



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 3rd August 2025

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics and Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) | [Interim Australian CDC](#)
| [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)
| [AICIS](#)

LINKS

[Click here to view full print articles in this report](#)

[Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Times](#)** (page 1) reports the despite an all-time high of 7009 hours of ambulance ramping in July, a task force established to address the issue is meeting less frequently, only gathering monthly during winter and bi-monthly the rest of the year. Western Australian Health Minister Meredith Hammat said the government is attacking the problem from every angle and that the causes of ambulance ramping are complex, while the opposition criticized the minister for downgrading the task force's meeting schedule.
- **[The Sunday Age](#)** (page 1) reports under a proposal by Monash Health, Dandenong Hospital will no longer cater to medium-risk pregnancies, with a Monash Health spokesperson claiming that the consolidation of services is meant to ensure the safest possible outcomes for mothers and babies. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) is concerned that the redirection of patients will disproportionately affect vulnerable women, such as refugees, and may strain other health services like Casey Hospital and Monash Medical Centre.
- **[The Coast Community News](#)** (online) reports legislation is being introduced to Parliament to reduce the maximum cost of a Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription to \$25 which Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler said would provide cost-of-living relief for Australians and make medicines more affordable.
- **[7News](#)** (online) reports Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi is working to raise awareness about men's health challenges, including high suicide rates and reluctance to seek

medical help, and is partnering with fellow politician Matt Smith to promote positive masculinity and reduce domestic violence.

- **The Sunday Herald Sun** (page 9) reports a Victorian Government spokesperson noted that the state is working to support its ageing population with a \$34.6 million investment in public sector residential aged care services and additional funding for the health system to meet the increasing demand for complex care.
- **The Sunday Canberra Times** (page 14) reports occupational therapists and other allied health professionals are leaving the NDIS as the National Disability Insurance Agency's (NDIA) decision to freeze prices for some services for a seventh consecutive year and halve travel subsidies makes it financially unsustainable to provide care. The NDIA states that its annual pricing review aligns NDIS rates with what Australians without an NDIS plan pay for similar services, but allied health peaks and advocacy groups have called on the Minister for the NDIS, Jenny McAllister, to intervene.
- **The West Australian** (online) reports organ donor registrations have increased by 50 per cent in Western Australia since QR codes to DonateLife's website were added to driver's license and vehicle renewal forms.
- **The Canberra Times** (online) reports a breast cancer survivor has started a petition to make diagnostic scans for breast cancer free due to concerns that out-of-pocket costs deter people from seeking early examinations, a sentiment echoed by the Cancer Council and supported by a recent Department of Health, Disability and Ageing review of the BreastScreen Australia program.

MINISTER BUTLER

Cheaper medication legislated in parliament

Coast Community News, Other, 02/08/2025

From January 1 next year, a prescription on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) will cost Australians no more than \$25. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was focused on delivering cheaper medicines for Australians.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

7NEWS The issue podcast: Meet the giants of parliament Dan Repacholi and Matt Smith who are raising awareness of men's health

7news.com.au, Other, 02/08/2025, Josh Martin

For many Australian men their health is an awkward, sensitive topic they'd rather ignore. [...] During the recent federal election, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese committed \$32 million in funding and announced Hunter MP Dan Repacholi would become the Special Envoy for Men's Health.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News (Saturday), 02/08/2025, Amanda Abate

Hunter MP Dan Repacholi and Leichhardt MP Matt Smith have both achieved great athletic success, but it is their low points that have inspired them to advocate for men's health. Repacholi, the Special Envoy for Men's Health, encourages men to see their GP.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Weight loss: which medications are evolving as class leaders?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2025, Karalyn Huxhagen, Page 60

In recent times, pharmacists have been besieged by patients requesting medications for weight loss. [...] The draft of the 'Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Overweight and Obesity for Adults, Adolescents and Children in Australia' are published by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

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

Allan government pledges to make working from home a legal right

The Age, Other, 02/08/2025, Kieran Rooney

Private and public sector workers would have the right to work from home at least two days a week under legislation proposed by the Allan government. [...] Blair Comley, the secretary of the federal Department of Health and Aged Care, told a summit hosted by The Australian Financial Review on Tuesday that while there was no returning to five days a week, he was concerned about a 22 per cent attendance rate among his 7000 employees.

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

[Read More](#)

Survivors call for more assistance with cancer costs

Canberra Times, Other, 02/08/2025, Maeve Bannister

A young breast cancer survivor is calling for diagnostic tests to be made free because she fears high living costs could deter others seeking early examinations due to the expense. [...] According to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, federal, state and territory governments recently undertook a BreastScreen funding review, with the final report now being considered.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Staying compliant with PBS regulations

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 02/08/2025, Helen Hawkes

To ensure PBS claiming practices are compliant, ethical and audit-ready, here's what every pharmacist should know. [...] 'The systems we use to detect non-compliance are continually evolving,' Karen Prstec, Director of the PBS Compliance Section of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, told delegates at the PSA25 session.

[Read More](#)

Expecting? Prepare to Pay

Star Community, Other, 02/08/2025, Jin Hui

Expectant mothers and healthcare providers have slammed the removal of bulk billing for pregnancy ultrasounds, but the federal government insists no changes have been made. [...] Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing spokesperson rejected these claims, saying "there have been no changes to bulk billing eligibility for pregnancy ultrasounds".

[Read More](#)

From the desk of Roland Rocchiccioli

Ballarat Times, Other, 03/08/2025, Roland Rocchiccioli

Anyone 75 or older, is, according to the federal Health Department, the Cancer Council of Australia, and the bowel screening facility, too old to poo-on-the-paper to test for bowel cancer. You should bugger-off, stop wasting their time, contract bowel cancer, and die!

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Signs of worry as ageing Victorian population stresses systems

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 03/08/2025, Alex White & Carly Douglas, Page 9

The number of Victorians living past 100 is on the rise but the milestone is not good news for everyone, with growing concern about caring for an ageing population. Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages data shows 770 people over 100 died last year 576 women, 194 men nearly double the 431 centenarians who died in 2015.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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

[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

NDIS changes slammed as 'unsustainable'

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 03/08/2025, Natalie Croxon, Page 14

Bryony Clark's occupational therapy practice has started transitioning away from the NDIS as pricing decisions make it more "unsustainable" to provide services - and they are not the only ones. The National Disability Insurance Agency's (NDIA) annual pricing review has frozen the cost for occupational therapy sessions provided to NDIS participants for a seventh year and halved travel subsidies for allied health professionals.

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

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Uproar at hospital's plan to shun high-risk births

Sunday Age, General News, 03/08/2025, Broede Carmody, Page 1

Dandenong Hospital could soon become one of Melbourne's only major public hospitals unable to regularly care for sick or premature newborn babies under a controversial plan to redirect women with riskier pregnancies to other health services. [...] The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) is also concerned that redirecting expectant mothers to hospitals 20 minutes' drive away could extend patient travel times, complicate cases where babies are born on the way to Dandenong Hospital and place unnecessary strain on workers at other health services.

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

Pharmacy careers summit: the leaders speak

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2025, Page 8

The leaders of the three major pharmacy professional bodies all presented their vision of the opportunities pharmacy offers to recent graduates when speaking at July's Raven's Recruitment Pharmacy Careers Summit. "Opportunities are not going to come to you, you are going to have to find your opportunities", Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president, Professor Trent Twomey, told attendees of an online conference in early July.

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

'The time for reviews is over'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/08/2025, Kate Cowling

The opposition health spokeswoman reaffirmed her commitment to holding the government to account on implementing the full scope review at PSA25. Policymakers must ensure "every single health professional is operating at the top of their capacity", Senator Anne Ruston told the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA's) 2025 national conference.

[Read More](#)

What can be done about paediatric medicine-related harm?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 02/08/2025, Ruth Cooper

Too many Australian children are being harmed by medicine misadventure. Here's what pharmacists must do now.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Weekends, 02/08/2025, Luke Grant

Interview with Cleanbill CEO James Gillespie, who questions the federal government's claim that a multibillion-dollar investment will result in 90 per cent of GP consultations being bulk-billed. According to Gillespie, based on their analysis of over 6200 clinics, the government's claim that their new bulk billing initiative would result in 4800 fully bulk-billed clinics is incorrect, as the uptake will be significantly lower. He claims that only about 740 more clinics will join the new initiative, bringing the total to slightly more than 2000 fully bulk-billing clinics beginning November 1st.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Myth v fact: The side-effects and risks of new weight-loss drugs

Sun Herald, General News, 03/08/2025, Jackson Graham & Hannah Kennelly, Page 32

Sofia had struggled with her weight since her early teens. [...] The PBS recorded 2,397,521 prescriptions of semaglutide in 2023-24, up 60 per cent on the previous year.

Also reported by: [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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

Gout: it's time to rethink the most misunderstood arthritis

Gout is a painful type of arthritis caused by crystals that form in, and around, the joints as a result of high urate levels in the body. [...] In fact, new research from Arthritis Australia reveals that 71% of Australians still believe alcohol is the main cause of gout,² while nearly three-quarters blame rich foods.

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

Mums over 40: Big shift in ages of new Australia mothers

The Courier Mail, Other, 02/08/2025, Elspeth Hussey

Odette Smith is living a modern-day fairytale – just not on the timeline she once imagined. [...] In South Australia, births to mothers aged between 40-44 have risen by more than 60 per cent since 2002, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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

[Read More](#)

2GB, Weekends, 02/08/2025, Luke Grant

Grant calls the Prime Minister's campaign claim that patients will only need their Medicare card to see a doctor disingenuous. He cites figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, which show that Australians paid over \$151m in out-of-pocket GP fees in June alone and more than \$2.2b in the fiscal year ending May 2025.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicide prevention leader and senior researcher outline why lived experience is vital for national strategy

ABC Online, Other, 02/08/2025, Joseph Hathaway-Wilson

When it comes to suicide prevention, Samantha McIntosh knows more than most. With a lived experience of suicidality, a long career in suicide prevention and a recent foray into academia on the subject, the Darwin woman has seen multiple facets of what she described as a still highly stigmatised issue.

[Read More](#)

NT Police urged to prioritise mental health screenings: Inquest into constable's death

ABC Online, Other, 02/08/2025, Roxanne Fitzgerald

An expert in trauma and suicide has urged the Northern Territory Police Force to conduct yearly mental health screenings, telling a coronial inquest into the death of a veteran officer that better checks would likely have flagged him as an "officer at risk". At 44 years old, after more than two decades on the front line and stints in remote communities, Constable Michael Deutrom took his own life in April 2022, devastating colleagues and casting a stark light on the toll long years in the service could take.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Giving the gift of life

Sunday Territorian, General News, 03/08/2025, Lottie Hood, Page 1

A pair of Darwin sisters have been given multiple second chances at life through Australian organ donors. They have shared their incredible journey, during DonateLife Week, which calls on Aussies to opt-in to donating.

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

GP help to spot violence

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 03/08/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 7

Children with disabilities are up to four times more likely to experience sexual abuse, a key Tasmanian not-for-profit agency says as it launches a pilot program for doctors to identify and respond to violence and abuse. Engender Equality CEO Alina Thomas said as the community last month celebrated people with disability it was timely to start a primary care support program for GPs and their staff to respond to family and sexual violence.

Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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

Surge in West Aussies signing up to be organ donors after registration added to driver's licence and car forms

West Australian, Other, 02/08/2025, Claire Sadler

Hundreds more West Australians have signed up to be an organ donor over the past few months since the life-saving option has been reinstated onto drivers licence and vehicle renewal forms. Organ donation registrations have surged by 50 per cent since March — an increase credited to a collaboration between DonateLife WA and the Department of Transport, with QR codes to Donate back on the forms.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Brain stimulation trialled to help treat endometriosis pain

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 03/08/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 5

Kira Robertson, 23, often experiences pain so severe she cannot drive, walk or complete simple tasks. [...] Symptoms experienced by endometriosis sufferers do not depend on the severity of the condition, according to the Australian Journal of General Practitioners.

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

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Voice leaders accuse Labor of using Garma Festival as a 'performative opportunity' No Headline

Sunday Territorian, General News, 03/08/2025, Page 16

Labor has been accused of using the nation's biggest festival of Indigenous culture to spruik talking points rather than address the hardships facing Aboriginal people, particularly in the Northern Territory. [...] The Closing The Gap report found Aboriginal women were dying earlier, more babies were an unhealthy birth weight and kids not on the right developmental track, lower preschool enrolments, and less young people in school, education or training, fewer adults in employment and more adults and children in prison.

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

Delivering expert care and closing the gap

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 02/08/2025

Tamworth Aboriginal Medical Service - Aboriginal Corporation (TAMS-AC) is proud to offer its patients access to a growing number of visiting specialists across its four locations - delivering expert care where it's needed most. These visiting specialists work hand-in-hand with TAMS-AC's dedicated GPs, enhancing the depth of care available while ensuring patients receive consistent, culturally safe support in a familiar, community-led environment.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Fewer meetings to 'fix' ramping

Sunday Times, General News, 03/08/2025, Rebecca Le May & Hannah Cross, Page 1

A task force set up in a bid to tackle WA's ambulance ramping crisis is meeting less often than when it was established, despite the worst-ever log-jam being recorded last month. Ramping, which means patients can't get into a hospital bed, reached an all-time peak of more than 7000 hours in July, above the previous pandemic-era record in 2022 the same year the task force was established to the tune of \$252 million.

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Now fireys set to strike

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 03/08/2025, Taylah Fellows, Page 1

Firefighters will join teachers and nurses in protected strike action as the state government fails to reach a wage deal with yet another union. [...] It comes after the government resorted to mediated negotiations through the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission for both the Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union and the Teachers Union following months of failed talks.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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

More work and less life balance for Australians

Sun Herald, General News, 03/08/2025, Millie Muroi, Page 7

Australian workers could be putting in nearly half the hours they were 45 years ago, but have instead tended to work longer hours to upgrade their lifestyles, sacrificing work-life balance for more income.

[...] The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation have called for shorter working hours and more annual leave in return for productivity gains ahead of the roundtable.

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Qld vaccination rates lowest in nation as double hit of Ekka and flu peak near

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/08/2025, Courtney Kruk

Health officials fear a surge in flu cases and hospitalisations ahead of the Ekka will add further pressure to the state's health system, as new data showed Queensland has the worst vaccination rates in the country. Less than 28 per cent of Queenslanders are currently vaccinated against the flu, with the latest Queensland Health data showing 90 per cent of the nearly 44,000 cases this year were unvaccinated.

[Read More](#)

NSW emergency departments under pressure as flu vaccine uptake lags

Adelaide Now, Other, 02/08/2025, Madeline Crittenden

People skipping their yearly flu jabs are clogging up the state's emergency departments and hospital beds, with more than 92,000 confirmed cases of influenza recorded so far this year. Doctors have described this year's strain of the flu as "particularly severe", with otherwise fit and healthy people being admitted to hospital because of their symptoms.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Antidote to shortage of vital medications

A dire medication shortage is causing concern among people dependent on prescriptions, including hundreds of South Australians diagnosed with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. The Therapeutic Goods Administration currently lists more than 370 shortages and has warned that methylphenidate hydrochloride products used to treat ADHD will be hard to come by until the end of the year.

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

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

Why the celebs can keep their IV drip therapy

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 03/08/2025, Rebecca Whitfieldbaker, Page 63

It's no secret I could do with losing more than a few kilos, and the odd nip and tuck wouldn't go astray either. [...] Despite offering vast experience and knowledge on the topic, many of her important insights could not be shared in print for fear of perceived breaches of TGA regulations around the reporting of drugs used for weight loss.

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

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Stronger than fentanyl: a drug you've never heard of is killing hundreds every year

The Australian, Other, 02/08/2025, Sune Engel Rasmussen & Ming Li

Fentanyl fuelled the worst drug crisis the West has ever seen. Now, an even more dangerous drug is wreaking havoc faster than authorities can keep up.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

'Fibremaxxing' is trending – here's why that could be a problem

The New Daily, Other, 02/08/2025, Lewis Mattin

You need fibre – that much is true – but in the world of online health trends, what started out as sound dietary advice has spiralled into "fibremaxxing" – a push to consume eye-watering amounts in the name of wellness. The Australian dietary guidelines recommend 30 grams of fibre a day for adult men and 25 grams for women.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 02/08/2025, Chris Bath

Following the devastating scenes of dead marine life on beaches, seafood businesses, including family-owned businesses such as Angelakis Brothers, have reported a drop in consumer confidence and sales. The South Australian seafood industry is a significant economic contributor, with a production value of around \$500m, and there are serious concerns that a sustained drop in consumer demand will have long-term, devastating consequences for the industry.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

No relevant coverage

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

