningful conversations about death, dying, and what really matters at the end of life, they realised something. More people should be talking about this.

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

Critical patient safety issues raised over Brisbane hospital gas pipelines

The Australian, Other, 31/05/2025, Natasha Robinson

Deep underground beneath the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, a patient lies in an induced coma. The professional diver is being treated for an acquired brain injury after suffering extreme decompression illness.

[Read More](#)

AMAQ comments on critical shortage in heart care for kids in Far North Qld

The Courier Mail, Other, 30/05/2025, Emma Cam

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.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

New Mildura hospital concept made public on architecture firm's website

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2025

The concept design for a redeveloped hospital in Victoria's north-west has been made public for the first time on an architecture company's website. The state government commissioned a master plan for Mildura Base Public Hospital in 2021 but has never released the plan publicly.

[Read More](#)

Concerns grow over private hospital closures

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2025, Elizabeth Cramsie & Fiona Blackwood

Amid the ongoing Healthscope saga, patients are perplexed about what it means for them. Now in another challenge for the private health sector, a private psychiatric hospital in Brisbane has announced its closure.

[Read More](#)

Patients worried about the future of Healthscope hospitals around Australia

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2025, Georgie Burgess

Vicky Purnell is a cancer survivor, and believes that without the Hobart Private Hospital, the outcome might have been different. In 2016, Ms Purnell, from Devonport in Tasmania's north-west, was diagnosed with uterine cancer.

[Read More](#)

Women and Babies Hospital 'back on track', says government

Medical Forum, Other, 30/05/2025

The Women and Babies Hospital will be located within the Fiona Stanley Hospital precinct. The State Government is assuring medical professionals and the public that work will begin on the new Women and Babies Hospital later this year, while announcing a new builder to carry out the project.

[Read More](#)

Private hospital operator Healthscope's collapse this week has prompted concerns from many patients. Currently, Healthscope has 37 hospitals, and its operations will continue as normal. The Australian Medical Association says private hospitals play a huge role in Australia's health system, as nearly 70% of planned or elective surgeries are initiated in these types of hospitals.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Climate of anxiety rises

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/05/2025, Susie O'Brien, Page 3

Lessons about climate change and global warming should be deferred until high school because they are fuelling anxiety in children as young as five, a new report has found. Educational psychologist Clare Rowe, an adjunct professor at the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA), says she has been seeing "nine-year-olds crying because they think they are not going to see adulthood as the Earth will die".

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

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Police ramping to ease in EDs

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/05/2025, Belinda Willis, Page 7

A unique approach to radically reducing police ramping at hospitals will be expanded under a \$13.9m boost to be announced in next week's state budget. In announcing details on Friday, Treasurer Stephen Mullighan said that the pilot program had been "incredibly successful".

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

Inside the battle to save teens from eating disorder crisis

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 31/05/2025, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 119

"As a parent, you devote yourself to protecting your child as they grow. You do everything you can, outside-in, to give your child the best possible shot. But there's little you can do, as a parent, when something strikes from inside-out."

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Connecting young men with Top Blokes

Newcastle Herald, General News, 31/05/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 25

When Swansea's Nick McMurrugh was being bullied at school, he got help from a psychologist. That helped a lot, but he was also living with anxiety and too much anger.

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

Robinvale to shape creative therapies

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 31/05/2025, Patrick Tucker, Page 16

A new mental health initiative from Murray PHN focusing on creative therapies is being piloted in Robinvale. The two-year pilot will offer music and art therapy facilitated by qualified professionals.

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Mindful Margaret River scores suicide prevention funding from State Government round

West Australian, Other, 30/05/2025, Warren Hatley

Mindful Margaret River was among a raft of WA not-for-profits to score State Government funding last week for suicide prevention initiatives. The local group was awarded almost \$78,000 to deliver accredited suicide prevention training which the Times understands included the group's successful Accidental Counsellor program.

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

[Read More](#)

Mental health presentations to GPs surge, Myhealth says

Cairns Post, Other, 30/05/2025, Kate Jones

GPs are seeing a sharp increase in the number of patients with mental health problems and it's beginning to take its toll on doctors. Kate Jones GPs are seeing a sharp increase in the number of patients with mental health problems and it's beginning to take its toll on doctors.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Front-line fractures

Canberra Times, General News, 31/05/2025, Bageshri Savyasachi, Page 1

ACT Ambulance paramedics say they're 'struggling on the front line' as they face challenges with response frameworks, workload, and police bureaucracy. Paramedic Kieran Hitchenson said in a recent incident where police support was needed, he was told to "just run away".

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Queensland nurses to 'likely' take industrial action next week

The Australian, Other, 30/05/2025, Mackenzie Scott

Queensland nurses are on track to take industrial action as early as next week after formally rejecting the Crisafulli government's pay offer. The powerful Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union has alerted Queensland Health it intends to take a stand after rejecting the "subpar" enterprise bargaining offer presented at the eleventh hour by the Crisafulli Liberal National government.

[Read More](#)

Industry bodies, MPs slam 2025-26 budget for sell-offs and workforce slashes

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/05/2025, Genevieve Holding

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. Greens leader Dr Rosalie Woodruff was quick to slam the budget as a "massive fire sale of public land, public businesses", rejecting the government's stance on sell-offs of government-business enterprises (GBEs).

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

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First pharmacy graduates earn 'Doctor of Pharmacy' title

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/05/2025, Megan Haggan

Charles Darwin University pharmacy graduates have become the first in Australia to be awarded the title of 'Doctor of Pharmacy'. This follows accreditation changes announced by the Federal Government

in late 2024.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 30/05/2025, Max Fletcher & Katrina Blowers

Nurses and midwives have rejected Queensland Health's pay deal. The government offered a minimum of 11% in wage increases over three years, but the nurses added that the rates were not nation-leading, with industrial action set for next week.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

2GB, Drive, 30/05/2025, Clinton Maynard

Compere mentions the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency [AHPRA], which is the regulator for nurses who work in hospitals, and he added that, according to its members, they've experienced issues with the website. He says that a listener who's also a nurse wanted to re-register her nursing qualifications, and AHPRA told her she has to start the entire process again and pay another \$500.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 30/05/2025, Saskia Mabin

The ACT has received a grade of C from the Australian Council on Smoking and Health. The council says the State needs to take more comprehensive action to reduce rates of smoking and vaping.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 30/05/2025, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Professor Becky Freeman, Cancer Council. Compere mentions that the ACT did not receive a good mark from the Australian Council on Smoking and Health. Freeman points out that the ACT, NSW, and Vic are all in the middle ground of passing, and it's down to compliance and enforcement.

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SPORT

New bids on the blocks pre-Games pool party

Courier Mail, General News, 31/05/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 4

Brisbane could ambitiously host up to seven major international events at the new national aquatic centre before the 2032 Games if it opens as anticipated in early 2030. Swimming Australia is finalising its bid to secure the rights for the 2030 Pan Pacific Championships one of the biggest events on the competitive pool calendar globally.

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

Netball Victoria, league at odds over trans player ban

The Saturday Age, General News, 31/05/2025, Carla Jaeger, Page 8

Netball Victoria and a community league are at loggerheads over the decision to ban two transgender players from a local women's netball competition this week. The saga has drawn the ire of peak LGBTQ+ and human rights groups, who say the mishandling has exposed the players to a torrent of abuse and harassment.

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Bailey Smith cocaine comment highlights AFL's drug problem

The Australian, Other, 30/05/2025, Andrew Webster

Not sure about you, but I couldn't care less if Geelong star Bailey Smith gets on the nose beers, nose nachos, or even the nose Negronis in his spare time. It's his career, his bank balance, his septum to destroy.

[Read More](#)

'Morally repugnant': Opposition spars with Labor in bare-knuckle boxing push

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/05/2025, Hamish Hastie

A row over a push for a bare-knuckle boxing event in WA ended in a full-blown shouting match during Question Time on Thursday as the opposition urged the government to step in and stop what it called a "morally reprehensible" sport. The Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship, partially owned by former Ultimate Fighting Championship fighter Conor McGregor, has announced plans to bring a boxing event to RAC Arena on July 19, with the Combat Sports Commission confirming it had received a request.

[Read More](#)

Proposed bare-knuckle boxing match in Perth sparks debate

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2025, Emma Wynne

The WA Combat Sports Commission says it has received a preliminary application to hold a bare-knuckle fight in Perth, understood to be planned for July. [...] Numerous members of the community have slammed the idea, including WA president of the Australian Medical Association, Michael Page.

[Read More](#)

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Heart link to cannabis

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 31/05/2025, Page 18

A new study has revealed regular cannabis use could increase the risk of heart attacks. The researchers in San Francisco found that chronic cannabis use, whether it's smoked or consumed in edible form, is associated with significant cardiovascular risks.

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Treating glaucoma

Weekend Post, General News, 31/05/2025, Page 3

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

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

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New hope in the fight against dementia after a discovery found gene variant doubles risk for men

West Australian, Other, 30/05/2025, Katie Hampson

Men who carry a common genetic variant are twice as likely to develop dementia, a ground-breaking new 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.

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

[Read More](#)

Gene variant doubles dementia risk in men, no impact on women

The Mercury, Other, 30/05/2025, Sarah Booth

Australian researchers have discovered a gene variant linked to dementia that doubles mens risk of the disease, but has no impact on women. The team found Melbourne men in their mid-seventies who had two copies of a variant — known as H63D — had about a one in ten chance of developing dementia.

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

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New research links common genetic variant to higher dementia risk in men

Your Life Choices, Other, 30/05/2025, Abegail Abrugar

New Australian research has uncovered a surprising link between a common genetic variant and a doubled risk of dementia in men, shining a spotlight on the importance of understanding our genetic makeup as we get older. Let's break down what this means for you, your mates, and your family.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Smokerlyzer sparks change in young lives

Hobart Mercury, General News, 31/05/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 7

For Sienna Scotney-Barron a reading on a new smokerlyzer was a shock. The 20-year-old, who is studying medical science at university, has been smoking on and off since she was 16.

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'The rocky path will only become more difficult': Leader wants more than basic rights

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/05/2025, Courtney Kruk

The rocky path towards reconciliation will only become more difficult without truth-telling and redress, Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner says, ahead of delivering a major speech in Cairns on Friday night. Katie Kiss, a Kaanju and Biri/Widi woman who grew up in Rockhampton, will give the Mabo Oration in the far north Queensland city on the speech's 20th anniversary this week.

[Read More](#)

More support needed for community-led respiratory care to close the gap

National Indigenous Times, Other, 30/05/2025, Giovanni Torre

Culturally safe, community-driven healthcare is helping to close the respiratory health gap for First Nations peoples in Western Australia, but more support is needed to reach those still facing barriers to vital care. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience significantly higher rates of chronic respiratory conditions than non-Indigenous Australians.

[Read More](#)

Three First Nations leaders receive game changing support from Ember Connect

National Indigenous Times, Other, 30/05/2025, Giovanni Torre

An executive producer, an Aboriginal Health Practitioner and an education scholar/researcher have been named the recipients of Ember Connect's second round of Game Changer Grants for 2025. Ember Connect received more than 230 applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women seeking financial support across a variety of professional, cultural and personal enrichment activities.

[Read More](#)

Shining a light on trailblazers in Indigenous medicine

National Indigenous Times, Other, 30/05/2025, Keira Jenkins

Tatum Bond is one of those "lucky people" who truly loves her job. The Ngadjonji woman works in the emergency department at Cairns Base Hospital, and for the Royal Flying Doctors Service in Queensland.

[Read More](#)

Reconciliation Week feels particularly hollow after another death in custody

ABC Online, Other, 31/05/2025, Bridget Brennan

In Australia's centre, a young Aboriginal man is held down by police officers in plain clothes on the floor of the confectionary aisle in Coles in Alice Springs. [...] Indigenous people often live with a disability, a fear and lack of trust in authorities, mental health conditions and a history of institutionalisation.

[Read More](#)

Menstrual health research shows value of culturally safe care

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 30/05/2025

A study aiming to understand Aboriginal women's cultural and community perspectives on menstrual health has highlighted the importance of family and peer support, community-based education, and culturally appropriate patient and provider resources. In 2023, Dr Talila Milroy received the Australian General Practice Research Foundation Indigenous Health Award for her project looking into Aboriginal women's perspectives on menstrual health and modes of engagement with primary care providers.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Urgent warning to get flu vax

Courier Mail, General News, 31/05/2025, Ayla Connolly, Page 4

Queenslanders are being warned about the rampant flu season with thousands more cases than Covid-19 being recorded, as the state grapples with vaccine fatigue for both infectious diseases. Queensland Chief Health Officer Dr Heidi Carroll, visiting Hawthorne Clinic on Friday, said cases of the flu were already higher than at this time last year, and now was the time to get vaccinated, with a peak number of cases predicted in mid-late June.

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

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Measles jab spot check

Courier Mail, General News, 31/05/2025, Page 25

Murdoch Children's Research Institute has urged health authorities to re-examine whether a measles vaccine should be recommended from as early as four months of age to better protect against the highly contagious disease during infancy. A systematic review found only 30 per cent of babies in low- and middle-income countries were protected by maternal measles antibodies by four months of age.

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

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Docs on alert as flu jabs drop off

Herald Sun, General News, 31/05/2025, Tamara McDonald, Robyn Riley & Taylor Penny, Page 31

Flu cases are climbing and experts are warning vaccine rates against the potentially deadly infection are "alarmingly low" as winter hits. Australia has already recorded more than 92,190 laboratory-confirmed influenza infections this year.

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Low vaccine rates see flu cases rising

Western Advocate, General News, 31/05/2025, Brad Lockyer, Page 57

This year's flu season is shaping up to be one for the ages if current influenza case numbers are anything to go by and low flu vaccination rates could be to blame. Figures from the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System show there has been more than 80,000 lab-confirmed influenza cases recorded across Australia in the year to May 19, representing about a 13 per cent increase over the same period last year.

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

Grandparents caring for kids face virus risk amid rising RSV

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 30/05/2025, Kate Mcilwain

Parents know all too well the barrage of illnesses that comes with having kids in school and child care. But, as more and more families rely on grandparents for regular care of young kids as well, doctors are warning them to be vigilant about common seasonal illnesses that can turn serious for older people.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 30/05/2025, Michael Thomson

Doctors are warning about the spread of RSV during winter. It comes after they were informed that the disease is more harmful to older Australians. Currently, there have been more than 45,000 cases of RSV in Australia and 1493 of those in WA.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 30/05/2025, Brenton Ragless & Kate Collins

The rising number of flu cases in SA has prompted calls for a free vaccine blitz. It comes after the Pharmacy Guild and the Opposition made the push after record cases were seen up by 1700 compared to last year.

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"We may have to start telling our patients to expect personality changes"

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 31/05/2025, Ros Thomas, Page 1

Les Bridges has always been a man of big appetites. Six coffees a day, dozens of cigarettes. [...] Australia's medicines regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, insists there is still no medical antidote to obesity because these new injectables will not be effective for everyone.

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Plea to parents over children overdosing

Newcastle Herald, General News, 31/05/2025, Sebastian Tan, Page 7

Parents grabbing over the-counter medicine to help their children is causing a startling number of hospital visits, researchers say. Almost 100 children and teenagers are being taken to emergency departments every day after taking over the-counter medicines such as paracetamol and antidepressants.

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

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What we know about the new treatment for Alzheimer's

Medical Forum, Other, 30/05/2025

A Perth professor of geriatric medicine is cautioning that new medicine approved in Australia to treat the early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease may not be the game-changer many are hoping it to be. [...] It has been approved by the TGA for the treatment of adults with early symptomatic Alzheimer's disease who have a specific genetic profile and the confirmed presence of amyloid plaque in the brain.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

Mouse faeces, cockroaches found in store, court told

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/05/2025, Lucy Rutherford, Page 7

Only a significant fine can deter a northern suburbs takeaway owner, whose store was rife with raw, dripping chicken, mouse faeces and cockroaches, from his filthy ways, a court has heard. On Friday, the Adelaide Magistrates Court was asked to punish Xie Tan, of Valley View Chicken and Seafood, as a deterrent to store owners across South Australia. Lawyers for Port Adelaide Enfield Council argued a significant fine was the only way to get through to Tan, who failed to clean up his act despite inspections and warnings.

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AICIS

Drink again: Why we should dip a toe in water recycling

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 31/05/2025, Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Page 32

If Sydneysiders want clean beaches and a swimmable harbour, they might need to start drinking purified recycled water. [...] This refers to advanced treatment beyond tertiary, focused on removing

micropollutants such as pharmaceuticals, pesticides and the PFAS family of synthetic cancer-causing "forever chemicals" now found in the bodies of virtually every NSW resident.

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Residents forced to pay for 'forever chemicals' clean-up

Central Western Daily, General News, 31/05/2025, Saffron Howden, Page 7

Ratepayers and communities could be forced to pay for the clean up of their local tips, or build new ones, to prevent PFAS "forever chemicals" leaching into waterways, a rural council has warned. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) include about 4000 chemicals used in a vast array of everyday products, most infamously fire-fighting foam a practice now being banned in Australia.

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EPA takes first action against 3M over PFAS contamination

Newcastle Herald, General News, 31/05/2025, Farid Farid, Page 24

Pollution a set of "dangerous and insidious" chemicals detected at a river near a World Heritage site have been traced back to a former quarry used by manufacturing giant 3M. PFAS soil, sediment, groundwater and surface water have been found across a 100-hectare area of the inactive Brogans Creek lime quarry northwest of the Blue Mountains, the NSW Environment Protection Authority says.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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EPA takes 'milestone' action against PFAS company 3M Australia

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2025, Xanthe Gregory

The New South Wales environmental watchdog has taken "milestone" action against a global chemicals manufacturer after discovering PFAS chemicals at an old testing site in the Central West. The NSW Environment Protection Authority (NSW EPA) has issued a clean-up notice to 3M Australia after the forever chemicals were found in soil and water across the 100-hectare Brogans Creek Quarry, south-east of Mudgee.

[Read More](#)

Ratepayers will likely cover PFAS contamination costs, Blayney mayor says

ABC Online, Other, 30/05/2025, Xanthe Gregory

A New South Wales mayor says forcing councils to clean up PFAS contamination at landfill sites is "completely at odds with the 'polluter pays' principle". Last year the Belubula River, which flows through the Central West region, was found to be tainted by PFAS chemicals

[Read More](#)

2GB, Afternoons, 30/05/2025, Michael McLaren

Australia has 60 days to provide a clean-up plan for the quarry in the State's Central West, which has been contaminated by PFAS chemicals. According to the EPA, the remote location would mean that there's little chance of human exposure to the chemical.

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