



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 14th 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](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that some patients that are refused access to the Victorian voluntary assisted dying scheme have refused food and water to accelerate the death process, coming as permits issued for VAD rose by 50 per cent from 2021-22 to 2023-24.
- **[The Australian \(page 2\)](#)** reports that a joint investigation between the AFP, Austrac and the Therapeutic Goods Administration has led to the closure of the Wenyun Yan's digital vape marketplace ivapeman.com, with the TGA also investigating wholesale distribution to tobacconists across Sydney.
- The **[Hobart Mercury \(page 2\)](#)** reports that the Therapeutics Goods Administration has seized two batches of counterfeit Botox at the border, with the TGA investigating further.
- The **[Herald Sun \(page 3\)](#)** reports that a \$2.2 million Victorian Government immunisation program for respiratory syncytial virus will be available for public sector residential or Aboriginal community-controlled aged care services in the state.
- **[The Age \(page 5\)](#)** reports that the Victorian Office of the Public Advocate has found that delays, unscrupulous operators and weak safeguards in the National Disability Insurance Scheme have pushed participants into extended guardianships.
- The **[Herald Sun \(page 6\)](#)** reports that a study by the Burnet Institute has found that administering vaccinations during emergency outbreaks of diseases such as cholera, ebola and measles reduce deaths from illness by up to 60 per cent.

- The [Adelaide Advertiser \(page 8\)](#) reports that an inspection by the SA Salaried Medical Officers Association has found that 131 patients in South Australia were warehoused in emergency departments as they awaited ward beds, with one patient at Lyell McEwin Hospital waiting in an emergency department for up to 72 hours.

MINISTER BUTLER

Butler's vape ban may lead to worse outcomes

Herald Sun, General News, 14/07/2025, James Campbell, Page 27

A year ago, Health Minister Mark Butler was busy doing the rounds of television and radio studios boasting about how his ban on recreational vapes was paying dividends.

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A time for clarity and commitment: Navigating the transition to the new Aged Care Act

Catholic Health Australia, Other, 14/07/2025

[...] For Catholic Health Australia and our members, this decision – announced by Ministers Mark Butler and Sam Rae in early June – was a welcome and important recognition of the real-world challenges facing both providers and the older Australians we serve.

[Read More](#)

Nationals concerned about NDIS changes for regional NSW

Gilgandra Weekly, Other, 13/07/2025

[...] "The Coalition has written to the Minister for Disability and the NDIS, the Hon Mark Butler MP, calling on the government to defer these changes for at least three months.

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Health goals still in focus at Weddin

Young Witness, Other, 13/07/2025, Brendan McCool

[...] "I will continue to lobby the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, as well as the Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride on behalf of the Grenfell and wider Weddin community to help deliver better health facilities for the region."

Also reported by: [Parkes Champion-Post \(Online\)](#).

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

A time for clarity and commitment: Navigating the transition to the new Aged Care Act

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

More staff to help young people

Daily Advertiser, General News, 14/07/2025, Kabel Dawes, Page 5

[...] Dobell MP Emma McBride, who is assistant minister for rural and regional health, visited the service's Peter Street site to make the announcement on Friday, July 11.

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[...] "I will continue to lobby the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, as well as the Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride on behalf of the Grenfell and wider Weddin community to help deliver better health facilities for the region."

Also reported by: [Parkes Champion-Post \(Online\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Boon for boutique firm

Canberra Times, General News, 14/07/2025, Eleanor Campbell, Page 1

[...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing topped the list, with \$50 million worth of contracts for outsourced advice.

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How a common childhood illness became a death sentence

Broome Advertiser, Other, 13/07/2025, Malin Hagglund

[...] The Australian Government's Department of Health, Disability and Ageing says there is no antiviral treatment — drugs which can ease symptoms and slow a disease but are not a cure — for SSPE.

[Read More](#)

NACCHO sector news: 11 July 2025

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Other, 13/07/2025

[...] A \$4.8 million investment from the Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation has been matched by the federal government — through the Aboriginal Benefits Account — to improve health outcomes for Yol?

VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Free shots for elderly

Herald Sun, General News, 14/07/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 3

Victorians in public aged care homes will receive a free RSV vaccine in a national first.

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Four key paths to dementia unlocked

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/07/2025, Shoba Rao, Page 9

Researchers have identified four ways of developing dementia, which could change how doctors detect and treat the disease.

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Do you have someone to call during a personal crisis? Many in Darwin and Katherine don't

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/07/2025, Lottie Hood

One in five Australians over the age of 65 say they experience loneliness often or all the time and this is even worse in the Top End.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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These aged care residents in Melbourne were given a rare glimpse of ancient Greece

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2025, Nate Woodall

Greek elders are sat around a table, listening intently as two volunteers sing the oldest surviving complete musical composition in the world.

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DISABILITY

Watchdog concern on guardianship delays

Age, General News, 14/07/2025, Grant McArthur and Broede Carmody, Page 5

Some of Victoria's most vulnerable are increasingly lingering under state guardianship meant as a last resort because of failings in the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the sector's watchdog says in a scathing assessment of the system.

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Be kind: the APS's new challenge

Canberra Times, General News, 14/07/2025, Jennifer Smith-Merry, Page 15

When Labor was re-elected in May, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese used his acceptance speech to

describe the type of country he wanted to lead.

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Pitfall cripples NDIS support

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 14/07/2025, Josh Mercer, Page 3

Millions of dollars in NDIS funding are going to waste in the state's north, with a new report revealing that barriers to access vital services are crippling NDIS support across the region.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 13/07/2025, Thomas Oriti and Kathryn Robinson

Interview with Disability Leadership Institute CEO Christina Ryan, criticising recent changes to the NDIS. She notes how the scheme remains relatively complex and difficult to navigate despite several regulatory changes. Ryan says the scheme continues to fail its users, especially disabled women. She believes the scheme's disconnect with reality stems from its non-disabled leadership.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Geelong hurting badly

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/07/2025, Olivia Shying, Page 1

A surge in GHB-related ambulance attendances has put Greater Geelong on the map as a regional hotspot for the potent drug, with one researcher calling for a fixed drug-testing site to ease pressure on local emergency departments.

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Health minister under fire despite \$83 million investment

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 14/07/2025, Jonathan Hawes, Page 3

The state's health minister has defended his government's efforts to fix the rural and regional maternity care crisis, but Tamworth's MP says recent budget announcements are little more than "smoke and mirrors".

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Gender equity: why do men die younger? It's so unfair

Canberra Times, Other, 13/07/2025, Steve Evans

[...] First, the facts: the government's Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported a month ago that a boy born now can expect to live until he is 81 and a girl until she is 85.

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'Oblivion': Graph shows truth we all missed

NEWS.com.au, Other, 13/07/2025, Tarric Brooker

[...] In terms of a breakdown by age demographic, figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reveal what proportion of households were homeowners, starting with Australians born 1947 to 1951 at the 1976 census.

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

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Clinicians' discretion to contact patients' at-risk relatives about their genetic risk: new guidance from Australia's privacy regulator provides timely clarification

Genetic risk information is relevant not just for individuals who are tested, but also for their blood relatives. Cascade genetic testing of at-risk relatives can save lives.

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A missing link in paediatric equity: healthcare Gold Card for children in care

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/07/2025

After decades of working with vulnerable children and families, I continue to be confronted by the same truth: the children who need health care most often have the hardest time accessing it.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Exercise trial in cancer recovery

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/07/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 4

A tailor-made exercise program for patients recovering from cancer hopes to shed light on a common and debilitating but often unspoken issue-facing survivors.

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

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Alcohol link to cancer warning

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/07/2025, Thomas Henry, Page 4

[...] Buoyed by the move, the Cancer Council of Australia is ramping up its efforts to convince the Albanese government of the merits of such labelling.

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

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Twice-weekly exercise plan can reduce arthritis pain in less than two months

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/07/2025, Ethan Ennals

Researchers have developed an exercise routine which can reduce agonising arthritis pain in less than two months.

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Light pollution from street lamps at night could increase risk of heart disease

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/07/2025, Meike Leonard

Exposure to light at night, from electronic devices, street lamps or poorly drawn curtains, is never good for your sleep.

[Read More](#)

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

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/07/2025

Cancer is traditionally known as a disease affecting mostly older people. But some worrying trends show cancer rates in younger people aged under 50 are on the rise.

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Interview with Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute endocrinologist Dr Natalie Nanayakkara, explaining how GLP-1 receptor agonists like Ozempic work by mimicking gut hormones to reduce appetite, regulate blood sugar, and aid weight loss. Although the use of Ozempic beyond its original diabetes management application is tolerated, Dr Nanayakkara cautioned against gastrointestinal side effects and, in rare cases, increase risks of pancreatitis, gallstones, and certain eye conditions.

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2GB, Healthy Living, 13/07/2025, Dr Ross Walker and Ned Green

Interview with Monash University honorary fellow Dr Jaideep Singh, discussing new research showing how oestrogen can help protect women with high blood pressure from heart disease. The study found that oestrogen can increase levels of a protective protein called annexin A1. Dr Singh hopes the study can lead to more targeted therapies, especially among post-menopausal women and men.

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2GB, Weekends, 13/07/2025, Trent Nikolic

Interview with Cancer Institute of NSW acting director of screening & prevention Matthew Warner-Smith, expressing concern over new data showing that more than a quarter of Australians aged 18 to 24 had been sunburned recently, with 70% of them wanting to be tanned. He stresses that there is no safe way to tan as any tanning is skin damage and a major risk factor for melanoma. Warner-Smith warned of the dangers of promoting tanning on social media.

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PRIMARY CARE

Hospital wait hell

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/07/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 8

Patients are spending three days or more stuck in hospital emergency departments after treatment waiting for a ward bed, a snap inspection by the doctors' union has found.

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'It's not the death I would have preferred'

Age, General News, 14/07/2025, Henrietta Cook, Page 1

When Glenn Mack was knocked back from Victoria's voluntary assisted dying scheme, he chose to end his life by refusing food and water.

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Time to get into a healthier State

West Australian, General News, 14/07/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 16

As a psychiatrist, new president of the Australian Medical Association WA Kyle Hoath is acutely aware of the shortage of mental health workers in the public system.

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Residents to rally again in campaign for a single-site hospital

Border Mail, General News, 14/07/2025, Ted Howes, Page 3

A rally at Corryong will be held next month to continue the push for a single-site hospital on the Border.

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Residents to rally again in regional campaign for a single-site hospital

Border Mail, General News, 14/07/2025, Page 11

Residents to rally again in regional campaign for a single-site hospital Well done to Towong Shire for continuing the call for adequate funding and services for our community.

'Underdog' doubles down

Burnie Advocate, General News, 14/07/2025, Sarah Fittock, Page 1

Speaking at the party's campaign launch in Devonport yesterday, leader Dean Winter said Labor would double its commitment of five fully bulk-billed GP clinics.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#)

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Patients stuck 'up to three days' in SA EDs waiting for a bed as winter health crisis continues

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/07/2025, Brad Crouch

Dozens of patients are currently languishing in SA's emergency departments, with some waiting up to 72 hours for a bed, the union has found.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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Tasmanian Labor officially launches election campaign week before snap poll

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2025

The Tasmanian Labor Party has pledged to double the number of free GP clinics it will open, if elected into government at next weekend's snap poll.

[Read More](#)

Public-private pain: buying back Sydney's embattled Northern Beaches hospital faces uncertain prognosis

The Guardian, Other, 13/07/2025, Anne Davies

Just before the New South Wales parliament rose for the winter break, an unusual piece of legislation passed through both chambers late in the evening. It aimed to strengthen the arm of the Minns government in its negotiations to return the Northern Beaches hospital (NBH) to public ownership by threatening changes to the terms of the contract with its private partner, Healthscope.

[Read More](#)

Social media for doctors: your posts should reflect your judgement, not your stream of consciousness

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/07/2025

In 2025, more doctors than ever are using social media. Although most have good intentions, some fall into avoidable traps that subtly erode professionalism and public trust.

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The law is now clearer about clinicians' discretion to tell our patients' relatives about their genetic risk

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/07/2025

New guidance from Australia's national privacy regulator clarifies clinicians' discretion to contact a patient's at-risk relatives directly about serious genetic risk.

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Health services research as a frontline service

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/07/2025

Health services research must become a frontline service in Australian health care, to provide prompt solutions to pressing system-wide problems.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Bub help program gets chop

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/07/2025, Olivia Shying, Page 1

[...] "New parents will now have to rely on our already overstretched universal maternal child health nurses for support, placing further strain on the system, with likely flow-on effects including increased mental health issues, family violence, and a surge in referrals to the city's enhanced maternal child health service," he said.

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Liberals promise better support for struggling mums

Burnie Advocate, General News, 14/07/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 4

A partnership with a charity that helps support the emotional health and wellbeing of parents caps off the Liberal Party's women's health policy agenda, as it seeks a majority government.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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Work takes toll on young

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 14/07/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 5

Millennials' mental health has reached an all-time low, with more young workers than ever before making the drastic decision to leave the workforce for good.

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2GB, Healthy Living, 13/07/2025, Dr Ross Walker and Ned Green

Compere Dr Ross Walker discusses promising new research from the University of Oxford suggesting that the Parkinson's drug pramipexole may be effective in treating treatment-resistant depression. The study, involving 150 non-Parkinson patients, showed the drug delivered significant benefits within 12 weeks despite 20% of subjects reporting side effects like nausea, dizziness, and sleep issues. Dr Walker highlighted that depression is a medical condition, not just psychological. He says alternative treatments such as psilocybin, brain stimulation, or medical cannabis may also offer hope

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Birth trauma preventable yet affects too many women

Canberra Times, Other, 13/07/2025, Maeve Bannister

Australian women who give birth are experiencing "obscene" rates of trauma as advocates call for universal continuity of care, midwifery leadership, antenatal education and respectful healthcare practices.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

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Freebirth movement appeals to women traumatised by maternity, says doula; system must improve

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/07/2025

Two years after the NSW Select Committee on Birth Trauma, prominent doulas say the freebirth movement is acting in a cult-like manner toward women afraid of the medical system.

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Reality bites for 'Sunny'

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 14/07/2025, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 11

A Gold Coast paramedic is taking healthcare to the extreme, developing the first training program of its kind in the southern hemisphere and a boss business to match.

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LifeFlight Toowoomba is busiest rescue base

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/07/2025, Page 4

One of Queensland's vital rescue services has held the hands of almost 1000 Darling Downs and South West residents in their time of need over the past 12-months.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Trump has flagged 200 per cent tariffs on Australian pharmaceuticals. What do we produce here, and what's at risk?

7news.com.au, Other, 13/07/2025, Joe Carrello

[...] The proposed tariffs come amid growing pressure from pharmaceutical lobby groups in the US for Trump to use trade negotiations as a tool to make changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and raise Australian drug prices.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor who diagnosed murder

West Australian, General News, 14/07/2025, Andrew Miller, Page 13

[...] Dr Webster sports a natural mullet, wears Coca-Cola socks, and now he will probably have to answer to AHPRA, the medical regulator, for his media appearances.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Research is one of our most precious national assets

Daily Liberal, Other, 13/07/2025, Robyn Ward

I've spent my career as a clinician and cancer researcher, witnessing how Australian ingenuity delivers world-leading outcomes.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Up close, personal with awe-inspiring Lowitja

The Australian, General News, 14/07/2025, Paige Taylor, Page 7

Indigenous affairs correspondent In a bag containing the costume jewellery that Yankunytjatjara woman the late Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue liked to wear in the corridors of power, her niece Deb Edwards found the nursing pins issued to her when she became the first Aboriginal nurse at Royal Adelaide Hospital.

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Push for compo to 'heal'

Cairns Post, General News, 14/07/2025, Page 7

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are stepping up a campaign for the Queensland government to issue compensation to help heal the horrors of the Stolen Generation.

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Liddle calls for audits of commonwealth Indigenous grants

The Australian, Other, 13/07/2025, Paige Taylor

The Coalition has renewed calls for an audit of commonwealth-funded Indigenous service providers after Labor MP Marion Scrymgour urged Anthony Albanese to audit the Northern Territory government's spending on Indigenous affairs.

[Read More](#)

Indigenous midwife referred to by racist slur on staff whiteboard at Sydney's RPA hospital

The Guardian, Other, 14/07/2025, Sarah Collard

A former midwife at one of Sydney's largest public hospitals who was referred to by a racist slur on a workplace whiteboard says the health system needs to do more to create culturally safe workspaces.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Blind spot on a killer disease

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/07/2025, Thomas Sargeant, Page 12

As the peak season for meningococcal cases arrives, new research has revealed nearly half of young people are unable to name a single symptom of the potentially deadly disease.

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Vaccines reduce deaths by 60%

Herald Sun, General News, 14/07/2025, Page 6

Emergency vaccinations in disease outbreaks such as cholera, ebola and measles have reduced deaths from such illnesses by almost 60 per cent over the past quarter-century, a new Australian study has found.

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Jacob back on his feet after fight for life

Newcastle Herald, General News, 14/07/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

When Jacob Blackwell was struck down by bacterial meningitis, doctors feared he wouldn't survive. In the two years since then, he's made huge progress.

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Millions will die by 2029 if US funding for HIV programs isn't replaced, UN warns

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2025, Maddy Morwood

A new UNAids report says the withdrawal of US funding for the global HIV fight could lead to more than 4 million AIDS-related deaths and over 6 million additional HIV infections by 2029 if not replaced.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Police raid 'glitzy' online vape market

The Australian, General News, 14/07/2025, James Dowling, Page 2

The AFP in a joint investigation with Austrac and the Therapeutic Goods Administration executed a series of raids in June on the bank accounts and storage units of Wenyun Yan, 23, of southern Sydney's Rosebery.

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

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Ugly mark for cosmetics

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/07/2025, Blair Jackson, Page 2

[...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration stressed the Botox was purchased from an overseas website, and the duped manufacturer confirmed the batch numbers were illegitimate.

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New plasma donation policies include LGBTQIA+ community

Ballarat Courier, Other, 13/07/2025, Nick Powell

[...] Lifeblood has worked in partnership with LGBTQIA+ communities and the Therapeutic Goods Administration for the policy change and expects more than 100,000 new donors a year.

[Read More](#)

Can I trust my sunscreen? Choice test results have created uncertainty over SPF claims and lab testing process

The Guardian, Other, 13/07/2025, Catie Mcleod

Sunscreen has been in the spotlight this winter, after testing by the consumer advocacy organisation Choice found 16 of 20 brands failed to provide the level of skin protection advertised on their bottles.

[...] SPF claims in Australia are regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Toxins force temporary closure of oyster farms

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/07/2025, Aden Hill, Page 2

More than 80 seafood industry workers have been affected by temporary business closures as a waterborne toxin related to the toxic algal bloom hits oyster-harvesting areas around Port Lincoln.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Algal bloom 'disaster' prompts royal commission call as impact spreads to mussel farms

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2025

A royal commission is needed to tackle the long-term effects of the devastating algal bloom off South Australia's coast that has killed countless sea creatures and is damaging industries, the state's opposition says.

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