



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 10th August 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)** (page 19) reports an unexpected increase in demand has resulted in a shortage of chickenpox vaccines, causing up to a five-month delay for adults and children not eligible for the free vaccine under the National Immunisation Program, though Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler is working to improve Australia's supply chain.
- **[The Sunday Times](#)** (page 1) reports WA Premier Roger Cook is seeking federal funding to increase aged care beds in WA to alleviate hospital ramping, while the new Aged Care Act has been delayed until November.
- **[The Sunday Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports hospitals in Southern NSW are grappling with bed block and workforce shortages, leading to a rise in patients seeking care in the ACT, who now make up one-quarter of its public health patients.
- **[The Sunday Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports the ACT Ambulance Service is hiring new paramedics to handle the 67,000 calls received last year after the Chief Officer revealed response times lengthened.
- **[The Sunday Age](#)** (page 1) reports the Transport Accident Commission is launching legal action against several surgeons at the Royal Melbourne Hospital for allegedly submitting fraudulent bills for unperformed procedures.

- [The Sunday Mail Adelaide](#) (page 5) reports ambulance ramping in SA reached a record-high in July, 5866 hours or nine per cent higher than the previous month, leaving the Ambulance Employees Association general secretary concerned for the mental health of their staff.
- [The Sunday Mail Adelaide](#) (page 12) leads widespread coverage of businesses offering National Disability Insurance Scheme services are being sold for as little as \$45,000 in online marketplaces, with sellers boasting that buyers can make huge profits without needing qualifications or experience, allegedly allowing some businesses to bypass the audit process.

MINISTER BUTLER

None the wiser on bulk-billing clinics

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 10/08/2025, Dana Daniel, Page 6

It was a key election commitment for the ACT, so where are the three new bulk-billing GP clinics promised by the Albanese government? [...] The health department's incoming brief to minister Mark Butler, released under Freedom of Information laws, contains a partially-redacted section that says some GP clinic operators had "offered to establish new fully bulk-billing clinics that would operate in "bulk-billing deserts" like the Canberra region.

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Wait on chickenpox vax

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 10/08/2025, Rachel Riley & Ellen Ransley, Page 19

Adults and children not eligible for the free chickenpox vaccine are facing a potential five-month wait to get the jab due to an increase in demand and a national medicine shortage. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler was asked what the government could do about addressing vaccine shortages.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Cost of IVF: How Aussies are paying for fertility treatment

The Courier Mail, Other, 09/08/2025, Ashleigh Gleeson

Ashira De Vreese had thousands of dollars in credit card debt due to IVF. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler referred queries to assistant treasurer and minister for financial services Daniel Mulino, who said: "superannuation is to support Australians' income for a dignified living in retirement and early pre-retirement access to superannuation is only available in extremely limited circumstances".

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

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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DEPARTMENT

Inside the new kitchen changing mealtimes for Illawarra Diggers' residents

Region Illawarra, Other, 09/08/2025, Kellie O'Brien

Illawarra Diggers Aged and Community Care is turning up the heat on aged care dining standards in a bid to boost nutrition, enhance mealtime experiences, and improve quality of life for its residents. [...] Recognised for its commitment to on-site "cook fresh" meals, Illawarra Diggers was selected late last year to participate in the foundation's national food reform initiative, funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Cook begs PM for aid

Sunday Times, General News, 10/08/2025, Joe Spagnolo, Page 1

Premier Roger Cook is taking his beggar's bowl to Canberra in a desperate plea to Anthony Albanese to fund more aged care beds in Western Australia, as the government looks to shift the heat on the health crisis. After more than a week of controversy, with ambulances parked outside of hospitals for record hours because emergency departments can't cope, Mr Cook — accompanied by Health Minister Meredith Hammat and Aged Care and Seniors Minister Simone McGurk — will personally put the case to the PM for help from the Commonwealth to increase the number of aged care beds in WA.

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

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Pass the buck & repeat

Sunday Times, General News, 10/08/2025, Ben Harvey, Page 23

The digital archive of stories published by this newspaper company is a powerful research tool. [...] In a spectacular display of revisionist history, Roger Cook suggested last week that the alerts are, in fact, "a normal part of the health system management to make sure that they maximise bed flow".

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Warrigal is holding a free wellness community event for older people

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 09/08/2025, Nicki Davey

Keeping fit and healthy becomes even more important as we get older, and navigating the aged care system and knowing what services are available can be overwhelming. That's where Warrigal aims to

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Thanks a million: lavish lifestyles paid for by NDIS

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 10/08/2025, Julie Cross & Stephen Drill, Page 12

NDIS providers are living the high life, splurging on supercars, multimillion-dollar property portfolios and first-class travel. [...] Before he was banned by the NDIS watchdog for three years in February, Dr Parasher bragged that he was the highest-paid podiatrist in Australia, and claimed to have made \$8m in one year thanks to his NDIS and Australian Defence Force clients, as well as rental incomes from his fast-growing property empire.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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Mega profits to highest bidder

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 10/08/2025, Charlotte Karp & Julie Cross, Page 12

Ready-made NDIS businesses are being flogged for as little as \$45,000 on Facebook Marketplace and Gumtree, spruiked as a way to make huge profits off the \$1bn-a-week system designed to care for the most vulnerable Australians. [...] Just 14,000 out of the more than 190,000 providers in the NDIS are registered, so buyers of a Gumtree clean-skin business get a veneer of superior credibility.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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Grab a business for just \$45k

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 10/08/2025, Julie Cross, Page 12

Is it any wonder that the NDIS is full of spivs and shonks when any Tom, Dick or Harry can buy a registered NDIS business on Gumtree or Facebook? For as little as \$45,000, you can secure an off the shelf NDIS business.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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Quality care not a factor

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 10/08/2025, Charlotte Karp, Page 13

I had about 10 conversations with people flipping NDIS businesses on Gumtree and Facebook, and only one mentioned the importance of providing quality care to disabled people. The rest did not care who I was or what experience I'd had they only wanted to make the sale.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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Dark farce of NDIS greed

Sunday Telegraph, Editorials, 10/08/2025, Page 79

The NDIS is a groundbreaking piece of social infrastructure that may one day be as much a part of Australian national identity as Medicare and Snowy Hydro. It provides vital services for hundreds of thousands of Australians and jobs for hundreds of thousands more.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

Australian GP Dr Ganesh Naidoo cuts cost of GP visits by more than half in bid to fix access in rural and remote communities

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/08/2025, George Al-Akiki

After years of witnessing expensive health check-ups, long patient drives and endless waiting, one doctor may have found the solution for all Australians at half the price. Dr Ganesh Naidoo has been a GP for over 15 years, previously running bulk billing clinics in Cairns for over a decade, where his experience revealed to him how vital affordable general practice is for patients in rural and lower income communities.

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

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Victorian government urged to move on months-overdue women's pain inquiry

ABC Online, Other, 09/08/2025, Nicole Asher

Women who have spent years navigating the health system seeking care for extreme pain say they are frustrated at the slow pace of a government inquiry into the issue. Victoria's Labor government announced the country's first inquiry into women's pain in early 2024, but more than a year later, little progress has been made.

[Read More](#)

Royal Flying Doctor Service dental team helps in Western NSW

Daily Liberal, Other, 09/08/2025, Ciara Bastow

If it wasn't for the Royal Flying Doctor Service Tiarnie McBride's teeth would have rotted. [...] The services offered by the RFDS dental team across Western and Far West NSW allow many to access oral health care when they would often have to travel vast distances.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Tribal counsel

Sunday Age, Sunday Life, 10/08/2025, Riley Wilson, Page 10

Women coming together in friendship, power, trust and safety is a preserved, ancient practice treasured in many cultures. [...] Recent studies by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported a link between loneliness and psychological distress; females aged 25-54 reported higher levels of loneliness than their male counterparts in 2023.

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

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The suburbs where Canberrans are having more children

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 10/08/2025, Lucy Arundell, Page 3

Amanda Chan did not plan to have two babies so close together, but she always wanted a large family. [...] Figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found Canberra had one of the lowest birth rates in the nation, with just 24 babies per 1000 women.

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ADHD meds may fail kids

Children medicated for ADHD have a lower quality of life than those with the condition who are unmedicated, one of the world's most comprehensive studies has found. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show the portion of children aged 12-17 prescribed ADHD-related medications tripled over the past decade, from 2 per cent of the age group to 6.6 per cent.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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Support when it's needed

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 10/08/2025, Cara Jenkin, Page 24

Palliative care can help improve the quality of life for South Australians with a life-limiting illness and earlier access to these support services may help them live better. [...] A common misconception is that palliative care is only available to people who are imminently dying, so many access the care they need late or not at all.

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

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Bringing home the grim reality of life on the streets

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Editorials, 10/08/2025, Page 65

They say to walk a mile in someone else's shoes is to see things from a different point of view. [...] The latest figures, from Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, also show a 60 per cent increase nationally in the number of deaths among the homeless compared to just a decade ago.

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Medicare funding for gender surgery denied despite 'unmet need'

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 09/08/2025, Grant McArthur

A federal government agency has asked for more information about the long-term impacts of gender-affirming surgery for transgender adults before agreeing to fund it under Medicare, despite acknowledging an unmet need for the service. Australia's leading surgical groups are lobbying the government to fund private patients undergoing a raft of 30 gender-affirmation surgeries, to provide more equitable access to patients across the country.

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

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News (Weekend), 09/08/2025, Michael Usher & Angie Asimus

DFMO, a life-saving drug for children's brain cancer, was made available to patients following the approval of its PBS application. Australia is the first country outside of the US to receive regulatory approval for the drug, allowing patients to obtain it locally at a low cost and quickly within a critical treatment period.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Local breakthrough that could help 200 million people

Sunday Times, General News, 10/08/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 12

Two Perth researchers are leading the world in the fight to cure vascular disease after discovering a way to dissolve the plaque that clogs arteries. Associate Professor Juliana Hamzah and Professor Shirley Jansen have been on the journey to find a cure for atherosclerosis for 10 years and counting.

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Schooling on cancer

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 10/08/2025, Rebecca Borg, Page 25

A cancer diagnosis during the most crucial years of school "does not have to derail everything". [...] Ms Gilkison, who works for the Victorian Adolescent and Youth Adult Cancer Service, is the only person in the state to hold a role where her key responsibility is to help young cancer patients finish school or find alternative pathways during and after their treatment.

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Nurturing children's 'full potential'

Sunday Examiner, General News, 10/08/2025, Lauren Richardson, Page 7

Tasmanian paediatric audiology clinicians proved a life-changing program could be taken international, helping deaf Japanese children get early care. [...] She said the model prioritised early intervention, provided support across multiple specialists, empowered parents through education to help their child's development, and built community between families.

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Pap smear testimony: A life-saving reminder from a mother

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 09/08/2025, Lydia Roberts

Postponing her pap smear test is one of the biggest regrets for North Tamworth mum Tarina Davies. [...] The NSW Government has just awarded \$470,000 in cervical screening community engagement grants to organisations across Hunter New England.

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ABC News, ABC Evening News (Weekend), 09/08/2025, Mariam Saab

Chronic pain patients, who have expressed concerns about Victoria's healthcare system, are frustrated by the delays in an investigation into women's pain. The Victorian Government promoted it as a landmark inquiry, but it is now months overdue, and women say they can't wait any longer.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Why parents are being ghosted by their adult kids

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 10/08/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 28

A single, defiant act by adult children is devastating parents the world over, family therapists say. But they are less clear on who or what is to blame.

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

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'Come home to me': Sewell Seltzer teen tragedy triggered by seductive AI chatbot, lawsuit alleges

The Courier Mail, Other, 09/08/2025, Angela Mollard

This teenage boy developed a close bond with his sexy and sympathetic AI chatbot "friend". And then one day, the chatbot encouraged him to take his own life. [...] As Sydney University expert Dr Raffaele Ciriello observes soberly: "If social media is a gateway drug like marijuana, then AI is crystal meth. It's something much more addictive and potentially damaging."

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

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As thinness is idolised, eating disorders can go dangerously overlooked. Will Victoria's new approach save lives?

The Guardian, Other, 09/08/2025, Benita Kolovos

What would become a decade-long battle that nearly claimed her life started out "quite innocently" for Portia Michau. [...] The Eating Disorders Intensive at Home program began accepting referrals in February, while Ngamai Wilam, the state's first public residential eating disorder centre, opened three months later, both run by Alfred Health.

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How a loneliness epidemic is sweeping Australia's biggest city - hitting Gen Z, travellers and expats the hardest... and causing 'vascular ageing': 'The proof is everywhere'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/08/2025, Elise Wilson

They're supposed to be the most connected generation in history, but young Australians, especially those in Sydney, are lonelier than ever before. Far from the stereotype of Gen Z as a carefree, party-loving cohort, two in five are suffering from loneliness.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 09/08/2025, Fauziah Ibrahim & Thomas Oriti

Interview with Jon Owen, pastor and CEO of Wayside Chapel, about former NSW police officers who have been jailed for assaulting a mentally ill woman. Owen notes that about a quarter of police emergency calls now involve mental health concerns, highlighting a growing national crisis, especially among children facing depression and anxiety. He also mentions that Australia is trialling programs like PACER, in which police respond to mental health calls before deciding on next steps, and that some advocates push for more funding in mental health first aid units.

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IMMUNISATION

Ekkava place to spruik the LNP

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 10/08/2025, Rachel Riley & Mikaela Mulveney, Page 13

Free flu vaccinations have taken a back seat to the state government's spruiking of the Hospital Rescue Plan and the Brisbane 2032 Games at its dedicated Ekka precinct. More than 900 show-goers were given the free flu jab last year in the John Reid Pavilion but the government scrapped the clinic this year blaming poor take-up.

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Home is where the cold and flu remedy is

Sunday Times, General News, 10/08/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 42

Winter may nearly be finally over, and the worst of the flu season is thought to be past us, but many West Australians will still likely succumb to bugs like a cold or the flu in the weeks ahead. And with flu cases set to surpass last year's peak, WA health experts have listed some of the home remedies that can help fight winter illnesses and lurgies.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Ramping numbers hit record

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 10/08/2025, Natasha Emeck, Page 5

South Australia's ramping crisis has reached an all-time high, with ambulance crews stuck outside emergency departments for 5866 hours in July - the highest on record. The figure is 9 per cent higher than June's 5387 hours and well above May's 4791 and April's 3700.

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

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Ambulance ramping reaches record high in South Australia amid flu season

ABC Online, Other, 09/08/2025, Josephine Lim

South Australia has had its worst ambulance ramping on record as the government says the number of flu cases are at its peak. In July, patients have spent 5,866 hours ramped in ambulances outside public hospitals, more than the previous highest record of 5,539 hours in July last year.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Frontline workers' pay deal shortfall

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 10/08/2025, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 9

Queenslanders working for government-owned corporations are striking wage deals that are more than 50 per cent better than the state's frontline workforce. Workers at Stanwell Corporation Limited and Gladstone Ports, who earn anywhere between \$100,000 and \$200,000 a year, have secured a 12.5 per cent pay rise over three years in their latest enterprise bargaining agreements. Meanwhile, frontline workers such as teachers and nurses are fighting for more than the government's proposed 8 per cent over three years- or 1.5 percent less.

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

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Hospital bed block

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 10/08/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 1

The ACT "bears the brunt" of an underfunded south NSW health service, a union claims. Southern NSW hospitals surrounding Canberra are struggling with bed block and workforce shortages leading to

more patients travelling across the border. NSW residents make up about one in four public health patients.

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

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Inside the triple zero centre responding to ACT's health emergencies

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 10/08/2025, Bageshri Savyasachi, Page 1

What appears to be an uneventful afternoon in the capital has already been a very busy day for triple zero call-takers at the ACT Ambulance Service. Inside their communication centre, The Canberra Times observed a bright blue screen showing people had dialled 000 for an ambulance 160 times since midnight.

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Hospital bedlam

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 10/08/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 1

Nurses are being routinely rostered to babysit patients in corridors as catastrophic staff and bed shortages at major regional hospitals push patients out of emergency departments into foyers and other wards. Shock claims of relentless overtime, emotional exhaustion, burnout and lack of resources posing serious risks to patients and staff have been laid bare by those within the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service, which oversees Hervey Bay, Bundaberg and Maryborough hospitals.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

TAC to sue surgeons over fraud allegations

Sunday Age, General News, 10/08/2025, Henrietta Cook & Broede Carmody, Page 1

Victoria's road accident insurer will launch legal action to reclaim millions of dollars from several surgeons at the Royal Melbourne Hospital after alleging they issued fraudulent bills on an industrial scale. The Transport Accident Commission has been investigating allegations that surgeons at Melbourne's premier hospital billed it for procedures that were never performed to generate additional income.

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Overdose of bad medicine

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 10/08/2025, Suzan Giuliani & Derrick Krusche, Page 8

Allegations of sexual assault, fraud and other serious offences against doctors, nurses and massage therapists in NSW have surged by 50 per cent. [...] Sydney dentist Maged Farag has been suspended by the country's peak health regulator, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

New China virus jumps countries but 'won't spread like COVID'

Sunday Times, General News, 10/08/2025, Andrew Hedgman, Page 12

A mosquito-borne virus sweeping through southern China has now reached Taiwan, but Australian infectious disease expert Nick Coatsworth said the risk to Australia remains low. Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne virus that causes fever, severe joint pain, rash and fatigue, and while rarely fatal, it can lead to prolonged symptoms lasting weeks or even months.

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Measles hotspots: WA Health reveals new exposure sites after confirmed case in returned Bali traveller

West Australian, Other, 09/08/2025, Hannah Cross

Health authorities are investigating potential links between a new measles case confirmed in a returned traveller from Bali and the recent cluster across the Perth and Pilbara regions. WA Health confirmed the latest case had visited several retail outlets while infectious between July 31 and August 6, including a popular brunch spot in Highgate.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News (Saturday), 09/08/2025, Amanda Abate

A mosquito-borne disease that has been spreading around the world has finally been discovered in Australia. While other countries are implementing measures similar to those used for COVID, Australian health officials emphasise that this disease is only transmitted by a specific, rare mosquito found in Queensland.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

5-month wait for critical vaccine

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 10/08/2025, Ellen Ransley, Page 18

Adults and children not eligible for a free chickenpox vaccine are facing up to a five-month delay to receive the jab due to an increase in demand and a national medicine shortage. There are two different chickenpox vaccines experiencing shortages due to an unexpected spike in demand, according to the Therapeutic Goods Association.

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

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Minns must not ignore his Drug Summit report

Sun Herald, Editorials, 10/08/2025, Page 36

It has been four months since the co-chairs of the Minns government's Drug Summit, former deputy premier Carmel Tebbutt and former opposition leader John Brogden, handed down their final report. An election promise styled after Bob Carr's 1999 summit, last year's Drug Summit heard evidence from drug researchers, services, users and their families, as well as international perspectives on harm minimisation.

FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 09/08/2025, Fauziah Ibrahim & Thomas Oriti

A grazier in Central Queensland has called for more immediate action against PFAS chemicals after CS Energy contaminated his water supply. His call comes as national drinking water guidelines for these substances were recently tightened, potentially impacting more properties. CS Energy claims to be assisting landholders with PFAS levels above the Australian Drinking Water Guideline limits, stating that the community's health is its top priority.

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