



# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 12th 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 Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports the National Disability Insurance Agency has warned that the Federal Government's attempts to contain costs within the NDIS will fail without further investment. Jenny McAllister, Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and Finance Minister Katy Gallagher commented on the need to address the budget shortfalls. *Also reported by: Australian Financial Review (Online)*
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 1) reports an investigation revealed that union-backed industry super funds have made a significant profit from the NDIS after buying and then selling My Plan Manager to a United States insurance company. *Also reported by: Hobart Mercury (Hobart), Herald Sun (Melbourne), Courier Mail (Brisbane), Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide)*
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports leaks of "radioactive waste," human excrement in the intensive care unit, and expensive equipment damage are a small fraction of the hundreds of risks that threaten the safety of patients and staff at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. *Also reported by: West Australian (Online)*
- **[The Adelaide Advisor](#)** (page 1) reports the Ambulance Employees Association has criticized the Federal Government for failing to resolve ambulance ramping, stating that the problem has worsened and poses an increasing risk to community members who need help. *Also reported by: Gold Coast Bulletin (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), Adelaide Now (Online)*

- [The Australian Financial Review](#) (page 6) reports a proposal for a national digital identity system is being considered by the Federal Government that would allow Australians to use digital tokens on their phones in lieu of printed documents to access government care and services in the wake of data breaches and privacy laws.
- [Aged Care Insite](#) (online) reports The Federal Government has pledged to "fight for the PBS" in the face of pressure from the Trump administration including Health Minister Mark Butler's legislation that, if passed, would cap PBS-listed medications at \$25. *Also reported by: Coffs Coast Advocate (Coffs Harbour)*
- [The Coast Community News](#) (online) reports the Federal Government's Free TAFE initiative has seen over 174,000 in the care sector since the program's inception. Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistance Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride noted that more than 4,000 locals have enrolled in a course on the Central Coast to upskill or reskill.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Labor pledges to protect PBS from cuts

Aged Care Insite, Other, 11/08/2025, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer

The Albanese government is vowing to "fight for the PBS" as Donald Trump tries to strongarm drugmakers into moving production to the US. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler last month introduced legislation that, if passed, would cap PBS-listed medicines at \$25 from January 1, 2026.

*Also reported by: [Coffs Coast Advocate \(Coffs Harbour\)](#).*

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### NDIS funding cliff threatens overhaul

Australian Financial Review, General News, 12/08/2025, Ronald Mizen, Page 1

The National Disability Insurance Agency faces a funding shortfall of hundreds of millions of dollars and has warned that the government attempts to rein in the \$52 billion scheme will not work without further investment.

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER RAE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Students and apprentices pounce on Free TAFE courses

Coast Community News, Other, 11/08/2025

Central Coast students and apprentices are taking up the opportunity to enrol in Free TAFE, with more than 4,400 enrolments in key courses since January 2024. [...] "On the Coast, TAFE has always been a reliable pathway to steady job and a secure career," Federal Member for Dobell Emma McBride said.

[Read More](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### Genetic research could change future hearing loss

Have-a-Go News, General News, 01/08/2025, Page 33

Federal Department of Health and Aged Care data shows that the number of people with hearing loss increases from about half aged 60 to 70 to 70 per cent aged 70 to 80 and then 80 per cent of those aged 80 and older. "We used to think as people were getting older, hearing loss was just a part of ageing," Ear Science Institute Australia CEO and Board Member Sandra Bellekom said.

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

### Reversing falling vaccination rates an opportunity for pharmacy

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/08/2025, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Declining uptake of vaccinations across all age groups represents "a significant opportunity" for community pharmacy, a bureaucrat says. Community pharmacists have a key role to play in boosting vaccination uptake, according to Department of Health, Disability and Ageing assistant secretary immunisation access and engagement, David Laffan.

[Read More](#)

### Health issues reprimand announcement

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/08/2025

A pharmacist has been reprimanded over improper claiming of payment for PBS medicines, the federal government has announced. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has issued a statement regarding the reprimand, following an inquiry by the Pharmaceutical Services Federal Committee of Inquiry.

[Read More](#)

### Is the Great Wealth Transfer a 'myth' for most Australians?

The Senior, Other, 11/08/2025, Lisa Edser

The media has been describing - even counting down - to the "Great Wealth Transfer" in Australia, but just how many Australians will be impacted by it? [...] From January 1 2025 aged care providers can now charge a whopping \$750,000 a room in their facility for new residents - up from \$550,000 - without needing approval from the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA), according to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

[Read More](#)

### Harbison to build first co-located retirement village in NSW Southern Highlands

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/08/2025, Ian Horswill

The community-owned organisation, which has been providing aged care services to the Southern

Highlands community for over 60 years, is building a retirement village on land near its aged care home in Moss Vale, 142km southwest of Sydney's CBD. [...] Harbison is also about to start construction on a 72-bed residential aged care redevelopment in Burradoo after being awarded a \$27.5 million grant from the Federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### The quest to lead old age a merry dance

Age, General News, 12/08/2025, Cara Waters, Page 10

Dancing in their kitchen together, gardening and doing volunteer work are all things that Luciana and Mario Martini love being able to do while still living in their home in North Fitzroy. [...] Documentary maker Sue Thomson set out to make a film about the implications of Australia privatising its aged care system, but as she started filming a new story emerged.

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

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

### Aged care grads caught in diploma scam, again

Aged Care Insite, Other, 11/08/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Even more aged care workers are likely to lose their qualifications after another Vocational Educational Training (VET) provider was cancelled by the national regulator. Following an investigation into an alleged 'cash-for-diplomas scheme', the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) has cancelled the registration of Arizona College Pty Ltd, slapping more than 3500 former students with a notice of its intent to cancel qualifications issued between January 2024 and June 2025.

[Read More](#)

### Providers need confidence, says Symondson

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 11/08/2025, Natasha Egan

Moving the start date of the new Aged Care Act from 1 July to 1 November has given providers more time to prepare for its implementation – but they weren't really the ones that needed more time, says Tom Symondson, chief executive officer of provider peak body Ageing Australia. "It was the government that needed more time," Mr Symondson tells Australian Ageing Agenda in the first week of August.

[Read More](#)

### From respite to real impact: The free program changing dementia care education

HelloCare, Other, 11/08/2025, Jakob Neeland

A year on from its launch, DREAM (Dementia Respite Education and Mentoring) is not just reshaping how respite is delivered, but redefining what dementia education can look like across the entire aged care workforce. With more than 5,500 enrolments and over 8,000 module engagements to date, this fully funded national initiative is helping care workers around the country feel more prepared, supported and connected.

[Read More](#)

### Elderly type two diabetics to lose critical CGM funding

Ballarat Courier, Other, 11/08/2025, Michelle Smith

Angela Flowers and her sisters had peace of mind that their mum Barbara Roscholler, 83, was keeping on top of her type two diabetes because they could see her blood sugar levels from a continuous glucose monitoring device. But a move to exclude funding for continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) from Home Care Packages for elderly type two diabetics has changed that.

[Read More](#)

## How Tori Dockett is helping shape the future of aged care

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 11/08/2025

Tori Dockett says you "need to have a special heart" to work in aged care. The 20-year-old is helping strengthen the sector in her own backyard by working while completing her Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing and Disability) at TAFE in Wagga.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Super profits on the NDIS

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/08/2025, John Rolfe, Page 1

No one has made more money from the NDIS than union-backed industry super funds led by Labor luminaries, it can be revealed. An investigation by The Daily Telegraph shows the funds generated a windfall of as much as \$330m from buying a business created by a former special ed teacher, then selling to a US insurance giant keen on a slice of the action.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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

[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Channel 9, Today , 11/08/2025, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo

Interview with AMA President Danielle McMullen, about the impact of medication on Australian children with ADHD. McMullen states the main finding in this study, which looked back at surveys of children and their parents over 13 years, was that kids who have symptoms of ADHD have reported poorer quality of life than kids without ADHD symptoms. She notes it showed them that over the course of their childhood that persists.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Beds alone won't fix health

West Australian, General News, 12/08/2025, Taryn Harvey, Page 35

When the head of the Department of Health, Shirley Bowen, said that our health system wasn't coping and we needed a new model of care, she wasn't wrong. But the real question is, why are we still saying this? [...] It found that only 16 per cent of someone's health needs required clinical care, and emphasised the need for more prevention, community-based care and co-ordinated services.

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

### Marshall calls out VAD laws

Northern Territory News, General News, 12/08/2025, Camden Smith, Page 1

Former NT Chief Minister Marshall Perron, the political father of voluntary assisted dying in Australia, has called on the NT parliament to reintroduce "compassionate" legislation, free from the overregulation that burdens existing laws interstate. In his NT Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee submission he criticised current VAD laws as overly complex.

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

## Too many neglecting their teeth

Launceston Examiner, General News, 12/08/2025, Lauren Richardson, Page 3

Dental health is often the first care aspect that falls away during crisis situations, said St Lukes Chief Health Officer Luke Cameron. Cost, poor mental health and lack of accessibility to clean drinking water may be reasons people end up neglecting their teeth.

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

## How your health affects your ability to see colours

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/08/2025, Sarah Mitchell

Is the world just getting more beige? [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare about 411,000 Australians had cataracts between 2017 and 2018.

[Read More](#)

## 2GB, Afternoons, 11/08/2025, Michael McLaren

Interview with University of Melbourne's Dental School associate professor Matt Hopcraft, criticising Australia's voluntary Health Star Rating. Dr Hopcraft argues that it misleads consumers and contributes to rising childhood tooth decay, which now afflicts one in three children ages 5 to 6. He says industry influence and loopholes allow sugary cereals to still score four stars by adding vitamins or fibre, making a false impression that unhealthy food is healthy. Dr Hopcraft calls for mandatory ratings, clearer sugar labelling, stricter marketing of children's products, and dental coverage under Medicare.

[Play Now](#)

## FIVEAA, Mornings, 11/08/2025, Graeme Goodings

South Australia now enforces the nation's toughest vaping laws, heavily restricting access to nicotine vapes. Despite mounting evidence, they are significantly less harmful than cigarettes. While combustible tobacco remains legal and highly taxed, safer alternatives are all but banned.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### AI breathes new life into old drugs

Herald Sun, General News, 12/08/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 17

Australian researchers who discovered "the old-fashioned way" that an existing drug could be repurposed to better treat a chronic lung condition have turned to AI to fast-track finding other medicines that could be refitted to cure disease. Respiratory physician Philip Bardin and the team at the Hudson Institute of Medical Research say using AI could also deliver substantial economic savings to the health budget.

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

### Wonder pill that cancer patients take at home could help them respond to chemotherapy better, study finds

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/08/2025

A pill that cancer patients take at home could help them respond to treatment better, a study has found. Many sufferers have chemotherapy – which works by disrupting the way cancer cells grow and divide – to fight the disease.

[Read More](#)

### Focal therapy for prostate cancer: precision with fewer side effects

Medical Forum, Other, 11/08/2025, Andrew Tan

Over the past decade, the management of clinically significant, localised prostate cancer has undergone a significant evolution. While radical prostatectomy and external beam radiotherapy remain

the gold standards for many patients, the associated morbidity – particularly impacting sexual function and urinary continence – has prompted interest in less invasive strategies.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 11/08/2025, Peter Overton

The Sleep Health Foundation labels sleep deprivation as a crisis, afflicting 20% of the population and costing \$26b yearly. CEO Dr Moira Junge notes women ages 18 to 44 are the most affected. The foundation recommends a minimum of seven hours of sleep and unplugging from work, worry, and responsibility before bed. SHF also advises taking in sunlight during the day.

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

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 11/08/2025, Spence Denny

Interview with Professor Lindy Jeffery, the Director of Neurosurgery at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne and chair of the Brain Cancer Australia steering committee. Lindy spoke of how, unlike cancers such as melanoma, where there have been dramatic improvements in survival rates, rates, to research and treatment breakthroughs, brain cancer survival rates remain much as they were 30 years ago.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## IMMUNISATION

### It's not my jab: Premier

Courier Mail, General News, 12/08/2025, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 13

Premier David Crisafulli has refused to say whether he has received a flu vaccination while defending the state government's decision to axe free vaccinations at the Ekka. And instead of promoting the importance of flu vaccinations amid a deadly flu season, the "best advice" Mr Crisafulli could give Queenslanders was to consult their GP.

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Whatever the issue, conclusion's the same: more money, please

The Australian, General News, 12/08/2025, Judith Sloan, Page 11

There was a time when studies of the economic cost of (fill in the blank) would regularly be reported on. [...] As Thomas Sowell reminds us: "When politicians discover some group that is being very vocal about not having as much as they want, the 'solution' is to give them more."

## ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 11/08/2025, Saskia Mabin

Interview with UNSW Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing co-director Prof Henry Brodaty, discussing new research from Harvard University that shows lithium supplements reversing Alzheimer's-like memory in mice. Prof Brodaty warns against self-medicating due to lithium's toxicity risks and need for precise dosing. He says lithium treatment for Alzheimer's is most likely a decade away, as the lithium that was used in the study differs from the one used in treating bipolar disorder.

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

---

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### NT doctors put their skills to test in outback

Northern Territory News, General News, 12/08/2025, Lottie Hood, Page 3

When a lot of people were learning to make sourdough or trying their hand at gardening during Covid, Dr Natalie Gracia was learning about the state of Aboriginal Health in Australia. And what she learnt during her studies towards a masters degree in public health was awful.

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

### High cirrhosis rates with hepatitis B subtype only seen in Aboriginal patients, study finds

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/08/2025, Jamie Thannoo

A hepatitis B subtype only seen in Aboriginal patients in northern Australia — in fact, a subtype seen in all Aboriginal patients in the NT — appears particularly dangerous, researchers say. [...] To date, every single genotype analysis of hepatitis B (HBV) from Aboriginal Australians from the NT, as well as many from northern WA and western Queensland, has shown this genotype, says infectious diseases physician Professor Jane Davies.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

---

## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Hospital of horrors

West Australian, Edition Changes, 12/08/2025, Charlton Hart & Hannah Cross, Page 1

Leaking "radioactive waste", human excrement in the intensive care unit and costly damage to equipment are just some of the hazards threatening patient and staff safety at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Internal documents obtained by The West Australian detail a breakdown in the ageing infrastructure at the health facility, with more than 1000 work orders inundating maintenance crews between January 2023 and June 2025.

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

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

### Ambos sick of ramping fix failure

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/08/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 1

The ambulance union, which backed Labor at the last election, has turned on the party, accusing it of failing to "fix" ramping and warning the situation is getting worse. The union said there was "a very real and increasing risk that members of our community will have no one to help them in their time of need".

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

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



## Bendigo shows healthy improvement

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 12/08/2025, Ben Silvester, Page 3

Two of Victoria's biggest regional health services are failing to bring down emergency department wait times as other hospitals, including Bendigo Health, show improvement. Emergency department (ED) wait times at Ballarat Base Hospital and University Hospital Geelong have been nearly double the statewide average for more than a year.

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

## Sunburn and tooth aches: the Code 1 'emergencies' clogging up the system

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/08/2025, Georgie Kibel

Geelong paramedics are being tied up for hours responding to sunburn cases and people with arms stuck in jackets - contributing to the region's position as Victoria's busiest for emergency calls and worsening ambulance ramping crisis. The Victorian Ambulance Union said ambulances were ramped at Geelong hospital for more than four hours on Saturday night, as they pleaded for residents to make use of the virtual emergency department where possible.

[Read More](#)

## Robotic surgery breakthrough for whistleblower doctors at Orange Hospital

ABC Online, Other, 11/08/2025, Joanna Woodburn

Whistleblower doctors at a major regional New South Wales hospital have secured a breakthrough after they warned of delays to cancer surgeries and screening. One of the doctors' key concerns was whether the Orange Health Service, or other health services across the local health district (LHD), would be able to continue performing certain operations because of the lack of robotic surgical equipment.

[Read More](#)

## Almost 80,000 'incidents' reported in SA public hospitals including wrong surgery and fatal falls

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 11/08/2025, Brad Crouch

Public hospital "incidents" are on the rise with almost 80,000 reported over 12 months, ranging from catastrophic failures causing deaths to thousands of near misses. [...] SA Health has just released its Patient Safety Report for the 2023 financial year. It shows reports of incidents have doubled in the past decade, partly fuelled by staff being encouraged to report all incidents including minor ones, in an effort to learn from the situation and avoid it occurring again.

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

[Read More](#)

## 2CC, Canberra Live, 11/08/2025, Leon Delaney

Monaro MP Steve Whan reminds the public of the Canberra Hospital's role as a tertiary hospital that accepts patients not just from the ACT but from regional NSW. It follows comments from the NSW Nursing and Midwifery Association that the ACT is bearing the brunt of an underfunded southern NSW health service.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 11/08/2025, Sonya Feldhoff & Jules Schiller

Interview with SA Health Minister Chris Picton, about the ambulance ramping figures in SA hospitals. Picton states they saw the biggest spike in flu cases in the decade so far, and that was putting enormous pressure on the hospital system at the same time that beds were being taken out of the system. He adds they have made free flu vaccines available for all of the people that were advised by the public health officials are who are likely to end up in hospital.

[Play Now](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Top doctors praise GP practice collaboration

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 12/08/2025, Tegan Guthrie, Page 1

The heads of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners have been impressed by local GP clinics collaborating with one another to allow junior doctors to have more options to build their skills. RACGP president Dr Michael Wright and vice-president and WA chair Dr Ramya Raman were in Kalgoorlie-Boulder on Monday on a two-day visit to the region.

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

### Enhancing care for diverse communities

Shepparton News, General News, 12/08/2025, Page 4

Five healthcare professionals at Primary Care Connect have been awarded scholarships to boost their expertise in women's health services through the second round of the Women's Health Scholarship program. The scholarships will help clinicians develop specialised skills across areas including IUD insertion, sexual and reproductive health, pelvic physio training, menopause and polycystic ovary syndrome.

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

### 'Wage justice': Historic deal secures big pay rise for 50,000 health workers

The Australian, Other, 11/08/2025, Andrew Hedgman

A new two-year wage agreement is set to deliver pay increases and improved conditions for tens of thousands of NSW health workers. The NSW government and the Health Services Union NSW (HSU NSW) have finalised the landmark two-year salary agreement delivering significant pay rises and better conditions for more than 50,000 public health workers across the state.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### 'It's really frightening times': RDH midwifery service changes cause more uncertainty for families

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 11/08/2025, Lottie Hood

On-call support from a midwifery service committed to offering families continuity of care and high risk pregnancies has been temporarily suspended. [...] These changes include "pausing" the on-call help service for four weeks with labour and birth care outside of business hours being transferred to staff on the sixth floor at Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH).

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

[Read More](#)

### NSW Health staff land 8.5 per cent pay bump

The Mandarin, Other, 11/08/2025, Melissa Coade

The NSW government has agreed to an offer to increase the wages of more than 50,000 health workers by 8.5% over two years. From July 1 2025, staff including allied health workers, hospital cleaners, scientists, security officers, and patient transport officers will receive a pay increase of 4.0% plus 0.5% in superannuation.

## 2GB, Mornings, 11/08/2025, Mark Levy

Interview with Cumberland Hospital nurse and NSW Nurses and Midwives Association member Teaghanne Sarina, describing the worsening emergency department wait times for psychiatric patients. Sarina says mental health patients are often overlooked by physical emergencies, leading to long delays for assessment and treatment, which can heighten aggression and violence toward staff. She tells about being physically attacked by patients several times, suffering broken ribs and other injuries. Sarina says medical staff remain vulnerable despite repeated pleas and warnings.

[Play Now](#)

## 4BC, Drive, 11/08/2025, Gary Hardgrave

The Queensland Government is in hot water after reports of nurses caring for patients in corridors and foyers. The Queensland Nurses Association says their members are burned out and emotionally tired from relentless overtime.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 11/08/2025, Chris Bath & Dom Knight

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park, announcing an interim two-year pay deal between the Minns Government and the Health Services Union. Park says that the proposal includes two 4% pay rises between July 2025 and July 2026, an extra 0.5% superannuation contribution, longer rest periods, more notice for roster changes, and faster higher-duty allowances. He notes that there are ongoing talks with nurses and midwives over separate pay and condition improvements. Park also announces the expansion of a body camera trial to three more hospitals to help deter and de-escalate violence against staff.

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Digital switch could do away with constantly showing documents

Australian Financial Review, General News, 12/08/2025, Paul Karp, Page 6

Australians would use digital 'tokens' on their phones instead of producing documents such as a driver's licence or passport to prove their age, under a plan to bolster privacy protection and deliver a major productivity dividend.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### 2CC, Canberra Live, 11/08/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with AMA ACT president Dr Kerrie Aust, criticising the lack of progress on the Federal Government's promised bulk-billing Medicare clinics in the ACT, 100 days after the election. Dr Aust says Canberra is having difficulty attracting doctors, stressing the need for better incentives such as the single employer model, and the risk that low bulk-billing rates stem from overheads, competition

with the public service, and high insurance costs. She calls for wider federal support for the strained ACT and NSW healthcare systems rather than focusing on what she deems as unrealistic bulk-billing expectations.

Also reported by: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### RACGP asks TGA to remove isotretinoin prescribing restrictions

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/08/2025, Antony Scholefield

The RACGP has lodged a TGA application to let GPs prescribe isotretinoin for moderate to severe acne or treatment-resistant rosacea. While an S4 drug, isotretinoin scripts are restricted to other specialists under the S4 subcategory due to its potentially severe side effects, including teratogenicity.

[Read More](#)

### New ATAGI advice to prevent RSV vaccination errors

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 11/08/2025, Chloe Hava

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has made an unusual move by issuing a statement on RSV vaccination errors. There have been numerous reports to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of RSV vaccines being administered to the wrong patient

[Read More](#)

### New Scripty medicine shortage alert feature

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/08/2025

Digital script wallet app Scripty now has a medicine shortage alert feature, warning patients if any medications they are taking are included in the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) medicine shortage reports database. When a patient is first alerted to a medicine shortage, they can work with their prescribing doctor and pharmacist to find a solution, avoiding a last-minute panic.

[Read More](#)

### Creon shortage anticipated

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/08/2025

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised of anticipated shortages of Creon 25,000 unit and Creon 35,000 unit capsules between 21 Aug and 31 Dec 2025, due to an unexpected global increase in demand. The sponsor, Viatrix, will continue to receive a regular supply of all strengths of Creon (pancreatic extract), but availability may be limited and may vary from one pharmacy to another during this period.

[Read More](#)

### PSA backs TGA cannabis action

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/08/2025

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is today launching a public consultation to explore the possibility of expanding the regulation of unapproved medicinal cannabis products, a move welcomed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. The initiative has been prompted by increasing public and professional concern about the safety risks associated with unapproved medicinal cannabis products, particularly those containing higher levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Pot-shot at law for attack

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 12/08/2025, Cameron Bates, Page 9

A Queensland magistrate has taken a huge pot-shot at the medicinal cannabis industry after an elderly man with no criminal history suffered a serious mental-health episode triggered by the attempted assassination of President Donald Trump and attacked two police officers and a nurse. [...] "(The doctor) says Mr Warn was deprived of the capacity to understand what he was doing ... given that he was likely suffering from a manic and psychotic relapse of his bipolar illness as a result of his medication ... and use of (prescribed) cannabis," Defence lawyer Hayley Andersen said

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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

[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)