



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 18th July 2025

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 5\)](#)** reports that the National Disability Insurance Agency yesterday stated that it stands by advice handed down to Health Minister Mark Butler and NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister that the agency remains committed to current timelines for NDIS reform.
- **[ABC Radio Adelaide](#)** reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has said that the lack of expansion of aged-care facilities is preventing older patients from being transferred out of hospitals and that the Federal Government had passed legislation in December that would see aged-care providers access financing for expansion.
- The **[Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a whistleblower from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital has said that 47 inpatients were placed in a corridor to deal with an influx of flu-affected patients, and that only seven patients were in a fit enough state to be there.
- The **[Hobart Mercury \(page 3\)](#)** reports that the Australian Medical Association has called for the Federal Government to legislate a tax for added sugars in food items, a total of 50c per 100g of added sugar, to curb rising obesity and diabetes rates.
- The **[Herald Sun \(page 5\)](#)** reports that the Victorian Healthcare Association has found that the state faces a critical health worker shortage and has called for long-term federal and state funding arrangements to allow the state to address increased healthcare demands.
- **[The Australian \(page 7\)](#)** reports that Private Healthcare Australia has put forward a maternity care proposal that would see prices slashed by 30 per cent for private-sector pregnancy care

and birth services, with midwife births costing around \$500.

- The **Daily Telegraph (page 9)** reports that a NSW man who had recently died of bat lyssavirus was reportedly sent home after seeking treatment at the Ballina Base Hospital as the hospital did not have the vaccine necessary for treatment; NSW chief health officer Kerry Chant has been appointed to oversee the investigation into his death.
- **The ABC (online)** reports that the Australian Medical Association has said that Western Australia may be enduring its worst flu season in five years, with the WA Health Department recording over 13,000 cases of influenza so far in July.

MINISTER BUTLER

Agency doubles down on advice despite disability community displeasure

The Australian, General News, 18/07/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 5

[...] While advocates lashed revelations that the National Disability Insurance Agency told ministers Mark Butler and Jenny McAllister that the disability community did not support the pace of reform but it was still "critical the agency remain on the timeline if we are to achieve national cabinet's annual 8 per cent growth target", the NDIA on Thursday defended the advice in its incoming ministerial brief.

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

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Free wound care for older Australians with diabetes

Armadale Examiner, General News, 17/07/2025, Page 8

[...] Minister for Health Mark Butler said the new scheme would help improve the lives of many Australians.

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

Vaping rates on way down but black-market sales a concern

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 17/07/2025, Sebastian Tan, Page 4

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler said education and prevention campaigns also helped deter people from taking up vaping or smoking.

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The 2025-26 ACT Budget: After taxes

Canberra Weekly, General News, 17/07/2025, Nicole Lawder, Page 12

[...] Even federal (Labor) Health Minister Mark Butler refused to endorse the health levy, which was slashed to \$100 after pressure from the ACT Greens, exposing the government's political vulnerability in a minority parliament, with additional payroll tax revenue expected to make up the shortfall over the forward estimates.

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

Radical three-way IVF could end horrific disease passed on to babies

9News, Other, 17/07/2025, Adam Vidler

[...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was proud to support the research.

[Read More](#)

Teenage smoking down since vapes went pharmacist-only: research

Australian Doctor, Other, 17/07/2025, Jamie Thannoo

[...] However, Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler says new data from April 2025 should extinguish any concerns.

[Read More](#)

Mark Butler restates support for health technology assessment reform

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 17/07/2025

Health Minister Mark Butler has restated his commitment to reforming Australia's use of health technology assessment, saying he looks forward to "getting his teeth into it".

[Read More](#)

Council demands answers on Goulburn urgent care clinic closure

Goulburn Post, Other, 17/07/2025, Louise Thrower

[...] Cr Caitlin Flint won almost unanimous support for her motion to seek a detailed explanation from state and federal health ministers Ryan Park and Mark Butler on why the service was discontinued and where the funding was reallocated.

[Read More](#)

War against vapes not over yet despite falling rates

HealthTimes, Other, 17/07/2025

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler said education and prevention campaigns also helped deter people from taking up vaping or smoking.

[Read More](#)

Youth vaping rates have “turned the corner”, Butler says

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 17/07/2025

[...] "Twelve months on from the commencement of the vaping reform legislation, we remain resolute in our work to enforce the vape reforms and educate Australians on the health harms of vaping," said the Minister for Health and Ageing, Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

First babies born in the UK through mitochondrial donation

Science Media Exchange (Scimex), Other, 17/07/2025, Lyndal Byford

[...] "These results give fresh momentum to Australia's own mitoHOPE research program, which will deliver the world's second ever clinical trial of mitochondrial donation," Federal Minister for Health, the Hon Mark Butler MP said.

[Read More](#)

The rate of teen vaping has declined since 2023

The Daily Aus, Other, 17/07/2025

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the data is a positive sign that vaping rates among young Australians have "turned a corner."

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A rights-based aged care system: who is the government kidding?

The Weekly Source, Other, 17/07/2025, Ian Horswill

[...] 88,000 are waiting for home care and even Health Minister Mark Butler says almost every aged care facility he visits is full.

[Read More](#)

NDIS changes risk remote, regional NSW services, says Chaffey

WEB Gunnedah Times, Other, 17/07/2025

[...] "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.

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

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Health advocates renew calls for levy on sweetened drinks

[...] Despite the renewed calls, federal health minister Mark Butler says the government has no plans to introduce a sugar tax.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Regional, Breakfast, 17/07/2025, JAYNIE SEAL

Cancer Council research shows the vaping rate in 14 to 17-year-olds dropped from 17.5% to 14.6% between early 2023 and April 2024. Rates have also declined in adults following the Government's 2024 vaping reforms. Over 10 million illicit vapes have been seized since the import ban, and Health Minister Mark Butler says that the black market sales remain a concern.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 17/07/2025, Liz Trevaskis

Interview with Cancer Council Generation Vape chief investigator Prof Becky Freeman on the dropping vaping rates. In a clip, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he is confident that the peak of vaping behind them and they are starting to see a reduction, particularly among children and teenagers, which was their primary focus. Freeman says Australia's laws that limit legal vapes only to pharmacies, the mass media campaigns that are educating about the harms, and the initiatives they have implemented in schools all contribute to changing the social norms around vaping and pushing those rates down.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, 13:00 News, 17/07/2025

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he has been told by people in SA they feel the toxic algal bloom is not receiving proper attention outside the state. Calls to declare the algal bloom a natural disaster have intensified across SA in recent weeks. Butler wants his colleagues and Australians to understand how disastrous the bloom has been for coastal communities.

Also reported by: [ABC Broken Hill \(Broken Hill\)](#).

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ABC Radio Adelaide, 11:00 News, 17/07/2025

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says Australia does not have enough aged care facilities for its ageing population because of a lack of previous investment. He says although many older people in hospitals could be moved to aged care facilities, not all of them are clinically able to be discharged. Butler says he has been in regular contact with SA health minister Chris Picton about how the aged care system has affected ramping.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 17/07/2025, Jo Laverty

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler says not every one of the 260 older people who are in hospitals clinically able to be discharged would necessarily be going into an aged care facility. He notes it is undoubtedly true that there are bottlenecks between hospital and the aged care system and it's because aged care facilities are pretty much all full. Butler adds there has not been the investment that they needed over the last several years to expand the aged care sector in the way that anyone who understands what is happening would expect.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Agency doubles down on advice despite disability community displeasure

The Australian, General News, 18/07/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 5

[...] While advocates lashed revelations that the National Disability Insurance Agency told ministers Mark Butler and Jenny McAllister that the disability community did not support the pace of reform but it was still "critical the agency remain on the timeline if we are to achieve national cabinet's annual 8 per cent growth target", the NDIA on Thursday defended the advice in its incoming ministerial brief.

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

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MINISTER RAE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Govt warns of patient privacy risks

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 17/07/2025, Page 3

[...] "Under the Privacy Act 1988 and the Australian Privacy Principles, health professionals must take reasonable steps to protect personal information from misuse, loss and unauthorised access," said a spokesperson from the Health Professionals Compliance branch of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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

A shift in care: embedding restorative practice for independent aging

agedhealth.com.au, Other, 17/07/2025

[...] Developed by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing in collaboration with Flinders University researchers, these evidence-based guidelines are designed to promote delivery of consistent, high-quality, restorative aged care.

[Read More](#)

Australia's health outcomes above OECD average

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 17/07/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

[...] Australia's participation was implemented by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care with ORIMA Research on behalf of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

[Read More](#)

Over 87,000 seniors now waiting for home care

Community Care Review, Other, 17/07/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

[...] Data released by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing this week shows the number of older people waiting for a home care package at their approved level has grown to 87,597.

[Read More](#)

New nurse-led liver cancer support line fills critical care gap

Oncology Republic, Other, 17/07/2025, Amanda Sheppeard

[...] The support line was established with funding from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing under the Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program.

[Read More](#)

How should the 100% bulk-billing incentive loading be allocated?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 17/07/2025

[...] In March , the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) said the incentive payment will be split between practices and GPs, and that this split 'will be determined in consultation with the sector prior to the program's launch'.

[Read More](#)

Why gaining the trust of our patients with chronic disease translates to better outcomes

The Medical Republic, Other, 17/07/2025, Liz Marles

[...] In Australia, it was implemented by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care with ORIMA Research on behalf of the Australian government's Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 17/07/2025, Samantha Donovan

A new report from the Federal Health Department has found that when it comes to managing chronic health conditions, Australia is doing pretty well compared to other developed economies. About 15m Australians live with a chronic problem like high blood pressure, arthritis, or depression. The report found many of them are happy with the care they're receiving.

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VACCINES

ABC News, News Breakfast, 17/07/2025, James Glenday and Emma Rebellato

Spiking flu and COVID cases have forced the cancellation of non-urgent elective surgeries at four major South East Qld hospitals. Category 2 and 3 elective surgeries at the Royal Brisbane and Women's, Prince Charles, Caboolture and Redcliffe Hospitals have been paused for at least 48 hours.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 17/07/2025, Kelly Higgins-Devine

Health authorities are urging Queenslanders to get vaccinated against COVID and the flu as the health system grapples with surging cases. The Royal Brisbane and Women's Prince Charles, Redcliffe and Caboolture hospitals have suspended Category 2 and 3 elective surgeries today and tomorrow.

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Free RSV vax for aged care residents

Shepparton News, General News, 18/07/2025, Pip Turton, Page 26

The Victorian Government has launched Australia's first free respiratory syncytial virus vaccination program for residents in public sector aged care facilities.

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Bupa is cutting staff hours, union claims

Aged Care Insite, Other, 17/07/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Private health insurance and aged care provider Bupa is again coping backlash from the sector. This time for alleged cuts to staffing hours in its residential aged care facilities across the country.

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Free RSV jabs for Victorians in aged care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 17/07/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Older Victorians living in public aged care homes will receive a free Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine in a national first.

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Grant for sensor system to support ageing in place

Community Care Review, Other, 17/07/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

A platform that monitors older adults' health by tracking changes in behaviour patterns has received an ARIIA accelerator grant, which co-lead researchers tell CCR helps pave the way for more sustainable ways to age in place.

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Why are some aged care residents still being woken up for breakfast?

HelloCare, Other, 17/07/2025, Jakob Neeland

Every morning in aged care homes across Australia, a predictable routine unfolds: residents are woken early, assisted with dressing, and guided to the dining room, often by 8am sharp, regardless of their preferences.

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Call for RSV vaccine clarity

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 17/07/2025

Amid reports of patient confusion over RSV vaccines and their availability, GPs are calling for free vaccine programs to be expanded.

[Read More](#)

Bupa Aged Care and its nurses at loggerheads

The Weekly Source, Other, 17/07/2025, Caroline Egan

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) has lodged a dispute in the Fair Work Commission over concerns staff cuts are going to be made at Australia's fifth-largest aged care provider.

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No relevant coverage

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POPULATION HEALTH

Private births could cost as little as \$500

The Australian, General News, 18/07/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

Pregnant women could pay as a little as \$500 to give birth in a private hospital under the care of a midwife under a proposal drawn up by health funds that is being pitched as the solution to the nation's escalating maternity system crisis.

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Hypocrisy in cancer wowsers' hunt for new cash cow

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/07/2025, Caleb Bond, Page 13

Now they're done with tobacco, which they've completely ballsed up given Roy Morgan just found an uptick in young people smoking, they've moved on to alcohol as the new devil substance.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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Teens shun vaping

Cairns Post, General News, 18/07/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 7

More than a third of teenagers who vape have admitted to buying the harmful products illegally from tobacconists and shops that continue to flout tighter restrictions.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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'Human catastrophe': What lower birth rates could mean for Australia's future

SBS, Other, 17/07/2025, Jessica Bahr

The cost of living, access to housing, and climate change are impacting the number of children Australians are having. Should we be concerned about long-term implications?

[Read More](#)

Fears new breed of influencers could worsen a \$25 billion Australian problem

SBS, Other, 17/07/2025, Matt Gazy

[...] An Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report from 2023 shared analysis of 10,000 Australians aged 16-17 that found that one-in-six gambled before they were legally allowed — and by 18-19, the number had almost doubled.

[Read More](#)

The conversation about women's health we're still not having.

Mamamia, Other, 17/07/2025, Alyssa Carver

[...] "A report just published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) revealed that cardiovascular disease is more likely to be missed or misdiagnosed in women, partly because heart disease is often thought of as a men's health issue," Katie added.

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Exhausted by epilepsy

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 18/07/2025, Page 12

Epilepsy for many Australians is a relentless cycle of stress, sleep deprivation and exhaustion.

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Diabetics tap into support

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 18/07/2025, Page 27

A recent trial of telehealth services aimed at combating the mental health challenges of living with diabetes has yielded positive results, with lower levels of distress and anxiety reported in patients.

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Australia scores well in managing chronic health issues

Canberra Times, Other, 17/07/2025, Farid Farid

Australia has a world-class health system for dealing with chronic conditions, a new survey has found.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

BreastScreen WA to offer East Kimberley towns free breast cancer screenings over the next month

West Australian, Other, 17/07/2025, Cain Andrews

BreastScreen wa will be holding mobile breast cancer screening clinics throughout the Kimberley next month, hitting major centres such as Wyndham, Kununurra and Halls Creek.

[Read More](#)

Australia managing chronic conditions well compared to other countries

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 17/07/2025

Australia is managing chronic conditions well compared to other countries, according to a new international survey of patients on their health outcomes and experienced with GP practices.

[Read More](#)

A vicious life loop': Epilepsy community calls for action to address the burden of disease.

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 18/07/2025

The Australian epilepsy community is urging healthcare professionals and the general public to do more to support people living with epilepsy.

[Read More](#)

New report backs RACGP's call for support for patients to see a GP who knows them and their history

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 17/07/2025

An inaugural report for Australia that compares health data from 107,000 patients with chronic conditions and 1800 practices across 19 countries has shown Australian GPs are performing well in keeping patients healthy, but comes with a warning according to the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP).

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 17/07/2025, Rick Hind

Interview with Diabetes Australia group CEO Justine Cain on diabetes. Cain says type 2 diabetes is a condition where the body becomes resistant to the normal effects of insulin and gradually loses the

capacity to produce enough insulin in the pancreas. She says genetics play a key role and some people are at a higher risk of developing the condition than others. She says type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition where the body's own immune system destroys the cells, whereas in type 2, the body becomes slowly resistant to the normal effects of insulin.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Evenings, 17/07/2025, Kelly Higgins-Devine

Interview with Comprehensive Epilepsy Program epileptologist Professor Lata Vadlamudi on epilepsy in relation to mental health. Vadlamudi says epilepsy is a heterogeneous disorder. She says the stress of living this unpredictable seizure disorder contributes to this loop, where there's that anxiety of whether you will have a seizure, and in turn, the poor mental health from that stress leads to making seizures harder to control. She says they need to address both the seizures and a patient person's overall well-being.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 17/07/2025, Leith Forrest

Interview with AMA vice president Prof Julian Rait about the sugar tax and diabetes. Forrest says the AMA has called for a new tax at a rate of 50 cents per 100g of added sugar to be paid by those who manufacture the beverages. Rait says National Diabetes Week is focused on prevention and the best way to prevent diabetes is to reduce the rate of obesity in the community. He says the rate has doubled since 2000 and there has also been a threefold increase in the number of people with diabetes.

Continues on: [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

Hospital

Courier Mail, General News, 18/07/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

The emergency department at Queensland's largest hospital resembled a war zone with dozens of sick patients piling up in corridors and burnt-out staff left in tears amid extreme fears someone was going to die.

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Hospital crisis is not 'out of the blue'

Courier Mail, Editorials, 18/07/2025, Page 24

Tim Nicholls would have known it before he took the job, but the health portfolio is the poison chalice of Australian state politics.

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Back to the future mobile clinics expand reach

Hobart Mercury, General News, 18/07/2025, Page 1

A Labor government would expand access to bulk-billed primary healthcare and have mobile primary health outreach clinics across the state.

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Rural docs demand change

Hobart Mercury, General News, 18/07/2025, Bridget Clarke, Page 5

Tasmania is spending double the amount on locums to fill critical roles within hospitals compared to the cost of using rural generalists despite a commitment from the Rockliff government to amend the rule blocking them from these positions.

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State's health system is much more than budgets or balance sheets, it's about fairness, choice and access

Hobart Mercury, General News, 18/07/2025, Dan O'Halloran, Page 20

Tasmania's health system is under real and growing pressure. From Healthscope's financial instability to GP shortages and ambulances ramped outside hospitals, the signs are clear.

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Urgent care reaches patient milestone

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 18/07/2025, Georgina Sebar, Page 3

On a busy day at Bendigo Health, the emergency department could see up to 180 patients. If that number goes over 200, the system begins to struggle.

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Blow to most vulnerable

Border Mail, General News, 18/07/2025, Chelsea Wilson, Page 1

A lifesaving program for the region's most vulnerable is at risk of cancellation due to a lack of funding. CP@Clinic provides free, at-home health assessments, screenings and referrals for people across the North East who are disconnected from or unable to access healthcare services.

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

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Your say on 10-year roadmap for health care

Border Watch, General News, 18/07/2025, Page 4

Limestone Coast community members will have another opportunity to voice their opinion of the future of health care. The Limestone Coast Local Health Network (LCLHN) has announced dated for more community consultation as it continue its draft Clinical Services Plan.

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Nasty side effect? Could Labor's free GP visit plan have nasty side effect?

Launceston Examiner, General News, 18/07/2025, Matt Maloney, Page 1

Labor's proposal to extend free general practitioner clinics into the state's urban areas risks "cannibalising" the existing workforce and the closure of existing private practices, the Australian Medical Association says.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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Only virtual doctors for urgent care centre

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 18/07/2025, William Stanley, Page 3

A small south-west town's urgent care centre will be without face-to-face doctors. Terang and Mortlake Health Service is moving to a nurse-led model of care and patients will only be able to access doctors online through the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department.

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'Get vaccinated': Hospitals under pressure as elective surgeries remain on hold

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2025, Molly Slattery and Anna Hartley

Elective surgeries remain on hold at several major Queensland hospitals, with state leaders calling the influx of flu and COVID-19 patients taking up valuable beds "overwhelming" and "startling".

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Canberra pilot program to allow select GPs to diagnose ADHD and prescribe medication

For Deranie Jackson, finding a specialist in Canberra to assess her child for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) was like finding a needle in a haystack.

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Hollywood Private Hospital invests in cardiac care with new cath lab

Medical Forum, Other, 17/07/2025

Hollywood Private Hospital is strengthening its position as a leader in private cardiac care with the addition of two new state-of-the-art cardiac catheterisation laboratories (cath labs) — bringing the hospital's total to six, the most of any hospital in Perth.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Focus on risk to men after a broken relationship

Age, General News, 18/07/2025, Wendy Tuohy, Page 6

The end of a romantic relationship or marriage raises the risk of suicide among some men more than eightfold, but men often get unhelpful advice at critical moments.

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

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Dad to run two marathons a day for mental health

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 18/07/2025, Jessica Antoniou, Page 3

A record-holding runner and father of three is about to take on his next great challenge running across Australia.

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Workshop puts focus on mental health aid

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 18/07/2025, Tegan Guthrie, Page 6

A workshop equipping individuals with the skills to recognise and respond to mental health challenges was recently offered by the African Goldfields Community organisation.

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Workshop equips participants with mental health skills during two-day course

West Australian, Other, 18/07/2025, Tegan Guthrie

A workshop equipping individuals with the skills to recognise and respond to mental health challenges was recently offered by the African Goldfields Community organisation.

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Former SA opposition leader David Speirs to hike the Kokoda Track for men's mental health

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2025, Sarah Mullins

Former South Australian opposition leader David Speirs says he is preparing to hike the Kokoda Track to raise funds for men's mental health, posting on social media about his plans for a "personal journey of restoration and renewal" three months after he was convicted and fined over drug supply charges.

[Read More](#)

'This is too complex not to be done well': Leading doctor's message after PBS lists ketamine treatment for severe depression

Australian Doctor, Other, 17/07/2025, Rachel Carter

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists has published updated guidance on ketamine for treatment-resistant depression.

[Read More](#)

AI mental health help gets govt tick

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 17/07/2025

Clinical lab GreyMind AI has announced that its mental health platform, Reeboot AI, has been approved under the WA Government's Artificial Intelligence Assurance Framework, making it the first AI mental health assistant to gain endorsement in the state.

[Read More](#)

Suicide prevention grants open

Shepparton News Online, Other, 17/07/2025

A suite of grants worth up to \$50,000 for community groups supporting mental wellbeing and suicide prevention is now available.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 17/07/2025, Saskia Mabin

Select GPs in Canberra will soon have the authority to diagnose ADHD and prescribe stimulant medication in an effort to reduce waiting times for specialists. Under a pilot program to start in six months, 20 doctors will be able to diagnose ADHD in children and young adults and 50 will be able to prescribe medication.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Baby deaths 'preventable'

Northern Territory News, General News, 18/07/2025, Gera Kazakov, Page 21

A court has heard the frantic triple-0 call made after a mother discovered her two-monthold child dead, as an inquest into his death and two other baby deaths continues.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

We can't manage a crisis

Herald Sun, General News, 18/07/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 5

Under-pressure public healthcare services have delayed important upgrades, while a number likely have "limited flexibility" to respond to spikes in demand, a new report warns.

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Neonatal nurses ready to lend hand

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 18/07/2025, Page 2

North Queensland's tiniest patients just got an extra 18 angels in scrubs to help take care of them.

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

Attract, engage, retain: Building a sustainable pharmacy workforce in Australia

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 18/07/2025

The Australian Pharmacy Leaders Forum (APLF) has affirmed its commitment to attracting, engaging, and retaining a pharmacy workforce that is equipped to meet Australia's evolving health needs.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 17/07/2025, Caroline Winter

Interview with Northern Eyre Peninsula Health Alliance president and Kimba mayor Dean Johnson on doctor shortages in rural areas. Johnson says their region needs more experienced fellow GPs, adding that primary health care services are a federal government responsibility. [...] Interview with Rural Doctor of the Year in 2020 GP Gerry Considine on doctor shortages in their clinics. Considine says it represents over 20 years of underfunding from the federal government in primary care.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 17/07/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with AMA Tas vice president Dr Meg Creely on Labor and the Liberals promising bulk-billing clinics. Creely says they don't currently have enough GPs. She says they have 100 vacancies statewide. She says what they are worried about is rather than having more GPs, there will be a reshuffling of the doctors.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 17/07/2025, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with RACGP chair Dr Sian Goodson about GP training. Goodson says the federal government has announced funding more training places for GPs, so they are going to start to see more registrars coming through the system. She says they also need to encourage more overseas GPs to work in SA. When asked about bulk billing, she says the RACGP would like to see better funding for longer consults.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

PM watches moment young boy hears for the first time during China trip

The Australian, Other, 17/07/2025, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer

Anthony Albanese has wrapped up his lengthy state visit to China by watching young boy hear for the first time using an Australian-designed implant.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Mollie-Anne Gersbach becomes partner at Orana Mall Pharmacy

Daily Liberal, Other, 17/07/2025, Ciara Bastow

Mollie-Anne Gersbach has always been passionate about rural pharmacy and now she's taken the next step in her career and become a partner at Orana Mall Pharmacy (OMP).

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Ex-nurse blasts remand centre

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/07/2025, Luke Williams, Page 11

[...] The nurse also claimed that when whistleblower staff lodged complaints about workplace bullying or treatment of prisoners, they would often find themselves the subject of an Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency complaint within a few days.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 17/07/2025, Caroline Winter

Interview with UNSW School of Business, Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences associate professor and UNSW AI Institute deputy director Fatemeh Vafaei on Australia's first commercialised AI-powered blood tests for earlier diagnosis of breast cancer. Vafaei says it is a combination of advanced biotechnology and AI. She says with biotechnology, they measure a lot of molecules, and then AI comes in to identify the problem maker.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 17/07/2025, Leon Compton

Interview with Cancer Council NSW Generation Vape's Prof Becky Freeman about vaping rates. Freeman says young people who first vape are five times as likely to go on to smoke. She says in terms of vaping rates among teenagers, Australia is lower than comparable countries, such as England, New Zealand, and Canada, because in those countries, vapes are sold everywhere legally. She says in Australia, they are only available in pharmacies as a regulated therapeutic good.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Singapore investor lands at PE-backed Aussie medtech

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 18/07/2025, Page 16

An Australian medical innovator and manufacturer backed by institutional investors Perennial Value Management and SG Hiscock is welcoming a new investor onto its capital table.

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

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Why biotech won't make you rich quick

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 18/07/2025, Michael Smith, Page 26

Investing in biotechs and other healthcare start-ups has long been notoriously high risk, high reward.

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Scientists trying to make human breast milk in lab

Age, General News, 18/07/2025, Gemma Grant and Liam Mannix, Page 3

Biotech companies are racing to be the first to fully replicate human breast milk using genetically modified yeast in the hopes of upending the multibillion-dollar infant formula market.

Eight babies have been born via a new IVF technique called mitochondrial donation. What is it?

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2025, Madi Chwasta and Melissa Brown

Researchers in the United Kingdom have announced the successful birth of eight babies after a clinical trial of an IVF technique known as mitochondrial donation.

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Sky News Live, Credlin, 17/07/2025, Peta Credlin

Sky News contributor Karalee Katsambanis says the Medical Research Future Fund has made a \$15m grant to Monash IVF to remove the mitochondria and some genetic diseases, but the regulator holds ethical and clinical concerns as to how this will be implemented.

[Play Now](#)

3AW, Afternoons, 17/07/2025, Tony Moclair

Interview with Mito Foundation advocacy manager Clare Stuart about mitochondrial disease. Stuart says in Australia, there is a research program funded by the Medical Research Future Fund. She says there will be no out-of-pocket costs to Australians who participate. She says if someone knows their family is affected by mitochondrial disease, the best thing to do is start a conversation with their healthcare team, and they are also welcome to call the Mito Foundation, which can help them find a healthcare team.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Grim update after South Australian maximum security prisoner chewed off own finger

NEWS.com.au, Other, 17/07/2025, Rohan Smith

A South Australian maximum security inmate has attempted to take his life behind bars less than a fortnight after it was revealed that he chewed off his own finger.

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Not even allowed to shower: NT Government under fire as watch house overcrowding reaches crisis point

National Indigenous Times, Other, 17/07/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Experts and advocates have issued urgent warnings over escalating overcrowding in Northern Territory prisons, as more than 70 correctional prisoners are reportedly being held in the Palmerston police watch house — months after the CLP government pledged to end the practice.

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Childhood education reforms must push for a safer system, SNAICC says

National Indigenous Times, Other, 17/07/2025, Dechlan Brennan

The peak body for First Nations children says proposed reforms to early childhood education and care (ECEC) must deliver deep, systemic change to improve safety for all children.

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No vaccine for bat bite victim

Daily Telegraph, General News, 18/07/2025, Danielle Gusmaroli and Madeleine Bower, Page 9

Family and friends of bat victim Craig Nolte the first person in NSW to die from bat lyssavirus have claimed he was sent home from his local hospital after the bite as it did not have the lifesaving vaccine he needed in stock.

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Flu cases spike with WA on cusp of worst ever influenza season

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2025, Lauren Smith

Health authorities fear Western Australia is in the midst of the state's worst flu season on record as cases soar and vaccination rates dwindle.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 17/07/2025, Girish Sawlani

Doctors fear WA could be in the midst of one the state's worst flu seasons on record as cases soar while vaccination rates dwindle. More than 13,000 cases have been reported for the month of July so far, in comparison to 15,000 in the same month in 2023 when flu cases peaked. The AMA of WA says record low vaccination rates are also a factor.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 17/07/2025, Kelly Higgins-Devine

Interview with Health and Ambulance Services Qld shadow minister Mark Bailey about flu season. Bailey says two months ago, there was a big spike in flu cases in Qld, a double the five-year average, 36% increase on 22 May reported in the ABC. He says the government has known this is going to be a very bad flu season but has not done anything to get vaccination rates up. He says they have had 84 flu deaths already in Qld this year.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Opening the door for more lifesavers

Newcastle Herald, General News, 18/07/2025, Madeline Link, Page 17

[...] Lifeblood has made changes to blood and platelets donation eligibility, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) recently approving a submission to remove gender-based sexual activity rules.

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Concerta shortage notification extended again

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 17/07/2025

[...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said the supply issues will impact Concerta 18 mg, 27 mg, 36 This content is restricted to registered users only.

[Read More](#)

GPs advised of extension to ADHD medication shortage

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 17/07/2025

Concerta is now expected to be in shortage until the end of 2026, with the TGA warning supply could be limited and some strengths unavailable.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Tasmanian medicinal cannabis doctors doing 'really good job' amid crackdowns on prescribers

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2025, Isabel Howard and Mel Bush

While most GPs in Tasmania are not prescribing medicinal cannabis, some "that are face-to-face actually do a really good job", says chair of the Royal Australian College of GPs in Tasmania, Toby Gardner.

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FOOD STANDARDS

A sweet levy on sugar

Hobart Mercury, General News, 18/07/2025, Page 3

A sugar tax on soft drink, sweetened juice and cordial is being backed as a way to reduce soaring rates of obesity and diabetes.

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

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No relevant coverage

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