



# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 9th July 2025

[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](#)  
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)  
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)  
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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that on Wednesday, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the National Boards will release the nation's first official guidelines for the prescribing of medicinal cannabis to crack down on doctors writing thousands of scripts after brief consultations.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that on Wednesday following the failure to reach a wage deal, Queensland nurses and the Crisafulli government will begin independent conciliation before the state's Industrial Relations Commission.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that alternative medicine conglomerate Montu has been accused of running a "slick lobbying machine" and pushing for legal reforms to make it easier for doctors to prescribe medicinal cannabis.
- The **[Herald Sun](#)** (page 9) reports that a new study by St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne suggests treating inflammatory bowel disease in pregnant women could prevent birth complications. The study revealed that using an intestinal ultrasound to track flare-ups of the IBD can predict the risk of serious birth complications in the mother and baby.
- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 7) reports that University of Queensland researchers have discovered a new strategy in the prevention of Nipah and Hendra spreading, with a Chilean alpaca named Pedro potentially holding the key.

- The [\*\*Adelaide Advertiser\*\*](#) (page 1) reports that 43 ambulances queued in carparks this week, with waits up to 25 hours as EDs struggle to cope. "Each day it's getting worse – and we are only in the sixth week of winter. Day in and day out, it is unrelenting demand without supporting resources," SA Salaried Medical Officers Association chief industrial officer Bernadette Mulholland said.
- The [\*\*West Australian\*\*](#) (page 3) reports that in a year, West Australia's poisons hotline has had an 88 per cent increase in individuals seeking help with concerns regarding weight-loss and diabetes medications such as Ozempic.
- [\*\*The Australian\*\*](#) (online) reports that the Therapeutic Goods Administration is recommending new safeguards be put in place for homosalate and oxybenzone in sunscreen and pushing for product reformulations following an independent review.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Three-year high of trainee doctors in regional workforce as model expands

Murray Pioneer, General News, 09/07/2025, Page 27

The number of doctors undertaking GP training in regional areas of South Australia, such as the Riverland, is at a three-year high and will be supported by the major expansion of a new employment model. [...] "The Single Employer Model will help to address one of the biggest health workforce issues in regional and remote areas recruiting and retaining doctors," Minister for Health and Wellbeing Mark Butler said.

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### MP warns changes to NDIS will be harmful

Pilbara News, General News, 09/07/2025, Natasha Clark, Page 2

Member for Durack Melissa Price has hit out at changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, warning new pricing reforms will hurt regional WA practitioners and their clients. [...] Still, Ms Price and the Coalition have written to NDIS Minister Mark Butler, calling for a three-month deferral to allow for proper consultation and planning.

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### IVF heartache as Labor botch leaves Qld families in limbo

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/07/2025, Jackie Sinnerton

Since IVF laws were introduced last year by the Labor government families have been left in limbo in the middle of treatments and fertility companies frozen in a state of confusion. [...] At the recent health ministers forum in Melbourne Federal Health Minister Mark Butler called on every state to carry out a rapid review into the gaps in the industry.

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### New \$20m Ramsay Health Care surgical centre opens in Charlestown

Newcastle Herald, Other, 08/07/2025

A \$20 million surgical centre has opened in Charlestown, boosting access for patients to numerous procedures. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the clinics were "filling the gap between GPs and hospital emergency rooms".

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### Maitland set to launch new Medicare urgent care clinic

Port Stephens Examiner, Other, 08/07/2025

The Federal Government has put its money where its mouth is, making the first move on establishing a Medicare Urgent Care clinic for Maitland. [...] Minister for Health Mark Butler said Medicare Urgent Care Clinics around the country are providing free, timely and high quality care to thousands of Australians.

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## **Calls for 'wild west' of online sperm donation to be regulated due to 'lifelong consequences'**

ABC Online, Other, 08/07/2025, Janelle Miles & Kate McKenna

A leading Australian fertility lawyer is urging governments to regulate the "wild west" of online semen donation, accusing them of being "asleep at the wheel" as women continue to turn to websites and apps to seek donors. [...] She wrote to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on behalf of ANZICA several times in 2023, concerned about the lack of regulation and the need for a national donor conception register.

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## **Labor built Medicare. Its next legacy must be a health system that keeps people well**

Croakey, Other, 08/07/2025

The Australian Social Prescribing Institute of Research and Education (ASPIRE) is calling on the Albanese Government to back three key initiatives as part of its broader Medicare modernisation agenda. [...] With a renewed mandate, a skilled Health Minister in Mark Butler, and a Cabinet that understands the intersection of health, equity, and economic participation, the foundations are in place.

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## **Lobbyists put PBS on Trump hit list**

Pharma In Focus, Other, 08/07/2025

Powerful lobby groups in Washington are urging US President Donald Trump to retaliate against Australian "freeloading" with the pharma industry clearly in the firing line. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has previously conceded that Trump could use tariffs on Australian pharmaceutical exports to the US as a bargaining chip to revamp the PBS.

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## **4CA AM, Breakfast, 08/07/2025, Steve Ahmet**

Statistics show young people are lighting up cigarettes in growing numbers ever since a crackdown on vapes was introduced and has ignited renewed criticism on the Federal Government's attempt to curb e-cigarette use. Recent data reveal more than one in 10 of 18 to 24-year-olds are smoking cigarettes, a 36% spike in less than a year. The figures come despite Health Minister Mark Butler insisting that the Albanese Government's world-leading vaping reforms are working.

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## **ABC Newcastle, Drive, 08/07/2025, Jenny Marchant**

Marchant discusses the planned Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Maitland, noting that both major parties committed to it during the election campaign. She reports that expressions of interest are now open, with Member for Paterson Meryl Swanson and Health Minister Mark Butler confirming the move, aimed at easing pressure on hospitals by offering bulk-billed walk-in care for non-life-threatening emergencies.

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[Back to Top](#)

## **MINISTER MCALLISTER**

### **Mother slams 'dangerous' NDIS, hospital blame game**

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/07/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

Federal NDIS ministers have evaded questions about a 26-year-old Newcastle woman being left in a coma when she didn't need to be. [...] The office of Mark Butler - federal minister for disability and the

NDIS - directed queries on the matter to minister Jenny McAllister.

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## Pricing change concerns raised by NDIS providers

Wangaratta Chronicle, General News, 09/07/2025, Page 4

Independent Federal Member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines is calling on the Federal Government to pause NDIS pricing changes and undertake regional consultation, following a meeting with allied health providers last week. [...] Prior to the changes coming into effect, Dr Haines wrote to the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Senator Jenny McAllister, about her concerns over the pricing changes and requested a meeting to discuss the issues.

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## NDIS cuts strand most vulnerable

Ipswich Tribune, Other, 09/07/2025, Rob Mellett

Michelle Belcher still remembers the call. [...] "I have raised these concerns directly with the Minister for the NDIS, Senator Jenny McAllister," he said.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER RAE

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### Channel 7, Seven News, 08/07/2025, Angela Cox

New virtual menopause health hubs are being rolled out across NSW, allowing women to access care from home. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park says misdiagnosis and undiagnosed cases are a real issue, with a new Medicare rebate now covering menopause assessments. Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White says the changes will make care more affordable and accessible for women.

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[Back to Top](#)

## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

### Prioritising Men's health

North Central Review (Kilmore), General News, 08/07/2025, Page 7

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

### Cries for help over 'Ozempic poisoning'

West Australian, General News, 09/07/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 3

The number of West Australians who have sought help from the State's poisons hotline with concerns about negative effects to weight-loss and diabetes medications such as Ozempic has increased 88 per cent in a year. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care figures are thought to be the result of off-label prescribing by doctors, which occurs when drugs are prescribed to treat conditions other than those approved by the TGA.

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### Stay healthy this winter

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

You don't seem to hear all that much about COVID-19 these days, but that doesn't mean it's yesterday's problem. [...] 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.

Also reported by: [Wyndham Star Weekly \(Melbourne\)](#).

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### Taxpayers hefty bill to send bureaucrats and minsters to climate summit revealed, as Chris Bowen defends use of public funds

Sky News Australia, Other, 08/07/2025, Charlie Tchetchenian

The federal government spent almost \$2 million sending 75 bureaucrats and two ministers to the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Azerbaijan in 2024. [...] A representative from the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority and the Department of Health and Aged Care also jetted to the South Caucasus country.

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### Community transport crucial but underfunded

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 08/07/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Despite the important role community transport services play in providing independence and encouraging social inclusion, a collaborative pilot program between ACTA and UniSA pilot show it is significantly underfunded. [...] 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 AAA Further findings will be released in August at the ACTA 2025 National Community Transport Conference.

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[Back to Top](#)

## VACCINES

### Covid-19 vaccine mandates Qld: Court challenge to proceed after successful appeal

The Courier Mail, Other, 08/07/2025, Patrick Billings

Teachers' and cafe owners' legal challenges to Covid-19 vaccine mandates, thrown out last year, have been reinstated by a court ruling. The lawyer for teachers and cafe owners who had their cases challenging Covid-19 vaccination requirements summarily dismissed is "really happy" that the decision was overturned on appeal.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### New falls prevention guidelines released

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 08/07/2025

GPs are urged to conduct annual screens of older people's risk of falls, following the first update to national guidelines in 16 years. Updated national guidelines aim to reduce the risk of falls in older Australians.

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### Startup launches care and operations software

Community Care Review, Other, 08/07/2025

A new Australian-built all-in-one platform designed to give aged care and disability support providers full visibility and control over their operations has been released for testing and feedback. The platform is called imploy healthcare and comes from the new market entrant of the same name.

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[Back to Top](#)

## DISABILITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Priced out of parenthood

West Australian, General News, 09/07/2025, Dean Smith, Page 42

According to data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1486 fewer babies were born here in 2024 than in 2023. The ABS also reveals WA's total fertility rate reached a record low of 1.57 babies per woman over the same period.

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### History repeats

Cairns Post, General News, 09/07/2025, Page 16

"Shocking smoking statistics which show young people are lighting up cigarettes in growing numbers ever since a crackdown on vapes was introduced..." (Vape crackdown fail as more young Aussies light up, 08/07). The parallels between Australia's anti-vape crusade and the US antialcohol hysteria of the 1920s are uncanny.

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### Boozing is not our trade now

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 09/07/2025, Taylor Penny, Page 6

Gen Z guys are ditching drinking and embracing a sober, healthy lifestyle at a higher rate than girls, experts say, with some unlikely suspects taking on the teetotal life by the reins. [...] Statistics from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, National Drug Strategy Household Survey 20222023 found that risky drinking males have been slowly declining since 2019, from 47 to 45 per cent.

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### So many benefits from the dry spell

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 09/07/2025, Taylor Penny, Page 7

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 Medical Association Public Health Committee, Dr Micheal Bonning, said because alcohol "acts as a depressant", it can have numerous negative effects on mental functioning.

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## 'Vaping is a gateway into smoking': tobacco wars enter tough new era

Newcastle Herald, Other, 08/07/2025

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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## The hidden health tax for those living outside Australia's major cities: 'A big strain'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 08/07/2025, Joe Attanasio

An Australian business owner who was recently diagnosed with an aggressive type of throat cancer is calling for better accessibility to healthcare for those living outside the nation's major cities, and greater awareness when it comes to treatment plans and insurance. [...] According to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), people living in rural and remote areas have higher rates of hospitalisations, deaths, and injury compared to those in major cities.

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## WA research identifies root cause of tooth decay in kids

Bite Magazine, Other, 09/07/2025

A lack of oral health literacy among caregivers and access to dental services is driving tooth decay in young children research from Edith Cowan University (ECU) has confirmed, with early childhood tooth decay affecting nearly half of Australian preschool aged children. ECU senior lecturer Dr Ruth Wallace said that if left untreated, cavities and tooth decay can impact children's quality of life, causing acute pain, sepsis and tooth loss, which can impact both feeding and speech development.

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[Back to Top](#)

# CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

## 230k cancer lives saved

Herald Sun, General News, 09/07/2025, Blair Jackson, Page 22

More than 230,000 deaths have been prevented by Australian cancer-control measures over the past six decades, new research shows. A study published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health today points to anti-smoking campaigns and breast cancer screenings, in particular, as saving thousands of lives.

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

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## Violence rife in hospital dementia unit

Courier Mail, General News, 09/07/2025, Alex Treacy, Page 12

A hospital unit on the Gold Coast that housed patients with complex needs such as dementia saw a "high number" of violent episodes in the lead-up to a retired policeman being bashed to death by a fellow patient, a court has been told. Kevin Farr, a respected policeman aged in his sixties, died on October 9, 2023, a day after being assaulted by Robert Hunter, 77, at Robina Hospital's 20-bed Complex Management Unit (CMU).

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## Patients would flock to our natural healing

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/07/2025, Andy Flies, Page 22

Making Tasmania a destination for medical training would prevent and cure many ills, writes Dr Andy Flies Growing up in a small farming community near Rochester, Minnesota, in the US, the Mayo Clinic was a source of pride for many people in the region. The Mayo Clinic has been ranked as one of the best hospitals in the US, since 1990, and the best hospital in the world for the past seven years.

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## Saving cancer lives

Northern Territory News, General News, 09/07/2025, Page 11

Cancer control measures have prevented 230,000 deaths in Australia since 1950. With 65 per cent of avoided deaths occurring in the study's final 10 years (2009-2018), that shows progress in the cancer fight has accelerated, Cancer Council Victoria says.

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## Fresh air, fine wine, more money: the pitch to bring GPs to 'God's country'

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 09/07/2025, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 13

Half a million Australians live in "GP deserts", receiving 40 per cent fewer services per person than the national average, according to research by the Grattan Institute. With poorer access to check-ups, screening and medication, the burden of chronic disease is higher in rural and remote areas and life expectancy is shorter.

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## Truth about spike in early-onset cancers

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 09/07/2025, Page 6

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

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## Do you qualify for the new lung cancer screening?

The Australian, Other, 08/07/2025, Michael Gannon

Lung cancer remains a leading cause of death in Australia, despite the huge advances we have made in reducing the prevalence of cigarette smoking. Screening programs are effective only where the test is safe and cost-effective, and early detection leads to more effective treatment options and improved outcomes for patients.

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## How to check your eligibility for early cancer screening programs

ABC Online, Other, 08/07/2025, Georgie Hewson

Data provided to Four Corners by Cancer Australia has painted a concerning picture for young Australians. Between the years 2000 and 2024 — in 30–39-year-olds — early onset prostate, pancreatic, liver, uterine and kidney cancer diagnoses increased dramatically in varying percentages.

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## Cancer rates are rising for generation X and millennials. What can we do about it?

ABC Online, Other, 08/07/2025, Norman Swan

A disturbing generational shift appears to be underway in the rates of cancer in people in their 30s and 40s. Cancers that have always been far more prevalent in older people are now affecting younger people in higher and higher rates. This increased risk is likely to follow them for the rest of their lives.

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## **Low FODMAP diet can ease symptoms of those with endometriosis, study finds**

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 08/07/2025, Anmj Staff

A low fodmap diet developed by Monash University researchers for irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) has been shown to improve gastrointestinal symptoms in women with endometriosis, a new study has revealed. Sixty percent of study participants responded to the Low FODMAP Diet (LFD), compared to 26% who responded to a control diet based on Australian Dietary Guidelines.

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## **Are chemicals to blame for cancer in young people? Here's what the evidence says**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 08/07/2025

Cancer is traditionally known as a disease affecting mostly older people. [...] A microbiologist explains Sarah Diepstraten receives funding from Cure Cancer Australia and My Room Children's Cancer Charity.

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## **Channel 10, 10 News, 08/07/2025**

A Monash University study has found men with high levels of belly fat have a 29% higher risk of developing dementia. Researchers say abdominal obesity, linked to inflammation, cardiovascular disease and diabetes, may be a key risk factor—especially for men. Dementia Australia warns that without greater focus on brain health, dementia cases could double in the next 20 years.

Continuing on: [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#).

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 08/07/2025, Angela Cox**

Monash University researchers have found men with more belly fat are at greater risk of dementia. The study showed leaner men had a 38% lower risk of Alzheimer's, and more muscle was linked to better cognition in later life.

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## **Channel 9, Nine News, 08/07/2025**

Monash University researchers have found that men with high levels of belly fat are at greater risk of developing dementia. The study of 17,000 older men also found those with higher lean body mass had a 38% lower risk.

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## **4BC, Afternoons, 08/07/2025, Carla Bignasca**

Interview with Monash University professor Joanne Ryan about the link between body fat and brain health. Ryan discusses findings from a study of over 17,000 Australians aged 65+, which found that abdominal fat in men is linked to a higher risk of dementia, while greater overall fat and muscle mass may lower dementia risk. She emphasises the importance of a balanced, healthy lifestyle and maintaining lean muscle.

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## **FIVEAA, Mornings, 08/07/2025, Graeme Goodings**

Interview with Monash University professor Joanne Ryan about the link between abdominal obesity and dementia. Ryan discusses findings from a study which tracked over 17,000 people and found that men with increased belly fat had a higher risk of developing dementia. She explains the connection may be due to increased inflammation and associated health conditions, and encourages a healthy lifestyle to reduce dementia risk.

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[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Hospitals' worst night on record

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/07/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 1

Huge ambulance ramping delays and grim warning it will get worse Ambulance patients are waiting up to 25 hours to get into hospital as paramedic crews spend their entire 12-hour shifts on the ramp with one patient with grim warnings things are getting worse. This week there have been up to 43 ambulances queued in carparks as EDs struggle to cope, and at times there have been almost 440 patients being treated despite there being just 333 official ED beds across the metropolitan system beleived to be a record.

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

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### Ghost of election past haunts health

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 09/07/2025, Page 18

There has been a lot of talk, a lot of money spent, to bring us to this ramping is about as bad as it has ever been and predictions are it will only get worse. Monday night was possibly the worst the hospital system has ever experienced in terms of numbers of patients compared to numbers of ED spaces available.

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### Albo in state health pitch

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/07/2025, David Killick, Page 6

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has talked up federal Labor's credentials in boosting access to primary healthcare during a visit to a Hobart urgent care clinic. Mr Albanese dropped in to the Liverpool St clinic with state Labor leader Dean Winter on Tuesday, noting that more than 100,000 people had visited the clinics in Tasmania since they opened.

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

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### Fresh fears for hospital

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 09/07/2025, Paul Weston, Page 13

The State Government is being urged to not hit the pause button on the Coomera Hospital build as Queensland faces a shortage of both construction workers and nurses. July data from Infrastructure Australia Data shows that, as of July, about 83,300 workers are needed for projects across the state with only 42,200 tradies available.

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### Worrying diagnosis for free GP plan

Launceston Examiner, General News, 09/07/2025, Matt Maloney, Page 1

A policy to provide five bulk-billing general practitioner clinics around the state risks going unfilled due to the state's recruitment challenges, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners says. Labor recently announced its TassieDoc initiative which will place four full-time equivalent doctors at each clinic who will bulk-bill all appointments through Medicare.

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### Neurologist launches pilot program for Mt Isa children

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 09/07/2025, Daneka Hill, Page 10

After noticing nearly 50 per cent of her outback patientsall children - were missing their appointments, a doctor has decided to go to them instead, creating a new electroencephalogram (EEG) program in Mount Isa. The Australian-first rural pilot program is being run in collaboration with the Townsville Hospital and Health Service and the North West Hospital and Health Service at Mount Isa Hospital.

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## **‘Underfunded’ palliative care gets \$3m boost with extra beds for end-of-life patients**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/07/2025, Thomas Sargeant

A \$3 million funding boost is set to provide additional beds in south western Sydney, easing pressure on what experts describe as a 'costly and unglamorous' but critical service. Vulnerable patients in south western Sydney will receive a \$3 million boost from the Minns government for end-of-life care - a pledge that follows its earlier decision to strip \$249 million from broader palliative care services.

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## **Violence has no place in hospitals**

Canberra Times, Other, 08/07/2025

The alarming increase in the level of abuse, intimidation, and physical assaults experienced by workers at Canberra Hospital has not happened in isolation. Victoria's public hospitals recorded more than 20,000 violent incidents in 2023-2024.

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## **Coomera Hospital build on pause button while State faces worker and nurse shortage**

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 08/07/2025, Paul Weston

The State Government is being urged to not hit the pause button on the Coomera Hospital build as Queensland faces a shortage of both construction workers and nurses. July data from Infrastructure Australia Data shows about 83,300 workers are needed for projects across the state with only 42,200 tradies available.

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## **Payroll tax driving up GP costs despite bulk-billing carve outs, doctors warn**

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/07/2025, Ciara Seccombe

GP practices are prioritising short consults to maximise revenue in the face of payroll tax, says the AMA SA president. [...] However, since the SA system took effect a year ago, some GP practice owners had reported raising fees by \$10-\$25 for a non-concessional standard consult, according to AMA SA president Associate Professor Peter Subramaniam.

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## **‘There was a deep feeling in my soul that it was wrong’: Portraits of Australia's VAD doctors**

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/07/2025, Carmel Sparke

Six years after it was first legalised in Victoria, here we publish portraits of the people involved — the doctors, nurses, patients and their families — captured by photographer Julian Kingma. Their stories include those doctors who have championed voluntary assisted dying (VAD) but found themselves confronting the tough realities of saying goodbye to those they love.

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## **2CC, Breakfast, 08/07/2025**

Reports of hospital patients abusing or assaulting Canberra Hospital emergency department staff are rising at an alarming rate. Emergency department staff reported 168 such incidents in 2024-25.

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## **2CC, Breakfast, 08/07/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo**

Cenatiempo discusses the ACT Government's proposed law requiring dog owners to spend a minimum of three hours a day with their pets, criticising it as an example of misplaced priorities. He questions how such a law could be enforced and contrasts it with the government's failure to address serious issues like the under-resourced health system, highlighting a rise in assaults on Canberra Hospital emergency department staff.

## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 08/07/2025

Ten interventional radiologists at Westmead Hospital have withdrawn their resignations after meeting with NSW Health. The doctors had planned to quit over concerns about outdated equipment, staffing and pay. The state's health minister says the dispute reflects a breakdown in communication between doctors and hospital executives.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Spending just \$7 extra per person could prevent 300 suicides a year, study shows

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/07/2025, Karinna Saxby

Melbourne researchers argue \$153 million a year on mental health services in low-income and rural areas could save lives. Medicare spending on mental health services varies considerably depending on where in Australia you live, our new study shows We found areas with lower Medicare spending on out-of-hospital mental health services had poorer mental health outcomes, including more suicides.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Nurses refuse to make beds as pay fight rages

The Australian, General News, 09/07/2025, Sarah Elks, Page 7

Queensland nurses and the Crisafulli government will begin independent conciliation before the state's Industrial Relations Commission on Wednesday after they failed to reach a wage deal despite 167 days of negotiations. Nurses in public hospitals stepped up industrial action on Tuesday, refusing to make beds, fill out non-clinical forms, attend non-essential meetings or deliver meals.

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

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### Nurses strike for fair wages

Cairns Post, General News, 09/07/2025, Andrew Hedgman, Page 5

Thousands of nurses and midwives across Queensland have escalated their campaign for fair wages and conditions, with Stage 2 of protected industrial action officially underway. The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union has confirmed members across all Queensland Health facilities will participate in targeted action, stepping back from a range of non-clinical duties while continuing to prioritise direct patient care.

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

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### Cuba could treat shortage

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/07/2025, Page 19

Australia has a shortage of doctors, and waiting lists keep getting longer. Has any thought been given to temporarily bridging the gap by offering positions to surplus doctors from Cuba?

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## Nurses refuse overtime, stop emptying bins as wages fight escalates

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/07/2025, Courtney Kruk

Queensland nurses and midwives are ready to walk off the job, as frontline workers take action to secure better wages and working conditions for the first time in more than 20 years. On Tuesday morning, up to 48,000 unionised Queensland Health nurses and midwives launched stage 2 protected industrial action, including refusing overtime without four hours' notice and completing tasks such as logging patient details, emptying bins and making beds.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Nursing Review \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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## Wounds Australia hosts NT masterclasses after identifying 'disturbing' knowledge gap

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 08/07/2025, Lottie Hood

After conducting new research, Wounds Australia has been helping spread awareness and equip NT clinicians on wound care. Lottie Hood Territorians and health professionals are being encouraged to take wound care and moisturising seriously after a new report found "alarming" gaps in knowledge.

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

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## Number of GPs in rural and remote WA surpass 1000 for the first time, Mid West records 8.2% increase

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 09/07/2025, Josephine Hingst

The number of general practitioners working in rural and remote WA has surpassed the 1000 mark for the first time, with the Mid West seeing a substantial increase. Recorded in Rural Health West's newest rural GP workforce report, 1009 GPs were noted as working in rural and remote areas as of November 30, 2024, a 5.8 per cent increase from the previous year (954 in 2023).

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## Nurses and midwives taking parental leave now eligible for 30% renewal fee rebate

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 08/07/2025, Robert Fedele

Practitioners including nurses and midwives who take parental and other types of leave can apply for a 30% rebate on their renewal fees under a new Ahpra relief policy now in effect. The 30% rebate is available for health practitioners who are renewing their registration after taking leave for at least six months on the grounds of a protected attribute, which includes parental leave, disability or status as a carer.

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## 4BC, Drive, 08/07/2025, Jason Matthews

Matthews discusses the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union's industrial action, expressing strong support for their call for a 13% pay rise over three years, which he argues is only a modest increase over the government's 11% offer. He praises the dedication of nurses, noting their continued focus on patient care despite stepping back from non-clinical duties.

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## 4BC, Afternoons, 08/07/2025, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Queensland Council of Unions general secretary Jacqueline King about public sector wage negotiations. King discusses the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union's industrial action and warns that similar action could spread across other sectors if a fair, central wage deal isn't reached.

She calls for a base-level increase for all public servants to address cost-of-living pressures and skill shortages.

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 08/07/2025, Kelly Higgins-Devine

The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union has ramped up its industrial action amid a pay dispute with the Qld Government. Nurses are pushing for a 13% wage rise over three years, but the Government has offered 11%.

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 08/07/2025

The standoff between the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union and the state government is set to escalate this morning as workers begin ramping up industrial action from 7am. The action could affect patient admissions, stock management, and bed making. It follows the union's rejection of the 11% pay rise offer, with nurses demanding a 13% increase over three years.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Risks at birth could be reduced

Herald Sun, General News, 09/07/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 9

World-first Melbourne research suggests treating a common chronic illness experienced during pregnancy can prevent serious birth complications. Women who have inflammatory bowel disease and fall pregnant are at higher risk of maternal complications, such as premature birth and preeclampsia.

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

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### **Royal Perth Hospital co-named Noongar phrase 'Walbirring Karlup', meaning 'healing place'**

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 08/07/2025, Jessica Evensen

Royal Perth Hospital has been co-named Walbirring Karlup, a Noongar phrase meaning "healing place" or "place that brings good health". The hospital on Tuesday said it had been given its new name as part of NAIDOC Week, following extensive consultation with more than a dozen First Nations people.

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### **'I'm dreading birthing in such a system': what Indigenous women globally think of birth care and what they'd like to see instead**

Nursing Review, Other, 08/07/2025, Nina Sivertsen, Tahlia Johnson & Susan Elizabeth Smith

Pregnancy and having a baby can be a special time. And families want to feel safe and trust their maternity care. But when we reviewed the evidence, we found many Indigenous families globally face unfair treatment during pregnancy and birth.

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[Back to Top](#)

## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### **Pedro the alpaca to rescue**

Courier Mail, General News, 09/07/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 7

A Chilean alpaca named Pedro could hold the key to fighting two deadly bat-borne viruses - including Hendra - in a breakthrough by a team of Queensland researchers. The discovery by University of Queensland researchers is a new strategy in preventing the spread of Nipah and Hendra viruses, which have been contracted by people from animals in Asia and Australia and there is no approved human vaccine or cure for.

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

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### **Hope to beat viruses**

Northern Territory News, General News, 09/07/2025, Page 11

Potential antibody treatment for the deadly Nipah and Hendra viruses has been developed by Australian experts and shown promise in early laboratory studies. There are no approved human vaccines or therapeutics for the viruses, in part because they are known to frequently mutate, leading to the development of resistance.

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### **Queensland racing, campdrafting events to continue after Hendra detection**

ABC Online, Other, 08/07/2025, Brandon Long

Queensland's first case of the deadly Hendra virus in three years has reignited calls to lift vaccination rates as the state moves into its peak horse sport season. An unvaccinated horse in the state's south-east died last week after contracting the virus, which is spread from flying foxes to horses and can then pass to humans and dogs.

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### **Australia battling through severe flu season**

Australia's flu season has started hard and fast with a significant surge in influenza cases and hospitalisations. Flu deaths have also risen by almost 40 per cent in the first three months of 2025 compared to the same period last year.

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## RSV vaccine warning after dozens of patients given wrong products

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/07/2025, Jamie Thannoo

Children have received adult RSV vaccines and adult women have received a monoclonal antibody indicated for infants in a series of RSV immunisation mix-ups, health officials warn. The WA Department of Health told AusDoc that 13 doses of RSV immunisation products were delivered incorrectly between 6 February and 12 June 2025 — a 0.07% error rate — although no adverse events were reported.

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## Data registry funds plea in fight against MND

Daily Liberal, Other, 08/07/2025, 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.

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## SA pharmacists can give u5s free flu vax

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/07/2025

Parents in South Australia can now take their children aged six months to five years to pharmacies to get their free flu shot under the National Immunisation Program (NIP). As of this week, the state government will provide pharmacists with the free child-specific flu vaccine and also cover any service fees.

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[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Sunscreen safeguards instituted amid SPF protection review

The Australian, Other, 08/07/2025, James Dowling

Australia's medical product regulator is recommending new safeguards for two common sunscreen ingredients, pushing for product reformulations amid a separate scandal over independent research that rocked confidence in the accuracy of SPF ratings. The Therapeutic Goods Administration issued a memo on Tuesday saying it had finished a review of Australian sunscreens and would push safeguards for two common ingredients, and a by-product.

Also reported by: [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

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### Warning raised of possible fatal side effect of GLP-1 drugs like Ozempic

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/07/2025

There's no doubt that GLP-1 drugs like Ozempic have been revolutionary — although the benefits do sometimes come with some unsightly downsides such as tooth decay, a droopy face or mouth, a saggy butt and hair loss. [...] In Australia, Ozempic is only approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to be prescribed to people with type 2 diabetes to help with lowering blood sugar.

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[Back to Top](#)



Crackdown on cannabis

The Australian, General News, 09/07/2025, Penny Timms, Page 1

The medical watchdog is cracking down on doctors writing thousands of scripts a month for medicinal cannabis, with consultations lasting seconds, prescribing to children, and to patients who just ask for the drug. In an attempt to rein in a booming industry based on huge numbers of scripts written for products that have not been tested for efficacy, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency will release the first guidelines for prescribing medicinal cannabis.

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Firm a 'slick lobbying machine'

The Australian, General News, 09/07/2025, James Dowling, Page 7

Australia's biggest medicinal cannabis corporation has been accused of running a "slick lobbying machine", comparable to big tobacco, pushing for legal reforms to make it easier for doctors to prescribe the drug. Alternative medicine conglomerate Montu, the parent company of prescribing platform Alterna-leaf a brand so big it once controversially sponsored the Dolphins team in the National Rugby League is already in a legal dispute with medicine regulator the Therapeutic Goods Administration over advertising of cannabis.

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'Profits over patient safety': Medicinal cannabis crackdown

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/07/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 3

Patients in emergency departments with cannabis-induced psychosis, consults lasting less than a minute, and doctors who have issued more than 10,000 scripts in six months are among the cases that have prompted Australia's alarmed healthcare watchdog to announce clearer guidelines for the booming medicinal cannabis industry. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) yesterday released guidance for doctors prescribing medicinal cannabis products amid what it described as poor prescribing practice and surging patient demand.

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

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[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

Health Check: Dental supplier faces the hard tooth that amalgam fillings are on the way out

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 08/07/2025, Tim Boreham

Veteran dental materials supplier SDI (ASX:SDI) has flagged soft numbers for the 2024-25 year, mainly because the world is phasing out amalgam filling material that contains mercury. With pre-reporting results due out on August 28, SDI said revenue for the year to June would come in at \$111 million, 0.2% lower than the previous year.

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[Back to Top](#)

