



# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 22nd July 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that top bureaucrats have warned that nearly a quarter of doctors' clinics are unlikely to take part in the Medicare bulk-billing incentive, resulting in the Department of Health, Aged Care and Disability questioning if the proposed 12.5 per cent incentive split between practices and providers offered "sufficient incentive".
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that a full ban on the implantation of spinal cord stimulators has been called for by private health insurers following findings that revealed that almost a quarter of patients need revision surgery within 18 months.
- The **[Toowoomba Chronicle](#)** (page 5) reports that Queensland Health has warned that the publishing of real-time hospital data could influence patients when choosing which emergency department to attend.
- The **[Cairns Post](#)** (page 7) reports that Monash University has expressed concerns in the uptick of young people using GHB as a report from the university revealed a spike in GHB-related ambulance callouts among Australians aged between 25 and 34 in the past three years.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (online) reports that training for up to 80 community pharmacists will allow them to diagnose and treat common conditions like asthma, skin issues and ear infections from late 2026 in a bid to ease pressure on General Practitioners.

## GP reality slips out of pocket

The Australian, General News, 22/07/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 1

Nearly a quarter of doctors' clinics are unlikely to take up the Medicare bulk-billing incentive that helped sweep Anthony Albanese's government into a second term landslide, top bureaucrats warn. As part of stark advice provided to the government, Mark Butler's extensive Department of Health, Aged Care and Disability has questioned whether Labor's proposed 12.5 per cent incentive split between practices and providers offered "sufficient incentive" for doctors to join the amended bulkbilling practice incentive program.

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## Vape war far from over

Mount Evelyn Mail, General News, 22/07/2025, Sebastian Tan, Page 5

Shifting social norms are slowing the number of young people being hooked on vapes, but Australia isn't out of the woods yet, an expert has warned. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said education and prevention campaigns also helped deter people from taking up vaping or smoking.

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## New and expanded cheaper medicines for severe and life-threatening conditions

Mark Butler, Other, 21/07/2025, Mark Butler

Australians with post-transplant cytomegalovirus, breast, bile duct and urothelial cancer now have access to new and expanded cheaper medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The PBS listing for Livtency will be listed for the first time to treat illness caused by cytomegalovirus (CMV) after a transplant.

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## As suitors circle Healthscope, its management mulls a different path

The Age, Other, 21/07/2025, Colin Kruger

The sales process for Healthscope's failed private hospital business kicks off in earnest this Monday with up to 30 potential suitors due to file their tentative offers for its 37 Australian hospitals, employing 19,000 staff nationally. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler backed off from threats to intervene in private health insurer funding of private hospitals last month after insurers promised to increase their funding of the struggling sector.

[Read More](#)

## Federal government will face pressure to add dental to Medicare, amid 'overwhelming' wait times

ABC Online, Other, 21/07/2025, Fiona Willan

Queensland pensioner Don Batty has always looked after his teeth, but age has taken its toll. [...] The minor party campaigned heavily on the issue of adding dental to Medicare ahead of the election, and was encouraged by comments previously made by Health Minister Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

## Illicit tobacco is 'out in the open' but what is the best way to deal with it?

ABC Online, Other, 21/07/2025, Adelaide Miller

Consumption of illicit tobacco is growing as more tobacconists pop up and revenue is lost from the legal excise. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler didn't answer questions from the ABC about whether he'd consider subsidising the cost of nicotine replacement therapy.

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**The Zap: catch all the latest health and aged care news, plus**

## consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 21/07/2025, Melissa Sweet

Our columnist returns this week, with a focus on diabetes, chronic disease management more broadly, Tasmanian election promises for health, aged care advocacy, and the role of artificial intelligence in healthcare. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler last addressed the issue of a sugar tax in an interview with the Channel 7 Sunrise program on 30 May this year, when he said "there is no plan in our Government for a sugar tax".

[Read More](#)

## What a croc! Protesters take their message to Qld Health Minister Tim Nicholls

OUTinPerth, Other, 21/07/2025, Meta Time

Cairns locals have delivered a handmade croc to Health Minister Tim Nicholls, demanding he reinstates trans youth health care. [...] In January federal Health Minister Mark Butler has announced that he had asked the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to undertake a comprehensive review of the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents in Australia, and to develop new national guidelines.

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## 'We won't be negotiating': Government defends PBS

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/07/2025

The RACGP has backed the Federal Government's staunch defence of the PBS 'in the face of pressure from overseas interests'. [...] However, on Monday, Federal Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler confirmed 'we won't be negotiating about our PBS'.

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## ABC News, ABC National News, 21/07/2025, Melissa Mackay

The Federal Greens, led by Senator Jordon Steele-John, are renewing their push to include dental services in Medicare. Over 2 million Australians avoid or delay dental care each year due to costs, while those eligible for public dentists wait for up to two years. Grattan Institute health program director Peter Breadon says the nation's dental system is overwhelmed and too small to accommodate everyone needing dental care. Health Minister Mark Butler says immediate changes won't be forthcoming, but he acknowledges the desire to include dental care in Medicare.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 21/07/2025, Saskia Mabin

[...] My guest is the Australian Dental Association President, Dr Chris Sanzaro. And we're talking about how long people are needing to wait for dental care. This week, Parliament goes back and the Greens have vowed to continue to put pressure on the government to add dental to Medicare. This is something previously that Health Minister Mark Butler has expressed support for. It sort of seems to be a matter of timing and how long it would would take for this to be achieved.

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## ABC Radio Melbourne, 13:00 News, 21/07/2025

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler states Labor will be focused on delivering its key election promises when Parliament resumes tomorrow. He adds that the Federal Government's top priorities will include cutting student debt by 20%, bolstering childcare safety, and protecting penalty rates and overtime pay for workers.

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## Radio National, 08:00 News, 21/07/2025

The Federal Parliament will sit this week for the first time since the May election, with the Government under pressure over dental care. The Greens hold the balance of power, and they're planning to use that power to pressure the Government on some policies, like adding dental to Medicare. Health

Minister Mark Butler says he can't say in the short term if there'll be changes to dental, but he acknowledges in the longer term there's an ambition for it to be covered by Medicare.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#).

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### Radio National, Breakfast, 21/07/2025, Sally Sara

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler states in his portfolio area of health and ageing and disabilities, it's all about delivery. He notes as Health and Disability Minister, children and childcare are constant focuses of him and his colleagues. Butler adds there's a high level of ambition among many Australians, and many Australian MPs to bring dental into Medicare coverage over time.

Interview continues on: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

### MINISTER MCALLISTER

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

### DEPARTMENT

#### Analyst brought in as govt readies My Health Record overhaul

InnovationAus, Other, 21/07/2025, Justin Hendry

The Health department has extended its contract with a business analyst to help with the implementation of controversial laws requiring the sharing of pathology data to My Health Record by default. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said this work is for the

planning and implementation of recently passed legislation which makes Medicare rebates for providers conditional on pathology and diagnostic imaging reports being shared to My Health Record.

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## MA blasts PBAC agenda update

Pharma In Focus, Other, 21/07/2025

An update to the PBAC's July agenda has seen pushback over the inclusion of some items, with Medicines Australia saying the submission to transfer drugs from the Life Saving Drugs Program to the PBS did not give time for adequate feedback. [...] "Medicines Australia has written to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to raise concerns with the policy and process for the proposal to transition these medicines from the LSDP to the PBS and to seek further consultation with stakeholders," MA CEO, Liz de Somer, said.

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## Universal bulk-billing practices prioritised for registrar placement

The Medical Republic, Other, 21/07/2025, Holly Payne

Under the new AGPT grant opportunity guidelines, the RACGP and ACRRM would be required to prioritise registrar placement in practices that bulk bill only. Practices that participate in the upcoming Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program will be prioritised for registrar placements from next year, according to Department of Health, Disability and Ageing tender documents.

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[Back to Top](#)

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## VACCINES

### New study finds coronavirus could mutate in young bats

9News, Other, 21/07/2025, Emily Bennett

A new Australian study has shed light on how and when new coronavirus variants arise in bats. The research, published in Nature Communications found young bats are infected more frequently and could be a key source of viral spillover into other species.

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[Back to Top](#)

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### A third of older people have no one to call

Aged Care Insite, Other, 21/07/2025

When a serious personal crisis hits, three in 10 older Australians say they don't have anyone to call. For those aged over 65, one in five say they experience loneliness often, or all the time.

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### Final draft of new rules expected soon

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 21/07/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

A summary of changes to the new aged care rules has been released, including changes to allied health definitions and changes to the operation of the higher everyday living fee. The Department of Health, Disability and Aged Care has released a summary of key changes to the new Aged Care Rules this month that indicates the final exposure draft of the rules will be published "in the coming weeks".

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### Occupancy declines, room prices rise

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 21/07/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The latest data from Mirus Australia shows occupancy has declined slightly for the first time since January, while delivered care minutes, room prices and average daily subsidy claims have all risen. There has been a jump in the number of aged care homes increasing their lowest price for aged care accommodation and a small increase in services lifting their highest room price compared to the previous month, according to Mirus Australia's latest benchmarking report.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 21/07/2025, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Council on the Ageing deputy CEO Corey Irlam, urging the Federal Treasurer and Health Minister to make dental care accessible for senior Australians. She notes that those age 65 and above living below the poverty line often prioritise more pressing needs like food over the costs of dental care. Amid the debate on whether to include dental care in Medicare, as pushed by the Greens, or to expand a seniors' dental benefits scheme, Irlam warns that delays are leading to worsening health outcomes and more hospital emergency visits.

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[Back to Top](#)

## DISABILITY

### Staff owed pay in voluntary administration

Courier Mail, General News, 22/07/2025, Julie Cross, Page 3

A company linked to a banned disability provider has gone into voluntary administration, owing staff tens of thousands of dollars in wages. Staff at Cocoon International College in Brisbane, which advertised itself as providing a pathway for overseas workers to get jobs in community services, child care and aged care, was informed about the decision on Sunday, in an email sent by Muhammad Latif, director of a number of businesses under the Cocoon banner.

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### Coalition willing to discuss further savings to NDIS

ABC Online, Other, 20/07/2025, Jake Evans

The Coalition says it stands ready to revisit NDIS spending for a second time, after the prime minister flagged further savings may be needed. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said his government "[would] always look for spending to produce better value", after he was asked whether he would revisit NDIS spending, which is projected to cost \$64 billion a year by 2029.

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### Channel 9, A Current Affair, 21/07/2025, Allison Langdon

On Monday's edition of A Current Affair, a 38-year-old woman with generalised dystonia since infancy was rejected twice from the National Disability Insurance Scheme despite suffering from a lifelong disability. Melinda Brady says she is deeply frustrated over the decision, making her feel abandoned by the system. The NDIS says she does not currently meet eligibility requirements based on the evidence submitted, but the family can reapply with more proof that her condition is permanent.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Research shows teen drownings are surging, prompts calls to stop promotion of unsafe behaviour on social media

West Australian, Other, 22/07/2025, Dylan Caporn

Teenagers are at a greater risk of drowning than at the start of the century, a new research paper

studying death trends has shown, calling for action to stop risky behaviours driven by social media. The analysis, to be published on Tuesday in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, found rates of drownings for young adults aged 15 to 17 rose by 13 per cent from 2002 to 2022 — the only demographic to see an increase.

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## **Drowning rates fall but migrant risks remain high**

West Australian, Other, 22/07/2025, Allanah Sciberras

Drowning rates have declined significantly over the past two decades though challenges persist among migrant and regional communities, a landmark study reveals. Analysis of unintentional drowning deaths between 2002 and 2022 shows a 60 per cent decrease in drowning deaths among children under the age of four, and a 24 per cent decline over the past 20 years overall.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#)

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## **ABC, ABC News, 21/07/2025, Jeremy Fernandez**

Black market cigarettes now comprise 28% of all cigarette sales in Australia, shrinking government revenues from \$16.3b in 2016 to \$7.4b in 2025. Some smokers like JonJon Jensen resort to illicit tobacco because legal ones are expensive. NSW Premier Chris Minns suggests lowering the price of cigarettes, but Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers wants stricter compliance. Experts like University of Sydney's Prof Becky Freeman suggest penalising not only erring tobacco retailers but their landlords, too.

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## **ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 21/07/2025, Liz Trevaskis**

Interview with former Australian Dental Association NT president Kaejenn Tchia, expressing support for the Greens' push to include dental care in Medicare. Given the logistical and financial hurdles in the NT, Dr Tchia suggests a staggered approach by initially expanding the seniors dental benefit scheme for high-need groups like the elderly and Indigenous people. He also calls for the training of more dental professionals to fill the lack of dentists in remote areas.

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## **ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 21/07/2025, Nick Grimm**

University of Sydney public health professor Becky Freeman warns against lowering the prices of tobacco, arguing it would be sending the wrong message and risk undoing decades of public health progress against smoking. She wants broader powers for authorities to clamp down on illegal retailers. However, University of Sydney economist Faye Gao believes cutting down the tobacco tax is strategic in fighting the black market.

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## **ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 21/07/2025, Chris Bath & Dom Knight**

Regular Segment: Monday Political Forum with Greens Senator David Shoebridge, former NSW Liberal leader Kerry Chikarovski, and Independent MP for Warringah Zali Steggall.

On the growing calls to include dental care in Medicare, Stegall emphasises the need to treat dental health as essential in overall health, especially in underserved areas like the Torres Strait. Shoebridge agrees with Stegall's suggestion to use fossil fuel taxes to fully fund universal dental care, saying it is a matter of basic decency rather than political ideology.

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## **ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 21/07/2025, Chris Bath & Dom Knight**

Interview with Monash University adjunct professor Kevin Nicholas, discussing the global race by biotech companies to replicate human milk. In Australia, startup All G claims to have created a close match. Despite the progress in producing key milk proteins, Dr Nicholas says fully replicating breast milk remains out of reach due to its extreme complexity. Previous attempts to grow milk-producing cells in bioreactors have largely failed, he says. Dr Nicholas warned against misleading marketing claims

because even if full replication is achieved, he believes it will be costly and unlikely to replace breast milk or the stigma against mothers who use alternatives.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### An exercise in survival

Herald Sun, General News, 22/07/2025, Page 8

People with diabetes can lower their risk of dying prematurely by getting enough exercise on the weekend, even if they can't exercise during the week, according to researchers.

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

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### Disease in the spotlight

Shepparton News Online, Other, 21/07/2025, Billie Davern

Nexus Primary Health diabetes education co-ordinator Kylie Nadenbousch says National Diabetes Week is "essential" to raising awareness of the disease. While support is only expanding, it's still important to draw attention to the increasingly common nature of diabetes, according to Nexus Primary Health's diabetes education co-ordinator.

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### Patients sought for new NHS trial for brain cancer after man sees tumour vanish

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/07/2025

A new immunotherapy trial to treat the deadliest form of brain cancer is seeking patients after one man had remarkable results that saw his tumour vanish. The NHS study will recruit 16 people over an 18-month period and has been set up in memory of Baroness Margaret McDonagh, who died of the disease.

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### Neuropathic pain: our best treatments still fall short

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 21/07/2025

Despite a large body of new evidence, our best treatments for neuropathic pain continue to provide only modest benefits. Neuropathic pain is a common and disabling condition caused by injury or disease of the nervous system.

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### New guidelines for inflammatory bowel disease

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/07/2025

A GP expert has welcomed the consensus on dietary management of IBD, saying it provides practical recommendations and advice. Inflammatory bowel disease affects around 180,000 Australians.

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### SBS, World News Australia, 21/07/2025, Virginia Langeberg

Experts are calling for a nationwide investment to address chronic pain, including a holistic care approach. Over 4 million Australians suffer from chronic pain, and many say they feel invisible or unheard in the current healthcare system. Chronic Pain Australia advocacy manager Nicolette Ellis says it is the country's most burdensome condition, costing the economy more than cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes combined.

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## 2GB, Afternoons, 21/07/2025, Lucy Zelic

Interview with Children's Medical Research Institute multi-omics lab head Dr Rebecca Poulos, discussing their Genes for Genes Day fundraising initiative. She says the program helps sustain critical research on childhood cancers due to unreliable government funding.

*Interview continues on: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#).*

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 21/07/2025, Chris Bath & Dom Knight

Interview with Macquarie University adjunct fellow and Physiocise founder Anna-Louise Bouvier, discussing the long-held belief that pain and the weather are connected. Citing a large-scale UK study called 'Cloudy with a Chance of Pain,' low barometric pressure, high humidity, and wind correlated with about a 20% increase in self-reported pain. She largely attributes it to pressure changes affecting joints and other sensitive areas of the body.

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[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Pleas for ban of spinal cord devices

Age, General News, 22/07/2025, Liam Mannix, Page 1

Private health insurers have called for a full ban on the implantation of spinal cord stimulators after findings that almost a quarter of patients receiving the expensive devices need revision surgery, most within 18 months. The call for a ban comes as a law firm investigates a class action against the makers of the devices.

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

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### 'Go, go, go': Injury fear as food delivery riders turn to e-bikes

Age, General News, 22/07/2025, Cara Waters, Page 8

Growing numbers of food delivery riders are going to hospital with serious injuries after crashes on e-bikes amid mounting calls for tougher rules on the vehicles from authorities and politicians. While statistics on workers for platforms such as Uber Eats, DoorDash and Panda using e-bikes are not available, the Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit at the Monash University Accident Research Centre has found one in 20 people who attended hospital emergency departments with e-bike injuries said they were working at the time.

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### Hospital parking price shock

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 22/07/2025, Paul Weston, Page 4

The original budget for building the new Coomera Hospital carpark shows each vehicle space at the new facility will cost more than \$91,000 in funding, tender documents reveal. The independent Sangster Review for the Crisafulli government estimates the project budget for the hospital carpark alone to be more than \$117m.

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### Paramedic recruits on road

Shepparton News, General News, 22/07/2025, Page 6

The first group of new Ambulance Victoria recruits for 2025/26, including three in Greater Shepparton, are hitting the road to help meet rising winter demand. On Thursday, July 17, AV chief executive Jordan Emery welcomed 59 new graduate ambulance paramedics who are starting their careers with AV.

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## Health real-time data warning

Queensland Health warned that the government's flagship realtime hospital data could make patients "misinformed" when they were choosing an emergency department to attend. The ministerial briefing note to Health Minister Tim Nicholls flagged the rapid rollout of real-time data and patients' access to it had "risks".

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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## **Editorial: Patients forgotten in diagnostic turf war between doctors and pharmacists**

West Australian, Other, 21/07/2025

General practitioners say that a pilot program to train pharmacists to diagnose and treat more conditions, including ear infections, skin conditions and asthma will put patient safety at risk. "Is this prioritising quick treatment over quality treatment?" Australian Medical Association WA President Kyle Hoath asked.

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## **Australia's GP gap: How online appointments are quietly reshaping regional healthcare access**

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 21/07/2025

Australia has long prided itself on a robust public health system, but scratch beneath the surface, and the gaps-particularly in regional and remote areas-are painfully clear. General practitioners (GPs) have historically served as the backbone of community health, yet an alarming shortage of practitioners in rural Australia is now putting lives and livelihoods at risk.

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## **Low Medicare subsidies and staffing issues blamed for Northampton GP clinic's closure**

ABC Online, Other, 21/07/2025, Piper Duffy & Natasha Harradine

Residents and businesses in Northampton in Western Australia's Midwest are shocked and in limbo over the announcement its only GP clinic will close. GP Tara Hamilton, who runs Northampton Doctors Surgery, shared the news on social media on Friday, announcing the practice would shut its doors at the end of July.

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## **Health unions in pay talks with SA government speak out about ongoing healthcare challenges**

ABC Online, Other, 21/07/2025, Kathryn Bermingham

Standing outside the Royal Adelaide Hospital emergency department, nurses' union secretary Elizabeth Dabars did not mince her words. Three-and-a-half years after Labor was elected on a promise to fix the ramping crisis, one of the state's key health unions had a message for the South Australian government.

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## **New aged care incentive 'less viable' for smaller GP practices: first evaluation**

Australian Doctor, Other, 21/07/2025, Rachel Carter

The report recommended reducing the administrative burden on GPs and practices. An early evaluation of the new aged care incentive seems to confirm fears that many GPs have ended up financially worse off.

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## **From waiting rooms to Wi-Fi: Why millions of Aussies are booking their next telehealth appointment**

Daily Liberal, Other, 21/07/2025

Australians once resigned themselves to long commutes, crowded clinics and tattered magazines while they waited to be called in by their GP. Today, that ritual is rapidly being replaced by a single tap on a phone: the telehealth appointment.

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### **Channel 10, 10 News, 21/07/2025, Sharyn Ghidella**

Several hospitals across Queensland, including Prince Charles and Royal Brisbane and Women's hospitals, struggle with elective surgery cancellations as flu and COVID-19 patients fill up beds. Health Minister Tim Nichols says they were able to reduce last week's cancellations from 185 to just 29.

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### **Channel 7, Seven News, 21/07/2025, Peter Mitchell**

Victorian Government officials broke ground on the Melton Hospital project in Melbourne's west. The \$900m facility can handle up to 130,000 patients each year, 60,000 of those in the emergency department. Three times the size of the MCG, the new hospital is expected to ease the pressure and wait times on the existing Sunshine and Footscray hospitals when it opens in 2029.

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### **Channel 7, Seven News, 21/07/2025, Max Futchter & Katrina Blowers**

Queensland's public hospitals saw a 10% dip in elective surgery waitlists in the past six months, or 5400 patients less, due to state-funded private hospital referrals. State Health Minister Tim Nichols says 12,300 elective surgeries were performed in the month of May.

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### **Channel 9, Nine News, 21/07/2025, Melissa Downes**

Queensland Health Minister Tim Nichols says further elective surgery cancellations are still possible amid a spike in flu and COVID-19 cases. Townsville, Mackay, and Gladstone hospitals have reached Tier 3 status or operating at emergency levels.

*Report continues on: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#).*

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### **2CC, Breakfast, 21/07/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo**

Interview with Michael Wright, President, RACGP, about the Federal Government's defence of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Wright states the PBS along with affordable access to senior GPs are crucial parts of the affordability of the Australian health system. He notes what they see is that prices in Australia are often cheaper than what people pay in the US.

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[Back to Top](#)

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## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

### **GHB scourge is stalking young partygoers**

Cairns Post, General News, 22/07/2025, Alexandra Feiam, Page 7

Monash University has reported a worrying increase in GHB usage among young people in Australia, part of a wider trend as the cost-of-living crunch continues to cripple the nation. In conjunction with Turning Point, a report from Monash revealed a startling spike in GHB-related ambulance callouts among Australians aged between 25 and 34 in the past three years.

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### **Tryptamine opens patient recruitment for world-first Binge Eating Disorder trial**

Tryptamine Therapeutics has kicked off patient recruitment for its world-first psilocin trial targeting Binge Eating Disorder (BED), with dosing set to start this quarter and a shot at unlocking a massive market. It's a major step for a clinical-stage biotech, which has been steadily laying the groundwork for months.

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## ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 21/07/2025, Geraldine Mellet

Interview with Radio National Health Report compere Dr Norman Swan, discussing new data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare revealing that nearly 40% of Australians live with two or more chronic conditions, known as multimorbidity. In a distressing note, 11% of children also fall into this category, with conditions like ADHD, autism, and diabetes. Despite rising ADHD rates, Dr Swan believes it's a reflection of misdiagnosis or inconsistent diagnostic practices, especially by some paediatricians and psychiatrists using superficial methods like questionnaires via Telehealth. Dr Swan emphasised the need for more holistic diagnostic assessments rather than reliance on flawed tools.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Staff poll back on the cards after tender listed more than two years since last Your Voice in Health survey

West Australian, Other, 21/07/2025, Claire Sadler

WA Health is still looking for a company to run the department's biggest staff engagement poll, almost two years after the former contractor went into liquidation, leaving department employees without a way to raise concerns about working conditions. The department put the Your Voice in Health survey under review in 2023 but the workforce poll is expected to return in 2026 after a tender was listed on Monday for a contractor to take on a potential five-year contract.

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### Expanded role for WA pharmacists but there's a catch ... they're not eligible for Medicare

West Australian, Other, 21/07/2025, Jessica Page

Pharmacists will be trained to diagnose and treat more conditions under a new WA pilot program — but patients will have to pay because bulk-billing will not apply. Health Minister Meredith Hammat has opened applications for up to 80 community pharmacists to undergo 12 months training to diagnose and treat ear infections, skin conditions and asthma to ease pressure on GP wait lists.

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

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### Labor's Hecs reduction bill not the fairest way to relieve student debt, economists say

The Guardian, Other, 22/07/2025, Patrick Commins

Cutting student loans by a flat \$5,500 would be a fairer and more effective way of providing relief than Labor's promised 20% reduction to Hecs debts, a leading independent thinktank says. [...] Unsurprisingly, the biggest winners were medicine, law and dentistry graduates, who received an average of \$10,000 in debt relief.

## Give peace a chance: Nurses and midwives can play crucial role in fostering global peace in a fractured world

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 21/07/2025, Robert Fedeles

As trusted frontline health professionals in every corner of the globe, nurses and midwives are uniquely positioned to lead collective international efforts for lasting peace. On top of clinical care, nurses and midwives can play a significant role in helping bridge divides – including cultural, political and social – through their daily advocacy and action.

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## Seven Regional WA, Seven Regional News, 21/07/2025, Campbell Greaves

Northampton Doctor Surgery will close at the end of the month, leaving the WA Midwest town without a GP. Its owner, Medibloom, pulled financing due to minimal Medicare rebate and a lack of staff. RACGP WA Chair Dr Ramya Raman says it's crucial to keep GP services sustainable. Geraldton MP Kirrilee Warr worries that locals will delay seeking medical help despite the Federal Health Department's initiatives to retain doctors in rural areas. WA Health Minister Merredith Hammat hopes the State Government's program to train pharmacists to treat common conditions like acne, asthma, and ear infections will help fill the gap.

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## ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 21/07/2025, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interviews with AMA WA Council of General Practice chair Dr Simon Torvaldsen and Rural Doctors Association WA treasurer Dr Thomas Drake-Brockman, expressing concern over the State Government's plan to allow pharmacists to treat certain conditions to address the GP shortage in rural areas. Dr Torvaldsen warned that such a move risks fragmenting care and offering a lower standard of treatment. Dr Drake-Brockman acknowledged the value of collaboration in rural settings but raised safety concerns about pharmacists both prescribing and dispensing medications.

*Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#).*

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## ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 21/07/2025, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with WA Health Minister Merredith Hammat, defending the State Government's plan to allow pharmacists to treat common conditions like asthma, ear infections, and skin issues to address the GP shortage in rural areas. It comes as the remote town of Northampton is about to lose its GP. Hammat clarifies that the initiative doesn't replace GPs but provides more healthcare options amid accessibility issues. Consultations are ongoing with the AMA and other stakeholders before the pilot program rolls out.

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[Back to Top](#)

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### GPs back govt defence of PBS

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 21/07/2025

As Australia's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) draws increased criticism from the US pharmaceutical lobby, the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has emphasised its essential role in ensuring Australian patients can afford essential medicines. RACGP President Dr Michael Wright said the PBS is one of Australia's most important programs for health access and equity, "ensuring everyone has affordable access to the care they need".

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[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### ABC Radio Canberra, 7:30 News, 21/07/2025

The Greens are vowing to put dental health on the agenda as the new Federal Parliament prepares to begin its work this week. The Greens are returning to Canberra with the sole balance of power in the Senate and they plan to use it to pressure the Government to add dental to Medicare.

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[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Brawl over bid to shape AI future

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 22/07/2025, Matthew Cranston & Greg Brown, Page 1

Australia's miners are preparing for a fight with unions over how much power Labor gives them in blocking billions of dollars worth of investment in artificial technology out of fear jobs will be lost. [...] Australian Manufacturing Workers Union national secretary Steve Murphy called for the Productivity Commission to be abolished, while Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation national secretary Annie Butler claimed the body was taking a "hardline economic approach" in assessing the value of the care economy.

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### We're pumped about our hi-tech health advances

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 22/07/2025, Craig Rowsell, Page 4

The Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct is breaking through on to the global innovation stage, just as one of the key technologies being developed at the precinct, the BiVACOR total artificial heart, emerges as arguably the medical breakthrough of our time. It's been a long road for the BiVACOR founder, biomedical engineer Dr Daniel Timms almost 25 years paralleling the GCHKP's own growth journey since it was founded on a 2001 vision to transform the Gold Coast economy.

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### Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct's game-changing medical breakthroughs revealed

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/07/2025, Ashleigh Jansen

From world-first breakthroughs in spinal cord repair, artificial heart technology and stroke intervention to Artificial Intelligence - a dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem based in Southport has burst onto the global stage. The Gold Coast is at the forefront of innovation, bringing lifesaving technologies to the world via the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct (GCHKP).

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## Groundbreaking WA research behind major health wins for Aussies

West Australian, Other, 21/07/2025, Olivia Senior

In 1989, Professor Carol Bower and Fiona Stanley made a landmark discovery: taking folate in early pregnancy reduced the risk of neural tube defects – such as spina bifida. It didn't stop there.

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## Doctors call for use of spinal cord stimulators to be reconsidered as study reveals major risks

9News, Other, 21/07/2025, Emily McPherson

Australian doctors and health fund providers are calling for the use of spinal cord stimulators to be reconsidered after research revealed one-in-four people are having revision surgery for complications. Spinal cord stimulators have been used to treat chronic pain, including back pain, neck pain, nerve pain, and complex regional pain syndrome.

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## Weekly Parkinson's disease treatment a step closer

Australian Doctor, Other, 21/07/2025, Mohana Basu

A potential once-weekly injectable treatment for managing Parkinson's disease symptoms could be an alternative to multiple daily tablets. University of SA researchers have developed a long-acting formulation and drug delivery technique that can provide a steady dose of levodopa and carbidopa over days or even weeks.

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## Sweetener in DOZENS of 'healthy' low-calorie foods spikes risk of stroke, experts discover - as cases soar in young people

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/07/2025, Zoe Hardy

An artificial sweetener added to 'healthy' foods—including low-calorie ice cream and protein bars—could increase the risk of stroke and brain damage, research suggests. Erythritol, which is also commonly found in flavoured waters and popular diet products like Halo Top ice cream—has already been linked to digestive issues and heart problems.

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## Slash your risk of bowel and colon cancer with these very surprising foods: They contain the key nutrient proven to help - and which most overlook. Now doctors reveal exactly what to eat

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/07/2025, Mandy Francis

A fibre-rich diet is important for our gut health and helps to keep our bowel habits regular. And more recently, research has suggested it can lower cholesterol, improve heart health, reduce our risk of type 2 diabetes and – because it can help you feel fuller for longer – it's even good for weight management.

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[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### New report warns inaction on key inquiries is perpetuating injustice for First Nations people

National Indigenous Times, Other, 21/07/2025, Dechlan Brennan

A new report submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council has found persistent failures by Australian governments to implement recommendations from royal commissions and coronial inquests are contributing to ongoing systemic injustices experienced by First Nations people.

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[Back to Top](#)

## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### **Explainer: Can you catch Lyme disease in Australia?**

The Australian, Other, 21/07/2025, Stephen Lunn

Can you catch Lyme disease within Australia? The answer is officially no, but that official answer is hotly contested.

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### **Hundreds of thousands of young people urged to have vaccine that protects against cancer linked to oral sex**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/07/2025, Elen Johnston

Health chiefs are urging the 418,000 under-25s who left school without receiving a life-saving cancer vaccine to come forward for the jab. The HPV vaccine, routinely offered to children aged 12 to 13 in Year 8, protects against human papillomavirus—a common infection linked to several cancers.

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### **Officials urge those who left school without lifesaving vaccine to get protected**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/07/2025

Health officials have urged hundreds of thousands of people to get a vaccine that protects against certain cancers. It comes amid warnings that more than 418,000 children have left school with no protection against human papillomavirus (HPV) in the last three years.

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### **Channel 7, Seven News, 21/07/2025, Susannah Carr & Rick Ardon**

For a number of years now, people have been able to get COVID and flu injections at the local chemist. More recently, pharmacists have been able to treat urinary tract infections and dispense the contraceptive pill. Now, the list of ailments they can consult on is getting bigger. It includes ear infections, acne and asthma.

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### **2CC, Canberra Live, 21/07/2025, Leon Delaney**

The Australian Medical Association renewed its calls for Canberrans to take the flu vaccine after a spike in cases. At least 4020 cases have been reported, and more are expected until September. In 2024, 4837 cases were recorded.

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### **4BC, Afternoons, 21/07/2025, Sofia Formica**

Interview with infectious diseases expert Dr Paul Griffin, discussing Queensland's second case of the more severe Clade I strain of monkeypox or mpox. Dr Griffith says public health measures are being observed and a community transmission is unlikely because the 60 close contacts are now in isolation. He also encouraged the public to take up the flu vaccine amid rising cases of the flu and COVID-19.

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[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### **Channel 7, Seven News, 21/07/2025, Max Fatcher & Katrina Blowers**

The Therapeutic Goods Administration is seeking tighter dispensing rules on painkillers after it was found that customers ordering paracetamol through food delivery apps can exceed the state's



mandated over-the-counter limit of 16 tablets. The TGA expressed concern over the use of unchecked online apps to circumvent rules. At least 50 Australians die annually from paracetamol overdose.

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[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### **Cannabis laws ‘outdated, ineffective and harmful’**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 21/07/2025

Pennington Institute releases plan "to safely legalise and regulate cannabis" Australia should "take the reins and plan a responsible, controlled framework" for the legalisation of cannabis, the Pennington Institute chief executive, John Ryan, says. The organisation, which supports cost-effective approaches to maximise community health and safety in relation to drugs, described current law relating

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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