



# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 16th July 2025

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Guardian](#)** (online) reports that Cancer Council's latest Generation Vape research shows that vaping among 14 to 17-year-olds fell from 17.5 per cent to 14.6 per cent since the start of 2023. Health Minister Mark Butler said, "Our education and prevention campaigns as well as support to deter people from taking up vaping and smoking or to quit are making a difference."
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports that new data from the AIHW showed the home care package waitlist grew by about 5,000 in the March quarter, however peak bodies said the figures are from four months ago and waitlist numbers are expected to reach 100,000 by end of the year.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that about 800 additional children are recommended to undergo precautionary STI testing after police confirmed alleged paedophile Joshua Dale Brown worked at four more childcare centres than previously disclosed.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that the Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital vaccination centre in will close in late August, after the Victorian government said its funding was being used to vaccinate the broader population rather than its intended purpose of immunising children with complex needs.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 10) leads coverage reporting that a clinical trial by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre showed nicotine vapes helped some smokers quit, with more than 28 per cent of participants still off cigarettes after six months.

- **[The Advertiser](#)** (page 2) reports that Adelaide emergency departments are facing overcrowding this week, with one cancer patient ramped outside the RAH for eight hours due to high winter demand, and on Monday, a system outage affected SA Health's online dashboard updates.
- **[The Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports that Premier Jeremy Rockliff has pledged that a re-elected Liberal state government will build a \$15 million medical precinct in the Huon Valley, offering bulk-billed GP appointments, after-hours care and weekend services.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 3) reports that one-third of nurses at Queensland's largest IVF provider, Queensland Fertility Group, will go on strike from 2:00pm today following failed pay negotiations.
- **[Townsville Bulletin](#)** (online) reports that Queensland Health has secured an interim injunction against Mohammed Alfalahi and his businesses for allegedly selling illicit tobacco products and posing a health risk.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Butler's vape ban may lead to worse outcomes

Courier Mail, General News, 16/07/2025, James Campbell, Page 21

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. "Already we've had businesses contacting us, telling us that they understand that they're having to take the vapes off their shelves," he told Triple J on July 4, three days after his ban on "non-therapeutic" vapes came into effect.

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### Council keeps Minister's vaccine response in-house

SE Voice, General News, 15/07/2025, Page 5

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has apparently been snubbed by the Robe District Council. Robe Mayor Lisa Ruffell wrote to Mr Butler in April outlining her council's concerns about the safety of vaccinations.

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### Teenage vaping has 'turned a corner' in Australia, says Mark Butler, as data shows falling rates

The Guardian, Other, 16/07/2025, Tom McIlroy

The federal government believes dangerous vaping rates among younger Australians may have turned a corner after years of rapid growth, with new research showing take-up could have peaked among teenagers and high school-age children. Data released by the health minister, Mark Butler, on Wednesday showed that vaping rates fell from 17.5% at the start of 2023 to 14.6% in April this year among children aged 14-17 years.

[Read More](#)

### Government funds incubators to foster research commercialisation

Biotech Dispatch, Other, 15/07/2025

Health Minister Mark Butler has announced \$100 million in funding to three organisations for emerging Australian biomedical and medical technology innovations. The organisations are Brandon BioCatalyst for CUREator: Translating Research into Health Outcomes, ANDHealth for Accelerating Evidence-based Digital and Connected Health Technologies, and Biointelect for Biointelect Venturer.

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### Need for reform of aged care system has reached a critical point

CathNews, Other, 15/07/2025, Rebecca Comini

The journey toward a reformed aged care system in Australia has reached a critical juncture, writes

Catholic Health Australia's Alex Lynch. [...] For Catholic Health Australia and our members, this decision – announced by ministers Mark Butler and Sam Rae last month – was a welcome and important recognition of the real-world challenges facing both providers and the older Australians we serve.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### **Haines meets with local NDIS providers over controversial pricing changes**

Euroa Gazette, General News, 16/07/2025, Page 3

Independent federal MP for Indi, Helen Haines, is calling on the 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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### **Calls for accountability after NDIA appears to target person with disability**

Freedom2Live, Other, 15/07/2025

A group of Disability Representative Organisations (DROs) have written to the Acting CEO of the National Disability Insurance Agency to demand accountability, after news reports that the agency removed a person with disability from the NDIS in apparent retaliation for expressing their views about the scheme on social media. [...] Hold an urgent roundtable between Disability Representative Organisations, the NDIA Acting CEO and senior staff, and NDIS Minister McAllister to discuss a way forward.

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## MINISTER RAE

No relevant coverage

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### **Leaders face off in sole Tassie election debate**

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/07/2025, David Killick, Page 2

Premier Jeremy Rockliff and Opposition Leader Dean Winter will face off in the only televised debate of the 2025 state election campaign on Wednesday. [...] From 6pm on Saturday Sky News will cover the election live with panellists including Sky News Political Editor Andrew Clennell, Sky News chief election analyst Tom Connell, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care and former Tasmanian Labor leader Rebecca White, Tasmania Liberal Senator and Coalition environment spokesman

Jonathon Duniham, and Sky News political commentator and former Labor cabinet minister in the Hawke-Keating governments, Graham Richardson.

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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## DEPARTMENT

### Support shifts to health service

Weekly Advertiser, General News, 16/07/2025, Page 15

West Wimmera Health Service is now delivering support services to recipients of the Commonwealth Home Support Program across the West Wimmera Shire, after the council withdrew from the delivery of aged care services. [...] West Wimmera Health Service has accepted a funding offer from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to take over the service delivery throughout West Wimmera Shire.

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## VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Hospital alert over home care waitlist

The Australian, General News, 16/07/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 2

The growing waitlist for home care packages risks thousands of hospital beds being taken up by elderly people experiencing otherwise avoidable complications or falls without adequate support, providers have warned. Despite concerns from sector heads that the waitlist from December about 83,000 was likely to blow out to 100,000 by the middle of 2025, data released this week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showed a lower-than-expected increase of about 5000 more people on the waitlist in the three months to March.

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

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### Would you be happy for your gran to eat this? Disturbing 'slop' photo from Aussie aged care home sparks uproar - with a celebrity coming under fire

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/07/2025, Sarah Brookes

A nauseating photo of a processed meal served at a major Australian aged care facility has sparked uproar. The meal, described as 'abhorrent' with an 'off-putting odour', featured a white blob of what appeared to be reconstituted potato alongside pureed green and brown mounds.

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## **Aged care intervention: Navorina opts in to co-op to help keep doors open**

Shepparton News Online, Other, 15/07/2025, Rowan Frazer

Navorina Aged Care has opted into a new initiative aimed at keeping the doors of facilities open in the face of rapidly rising resource pressures. The Murrumbidgee Aged Care Network is a co-op of seven aged care providers in the Murrumbidgee Local Health District.

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## **UniSA files patent for Parkinson's injectable**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 15/07/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

A new treatment for Parkinson's disease developed by scientists from the University of South Australia may see the replacement of multiple daily tablets with a weekly injectable drug. Lead researcher Professor Sanjay Garg told Australian Ageing Agenda the research team has been working on this specific project for two years.

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## **New app aims to prevent falls**

Australian Seniors News, Other, 15/07/2025

Falls cost the Australian healthcare system more than \$2.8 billion annually, but a new app, StandingTall, is offering a solution to the challenge and keeping older Aussies on their feet. Developed by Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA) in collaboration with digital health specialists The Miroma Project Factory, StandingTall is the first app of its kind in Australia: a clinically validated, self-managed exercise program designed specifically to improve balance, restore confidence, and reduce fall-related injuries in people aged 60 and over.

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## **Fact or fiction: Are aged care staff allowed to cut residents' nails?**

HelloCare, Other, 15/07/2025, Jakob Neeland

It's a question that echoes through staff rooms and tugs at the hearts of worried families: "Are aged care staff even allowed to cut a resident's nails?" Some facilities give a cautious nod, provided staff are trained, while others slam the door shut, banning scissors or clippers in the hands of personal care workers.

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## **Arthritis management in the pharmacy**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/07/2025

Arthritis is fast becoming one of Australia's most pressing health concerns, according to a recent study published in The Lancet Rheumatology, thanks largely to an ageing population, sedentary lifestyles and increasing rates of obesity. The research suggested that by 2040, more than 5.39 million Australians - around one in five adults - are expected to be living with the condition, at a cost to the health system of more than \$11.92 billion.

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## **ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 15/07/2025**

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation is taking private health insurer Bupa to the Fair Work Commission over plans to cut staffing hours in its aged care homes. The union says Bupa is reducing rostered hours, shift lengths and times—particularly on nights and weekends—without consultation.

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## **DISABILITY**

No relevant coverage

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Vapes of value for some

Herald Sun, General News, 16/07/2025, Page 10

Vapes containing nicotine are a more effective quit-smoking aid than nicotine lozenges and gum, among adults experiencing social disadvantage who typically have a harder time quitting. Australia has one of the lowest smoking rates globally just 8.8 per cent of adults are now daily smokers but socially disadvantaged people smoke at a rate three times higher than others.

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

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### Up in smoke before work truly sparked

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/07/2025, Abby Smith, Page 25

The Tasmanian government has quietly released its mid-term progress report for the Tasmanian Tobacco Action Plan 2022-2026. The action plan is a detailed roadmap of actions to reduce smoking and vaping rates and the devastating harm they cause.

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### Bingo! Meet the red heeler sniffing out e-cigs

West Australian, General News, 16/07/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 10

With almost a quarter of teens confessing they have vaped, it's fair to say that e-cigarettes are causing a bit of a stink in the classroom. So, when it comes to cracking down on the nicotine devices inside schools it appears Rusty the red heeler nose best.

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### The multi-layered health needs for truckies

Power Torque, General News, 01/08/2025, Page 42

The impacts of health issues across Australia's driving workforce have never been felt more than they are right now. As the average age of drivers continues to go up, this continues to become apparent.

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### Vapes smoke gums, lozenges for those struggling to quit

Canberra Times, Other, 15/07/2025, Tom Wark

After trying for more than 25 years, Samantha Randazzo might finally have found the secret to quitting smoking for good. An eight-week transition to nicotine vapes as part of a clinical trial has the 43-year-old from Adelaide off cigarettes, and even off vaping.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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### Court orders owner of alleged illegal tobacconists to close businesses for six months

ABC Online, Other, 15/07/2025

A Queensland judge has ordered a business owner to close five of his Wide Bay stores which health officials allege have been selling unlawful smoking products. In June, a significant quantity of illicit cigarettes, loose tobacco and vapes were allegedly seized during raids on multiple retail premises in Hervey Bay.

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### Qld Health seeks urgent interim injunction against Mohammed Alfalahi and tobacco stores

Five stores allegedly selling illicit tobacco north of Brisbane have been shuttered by the District Court and the shops' Dubai-based owner restrained from taking part in the industry in Queensland. Queensland Health on Tuesday sought an urgent interim injunction against Mohammed Alfalahi and his businesses in Hervey Bay.

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

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## Vapes more effective quit-smoking aid

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/07/2025

Vapes containing nicotine are more effective for quitting smoking than nicotine lozenges and gum among adults experiencing social disadvantage, according to researchers from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) at UNSW Sydney. Adults from less privileged backgrounds are more likely than other social groups to smoke and typically have a harder time quitting, the study team noted, and hence suffer the most from the health and social impacts caused by tobacco.

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## Ten million Australians living with multimorbidity

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/07/2025

Anxiety and depression are now Australia's most common pair of co-occurring conditions, affecting 9.3% of the population. That is according to new Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data, which reveals 38% of Australians, or 9.7 million people, were living with multimorbidity in 2022.

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## 6PR, Drive, 15/07/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with UNSW Sydney associate professor Ryan Courtney about vaping as a quit-smoking aid. Courtney discusses a clinical trial showing that vaping nicotine salts led to quit rates three times higher than nicotine replacement therapies. He notes the advantages of vaping such as improved nicotine delivery and behavioural replication of smoking, while highlighting the need for long-term support to help users eventually quit vaping too.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Life in plastic? It's fantastic - until Barbie gets a diagnosis

Age, General News, 16/07/2025, Hannah Vanderheide, Page 19

Living with chronic illness and variable disability is no cakewalk. But some days, the cursed carousel of online discourse serves up a special kind of cruelty. In our latest instalment, people with access to Wi-Fi are expressing distaste at Mattel's new release in their inclusivity range.

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

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### As promos go, this one kills mood for tourists

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/07/2025, Jessica Adamson, Page 13

A visitor in South Australia right now would have every right to feel confused. [...] Cancer Council SA's senior management of prevention Christine Morris says when it comes to cancer risk, there's no safe level of drinking.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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## Post-bowel cancer alert

Courier Mail, General News, 16/07/2025, Page 4

A Flinders University study shows that bowel cancer survivors face an elevated risk of developing multiple primary cancers (MPCs). The South Australian bowel cancer researchers say the trend, which is linked to advancements in treatment and increased survival rates, presents a clinical challenge as the population ages.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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## SA ham ad ban 'is best for kids'

Northern Territory News, General News, 16/07/2025, Duncan Evans, Page 12

A leading health body has thrown its full support behind South Australia's controversial move to ban junk food ads on public transport assets, saying it's time to "draw a line in the sand" and protect Aussie kids from unhealthy marketing. Food for Health Alliance executive manager Jane Martin, in a statement released to NewsWire, said the ban, which is now in effect, would influence diets and help pull down the "wallpaper" of junk food ads.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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## New asthma treatment tool game changer

Newcastle Herald, General News, 16/07/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

Treating the comorbidities of people with asthma can help ease the effects of their disease, Professor Vanessa McDonald says. "When people have more difficult asthma, they tend to have multiple medical conditions," said Professor McDonald, of Hunter Medical Research Institute.

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## Nausea pill may fight cancer

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/07/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 5

A common, anti-nausea drug offered to chemotherapy patients during treatment may help fight cancer and have unintentionally saved people's lives. "Surprising" Monash University research shows earlystage breast cancer patients given aprepitant for chemotherapy-induced nausea actually had higher long-term survival rates.

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## Echuca Regional Health empowers diabetes patients with expert guidance

Shepparton News Online, Other, 15/07/2025, Jaci Hicken

Echuca Regional Health has credentialled diabetes educators who are working to help patients manage their conditions effectively across various types of diabetes. [...] She recommended accessing information from reputable sources such as Diabetes Australia, Diabetes Victoria, the National Diabetes Services Scheme, or the Baker Institute.

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## Channel 10, 10 News, 15/07/2025

Researchers at QIMR Berghofer have discovered that brain stem cells cycle between deep, hibernation-like states that enhance resilience and shallow states that enable rapid tissue repair. They also found tumour cells can hijack this ancient resting mechanism to evade chemotherapy and radiotherapy, and hope to manipulate these sleep-like states to develop new treatments for cancer and degenerative diseases.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 15/07/2025

Queensland researchers have made a breakthrough in understanding how dormant stem cells in the brain are activated, a discovery that could transform treatments for brain cancer and degenerative diseases. Scientists at QIMR Berghofer say the findings may lead to new therapies by harnessing the brain's natural repair mechanisms. They now plan to apply the research to cancerous stem cells.

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### **Channel 9, Nine News, 15/07/2025, Peter Overton**

A study by Melbourne's Monash University has linked an anti-nausea medication to improved survival rates in women with early-stage breast cancer. Researchers found those who took the drug during chemotherapy had a lower risk of recurrence and death, with even stronger benefits seen in women with triple negative breast cancer.

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### **ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 15/07/2025, Toni Mathews**

Interview with Clare Hughes from the Cancer Council about warning labels on alcohol. Hughes discusses the push to include cancer risk warnings on alcohol packaging, noting that alcohol is linked to seven types of cancer. She says such labels would complement existing pregnancy warnings and should be part of a broader public health approach, including marketing restrictions and education campaigns.

*Continuing on: [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#).*

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### **2GB, Afternoons, 15/07/2025, Lucy Zelic**

Interview with women's health expert Dr. Frances Pitsilis about conditions such as endometriosis, PCOS, and menopause. Pitsilis discusses the need for greater awareness and earlier intervention, including the benefits of treatments like metformin and natural progesterone. She highlights ongoing challenges in diagnosis and recommends lifestyle changes, supplements, and adequate sleep.

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### **FIVEAA, Mornings, 15/07/2025, Matthew Pantelis**

Interview with Icon Cancer Centre radiation oncologist Dr. Michael Penniment about a new cancer centre in North Adelaide. Penniment discusses the centre's integrated services including radiation oncology, medical oncology, imaging, and rehabilitation, all housed in a single facility. He highlights state-of-the-art technology allowing for faster treatment and fewer sessions, improving patient experience and accessibility.

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## **PRIMARY CARE**

### **Behind the birth of a national catastrophe**

The Australian, General News, 16/07/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

It's no secret that seeking care from an obstetrician to give birth in the private system can be an expensive endeavour for patients, who routinely face thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs, despite their having private health insurance. What many patients don't know is that the fee Medicare pays their doctor for delivering their baby and for the post-partum care is astoundingly low.

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### **'Why I'm done with public maternity care'**

The Australian, General News, 16/07/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

In her third trimester of pregnancy, first-time mother Madeleine Kendrick had a sense that something wasn't right. Her baby was constantly flipping positions in a phenomenon in late pregnancy known as an unstable lie. "I was trying to flag that something wasn't right over and over again, but I literally saw a

different nurse every appointment," the 31-year-old says of her experience in public hospital maternity care.

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

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## Childcare abuse concerns widen

Age, General News, 16/07/2025, Caroline Schelle & Carla Jaeger, Page 1

About 800 more children will be tested for sexually transmitted infections after authorities revealed alleged Melbourne paedophile Joshua Dale Brown worked at four more childcare centres than was previously known. Detectives warned yesterday that even more children might have to undergo testing in the coming weeks, revealing that incorrect employment records had drastically complicated the investigation into the alleged paedophile's offending.

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

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## Childcare agony for 2000 kids

Herald Sun, General News, 16/07/2025, Mark Buttler & Rebecca Borg, Page 1

Another 800 children face the ordeal of being tested for a sexually transmitted infection after police confirmed that alleged pedophile Joshua Brown had worked at four more centres than had previously been believed. The shocking development means more than 2000 children, from just five months of age, have been placed at risk by the childcare horror.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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## Dying man 'broken' by horror hospital stay

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/07/2025, Natasha Emeck, Page 2

A terminal cancer patient was ramped outside Royal Adelaide Hospital for eight hours, then left to wait, suffering in a tiny emergency cubicle for three days. Kevin Hillman, 60, has stage 4 cancer. It started in his head and neck and has now spread to his liver and lower spine. Doctors say he has just months left to live.

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

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## Poll health check-ups

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/07/2025, David Killick, Page 1

A re-elected Liberal government would build a \$15m medical precinct in the Huon Valley, Premier Jeremy Rockliff announced on Tuesday. Mr Rockliff visited Huonville just four days before voters go to the polls to announce a significant upgrade for health services in the municipality.

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

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## Only Labor can 'save' doctors

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/07/2025, Alison Foletta, Page 4

Labor leader Dean Winter announced the ninth TassieDoc location on Tuesday, just days before the election. Mr Winter said Kings Meadows would be another location for people in Launceston to access 100 per cent bulk-billed health care.

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

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## We're ready to all talk about VAD

Northern Territory News, General News, 16/07/2025, Fia Walsh, Page 5

The committee tasked with consulting Territorians on Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) has revealed where it will visit and what questions it will ask as it works to prepare a report for the parliament. The Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee is aiming to host hearings in a dozen locations in August: Ali Curung, Alice Springs, Ampilatwatja, Borrooloola, Darwin, Galiwinku, Maningrida, Ngukurr, Papunya, Santa Teresa, Tennant Creek, and Wurrumiyanga.

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

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## Local ambos stretched thin

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/07/2025, Olivia Shying, Page 9

Geelong paramedics are under increasing pressure, responding to more urgent calls every day. New Ambulance Victoria data shows Victorian paramedics have responded to an extra 100 Code 1 cases across the state each day since April.

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## Lifeline for decades-old telehealth service

Launceston Examiner, General News, 16/07/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 2

A lifeline has been thrown to a decades-old Tasmanian telehealth service that was slated for closure by August. For more than 20 years, GP Assist has provided after-hours general medical support from 6pm to 8am on weekdays, with 24-hour coverage on weekends and public holidays.

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## Grandfather Robert Tancock identified as the victim of Saturday's Sellicks Hill crash

Adelaide Now, Other, 15/07/2025, Leon Georgiou

A grandfather who had a medical episode and crashed his car at Sellicks Hill on Saturday has been identified as Robert Tancock. [...] Ambulance Employees Association general secretary Paul Ekkelboom said Mr Tancock could have potentially been saved if ambulance crews had been available to respond sooner – blaming the lack of available crews on the ongoing ramping situation.

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

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## Health headlines dying stages of election campaign

Canberra Times, Other, 15/07/2025, Ethan James

Health has dominated the final days of Tasmania's snap election campaign, as major parties try to get undecided voters on board. The island state is heading to the ballot box on Saturday for a second election in as many years after minority Liberal premier Jeremy Rockliff lost the confidence of parliament in June.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Woman's heart surgery at Flinders Medical Centre delayed for months

ABC Online, Other, 15/07/2025

A South Australian woman who feared she might not make it while waiting for heart surgery has been told her life-saving procedure has been scheduled for next week. Bek Batt told ABC Radio Adelaide on Tuesday morning that she was told in January that she needed a pacemaker and two stents in her heart, as well as a cardiac ablation, to treat an irregular heartbeat.

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## Homelessness is a driver of poor health in Australia – so why not make housing part of healthcare?

The Guardian, Other, 15/07/2025, Ehsan Noroozinejad

Picture a GP clinic in western Sydney. Nadia\*, 34, is back for her third script of the year. She started getting panic attacks after her landlord hiked the rent several times.

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## **Women's health issues dismissed for too long - now it's time to take charge**

The Senior, Other, 15/07/2025, Lisa Edser

Historically, women's specific health issues were either dismissed, played down or misdiagnosed - but women now have the opportunity to improve their health. Dr Frances Pitsilis agrees that many doctors in the past had a limited understanding - or interest - in women's health - and even an ignorance to the complexity of their medical issues and lives.

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## **Channel 10, 10 News, 15/07/2025**

Frontline doctors are calling for stab vests following a reported spike in violent incidents at South Australian emergency departments. Over the past 12 weeks, 23 assaults were reported at Flinders Medical Centre and Noarlunga Hospital, prompting union talks with SafeWork SA for greater protection.

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## **Channel 9, Nine News, 15/07/2025, Melissa Downes**

Up to a dozen ambulances were ramped for hours at Ipswich Hospital overnight as flu season drives growing pressure on emergency departments. Paramedics faced about 400 more calls than usual amid staffing shortages, with patients forced to wait on stretchers. Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls acknowledged the issue and pointed to ongoing hospital expansion and a \$5 billion rescue plan.

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## **Channel 9, Today , 15/07/2025, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo**

It has been revealed Qld's health service is buckling under pressure, with some patients waiting up to 24 hours for help from paramedics. The QAS has blamed the blowout on staff shortages and soaring demand during flu season.

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## **ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 15/07/2025, Geraldine Mellet**

Interview with Perron Institute Research Chair in Palliative Care at the UWA professor Samar Aoun about the Compassionate Communities model. Aoun highlights the success of the Compassionate Connector Program model trial in WA, which reduced hospital use and improved wellbeing. She stresses the need to skill communities and partner with health professionals to meet the growing demand for palliative care.

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## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

No relevant coverage

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## **CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE**

### **Fresh woes for Bupa after backlash over aged care changes**

Australian Financial Review, Other, 15/07/2025, Michael Smith

Health insurer and aged care provider Bupa is facing a union backlash over planned changes to staff rostering at its residential nursing homes.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### IVF nurses set to strike

Courier Mail, General News, 16/07/2025, Page 3

One third of nurses employed by Queensland's largest IVF provider will walk off the job to strike against the company's latest pay rise offer. At least six clinics across the state will be hit by the strike from 2pm on Wednesday, after failed wage negotiations between specialist IVF nurses and employer Queensland Fertility Group (QFG).

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

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### ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 15/07/2025, Adam Steer

For the first time since the Country Liberals took charge of the NT Government, last week a Code Yellow was called at the Royal Darwin Hospital. The health department made the surprise announcement after mounting pressure from medical staff, the nurses' union and the Australian Medical Association saying the hospital is in an emergency that cannot be fixed with internal resources.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Push to fast track PBS approvals for rare cancer treatments

The New Daily, Other, 15/07/2025, Claudia Vrdoljak

More than 19,000 Australians were diagnosed with a rare cancer in 2024. Almost half of them died. Now, there's a push for more treatment options to be subsidised under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### NT doctor suspended for alleged sexual harassment

Nursing Review, Other, 15/07/2025, NCA NewsWire

A senior doctor who was allegedly employed by NT Health while facing multiple sexual assault allegations has been suspended by the national regulatory board. The Northern Territory doctor – who cannot be named for legal reasons – has been listed as a suspended practitioner by the Australian

Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), preventing them from working as a medical professional in Australia.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### **BreastScreen WA marks three million mammograms with rise in women with symptoms reaching out to the service**

West Australian, Other, 15/07/2025, Claire Sadler

The BreastScreen WA director has urged women with breast cancer symptoms to visit their GP after an influx of women attending the free service with pain or a lump. BreastScreen WA has reached its three millionth free mammogram since opening in 1989 with an average of 135,000 screenings given to women over 40 every year.

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

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### **Imagion nears Phase II breast cancer trial after positive FDA meeting**

The Australian, Other, 15/07/2025

Imagion Biosystems is on track to start its Phase II clinical trial for HER2 breast cancer and submit an investigational new drug (IND) application after a positive meeting with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The meeting enabled the FDA to seek detailed responses from Imagion Biosystems (ASX:IBX), while also providing the company with clarification on written feedback regarding the structure and operation of its planned Phase II trial.

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

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### **Dr Boreham's Crucible: Microba Life Sciences**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/07/2025, Tim Boreham

When Russian author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn said the battle between good and evil runs through every man - ok, person - he was not talking about the trillions of bacteria that reside in the gut. But he may well have been, because this thriving ecosystem of bugs can make us very ill - or promote healthy functions such as digestion and immunity.

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

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### **4BC, Drive, 15/07/2025, Jason Matthews**

Interview with University of Queensland Associate Professor Dr. Saeed Akhlaghpour about the use of AI in healthcare. Akhlaghpour discusses how AI scribes are helping doctors reduce administrative tasks and spend more time with patients. He also highlights broader opportunities for AI in healthcare, including aiding diagnosis, but stresses the need for strong safeguards and governance.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

## First Nations hepatitis B risks revealed in study

Canberra Times, Other, 15/07/2025, Keira Jenkins

The impacts to liver health from a unique strain of chronic hepatitis B, which predominantly affects First Nations people, have been revealed in a study. Analysing the C4 hepatitis B strain among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, researchers from Menzies School of Health Research, found a severe type of liver disease among those living with the infection.

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

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Child vaccination loss for the west

Age, General News, 16/07/2025, Broede Carmody & Rachel Eddie, Page 1

A children's vaccination service is closing its doors despite a spike in vaccine-preventable diseases, following a funding dispute with the state government. The Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital's vaccination centre in St Albans, in Melbourne's western suburbs, will close its walk-in service late next month.

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### Taking the sting out of vaccinations

Manufacturers' Monthly, General News, 01/07/2025, Page 28

Founded in Queensland more than 13 years ago, Vaxxas is a clinical-stage biotechnology company advancing a novel, needle-free vaccine delivery platform based on its patented High-Density Microarray Patch (HD-MAP) technology. Smaller than the size of a postage stamp or mobile phone sim card, the HD-MAP features thousands of microscopic projections coated with vaccine that deliver it beneath the skin.

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### Workers isolating after measles case confirmed at BHP Newman minesite

West Australian, Other, 15/07/2025, Claire Sadler

A Qantas crew member and a miner in WA's north are among the latest measles cases, with some staff at the Pilbara mine site isolating following the exposure. Mining company BHP confirmed a staff member with measles attended work at its Newman operations earlier this month.

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

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### Push for free pertussis vaccines

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/07/2025

With the Tasmanian Election around the corner, the RACGP has launched calls to the state's political parties and candidates to fund a free vaccination program to protect against whooping cough. Since early last year, Tasmania has seen a steady increase in cases of the infectious disease, described by the State Health Department as being 'consistent with epidemic activity'.

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### Why measles, meningococcal cases are rising in Australia: How to stay safe

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/07/2025, Adella Beaini

Experts are warning young adults and parents of young children to stay alert for the early signs of meningococcal disease, with Australia now entering its peak season for the potentially deadly infection. So far this year, 56 cases of meningococcal disease have been reported across Australia, with NSW

recording the highest number (18), followed by Queensland (14), Victoria (10), Western Australia (7), South Australia (5), and Tasmania (2).

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

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 15/07/2025, Jo Laverty

The Opposition is again calling for the Government to make flu vaccinations in SA free to everyone to take pressure off the state's hospital system. The Government has admitted that flu numbers are at their highest level in 10 years and are likely to increase.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### More able to give blood

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 15/07/2025, Karli Farrell, Page 7

There's good news for Sunraysia's members of the LGBTQIA+ community who are blood and future plasma donors. [...] Mr Cornelissen also said the Therapeutic Goods Administration also recently approved a submission to remove gender-based sexual activity rules, meaning all donors will be asked the same questions about sexual activity, regardless of gender or sexuality.

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### Thousands from LGBTQI+ and sex worker communities can now donate plasma

ABC Online, Other, 15/07/2025, Freya Noble

Thousands of members of the LGBTQI+ and sex worker communities can now donate plasma in Australia without having to wait three months from the last time they had sex. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has recently approved a gender-neutral risk assessment for blood and platelet donations, which is the first step in the process.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Cannabis store is simply spliffing

Herald Sun, General News, 16/07/2025, Ian Royall, Page 4

A mock cannabis store is being opened in Fitzroy as part of a campaign to legalise and regulate the drug. The pop-up shop in Brunswick St will show how cannabis could be sold in a controlled environment.

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### People are begging for help but we can't afford to give it to them

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/07/2025, Damian Collins, Page 20

I have worked in the alcohol and other drugs sector in Tasmania for more than 10 years and have never seen demand for services so high, at a time when service capacity has been reduced it is a perfect storm of increased demand and decreased capacity. It is being experienced right across the sector.

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### Why doesn't Canberra have a safe injecting room?

It has been 33 years since Marion McConnell's son died of a heroin overdose, but she still wonders how his life could have turned out. Would he play with his nieces and nephews, perhaps have a family of his own?

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### **Food security needs to be on national agenda**

Shepparton News Online, Other, 15/07/2025

The Murray Regional Strategy Group says it is time to realise the current and impending dangers if action is not taken. Its chair, Geoff Moar, said recent reports have highlighted the need to recognise the problem, yet scant attention is being paid at a political level.

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## AICIS

### **Sugar alternatives are on the rise. They might not be so sweet for the environment**

SBS, Other, 15/07/2025, Camille Bianchi & Alex Gallagher

Artificial sweeteners are popular in Australia, with more than one tonne of them consumed daily across the country and food manufacturers increasingly pivoting to sugar-free soft drinks and confectionery. But a new study suggests that the environment might be paying the price for the rise of popular sugar substitutes, with the alternatives building up in waterways around the world.

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