



# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 3rd July 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that the consideration of public funding for weight-loss drugs is being pushed by the Federal Government. Health Minister Mark Butler wrote to the chair of the PBAC in March to request advice on equitable access to medicines for the treatment of obesity in Australia.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports that pressure on US President Donald Trump is being increased by US pharmaceutical manufacturers as the President intends to take action against Australia over its \$18 billion federal medication subsidy scheme.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that new research has found that older Australians with anxiety disorders have better recovery outcomes using psychological therapy in comparison to taking medication. The study found on average 53 per cent of older people recovered from their anxiety disorder after receiving cognitive behavioural therapy, compared to 36 per cent after medication treatment.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that a form of immunotherapy has proven highly effective at curing certain blood cancers. The therapy has only been tested in pre-clinical animal trials.
- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 5) reports that next week thousands of nurses and midwives will strike in Queensland as the state government failed to meet their deadline on a pay deal.
- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 16) reports that Queensland's flu season has officially begun, with doctors warning the worst is yet to come as flu cases in the past six months pass the total

number recorded in 2024. More than 5300 cases have been recorded in the past fortnight.

- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 16) reports that from September, general practitioners will be able to resupply ADHD medications. From today GPs can express interest in ongoing training on the NSW Health website.
- **National Indigenous Times** (online) reports that the Northern Territory government's decision to commission a dedicated Incident Management Team (IMT) to respond to the syphilis outbreak has been welcomed by the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory. "Syphilis is a serious public health issue that has quietly worsened for more than a decade," said Barbara Molanus, Sexual Health Coordinator at AMSANT.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Weight-loss funding push

The Australian, General News, 03/07/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

The federal government is pushing for the consideration of public funding for weight-loss drugs, as the nation's pharmaceutical expert body prepares advice on which patients would benefit the most from subsidised treatment. Drug companies are waiting to see what stance the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee will take in its advice to Health Minister Mark Butler, who asked it to provide guidance on subsidised access to weight-loss drugs.

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### Hunt for fix to cut surgery wait times

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 03/07/2025, Michael Smith, Page 15

The former federal health minister has a plan to end the crisis in private hospitals treat more public patients, writes Michael Smith.

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

### All of us will be on the hook for ACT Labor's folly

Australian Financial Review, General News, 03/07/2025, John Kehoe, Page 31

This government is spending and taxing irresponsibly, and its education system is failing children.

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

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### Promise met for expanded clinic hours

Launceston Examiner, General News, 03/07/2025, Bailey Forbes, Page 5

The federal government has followed through on its commitment to expand the Launceston Medicare Urgent Care Clinic's services, with a clinic doctor stating that the practice expects to double the number of patients it cares for. Promised on February 25, 2025, federal health minister Mark Butler said the federal government would provide extra funding to expand the clinics' opening hours, which will now run from 9am to 8pm.

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### Member for Durack slams NDIS reforms

Kimberley Echo, General News, 03/07/2025, Natasha Clark, Page 2

Member for Durack Melissa Price has slammed new changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, warning the reforms will hurt regional WA's practitioners and their clients. [...] In response, Ms Price said she and the Coalition had written to the Minister for Disability and the NDIS, Mark Butler, calling for a three-month deferral of the changes to allow proper planning and consultation.

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### Cost cutting detrimental to local NDIS participants

Boorowa News, General News, 03/07/2025, Page 5

Member for Riverina Michael McCormack is calling for an immediate stop to the National Disability Insurance Agency's decision to slash cost limits and travel funding for Allied Health Services. [...] "I have written to Ministers responsible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Mark Butler MP and Senator Jenny McAllister, regarding this issue and hope the Federal Government listens to the pleas of those who are on the ground supporting some of our most vulnerable community members."

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## Doctors dispute billions being lost in Medicare fraud

Canberra Times, Other, 02/07/2025, Farid Farid

Overcharging on medical bills and rorting the public health system is costing taxpayers up to \$5000 a minute, a health union says. [...] AAP has approached federal Health Minister Mark Butler for comment.

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## NDIS cuts on early intervention in Hunter, as autism rates rise

Newcastle Herald, Other, 02/07/2025

Children as young as four in the Hunter Region are missing out on early intervention due to NDIS cuts, Newcastle psychologist Jacqui Smith says. [...] NDIS Minister Mark Butler said "negotiations on foundational supports with the states are ongoing and we are working to finalise them as soon as possible".

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## Lung cancer screening: beware a false sense of security

Allergy and Respiratory Republic, Other, 02/07/2025, Holly Payne

Australia's new lung cancer screening program is expected to save hundreds of lives per year, but experts urge healthcare professionals to remember that it will only pick up on one of the many risks associated with smoking. [...] Speaking at the program's official launch, Health Minister Mark Butler advised patients to speak to their healthcare professional to see if they were eligible for a free scan under the program.

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## No PHNs hitting immunisation target for toddlers

Allergy and Respiratory Republic, Other, 02/07/2025, Caitlin Wright

New immunisation data shows only a few PHNs are hitting the 95% vaccination coverage. [...] At the conference, Health Minister Mark Butler highlighted how childhood vaccination rates across Australia have been declining since 2020.

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## Australia launches first national lung cancer screening program

Glam Adelaide, Other, 02/07/2025, Danika Zalac

Australia has launched a free national lung cancer screening program, targeting high-risk individuals to detect cancer early. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says the new program is going to be a game-changer in Australian cancer screening.

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## Are Australian vaping laws effective or falling short?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 02/07/2025

New data sheds light on the uptake of vapes through the Federal Government's pharmacy scheme, as GPs raise concerns about illicit sales. [...] While Federal Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler acknowledged action is needed to shut down the illegal sale of vaping products, he continues to defend the current laws, saying they are working towards 'taking the vapes out of the hands of our kids'.

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## Hope on script: PBS change makes key breast cancer drug affordable

Your Life Choices, Other, 02/07/2025, Don Turrobia

A major win for Australians facing breast cancer: a life-saving treatment is now within reach for hundreds more, thanks to a significant expansion of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler summed it up: 'For Labor, that is what the PBS is all about. Access to the best available treatment at affordable PBS prices.'

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Sunrise 5AM News, 02/07/2025, Edwina Bartholomew

Kisqali has been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. It'll target the most common form of early breast cancer when the disease is found in the breast or nearby lymph nodes but hasn't spread to other parts of the body. Health Minister Mark Butler says without the PBS listing, the medicine would be up for around \$140,000 for a course of treatment.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

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## MINISTER RAE

### No more delays to new Act or SaH, says new minister

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 02/07/2025, Natasha Egan & Katarina Lloyd Jones

The new legislation and programs will definitely start on 1 November, says aged care minister Sam Rae, who has discussed the delay, improving home care wait times and star ratings in a radio interview. Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae has told a Melbourne radio audience this week that the new Aged Care Act will commence this year on 1 November no matter what.

Also reported by: [Community Care Review \(Online\)](#)

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### Aged care minister doesn't agree with criticism of star rating system

HelloCare, Other, 02/07/2025, Jakob Neeland

Australia's aged care star rating system, launched in December 2022 as a flagship reform post-Royal Commission, was designed to provide families with a clear, one-to-five-star guide to choose quality residential care. [...] New Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, in his seventh week, staunchly defended the system, claiming "significant steps forward" with 74% of homes rated 4 or 5 stars, a 36% increase since 2022.

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### New Aged Care Minister admits system is substandard

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/07/2025, Caroline Egan

In his first radio interview since being sworn in seven weeks ago, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae has admitted the aged care system is failing to meet community expectations. Speaking on ABC Radio as part of the broadcaster's coverage of the 'sandwich generation' - those caring for both children and ageing parents - Minister Rae said, "I don't pretend for a second that the system is working to the standards that we would all like it to be".

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### Action shouldn't require tragedy: regional doctors

Ovens and Murray Advertiser, Other, 02/07/2025

Doctors have welcomed an updated plan to improve maternity care in regional areas. [...] Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride said the report gave governments, health services, and clinicians a valuable set of guiding principles.

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### ABC Northern Tasmania, Drive, 02/07/2025, Evan Wallace

Interview with assistant health minister and member for Lyons Rebecca White on Medicare. White says they have made a big commitment to strengthening Medicare. She says she is thrilled that from yesterday anyone in Northern Tas can access their Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Launceston on Wellington Street much earlier in the day from 9:00.

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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## DEPARTMENT

### Roper River graduates

Koori Mail, General News, 02/07/2025, Page 28

Roper Gulf Regional Council is celebrating the success of six aged NT care staff members who graduated with a Certificate III in Individual Support. [...] The course, funded by the Indigenous Employment Initiative Program through the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, focused on upskilling local staff to deliver culturally safe and responsive aged care.

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### Calls for 'missing piece' menopause drug to be added to the PBS

9News, Other, 02/07/2025, Emily McPherson

A key treatment which could help around one million middle-aged Australian women remains unaffordable to many because it is unsubsidised by the government, experts warn. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said adding any medicine to the PBS required a submission to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, which then needed to be given the tick of approval by the committee.

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### Whiddon spearheads collaborative care model

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 02/07/2025

With hopes to close gaps between aged care, government and health systems in regional and rural Australia, a new multi-sector collaborative health project is being trialled across six locations. [...] The project is backed by over 20 partners including: NSW Ministry of Health Department of Health and Aged Care Ageing Australia The National Rural Health Alliance.

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## It's time to Liveup

Canowindra Phoenix, Other, 02/07/2025, Canowindra Phoenix

There are many myths and stereotypes when it comes to getting older, but it's proven that how we age is mostly determined by the lifestyle choices we make each day. LiveUp is a free healthy ageing guide funded by the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, designed to help you stay independent and socially connected as you get older.

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## Community transport an underfunded 'lifeline'

Community Care Review, Other, 02/07/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Peak body for community transport, the Australian Community Transport Association, and the University of South Australia have been collaborating on the National Variable Pricing Matrix pilot. [...] Changes to the funding model are becoming increasingly more critical as the population ages, and ACTA hopes the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing will work with them to use the solutions found in the pilot to enhance the sector, Mr Coates told CCR Further findings will be released in August at the ACTA 2025 National Community Transport Conference.

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## Feds "failed" to deliver promise, MP says

pakenhamgazette.com.au, Other, 02/07/2025, Jin Hui

Local MP Jason Wood has called out the federal government's broken promise of delivering funding to the Upper Beaconsfield Pavilion redevelopment after questions have been left unclarified for months. [...] Cardinia Shire Council and the office of La Trobe MP Jason Wood have both corresponded with the federal government over the delivery of a \$500,000 grant from the Department of Health to the project.

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## Fraud claim investigation

The SE Voice, Other, 02/07/2025

SA Police are investigating an alleged multi-million-dollar fraud at a Mount Gambier medical practice. [...] A Department of Health, Disability and Ageing spokesperson said the department is committed to working closely with CSAPHN to re-establish urgent care services for the Mount Gambier community as soon as possible.

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## Six Whiddon-led Collaborative Health Care Initiative pilots go live in regional NSW

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/07/2025, Caroline Egan

Six 12-week pilot projects have commenced under the Collaborative Health Care (CHC) Initiative, a partnership between aged care providers and broader healthcare operators, aimed at improving health outcomes for older Australians in regional communities. The initiative is being spearheaded Not For Profit aged care provider Whiddon, which has formed a partnership with more the 20 organisations, including the NSW Ministry of Health, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, aged care and hospital operators, academic leaders, and peak bodies.

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## Aged care missing from Health Department's top five reform pillars

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/07/2025, Caroline Egan

Aged care has been left out of the five key areas of reform identified by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing as priorities for the re-elected Labor Government, according to a 2025 Incoming Government Brief authored by Department Secretary, Blair Comley PSM.

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## Jul 2: Calls for medical board to be removed

WEB Indigenous Business News, Other, 02/07/2025

The ABC reported that SWAM's leadership was in turmoil and they were unable to confirm how many directors the organisation had. [...] The Federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing confirmed it was aware of the governance issues.

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## VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Would you like this for dinner?

Border Mail, General News, 03/07/2025, Carla Mascarenhas, Page 9

Bread with sausage is one of the meals served to Australians in aged care as they survive on a \$15.49 daily food allowance. [...] A federal Health Department spokesperson told ACM that older Australians had worked their whole lives, "so they deserve tasty, nutritious food that improves their quality of life in aged care".

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### Ageing without assets: The challenges for renters in need of aged care services

HelloCare, Other, 02/07/2025, Janine Yeates

Australia's ageing population is increasingly caught in a "care squeeze," balancing the demands of caring for elderly loved ones while managing other responsibilities. For the 35% of Australians entering aged care who are renters, the absence of a family home to sell creates significant financial and logistical hurdles.

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### NSW aged care beds at capacity: older hospital patients up 50% in five months

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/07/2025, Caroline Egan

The number of NSW hospital patients unable to be discharged due to a lack of aged care beds has surged from 455 at the end of January to 685 as of 18 June – a rise of more than 50%. A spokesperson for NSW Health told The Weekly SOURCE that the State Health Department continue to work closely with Federal Government partners to "enable greater access to aged care facilities and to support the primary care sector through a range of initiatives, which will ease pressure on its very busy public hospitals.

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### Lingering burden of COVID-19 hits aged care as winter cases surge

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/07/2025, Caroline Egan

COVID-19 cases in Australia's aged care homes increased 20% in the week to 26 June, with 1,752 resident cases recorded, the highest number in 12 months. Staff cases rose 25% to 694.

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## DISABILITY

## Starmer could learn from Albanese

Sydney Morning Herald, International News, 03/07/2025, David Crowe, Page 17

Anthony Albanese learnt the hard way that saving money on disability support was a political nightmare. Now the prime minister's friend and counterpart in Britain, Keir Starmer, has just learnt an even tougher lesson.

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## NDIS overhaul: from chaos to clarity

Shepparton News Online, Other, 02/07/2025, Christine McKee

After 12 years of confusion, cost blowouts and an explosion in provider numbers, the National Disability Insurance Scheme is undergoing significant reforms to return the scheme to its original intent and ensure its sustainability. The NDIS was lauded in 2013 as one of the most significant steps in the history of Australian public policy, but it quickly became apparent the system was difficult to navigate and susceptible to fraud and misconduct.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### One Aussie a month drowns in the bathtub

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 03/07/2025, Page 4

Slippery, hard-surfaced bathrooms are not safe places to be using drugs or drinking, Australian researchers investigating bathtub drownings say. An analysis from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre of 195 adults who died in a bathtub or hot tub between 2015 and 2024 found drugs or alcohol contributed to most deaths.

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

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### Channel 9, Nine News, 02/07/2025, Michael Thomson

Health advocates want urgent reform to WA's tobacco laws, with less than a handful of retailers fined since a vape ban was introduced. That's despite almost 200,000 e-cigarettes seized across WA worth millions of dollars.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Cancer scientists' tumour hope

The Australian, General News, 03/07/2025, Penny Timms, Page 3

A form of personalised immunotherapy has proven highly effective at curing certain blood cancers when other treatments have failed, but scientists have struggled to get CAR T-cell therapy, which re-engineers a patient's own T-cells to kill cancer cells, to work on solid tumours without triggering a toxic response. Now, Australian scientists from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre have made an early, but significant discovery they hope could change that.

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### New tool in cancer fight

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/07/2025, Page 15

Australian scientists have shown for the first time how a "revolutionary" blood cancer treatment could be tweaked to also cure hard-to-treat solid tumours. Solid tumours account for around 90 per cent of all cancers and include breast, colon and ovarian cancers.



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## Breaking new ground

Herald Sun, Editorials, 03/07/2025, Page 22

Victoria's reputation as a biomedical research capital is continually enhanced through local advances that hold the promise for treatments in a wide variety of fields. Today, the Herald Sun reports on Melbourne research that shows how a "revolutionary" blood cancer treatment could be tweaked to also cure hard-to-treat solid tumours.

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## Insulin pumps help kids

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 03/07/2025, Daneka Hill, Page 9

Expensive, life-saving insulin pumps will be gifted to eight Townsville children, thanks to the hard work of two NQ charities, while doctors petition the federal government for more help. Insulin pumps are small, wearable devices that the need for blood tests and injections every few hours for people with diabetes, but they can cost up to \$10,000 each and are generally not covered by Medicare.

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## Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research: Outgoing chair John Barrington's high hopes for WA cancer centre

West Australian, Other, 02/07/2025, Hannah Cross

Outgoing chair of the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research John Barrington wants Western Australia to have its own top-tier cancer centre. Victoria has the Melbourne-based Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, which has cemented its status worldwide, appearing in the top 25 in Newsweek's world's best specialised hospitals ranking for five consecutive years.

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## Women over 65 still at risk from cancer from HPV and should be offered cervical screening – study

The Guardian, Other, 02/07/2025, Anna Bawden

Cases of cervical cancer among older people rising globally as research finds over-65s more likely to have HPV infections than younger women. Routine cervical screening should be offered to women aged 65 and over as they are still at heightened risk of cancer from human papillomavirus (HPV), according to research.

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## How CBT may help manage IBS symptoms, say Melbourne researchers

Ballarat Courier, Other, 02/07/2025, Desiree Savage

Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) affects around one in five people, according to the government's Health Direct website, but scientists now believe the mind has a lot to do with it.

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## 4BC, Breakfast , 02/07/2025, Peter Fegan

A targeted treatment for those with early breast cancer is being made more affordable for Queenslanders. Kisqali is being made available on the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme for patients who are at high risk of recurrence.

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## **Incident team created to tackle Territory syphilis outbreak**

Northern Territory News, Other, 02/07/2025, Lottie Hood

The number of syphilis cases in the Territory has been labelled a 'real public health crisis' by AMA and NT Health has commissioned a syphilis Incident Management Team. Territorians are being urged to get tested for STIs as syphilis cases have spiked dramatically in the Northern Territory.

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

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## **New guidance supports antibiotics for unconfirmed strep A in patients at high risk of acute rheumatic fever**

Australian Doctor, Other, 03/07/2025, Mohana Basu

New guidelines recommend antibiotic treatment for sore throats in high-risk children and adolescents without diagnostic confirmation of strep A to prevent acute rheumatic fever. Released last month, the new guidelines on rheumatic heart disease and acute rheumatic fever (ARF) differ from the 2024 WHO guideline, which recommends antibiotic treatment only when strep A pharyngitis is confirmed.

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## **Rapid response nursing model of care supports early intervention for at-risk patients**

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 02/07/2025, Anmj Staff

An innovative Rapid Response Nursing (RRN) Model of Care is strengthening hospital-based care at Canberra Hospital by enabling early intervention and enhancing patient safety. Launched in May, the \$4 million ACT government-funded nurse-led outreach service – staffed by experienced Medical Emergency Team (MET) nurses – operates 24/7 across Canberra Hospital to identify, assess and respond to early signs of clinical deterioration in acutely unwell patients, helping to prevent serious complications and supporting existing emergency response systems.

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## **Pharmacist-led medicine substitutions now possible**

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 02/07/2025, Chloe Hava

For the first time in Australian medicines history, all Queensland-based pharmacists can make the call to substitute a therapeutically appropriate medicine without prescriber authority to solve medicine-related problems Australian Pharmacist explains the ins and outs of this momentous change.

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## **'Embedding inequity right from the get-go'**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 02/07/2025

A study of 50,000 GP consults has led to calls for an investment overhaul, after revealing 'clear differences' in children's access to care depending on socioeconomic status. 'Early intervention can be enormously beneficial for kids who need it.'

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## **Study reveals socioeconomic barriers to children's healthcare access**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 02/07/2025

Authors of the study of 49,932 consultations at 22 GP clinics in Victoria and New South Wales found private billing specialist GPs were around 1.7 times more likely to refer than bulk billing GPs in the sample – and most referrals were to private billing paediatric specialists.

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## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

### **Over 60 with anxiety? Don't dismiss therapy**

Older people with anxiety disorders have better recovery outcomes using psychological therapy than if they take medications, even though pharmacological treatments are more likely to be prescribed, new research finds. The study explodes the myth that psychological treatment is ineffective for older adults, countering a view among many clinicians and older patients themselves that you can't teach an old dog new tricks, its author, Macquarie University associate professor Carly Johnco, says.

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## GPs fit the pill for ADHD

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 03/07/2025, Madeline Crittenden, Page 16

General practitioners will be able to resupply ADHD medication to their patients from September, preventing the need for expensive specialist appointments. Under former rules, people seeking an ADHD diagnosis were required to see a specialist psychiatrist or pediatrician, who were then responsible for ongoing management and follow-up prescriptions.

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## Esketamine: a new frontier in treatment-resistant depression

Medical Forum, Other, 02/07/2025, Psychiatrist Nedlands

Depression, specifically major depressive disorder (MDD), is a widespread mental health condition that affects hundreds of millions globally. In Australia, over 1.3 million individuals – 5.9% of the population – are affected.

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## Suicide research fund lapses days after report savages mental health system

The Medical Republic, Other, 02/07/2025, Holly Payne

Funding for the Suicide Prevention Research Fund has officially run out, even as a Productivity Commission report roundly criticises the Commonwealth's lack of action in the space. [...] "Funding for the Suicide Prevention Research Fund was originally due to cease on 30 June 2024," a spokesman for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing told The Medical Republic "As available funding was not able to be fully disbursed by that date, the funding period was extended to 30 June 2025.

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 02/07/2025, Ryk Goddard

The Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal have grants out of up to \$20,000 supporting the mental health and wellbeing of farmers in rural communities. It's called the In a Good Place program and it closes on 14 August.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Nurses raise the stakes

Courier Mail, General News, 03/07/2025, Page 5

Thousands of Queensland nurses and midwives will escalate mass strike action next week after the state government failed to meet their deadline on a pay deal. Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union

(QNMU) members will refuse to perform tasks that have no impact on patient safety, including administration, bed moving, cleaning and delivering patient meals.

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## How nurse-led model is improving care

Canberra Times, General News, 03/07/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 7

Canberra Hospital's new specialised nursing team are proactively identifying and treating patients at-risk of death and serious health incidents before they die. Since May, the equivalent of 11 full-time nurses have formed a rapid response team at Canberra Hospital.

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## Nurses reject Crisafulli's claim wage offer is 'nation leading'

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/07/2025, Courtney Kruk

Premier David Crisafulli insists the industrial offer to nurses and midwives sets out "nation-leading wages", but the union accused the government of gaslighting workers and has confirmed stronger protected action will kick off on Tuesday. The premier said nurses and midwives employed by Queensland Health had been offered nation-leading pay conditions and that the budget, handed down last week, reflects the government's commitment to the sector and is in line with a key election promise.

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## Allied health workers latest to seek payrise

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/07/2025, Madeleine Bower

Allied Health professionals are the next public sector group in the state seeking a pay rise, opening up the prospect of another wage battle for the Minns government in the coming months. The Health Services Union (HSU) is seeking a complete overhaul of more than 40 different employee awards covering more than 25,000 allied health workers. Instead the union is hoping to cover the same workers with less than five wage awards.

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## Midwives at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital rallying to protest planned job cuts

The Courier Mail, Other, 02/07/2025, Savannah Pocock

Midwives working across maternity services at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital have spoken out against planned job cuts. Sydney Local Health District announced that up to 15 full-time positions will be removed at the women and babies' service with a further five midwife positions axed from the Midwifery Group Practice.

Also reported by: [Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal \(Online\)](#).

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## The FUCHSIA study goes national

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 02/07/2025, Naomi Riley

Not dissimilar to the Victorian FUCHSIA study (report released in 2022), this study aims to gather accurate, up-to-date evidence to map and gain insights into the health and wellbeing of the midwifery workforce, and its sustainability. To achieve change for the midwifery workforce, we need hard data identifying the critical factors that affect the retention and attrition of midwives in the Australian maternity care sector. This is your chance to contribute to that change!

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## PSA to develop education standards for CPD activities

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 02/07/2025, Georgia Clarke

PSA has announced that it will develop and maintain education standards for Continued Professional Development (CPD) for pharmacists, following the retirement of the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) accreditation standards for CPD activities on 31 December 2025. The APC's accreditation standards for CPD activities have been in place since 2013.

## Prac payments must be extended: Guild

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/07/2025

Excluding pharmacy students from the Commonwealth Prac Payments scheme is "unfair", a leading pharmacist claims. The federal government is missing an opportunity to support the future primary care workforce by limiting access to practice support payments to selected groups of students, Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president, Professor Trent Twomey says.

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## Tell TiNA now on Ask Annie app

Community Care Review, Other, 02/07/2025

Dementia Australia is launching a new tool to support ongoing training for dementia care workers. Tell TiNA is the latest addition to Dementia Australia's Ask Annie app.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 02/07/2025, Max Futchter & Katrina Blowers

From 7am next Tuesday, protected industrial action from nurses will escalate, including no overtime. Nurses also refuse to make beds, clean equipment in non-clinical areas, empty rubbish bins, collect and transport patient meals, and answer phones and data entry. Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union's Sarah Beaman says they are fighting for double time for overtime for their nurses and midwives.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 02/07/2025, Melissa Downes

Nurses and midwives are ramping up their strike action in their pay fight with the Qld government. It will kick off 7am on Tuesday.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Big Pharma slams Australia's \$18bn 'freeloading' PBS

The Australian, General News, 03/07/2025, Rhiannon Down, Page 2

US pharmaceutical manufacturers have ramped up pressure on Donald Trump to take action against Australia over its \$18bn federal medication subsidy scheme, as Anthony Albanese pushes to secure an exemption from the US President's tariff regime. The powerful US pharmaceutical lobby has lashed Australia for engaging in "unfair and nonreciprocal trade practices" by subsidising medicine under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, and short-changing US drug developers for their products.

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### MedAdvisor ANZ sold to software collector

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/07/2025, Kate Cowling

The global pharmacy software company's local arm has been picked up by software-acquirer Jonas MedAdvisor's Australian and New Zealand business and its subsidiary, Medicines Information (formerly GuildLink), has been sold for \$35m, the company told investors. MedAdvisor foreshadowed the sale earlier this year, telling the market it had received a non-binding offer.

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### PSA to develop CPD standards

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/07/2025

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has taken on the role of publishing education standards for CPD, following the retirement of the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) accreditation standards for

CPD activities at the end of this year (PD 01 Jul). The PSA has committed to developing and maintaining industry-leading standards, providing high quality education that upholds pharmacy practice standards, guidelines and ethics, and is free from commercial bias.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Medicare rip-offs cost billions, says health union

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/07/2025, Farid Farid, Page 9

Overcharging on medical bills and rorting the public health system is costing taxpayers up to \$5000 a minute, a health union says. But the peak professional body representing doctors says the numbers don't add up in a Health Services Union (HSU) report that paints a picture of fraud in the \$30 billion Medicare Benefits Schedule scheme.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### EMVision makes progress in key trials for bedside brain scanner

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/07/2025

Five of the six sites are now enrolling and scanning patients in the pivotal validation trial for EMVision Medical Devices' first commercial device – the emu point-of-care bedside brain scanner for stroke diagnosis. EMVision Medical Devices (ASX:EMV) today provided an update on the pivotal trial – designed to support US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) de novo (new device) clearance for emu – and its continuous innovation study.

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### We have drugs to manage HIV. So why are we spending millions looking for cures?

Medicine Today, Other, 02/07/2025

Over the past three decades there have been amazing advances in treating and preventing HIV. It's now a manageable infection.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

## Ear disease affecting kids

West Australian, General News, 03/07/2025, Page 7

Over a third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children experience fluctuating ear disease. The recurring middle ear condition often goes unnoticed but can have lifelong impacts on hearing, speech, learning and school readiness.

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## Kids' ear infections stall ability to learn and thrive

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 03/07/2025, Page 6

Listening, speech and language skills are essential for children to thrive but for many Indigenous children, ear disease is affecting their ability to connect. More than a third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children experience "fluctuating" ear disease, where the infection in the middle ear can change over time, making it more difficult to detect, clinical data from Hearing Australia shows.

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## Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT welcomes government action on syphilis outbreak

National Indigenous Times, Other, 02/07/2025, Giovanni Torre

The Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory has welcomed the NT government's decision to commission a dedicated Incident Management Team (IMT) to respond to the ongoing syphilis outbreak in the Territory. AMSANT described the move as "a long overdue but critical step in addressing this public health issue" in a statement on Wednesday.

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## Metro North Health takes action on racism with new equity strategy

National Indigenous Times, Other, 02/07/2025, Joseph Guenzler

Queensland's largest hospital and health service has launched a new campaign, 'Stop Racism. It Starts with Me', aimed at addressing racism in healthcare and improving cultural safety for Indigenous people. Yidinji woman and Executive Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Sherry Holzapfel, said the policy is a direct response to long-standing harm.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Flu record 'tip of the iceberg'

Courier Mail, General News, 03/07/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 16

Flu cases in Queensland in the past six months now outnumber the total recorded in 2024 and doctors warn the worst is yet to come. The state is the grip of the official start of the flu season that has been made worse by thousands of early seasonal cases combined with low vaccination rates.

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

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### Deadly flu season tipped to get worse

West Australian, General News, 03/07/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 1

This year's flu season is the worst in a decade as experts warn the school holidays will only supercharge the spread. WA Health figures revealed 10,428 recorded influenza infections so far this year, more than double the 4641 cases at the same time last year.

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## 'No effective treatment': man in critical condition as first case of rare bat virus confirmed

The Australian, Other, 02/07/2025, Holly Truelove

A northern NSW man is fighting for his life after being bitten by a bat, in the first confirmed case of Australian bat lyssavirus in NSW. The man, in his 50s, was bitten by a bat several months ago and was treated for the injury, but is now in a critical condition in hospital.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au](https://www.7news.com.au) ([Online](#)).

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## School holidays set to supercharge spread of flu as WA cases hit over 10,000

West Australian, Other, 02/07/2025, Claire Sadler

Two people have died of influenza in the past fortnight, with the Health Minister describing this year's flu season as the worst in a decade — and experts warning the school holidays will only supercharge the spread. WA Health figures show there have been 10,428 recorded influenza infections so far this year, more than double the 4641 cases at the same time last year.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Popular sunscreen brands Banana Boat and Hawaiian Tropic sued over 'reef friendly' claims

7news.com.au, Other, 02/07/2025, Katharina Loesche

Two of Australia's biggest sunscreen brands are under fire, accused of misleading the public with claims their products were "reef friendly". The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has taken aim at Edgewell Personal Care Australia and its US-based parent company, Edgewell Personal Care Company (Edgewell PCC), accusing them of making false or misleading environmental claims over a four-year period.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Court confusion

Burnie Advocate, General News, 03/07/2025, Helen Kempton, Page 1

Confusion reigns in Tasmania's courtrooms as more people using prescribed medicinal cannabis are charged under drug driving laws without any impairment test available to measure their fitness to be behind the wheel. Two defendants, who both hold a prescription for cannabis, appeared in the Burnie Magistrates Court this week charged with an offence after returning a positive test for THC when stopped by police.

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### Proof the Albanese government's vaping ban is a failure

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/07/2025, Nicholas Comino

New data has revealed a sharp rise in smoking and vaping among young Australians, casting doubt on the effectiveness of the Albanese Government's vape crackdown. Australians aged 18 to 24 now have the highest rate of smoking or vaping of any age group, with 28 per cent (700,000 people) reporting they engage in one or both habits

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### ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 02/07/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Council CEO Jackie Hallam on cannabis. Hallam says they did some public polling in 2023 and in Tas, 70 per cent of people said legalising smoking



cannabis should not attract a criminal offence. She says they need to change their current approach to cannabis.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Pepsi cuts sugar in sweet health move

Courier Mail, General News, 03/07/2025, Page 16

A huge change is being rolled out to Pepsi drinks in Australia with the company behind the popular beverage confirming the product will now contain about a third of its original sugar content. PepsiCo has reduced the amount of sugar in its Pepsi and Mountain Dew brands, with each now containing about 35 and 40 per cent less sugar.

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### Sugar cut a Pepsi health sweetener

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03/07/2025, Emma Kirk, Page 7

Pepsi drinks in Australia are set to contain about a third of their original sugar content, a move the company says it has made in response to consumers looking for products with less sugar. PepsiCo has cut the amount of sugar in its Pepsi and Mountain Dew drinks with both to contain about 35 and 40 per cent less sugar.

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### Major change made to Pepsi, Mountain Dew

The Courier Mail, Other, 02/07/2025, Claudia Poposki

A move that's been labelled "the worst in junk food history" has stunned Aussies, with some claiming it will make people "cry". Today's News Headlines: NSW facing a second day of wild weather The latest news from Australia and around the world.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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## AICIS

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