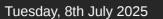


Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

# **TODAY'S NEWS**



Minister Butler | Minister McAllister | Minister Rae | Assistant Minister McBride |

Assistant Minister White | Special Envoy Repacholi | Department | Vaccines |

Ageing and Aged Care | Disability | Population Health

| Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions | Primary Care

| Mental Health and Suicide Prevention | Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

| <u>Health Workforce</u> | <u>Technology Assessment and Access</u>

- | Medicare Benefits and Digital Health | Benefits Integrity
- | Health Systems Strategies | Health Economics and Research

| First Nations Health | Interim Australian CDC | Therapeutic Goods Administration

| Office of Drug Control | Food Standards | AICIS

## LINKS

Click here to view full print articles in this report

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- <u>The Australian</u> (page 6) reports that the Queensland Government has been called on by the head of Queensland's union movement to create a new blanket wage offer to the entire public service instead of conducting sector-by-sector negotiations.
- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 12) reports that a new study from Monash University has found that abdominal fat, particularly in men, increases their risk of dementia.
- The <u>Courier Mail</u> (page 3) reports that as the industrial action by Queensland nurses commences from 7 am on July 8, hospitals are preparing for disruptions. It is expected to have a broad operational impact across Queensland Health facilities.
- The <u>West Australian</u> (page 3) reports that the International Agency for Research on Cancer has said that more than 41,000 young Australians and New Zealanders are expected to develop gastric cancer with 60 per cent potentially caused by the common bacteria Helicobacter pylori.
- The <u>Gold Coast Bulletin</u> (page 3) reports that recent data has revealed a 36 per cent increase in 18 to 24-year-olds smoking cigarettes despite the efforts of Health Minister Mark Butler insisting that the Albanese government's "world leading" vaping reforms are working.
- The <u>Geelong Advertiser</u> (page 5) reports that research from The University of Melbourne and Monash University claims that a \$153 million annual increase in spending on out-of-hospital

mental health services could lead to 313 fewer suicides and prevent 28,151 fewer mental health emergency department visits.

# MINISTER BUTLER

## Vape crackdown fail as more young Aussies light up

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 08/07/2025, Rory Williams, Page 3

Shocking smoking statistics which show young people are lighting up cigarettes in growing numbers ever since a crackdown on vapes was introduced has ignited renewed criticism of the federal government's attempts to curb e-cigarette use. [...] The figures come despite Health Minister Mark Butler insisting that the Albanese government's "world leading" vaping reforms are working.

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph Australia (Online).

#### Read Plain Text Read More

### Dept briefing lists gaps in reform readiness

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/07/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The 2025 Incoming Government Brief for the health and ageing minister highlights several areas in the implementation of the new Aged Care Act awaiting action, leading industry stakeholders to raise concerns about further delays. [...] The 109-page briefing for Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler as of 19 May shows confidence that the ICT systems required to support the implementation of the new Act would be ready "remains medium-low as significant risks in some areas remain."

#### Read More

### Tech troubles may delay aged care reforms AGAIN

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

The Albanese government's ambitious overhaul of aged care is once again on shaky ground, with its planned November rollout in doubt due to ongoing IT failures and soaring contractor costs. As The Saturday Paper revealed, a confidential briefing to Health Minister Mark Butler has flagged serious concerns about whether the digital systems supporting the new Aged Care Act will be ready in time.

#### Read More

# Health Minister's Award for Nursing Trailblazers recognises groundbreaking contributions to health care

Medianet, Other, 07/07/2025

Three pioneering nurses have been announced as finalists for the Health Minister's Award for Nursing Trailblazers, Australia's only award specifically recognising nurses who are transforming the nation's health and aged care systems through leadership and innovation. [...] The Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, will announce the winner at the Australian College of Nursing National Nursing Forum, on Thursday 24 July at the National Convention Centre in Canberra.

#### Read More

## Weight-loss drug PBS listings starting to get traction

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/07/2025, Euan Kielly

The federal government has officially made movement in getting weight-loss drugs on the PBS. [...] Drug companies are reportedly on edge awaiting the official stance of the Pharmaceuticals Benefits Advisory Committee that will guide the advice given to federal health minister Mark Butler.

#### Read More

## Channel 7, Sunrise, 07/07/2025, Matt Shirvington & Natalie Barr

According to research from Roy Morgan, 28% of young people aged between 18 and 24 are now either smoking or vaping. The Federal Opposition has lashed out at Health Minister Mark Butler for spruiking the nation's vaping reforms.

Play Now

## FIVEAA, Mornings, 07/07/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with GP Dr Joe Kosterich on the federal government's vaping regulation. Goodings says Health Minister Mark Butler has claimed that vaping leads young people to take up cigarette smoking. Kosterich disagrees and says international evidence shows vaping helps people quit smoking rather than start. He points to declining youth smoking rates in countries like New Zealand, the US, Canada, and the UK, where vaping is accessible.

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# MINISTER MCALLISTER

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## MINISTER RAE

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# ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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# SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

## Men's Sheds Romsey and Lancefield

North Central Review, Other, 08/07/2025

The newly appointed Federal Government representative for Men's Health, Dan Repacholi visited Romsey and Lancefield's men's sheds last week to discuss the Government's record investment of \$32 million along with Member for McEwen, Rob Mitchell. Mr Repacholi lived in Romsey for a few years before he headed north to the Hunter region in New South Wales, and he was keen to get the message out that men need to get better at talking about their well-being and not delay vital health checks.

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# DEPARTMENT

## Stay healthy this winter

Northern Star Weekly, General News, 08/07/2025, Christopher Carter, Page 10

Indeed, early in June Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Dr Evelyn Wong, put out a statement revealing that

the increase in COVID-19 cases between April and May this year was 2.5 times higher than the same time last year. [...] The latest recommendations about COVID-19 vaccinations, issued by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, suggest pretty much everybody 18 years or older should get a jab once a year.

#### Read Plain Text Read More

## The new vaping standards explained

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

On 1 July 2025, new vaping standards came into force for all therapeutic vaping products for smoking cessation and nicotine dependence. [...] 'The federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is continuously monitoring the products on the list and making sure that they adhere to the standards for vaping products,' Ms Dalla Venezia said.

### Read More

# Devil emerges in detail of what's in and out of states' payroll tax exemptions

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/07/2025, Jeremy Knibbs

In SA and Victoria the actual bulk-billing rebates practices might get by registering for payroll tax might surprise quite a few who have signed themselves up to pay the tax. [...] It feels very on the run, disorganised and certainly like no one has called the federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to compare notes on bulk-billing strategy.

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## VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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# AGEING AND AGED CARE

## Lifestyle Communities' exit fees ruled invalid in win for residents

Australian Financial Review, Other, 07/07/2025, Campbell Kwan

A Victorian tribunal has ruled that ASX-listed housing provider Lifestyle Communities has been charging some of its residents significant exit fees without properly disclosing them and they must be scrapped.

#### Read More

# How the sandwich generation is facing a 'guilt-ridden juggle' between kids and parents

#### Aged Care Insite, Other, 07/07/2025

There is a growing cohort of Australian parents being stretched further than they've ever been before, fuelled by an ageing population and cost-of-living crisis. [...] "Australia faces a demographic reckoning that we cannot ignore – five million Baby Boomers are marching toward their 80s, with the eldest turning 79 next year ... our current care infrastructure is nowhere near ready for what's coming".

#### Read More

## **RSL ANZAC Village set for major revamp**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/07/2025

Rsl LifeCare is targeting a major transformation for its flagship RSL ANZAC Village, with the not-forprofit aged care provider announcing plans to lodge applications as a State Significant Development with the New South Wales Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in late 2025. The 86year-old site – located on Sydney's northern beaches – has been providing care for veterans and seniors since World War II, and this will be the first whole-of-site masterplan development in the organisation's history.

#### Read More

# Are current background check protocols suitable for protecting Australia's most vulnerable?

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

Families across Australia entrust aged care providers with the safety and wellbeing of their elderly loved ones, expecting a system that prioritises dignity and protection. This trust hinges upon the screening processes designed to ensure only suitable individuals work with vulnerable populations, such as elderly residents or people with disabilities.

#### Read More

# Calvary Health Care expands retirement portfolio amid 11.6% annual sales price surge

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/07/2025, Ian Horswill

Calvary Health Care's three-year plan to elevate retirement living as part of its broader connected care model – spanning hospitals, residential aged care, retirement communities and home care – has delivered a 12.4% lift in occupancy and 11.6% growth in average sales prices.

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## DISABILITY

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# POPULATION HEALTH

### So many benefits from the dry spell

Herald Sun, General News, 08/07/2025, taylor penny, Page 25

Alongside remembering the night before and reducing the number of embarrassing memories the next morning, doctors say there are numerous benefits to cutting back on the booze. Chair of the Australian Medial Association Public Health Committee, Dr Micheal Bonning, said because alcohol "acts as a depressant", it can have numerous negative effects on mental functioning.

#### Read Plain Text Read More

### Vape link to smoke spike

Newcastle Herald, General News, 08/07/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

Hunter New England's rate for daily or occasional smokers rose slightly last year, raising suspicion that the vaping epidemic could be to blame. This rate hit a record low of 11.9 per cent in 2023, but rose to 12.1 per cent last year.

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## Smoking requires holistic approach

Newcastle Herald, General News, 08/07/2025, Page 18

The dangers of smoking are more wellknown than ever. That's why news of a rise in occasional smoking in the Hunter New England is quite alarming. The rate hit a record low of 11.9 per cent in 2023 but rose to 12.1 per cent in 2024.

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# CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Belly fat dementia warning for men

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/07/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 12

Men who carry too much weight around the belly are at greater risk of developing dementia, a new Australian study has found. But there is some good news from the Monash University researchers, with the team also finding that carrying a few extra "lean" kilos later in life may be associated with better cognition.

Also reported by: Townsville Bulletin (Townsville)

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### Gut bacteria linked to cancer

West Australian, General News, 08/07/2025, Page 3

More than 41,000 young Australians and New Zealanders are expected to develop gastric cancer sometime in their life. The International Agency for Research on Cancer says 60 per cent of those cases could be caused by the common bacteria Helicobacter pylori.

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### Gastric cancer to hit millions

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 08/07/2025, Page 14

More than 15 million people born between 2008 and 2017 globally are expected to develop gastric cancer sometime in their life. The International Agency for Research on Cancer has said 76 per cent of those cases may be attributable to the common bacteria Helicobacter pylori.

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### More than half ignore bowel test: Charlotte didn't, it saved her life

The Courier Mail, Other, 07/07/2025, Judith Kerr

Brisbane woman Charlotte Hassing had no obvious symptoms when her GP handed her a free bowel cancer test kit earlier this year after she tested for low iron levels and had a lingering sense of fatigue. [...] The latest National Bowel Cancer Screening Program Monitoring Report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare revealed more than 60 per cent of eligible Australians ignored their free screening kits between 2021 and 2022.

#### Read More

### Data registry funds plea in fight against MND

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 07/07/2025, Farid Farid

A rare debilitating disease that eats away at the nervous system to shut down the body claims the lives of two people in Australia each day and two more are diagnosed. Motor neurone disease (MND) robs individuals of the ability to walk, talk, swallow, and eventually breathe, as it impairs nerve cells responsible for transmitting signals from the brain and spinal cord to the muscles.

Also reported by: SBS (Online)

#### Read More

# Aussies in their 30s and 40s are being diagnosed with cancer at unprecedented rates

NEWS.com.au, Other, 07/07/2025, Tsn Flex

Australians in their 30s and 40s are being diagnosed with cancer at unprecedented rates, with at least 10 types of deadly afflictions on the rise. [...] New figures from Cancer Australia, the federal government's cancer agency, reveal staggering increases between 2000 and 2024.

Read More

# ABC, Four Corners, 07/07/2025, Dr Norman Swan

Report by physician, ABC producer, and broadcaster Dr Norman Swan on the rising cancer cases among younger individuals. Australians in their 30s and 40s are seeing a sharp rise in cancer diagnoses. Researchers are working to understand why aggressive cancers like bowel, breast, liver and kidney are affecting younger people and are often being found late.

At least 10 types of cancer in younger Australians are rising, some at alarming rates, according to figures obtained from Cancer Australia by the ABC's Four Corners. For bowel cancer, Australia leads

Report continues on: ABC (Sydney), ABC (Sydney), ABC (Sydney)

## ABC News, ABC National News, 07/07/2025, Nakari Thorpe

Cancer Australia figures show at least 10 types of cancer are increasing in younger people, with some rising sharply. Australia now has the highest rate of bowel cancer in the world, with one in 10 new cases occurring in people under 50.

Also reported by: ABC (Sydney)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 07/07/2025, Brenton Ragless & Kate Collins

Seven million Australians have high blood pressure, with experts linking the issue to high salt intake and poor diet. They say Australians consume nearly double the recommended daily amount of salt, and past public health efforts have not fixed the problem.

Also reported by: Channel 9 (Sydney), Channel 9 (Perth), Channel 9 (Melbourne), Channel 9 (Brisbane).

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## ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 07/07/2025, Sajarn Stow

Stow is joined by physician, ABC producer, and broadcaster Dr Norman Swan. Stow says more Australians in their 30s and 40s are being diagnosed with aggressive cancers like bowel, breast, liver and kidney, with rates rising sharply. Swan says Cancer Australia data shows 10 different cancers are increasing in younger people, with prostate cancer up 500% and bowel cancer up 173% since 2000. He says some cases may be due to overdiagnosis or inherited genes, but this rise is mostly in people without genetic links and where overdiagnosis cannot explain it. He points to new patterns, such as non-smoking young women developing lung cancer and people without known liver cancer risks presenting with large tumours.

Continuing on: ABC Radio Darwin (Darwin)

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 07/07/2025, Paul Gough

Gough is joined by physician, ABC producer, and broadcaster Dr Norman Swan. Gough says Australians in their 30s and 40s are being diagnosed with aggressive cancers like bowel, breast, liver, and kidney at higher rates and often too late. Swan says early alerts came from media reports about young people with bowel cancer, followed by similar patterns overseas. He adds that Cancer Australia data given to Four Corners shows rates of 10 different cancers have increased in younger Australians since 2000.

Continuing on: ABC Radio Adelaide (Adelaide), ABC Radio Adelaide (Adelaide), ABC Radio Adelaide (Adelaide)

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 07/07/2025, Kelly Higgins-Devine

Higgins-Devine is joined by physician, ABC producer, and broadcaster Dr Norman Swan. Higgins-Devine says more Australians in their 30s and 40s are being diagnosed with advanced cancers like

### ABC, Late Night ABC News, 07/07/2025, Craig Smart

the world with rates amongst 30 to 39 year year olds increasing by 173%.

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bowel, breast, liver, and kidney, with some of the highest rates in the world. She says researchers are exploring possible causes, including ultra-processed food, plastics, chemicals, bacteria, and environmental exposures from early life. Swan says Cancer Australia data shows a sharp rise in cancers among 30- to 39-year-olds between 2000 and 2024. He says the numbers are still low overall, but increasing from what was once a rare base in young people.

Continuing on: ABC Radio Brisbane (Brisbane), ABC Radio Brisbane (Brisbane).

#### Play Now

## ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 07/07/2025, Ross Solly

Cancer experts in Australia say 10 different cancers are on the rise among the nation's young people. Figures obtained by Four Corners show rates have increased since the year 2000 from a 4% uptick in breast cancer to a 500% jump in prostate cancer.

#### <u>Play Now</u>

## ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 07/07/2025, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Mitsopoulos is joined by physician, ABC producer, and broadcaster Dr Norman Swan. Mitsopoulos says Australians in their 30s and 40s are facing a sharp rise in aggressive cancers, and researchers are trying to understand why. Swan says Cancer Australia data shows 10 different cancers are rising in younger Australians since 2000. He says the data reflects a generational shift, with cancer rates in millennials much higher than in Gen X and boomers at the same age.

Continuing on: ABC Radio Perth (Perth), ABC Radio Perth (Perth), ABC Radio Perth (Perth),

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## 2CC, Canberra Live, 07/07/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with MND Australia CEO Clare Sullivan on their push to secure federal funding for a national data strategy and registry for motor neurone disease. Sullivan says, despite strong community support, research, and state-level services, there is no dedicated federal or state funding. She says a \$12m investment would help bring together existing data to improve care and outcomes.

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## FIVEAA, Mornings, 07/07/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with University of Melbourne professor Mark Jenkins on the rising cancer cases among younger individuals. Jenkins says colorectal cancer is one of the cancers increasing in younger people, with nearly 30,000 diagnoses in Australians under 50 over the last 30 years. He says the rise is unexpected and its cause is still unknown, adding that the trend is global but appears especially pronounced in Australia.

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# PRIMARY CARE

#### Implant illness is very real

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 08/07/2025, Tamara Mcdonald, Page 12

More and more women say cosmetic breast surgery has destroyed their previously good health, reports Tamara McDonald Women have told of having horror health symptoms after getting breast implants as figures show more are choosing to have them removed with a significant number linked to overseas surgeries.

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph Australia (Online).

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### A dozen security staff for our EDs

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 08/07/2025, Taylah Fellows, Page 10

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Twelve new security ambassadors will be posted to Queensland emergency departments as part of a \$8.7m funding boost to keep health workers safe from increasing violent incidents at public hospitals. The additional funding included in the LNP's first budget will also be spent on rolling out extra CCTV and body-worn cameras for security staff.

Also reported by: Toowoomba Chronicle (Online)

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#### Council wants minister on site

Western Advocate, General News, 08/07/2025, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 5

As construction on the \$200 million redevelopment of the public hospital nears, Bathurst Regional Council is again calling on the Health Minister to come see the parking problem for himself. It is the second time that the council has made such a request of Ryan Park, the state's Health Minister.

#### Read Plain Text Read More

#### Urgent care clinic enacts 'surge protocol' due to demand

Ballarat Courier, General News, 08/07/2025, Michelle Smith, Page 3

Staffing issues and heavy demand have seen Ballarat's urgent care clinic unable to provide care for some patients at times during its advertised opening hours. The UCC on Sturt Street treats 50 to 75 patients a day, but several times in recent months, some patients arriving at the Sturt Street clinic have been "redirected" to alternative care.

#### Read Plain Text Read More

# GPs and hospitals are turning to AI scribes, so how does it work and what are the risks?

ABC Online, Other, 07/07/2025, Emily Dobson

Artificial intelligence seems to be everywhere these days — so it's no surprise the innovation has made its way to the healthcare sector. Its most recent venture? AI scribes.

#### Read More

### Channel 10, 10 News, 07/07/2025, Alan Murrell

SA Allied Health workers have secured a 13.5% pay rise over four years under a new agreement with the state government. SA's deal follows recent strike action and delivers the biggest wage increase in decades, though it is only about half of what workers initially demanded.

#### Play Now

# Channel 7, Seven News, 07/07/2025, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings

A new pay deal delivers a 13.5% wage increase over four years for public hospital workers in SA. While they had pushed for more to match interstate counterparts, 80% voted in favour, with hopes it may help ease hospital ramping pressures.

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

Over 45,000 Qld nurses and midwives will escalate their industrial action tomorrow for better pay and conditions. Health Minister Tim Nicholls says infection control must be maintained, but no temporary staff will be brought in to cover the duties.

#### Play Now

## Channel 9, Nine News, 07/07/2025, Brenton Ragless & Kate Collins

SA allied health workers have agreed to a new enterprise bargaining agreement with the state government. The deal gives psychologists, physiotherapists and radiographers a 13.5% pay rise over four years.

# SBS, World News Australia, 07/07/2025, Janice Petersen

The Australian Medical Association is calling for a crackdown on social media influencers promoting gambling online. Researchers and health experts say it's a new trend and are urging the government to introduce reforms.

Report continues on: SBS (Sydney)

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# 2CC, Canberra Live, 07/07/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Australian Medical Association ACT president Dr Kerrie Aust on the rising cases of patients abusing or assaulting hospital staff. Aust says there is an increase in anti-social behaviour targeting healthcare workers across hospitals and medical centres. She says staff should not be subjected to aggression, violence, or verbal abuse while trying to help patients.

# 2GB, Drive, 07/07/2025, Clinton Maynard

Interview with NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association Nepean Hospital branch secretary Alicia Rodgers on their concerns about severe understaffing and resourcing at the hospital. Rodgers says the focus is on problems in the neonatal intensive care and special care nursery. She says Nepean Hospital often exceeds its allocated intensive care and total bed capacity, which puts pressure on staff and affects the care provided to vulnerable patients.

# 3AW, Afternoons, 07/07/2025, Tony Moclair

Interview with Victorian Ambulance Union secretary Danny Hill on concerns about unfilled paramedic shifts. Hill says paramedics often miss meal breaks and finish shifts late, which discourages them from taking on extra work. He says making regular shifts more manageable is key to encouraging extra work. He adds that many paramedics now prioritise rest and time with family over additional shifts.

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 07/07/2025, Steve Austin

The Qld Government is locked in a fiery negotiation with the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union over their next EBA. The Government has offered an 11% pay rise, but the unions want 13% and will take a second round of industrial action tomorrow.

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

Tasmania looks likely to get five new bulk-billed GP clinics, regardless of which major party wins the most seats at the state election. Labor says if elected it would set up five new bulk bill doctors clinics across the state's regions. Separate to existing urgent care clinics, TassieDoc would be for regular doctor's appointments and funded by both Federal and State Governments.

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# MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

## \$153m could save lives

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 08/07/2025, Page 5

Increasing government spending on out-of-hospital mental health services by \$153m a year about \$7.30 per adult per year could lead to 313 fewer suicides, researchers claim. As well as a 10 per cent reduction in deaths, the funding could also prevent 28,151 fewer mental health emergency department

# reduction), researchers from The University of Melbourne and Monash University say.

# Read Plain Text Read More

# ADHD medication shortage forces parents to go underground

visits (a 10 per cent reduction) and 1954 fewer hospitalisations due to self-harm (a 20 per cent

The New Daily, Other, 07/07/2025, Brianna Parkins

Australian families are spending thousands of dollars and years of their lives on waiting lists to get their children help for ADHD. Many are doing everything right, and yet are still being denied access to medication because of shortages across the country.

## Read More

# 2CC, Canberra Live, 07/07/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with University of Melbourne Faculty of Business and Economics research fellow Karinna Saxby on new research showing poorer mental health outcomes in areas with lower Medicare spending. Saxby says the study shows that an extra \$7 per person each year could prevent 300 suicides annually. She adds that directing the funds to preventative and primary care would also lower emergency and hospital-related costs.

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# CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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# HEALTH WORKFORCE

# Blanket PS wage offer unions' goal

The Australian, General News, 08/07/2025, Mackenzie Scott, Page 6

The head of Queensland's union movement has called for the Crisafulli government to make a new blanket wage offer to the entire public service rather than face sector-by-sector negotiations. Nurses and midwives across the state plan to ramp up industrial action from Tuesday after three dozen meetings with the state government failed to result in a new enterprise bargaining agreement, as separate negotiations with Queensland's teachers, firefighters and police continue.

Also reported by: <u>The Australian (Online)</u>

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# Health workers in hefty pay deal

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/07/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 16

Public sector allied health workers have won a landmark pay deal of 13.5 per cent over four years settling one health sector agreement while negotiations continue on others. The agreement is the state's first stand-alone enterprise agreement for workers including psychologists, physiotherapists, radiographers and pharmacists, who voted overwhelmingly to accept the offer.

Also reported by: Adelaide Now (Online)

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# Hospital nurses escalate action for pay rise

Courier Mail, General News, 08/07/2025, Andrew Hedgman, Page 3

Queensland hospitals are bracing for disruption as nurses escalate their campaign for a pay rise, with a new phase of industrial actions to begin today. The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU) has confirmed Stage 2 of its protected industrial action will commence from 7am on July 8, intensifying its campaign for better pay and working conditions.

Also reported by: Cairns Post (Cairns), Toowoomba Chronicle (Toowoomba), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)

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## Labor pledges a local health workforce

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/07/2025, David Killick, Page 7

Labor would prioritise recruiting, training and retaining a homegrown workforce to improve the state's health system, Labor leader Dean Winter says. Mr Winter has announced scholarships for more midwives if his party is elected at the July 19 state election.

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## Key to healthy future

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/07/2025, Page 7

A new state-of-the-art teaching and general hospital is needed to address Tasmania's acute health workforce shortages and poor regional health outcomes, independent candidate for Lyons Phillip Bigg says. "Tasmania is standing on the edge of a slow collapse," he said.

#### Read Plain Text Read More

## Bipartisan support for midwifery diploma at UTAS

Launceston Examiner, General News, 08/07/2025, Page 6

A plan to reinstate a midwifery diploma at the University of Tasmania (UTAS) from 2026 has received bipartisan support. Labor made the announcement yesterday, little more than a week after the Liberals promised that midwives could again be trained in the state, nearly a decade after UTAS paused the program and its intake in 2016.

#### Read Plain Text Read More

### Ask Annie app adds Tell TiNA tool

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/07/2025

Tell TiNA is the latest addition to Dementia Australia's Ask Annie app. The digital tool is designed to identify gaps in knowledge and skills amongst dementia carers so that providers can target their training.

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# TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### 'Reduce trade barriers' to counter tariffs

The Australian, General News, 08/07/2025, Jack Quail & Ben Packham, Page 4

The Albanese government's top economic adviser has urged Labor to respond to Donald Trump's tariff onslaught by doing the exact opposite, arguing the elimination of the nation's remaining trade barriers could save businesses \$4bn in compliance costs a year. [...] The Albanese government has offered the US priority access to Australia's critical minerals but pushed back on US calls to slash the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme or undermine the nation's biosecurity standards to advantage American exporters.

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### Bite more than you can chew: Sim

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

ECPs and pharmacy students are being urged to push themselves to gain broad experience, as they pursue careers in the profession "Bite more than you can chew, and chew like mad," Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) national president, Associate Professor Fei Sim, advises aspiring pharmacists.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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# **BENEFITS INTEGRITY**

#### Rebate for 'fairer and more flexible' fees

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/07/2025, Megan Haggan

AHPRA announces that a 30% rebate on annual renewal fees for practitioners who take parental leave is now in effect as well as applying to those taking parental leave, the rebate is also available to practitioners taking leave on the grounds of a protected attribute, including disability and carers' leave.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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# HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### **\$1.4M grant opportunity for sector**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/07/2025

For the first time, TAFE Centres of Excellence are offering grants, with over \$1 million available for applied research into aged care sector challenges. Queensland's TAFE Centres of Excellence is offering applied research grants to Australian researchers, universities, businesses, organisations, industries and community groups linked to aged care.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

#### Barriers found to transplants

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 08/07/2025, Page 14

To receive a kidney transplant from a deceased donor, patients must undergo a series of tests and medical assessments before they can go on the active waitlist. The National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce has said that while 8 per cent of non-Indigenous dialysis patients were waitlisted, just 2 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients were.

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## Indigenous business driving gains

Burnie Advocate, General News, 08/07/2025, Page 13

A landmark report from Supply Nation found Indigenous businesses create \$42.6 billion of social value each year and allow First Nations people more freedom to live on their own terms. It's leading to better mental health outcomes, more pride among communities and a better connection to culture and Country, the report found.

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## WA government must invest in closing the health gap, back Aboriginalled services

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

Aboriginal health leaders at this year's West Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector Conference in Boorloo/Perth have raised concerns about the lack of investment in implementing the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. In a statement issued Monday, they noted a "disappointing disparity" between the commitment to Closing the Gap by the WA Government in their recent State Budget with what was handed down in New South Wales and Victoria.

Also reported by: National Indigenous Times (Online)

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# 'Stick with it': Greg Inglis leads national mental health push for mob

SBS, Other, 07/07/2025, Ricky Kirby

A powerful new mental health campaign is putting visibility, connection, and culture at the centre of healing – and it's led by NRL great and Dunghutti man Greg Inglis. Launched through his mental health organisation, the Goanna Academy, the Stick With It campaign invites people to write messages of strength, remembrance or hope on sports tape - a small gesture aimed at sparking big conversations.

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## In a burgeoning \$82 million Aussie industry, some are being left behind

SBS, Other, 07/07/2025, Jesmine Cheong & Sandra Fulloon

A Brisbane-based chef is stirring change in the \$80 million native food industry, where only a few Indigenous Australians currently benefit from its growth. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) found First Nations youth are 27 times as likely to be in juvenile detention compared to non-Indigenous children.

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## ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 07/07/2025, Olivia Caisley

Interview with Member for Lingiari Marion Scrymgour on the need for stronger federal oversight and accountability in addressing Indigenous issues. Scrymgour says Aboriginal people have never given up and must continue pushing for government accountability. She argues that despite federal funding, expected outcomes are not being delivered in the Northern Territory. Scrymgour says programs like the NDIS are failing to support Aboriginal people with disabilities in remote communities, with services either being reduced or not reaching those who need them.

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# INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

## Queensland records first fatal case of Hendra virus since 2022

9News, Other, 07/07/2025, Yashee Sharma

Australia has recorded another fatal case of the Hendra virus — a deadly disease that can spread from horses to humans. Hendra virus is a severe and often fatal infection that starts in flying foxes and is more commonly spread to horses.

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## Four in five tots unvaccinated against flu

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/07/2025, Megan Haggan

Pharmacy tapped to help boost flu vaccination rates in children aged under five, as infection rates soar. As of Monday (7 July 2025), community pharmacies in South Australia will be able to offer free flu shots to children aged six months to five years old.

## FIVEAA, Mornings, 07/07/2025, Graeme Goodings

Goodings plays an excerpt of the SA Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton urging South Australians to get the flu vaccine. Picton says many people in Adelaide are currently getting sick with the flu, which can be more severe than a cold. He says young children and older people with chronic conditions are especially at risk, with over 100 young children hospitalised so far this year. He encourages parents to get their kids under five vaccinated, as a free flu shot is available.

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# THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

# Warning 'pillow face' becoming more common in Australia due to accumulation of filler

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/07/2025, Ashleigh Gleeson

Cosmetic injectors and plastic surgeons say they are regularly seeing patients who want filler dissolved or who have developed an issue that's becoming known as "pillow face". [...] Currently in Australia, patients have to trust their chosen injector knows what they are doing due to the Therapeutic Goods Administration imposing strict rules that limit what information can be published on types of filler.

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## TGA calls for stricter vitamin B6 regulation after toxicity reports

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 07/07/2025, Kate Mcilwain

After months of pressure and an increase in the number of people reporting symptoms of B6 poisoning, the Therapeutic Goods Administration last week published several recommendations. Present in thousands of products on the Australian market, including energy drinks, shakes, vitamins and protein powder, too much B6 can cause a condition called peripheral neuropathy, which is usually reversible but may cause permanent damage to people who have been taking it long-term.

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## Ventilation device product correction update

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/07/2025

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised that due to ongoing problems with its A30 and A40 series bi-level positive airway pressure (BiPAP) devices, Philips is now contacting affected customers and patients to organise replacement devices or discuss alternative options.

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

Australians with ADHD are being warned about major shortages of medications like Ritalin and Concerta. The Therapeutic Goods Administration says overseas manufacturers have advised that the supply issues will last until the end of the year. Alternatives are being brought in but may not be subsidised and could cost over \$200 per script.

Similar coverage reported by: NBN Coffs Harbour (Coffs Harbour), NBN Lismore (Lismore).

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# OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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# FOOD STANDARDS

## 6PR, Drive, 07/07/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with paediatric nutritionist Mandy Sacher on concerns about Australia's health star rating system. Sacher calls out the health star rating system, calling it misleading and a failure. She says families are being encouraged to buy ultra-processed snacks that appear healthy due to inflated ratings. She advocates for greater transparency in labelling so people are not misled by claims like high in protein or full of whole grains.

Interview continues on: 6PR (Perth)

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# AICIS

### Expert backs water quality

Northern Territory News, General News, 08/07/2025, Gera Kazakov, Page 11

Faecal contamination in Alice Springs groundwater is no cause for concern, one expert says, while supporting a key recommendation from a report that found "human and animal waste" within the water supply. The latest Alice Springs Water Assessment Report, published in June by the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment, analysed a number of bores and aquifers from which the town drew its water.

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)

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