



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 15th August 2025

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports it has uncovered evidence that nurses are using private messaging groups to illegally buy, sell, and trade prescription-only drugs, circumventing official supply channels and raising patient safety concerns.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister stated that further reforms are needed for the NDIS to be sustainable, as new data from the NDIA shows a continued rise in the number of children participating in the scheme, including 16 per cent of all six-year-old boys. *Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney)*
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 9) reports Health Minister Mark Butler will announce on Friday that the Federal Government's new bulk-billing incentive payments will be split equally between doctors and the medical practices where they work, though details of the split have not yet been revealed. *Also reported by: Australian Financial Review (Online)*
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (online) reports Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae announced \$30.8 million to attract and support more than 6,000 aged care workers in regional Australia, but data analysis reveals that the funding will be insufficient to resolve the lengthy Home Care Package waiting lists. *Also reported by: Ballarat Courier (Online), Newcastle Herald (Online), Bendigo Advertiser (Online)*

- **Pharmacy Daily**, (online) reports the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has released new guidance to assist health professionals in the safe and responsible use of artificial intelligence tools in clinical care, acknowledging the benefits and potential new risks such as automation bias and data privacy issues.

MINISTER BUTLER

GPs to get half of bulk billing bonus

The Australian, General News, 15/08/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 5

Health Minister Mark Butler has defied calls from doctors groups to pass on 100 per cent of the new bulk-billing incentive payment to GPs, opting instead to split the 12.5 per cent loading payment on a 50/50 basis between doctors and clinics. [...] According to the RACGP, 100 per cent of the 12.5 per cent loading should be paid to the GP, with individual arrangements determining how the practice component is to be paid to be negotiated between the doctor and the clinic.

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

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GPs, practices to share bulk-billing incentives under federal proposal

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/08/2025, Michael Smith, Page 9

Doctors will have to split the Albanese government's bulk-billing incentive payments equally with the practices where they work under details of Labor's \$8.5 billion signature election policy to be announced on Friday.

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

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Could The Oz be media's latest comeback kid?

Age, General News, 15/08/2025, Gemma Grant & Kishor Napier-Raman, Page 2

It is the perennial challenge for any media organisation in 2025 get the youth to watch, read, subscribe and God forbid, pay for the news. [...] As for what any new iteration might look like, well, the influencers are still there and so are the vapes (despite what Health Minister Mark Butler insists).

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

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Productivity Commission pushes for preventive health

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/08/2025, Caitlin Wright

Governments need to invest now to save later and stop treating care as a cost to contain, says the Productivity Commission in its fifth and final interim report ahead of the government's economic reform roundtable next week. [...] Yesterday, the federal health minister Mark Butler held the Health, Disability and Ageing Economic Reform Roundtable in Sydney for a group of 40 invited attendees.

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Productivity Commission's Interim Report on Care recommends merging aged care and NDIS

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/08/2025, Caroline Egan

The Productivity Commission (PC)'s Interim Report on Delivering Care More Efficiently, written at the request of the Federal Government and published ahead of next week's Economic Reform Roundtable, recommends a single regulator across aged care, the NDIS and veterans' care in six years. [...] Food for thought for Health, Disability and Ageing Minister Mark Butler and Sam Rae (left) Minister for Aged Care and Seniors.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

One in six 6-year-old boys now on the NDIS

Age, General News, 15/08/2025, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 1

Australian children are flocking to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, with 16 per cent of all six-year-old boys in the country now relying on it, as the government begins designing a new pathway to help families leave the rapidly growing \$46 billion program. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said further reforms were still needed to make the scheme sustainable, as fresh data shows more than one in 10 children aged five to seven in Australia are participants: 13.7 per cent of boys and 6.4 per cent of girls.

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

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6PR, Drive, 14/08/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with People with Disabilities CEO Kat Johns on the new national aviation disability standards. Johns says the Australian government are reforming aviation standards to make air travel and the experience of being in an airport more accessible for people with disability around Australia, and they are hoping that Perth and WA airports will be included in that. Peterson notes he is glad Johns is having conversations with Transport Minister Catherine King, and NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister.

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MINISTER RAE

More aged care workers promised but data exposes dire demand pressures

Canberra Times, Other, 14/08/2025, Anthony Caggiano

Government data analysed by The Senior shows shortfalls in the ratio of service providers to people needing Home Care (soon to become Support at Home), in different regions of Australia. [...] On August 7, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae announced \$30.8 million to help attract and support more than 6000 aged care workers in rural and regional Australia.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader \(Online\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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\$1m grants to boost support and screening in priority communities

Oncology Republic, Other, 14/08/2025, Amanda Sheppeard

Nine federal grants totalling nearly \$1 million have been awarded to projects aiming to improve cancer awareness, screening, and support services for priority populations across Australia. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White said the funded projects would help close the cancer care gap.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Black Wolf does its bit for mental health

Coast Community News, Other, 15/08/2025

Federal Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid joined Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi on a visit to Erina's Black Wolf Collective recently to highlight its charity fundraising. The popular barber and tattoo shop has an ethos of giving back to the community.

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DEPARTMENT

Bullying No Way Week: Parents key to stopping bullying before it starts

Northern Rivers Times, General News, 14/08/2025, Page 2

With one in four Australian school-aged kids experiencing bullying, the upcoming Bullying No Way: National Week of Action (11/15 August) comes at a critical time, according to global parenting advocates Triple P - Positive Parenting Program. [...] Delivery of the Triple P - Positive Parenting Program to parents and carers of children in Australia is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care under the Parenting Education and Support Program.

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Primary Health Network 'potentially' misused taxpayer funding, government audit finds

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/08/2025, Rachel Carter

A Primary Health Network "potentially misused" government funds by spending \$2.2 million setting up a charity it was then forced to close, a government audit has found. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said it would not approve the use of \$10.1 million to fund the charity because it "breached the PHN's funding agreement".

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Business Council welcomes Productivity Commission's roadmap for delivering quality care more efficiently

Business Council of Australia, Other, 14/08/2025

The Business Council has welcomed the release of the Productivity Commission's Interim Report on Delivering Quality Care More Efficiently, backing key recommendations on reform of quality and safety, utilising technology, co-commissioning of services and investment in preventative health. [...] "We welcomed the Australian Government's initial steps by creating the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing at the beginning of the new parliamentary term."

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Final version of standards released

Community Care Review, Other, 14/08/2025

The department has made minor amendments to the Support at Home service list to improve clarity and has published the final version of the Strengthened Aged Care Standards. In line with sector calls for more information to be released ahead of the 1 November start date of the new Aged Care Act, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has released the final version of the Strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards.

[Read More](#)

The promise of real-world data: what are we missing?

Oncology Republic, Other, 14/08/2025, Neena Bhandari

Experts say Australia is on the cusp of turning real-world health data into a clinical and policy game-changer – if it can break down silos, protect privacy, and connect the dots. [...] "This will make it easier for patients, researchers and sponsors to find, conduct and participate in clinical trials and research in Australia," according to a Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) spokesperson.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Boss fought for her 'demonised' nursing staff

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/08/2025, Patrick Durkin, Page 26

Regis Healthcare chief executive Dr Linda Mellors says she is still suffering post-traumatic stress after the lethal COVID-19 outbreaks in the company's aged care facilities and Victoria's prolonged lockdowns, which hindered family visits.

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Wisdom of ages to help unlock prosperity

Cairns Post, General News, 15/08/2025, Daniel Gannon, Page 15

Next week's economic reform roundtable is not just another engagement in the Treasury diary it is an opportunity to unlock and supercharge Australia's productivity by backing in some sensible reforms relating to older Australians. [...] And thousands of older Australians are stuck waiting too long for basic care at home.

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Sink or swim: aged care can't wait for productivity reform

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/08/2025, Lauren Broomham

Hospitals are already flooded with elderly Australians lying in beds when they should be in aged care. [...] Data from Taylor Fry, presented at the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) National Conference last week, shows a 42% increase in older patients waiting for care between 2017 and 2023, totalling around 40,000 episodes in 2022-23.

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SA Govt doubles capacity at Adelaide's Pullman Hotel as aged care residents in hospital hits record high

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/08/2025, Caroline Egan

As of 11 August 2025, there were 287 patients stuck in South Australian hospitals waiting for an aged care bed - the highest number ever recorded and more than double the number of 15 months ago. The following day, SA Health Minister Chris Picton announced capacity of the state's Transition Care Service at the luxury Pullman Hotel in central Adelaide will double from 24 to 48 from early September, expanding to two floors.

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Productivity Commission recommends changes to care sector

Aged Care Insite, Other, 14/08/2025, Stefanie Schultz

The Australian Productivity Commission has released its interim report into how the nation can deliver safer, more affordable care, ahead of the government's economic reform roundtable next week. The report, Delivering quality care more efficiently, has made a set of recommendations to the federal government that fall under three key themes: quality and safety regulation: care service integration: and investment in preventative healthcare.

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Safety and Quality Commission releases AI guidance

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/08/2025

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has released new guidance to support health professionals in the day-to-day use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools that are rapidly entering clinical care. The Commission acknowledges that new AI tools and technologies can bring significant benefits for patient care but can also introduce new risks - especially as evidence of safety and efficacy may lag behind implementation.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

States at fault for NDIS blowout

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/08/2025, John Rolfe, Page 9

About 200,000 more people are in the \$52 billion-a-year scheme than was planned and they are nearly all kids, recent analysis has found. A key reason so many children are in the NDIS is that since it began in 2013, states and territories have cut back on services meant to be delivered outside the scheme, called "foundational supports".

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Family want answers for misdiagnosis hell

Herald Sun, General News, 15/08/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 13

Felicity Mazur is calling for an investigation after her daughter now recovering from a burst appendix was misdiagnosed with a stomach bug by Maroondah Hospital on two separate visits. [...] The Australian Medical Association Victoria wrote they held "serious concerns" about "the state of paediatric services at Eastern Health", noting its "stretched service module".

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Checking out cure

Courier Mail, General News, 15/08/2025, Hayden Johnson, Page 18

Sick Queenslanders languishing in hospital beds within the state's busiest health service could be shifted to private facilities. The state government has launched a request for information from the private sector to provide medical "hotel" services within the Metro North Hospital and Health Service - which covers the state's most populous region and includes the behemoth Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

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We do want more money for Charlies: Minister

West Australian, General News, 15/08/2025, Jessica Page, Page 1

Labor's claim it is expanding hospital capacity has been exposed as an "empty boast", according to Libby Mettam, after new figures revealed there are only an average of 118 more beds available than seven years ago. The revelation came on Thursday after a special investigation by The West Australian that exposed the deteriorating state of one of WA's major hospitals, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and after record rates of ambulance ramping in July.

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

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Surgeons jumping for Joy over an Australia-first in Ballarat

Ballarat Courier, General News, 15/08/2025, Michelle Smith, Page 3

A robot named Joy has been used to complete an Australia-first emergency surgery at Ballarat Base Hospital. For more than two years, Ballarat surgeons have been using Joy, a \$6.5 million DaVinci surgical robot, during some planned surgical cases and with growing confidence in tackling increasingly complex surgeries, they recently performed Australia's first public emergency surgery using the state-of-the-art surgical robot.

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How patients rate Illawarra's hospitals

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/08/2025, Natalie Croxon, Page 5

Patients at Shellharbour Hospital are more satisfied with their care than those across NSW as a whole, but new data shows Wollongong Hospital falls well below the state on multiple measures. The Bureau of Health Information (BHI) survey of people admitted to NSW hospitals in 2024 found 76 per cent of patients at Shellharbour Hospital rated their overall care as very good, which was the best result in five years.

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Upend privacy laws for AI at the GP? This will not benefit patients

Australian Financial Review, Other, 14/08/2025, Carly Kind

Across Australia, GPs are starting to use artificial intelligence to record and transcribe appointments, schedule follow-up appointments, request pathology tests and issue prescriptions.

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Patient survey exposes worst performing NSW hospitals, with Sydney's west lagging behind the east

The Courier Mail, Other, 14/08/2025, Madeleine Bower & William Tyson

A damning new patient survey has revealed the worst performing hospitals in NSW, exposing a stark healthcare divide between Sydney's east and west. The Bureau of Health Information survey asked more than 25,650 adult patients admitted in 2024 to rate their experiences across nine key criteria.

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

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Reforms of care services needed, commission recommends

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/08/2025

The Productivity Commission released its fifth and final interim report on Wednesday, noting an overhaul of the care sector is needed to boost the country's productivity. [...] This includes a streamlined national screen clearance for workers in aged care, NDIS, veterans' care and early childhood education and care sectors.

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WA Govt to let pharmacists diagnose asthma and 16 other medical conditions

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/08/2025, Antony Scholefield

Pharmacists with 12 months' additional training will be able to diagnose and prescribe S4 medicines for asthma and 16 other conditions from late 2026, the WA Government says. The government announced its intention to expand pharmacist prescribing in 2024, but details had remained scarce until last week.

2CC, Canberra Live, 14/08/2025, Rod Henshaw

Interview with Public Health Association of Australia CEO Terry Slevin on the interim report from the Productivity Commission that found issues in how the budget funds health prevention. Slevin says that under the current system, both at state and federal levels, preventive health measures are hamstrung when it comes to competing for the public funding. He states it removes the incentive to invest in such measures.

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

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4BC, Afternoons, 14/08/2025, Sofia Formica

The Australian Medical Association Queensland branch says the entire health workforce is under pressure. A 10-year plan being developed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to allow pharmacists to examine, diagnose and treat patients.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 14/08/2025, Steve Austin

Interview with Michael Clements, Rural Chair, RACGP, about the trial of pharmacists treating medical conditions. Clements states they've had the underfunding of Medicare and general practice for many years over successive governments that created a crisis that meant that they needed to look for other solutions and alternatives when people couldn't get access to a GP. He adds pharmacists are doing a little bit of extra training, doing some online courses and a couple of workshops on top of their extensive pharmacology and physiology work that they do

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Radio National, Life Matters, 14/08/2025, Hilary Harper & Beverley Wang

Interview with RACGP President Michael Wright. Wright states people with chronic illnesses get the best care when their specialist GP works with pharmacists and with other health professionals in a multidisciplinary team. He notes if they can fund practice-based pharmacists working in general practice, it does improve the quality of the prescribing and it also reduces the risk of hospitalisation.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Furious parents hit back at Allan

The Australian, General News, 15/08/2025, Rachel Baxendale, Page 3

A group representing more than 50 Victorian parents of children with gender dysphoria has hit back at Jacinta Allan after she dismissed the views of one as "disgraceful nonsense", writing to the Premier to ask that she meet with them to hear their concerns. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website states "there are ... no reliable national data on rates of suicide and self-harm among LGBTIQ+ communities in Australia".

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

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Channel 10, 10 News, 14/08/2025, Sharyn Ghidella

Researchers from QUT found people who consume less than one serving of vegetables per day had a higher chance of suffering psychological distress. The study also found the results differ between men and women.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 14/08/2025, Susannah Carr

Australian researchers say a diet rich in fruit and vegetables is associated with reduced stress. Researchers in Queensland looking at data from more than 45,000 Australians found those eating fewer fruit and vegetables are more likely to experience stress and anxiety.

[Play Now](#)

2SM, 08:00 News, 14/08/2025

Researchers have found vaping prevention programs in schools reduce the likelihood of adolescent vaping by 65% compared to standard health education. The Department of Health Disability and Ageing has funded the program for all Year 7 and 8 students nationally.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 14/08/2025, Rory McClaren

Interview with Dr Alexandra Jones, program lead of food governance, George Institute for Global Health on whether the Health Star Rating System should be made mandatory. Jones says there has been more than 100 studies on Health Star now and it is known to be effective. She states the problem is that it has only been put on 36% of products by the food industry, which she describes as a failure in self-regulation.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 14/08/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Tim Downie, legal expert on legal matters raised by the audience. Downie notes people could be prosecuted for knowingly buying illegal vapes. Goodings says South Australia's rules in the area are the strongest in the country but they seem to be focused on the distributor.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

2CC, Canberra Live, 14/08/2025, Leon Delaney

Canberrans going through heart failure could now be sent a text with tips ahead of an incident. It is a new twist from ongoing research into heart failure.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 14/08/2025, Ryk Goddard

Breast cancer experts are optimistic that a new project looking into previously undetectable dormant cancer cells could help them find a permanent cure. Researchers from the Garvan Institute recently discovered them inside people's bones and it's thought that these seeds of cancer hold the key.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

ADHD medication has wider benefits for adults, global study finds

The Courier Mail, Other, 14/08/2025, Susie O'Brien

A landmark international study has found newly prescribed ADHD medication has multiple wider benefits, with users less likely to be suicidal, have accidents, abuse substances and commit crimes. [...] It has been well received by Australian researchers, although some expressed reservations about its findings.

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

ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 14/08/2025, Spence Denny

Interview with Farm Angels CEO Jason Law on their Flanno for a Farmer event. Law says the event is about bringing awareness to the contributions of farmers and the challenges they face. Denny states the suicide rate for Australian farmers is 59% higher than the general population.

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 14/08/2025, Samantha Donovan

Report by Isabel Moussalli on the use of artificial intelligence in the mental health sector. University of Sydney researcher Carla Gorban is working on a new kind of AI tool that only provides quality responses focused on mental health. MIA, short for Mental Health Intelligence Agent, is developed by the university's Brain and Mind Centre. Project lead Dr Frank Iorfino explains there was a rigorous process with the team only selecting evidence-based literature for the system to use.

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IMMUNISATION

No pressure to vaccinate as flu cases soar

Aged Care Insite, Other, 14/08/2025

The state is facing a surge in infections this flu season, with more than 44,000 lab-confirmed cases in the state this year, which is up 20 per cent on last year. Queensland Health reported 106 flu-related deaths this year until August 9, which is 12 more than the same time last year.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Sniff of hope for spinal victims

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 15/08/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 13

World-first human trials have begun in Australia for a trailblazing treatment offering paralysed spinal cord injury patients better movement and the chance to one day stand up patients who have previously been told any recovery was beyond possibility. The Griffith University trial has been three decades in the making and involves scientists taking cells from the patient's nose, to create an innovative nerve bridge which is then transplanted into the site of the spinal injury.

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How does our environment impact our health? Unravelling the exposome

ABC Online, Other, 14/08/2025, Olivia Willis

With around 125,000 children and parents enrolled, Generation Victoria — or GenV — is set to become one of the largest health studies of its kind in the world. But its scientific director, Melbourne paediatrician Melissa Wake, says at its heart is a "simple idea".

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 14/08/2025, Jennifer Keyte

Griffith University is searching for 30 people from Sydney, Melbourne and South East Queensland who could be the first in the world to recover from a spinal cord injury. The research will run over three years with the first patient to start treatment as soon as next month.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Official launch: Welcome Wundirra

Western Advocate, General News, 15/08/2025, Page 4

The countdown was on for weeks, but now, Wahluu Health has finally opened at the Kelso Community Hub. The official launch of the Aboriginal Health Service, 'Wundirra' was held on April 28.

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Wellington Aboriginal Health Service placed into administration again after board disputes

ABC Online, Other, 14/08/2025, Zaarkacha Marlan

An Aboriginal health service delivering care to more than 5,000 people across regional NSW and Western Sydney has been placed into special administration, with plans to split the organisation in two. Administrators were called to the Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (WACHS) after an investigation by the Registrar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations earlier this year.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Governments 'on the run'

Border Mail, General News, 15/08/2025, Madilyn McKinley, Page 1

The NSW and Victorian governments are "running a mile" from the Albury hospital project works, the Farrer MP says. Sussan Ley expressed disappointment at both governments while speaking in Albury this week, stating they have underfunded the redevelopment.

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Health board raises 'deep concerns' over mayor's comments

Border Mail, General News, 15/08/2025, Madilyn McKinley, Page 3

Albury Wodonga Health has refuted an Albury mayor's "wholly inconsistent" comments about the organisation's chief executive. Kevin Mack spoke to a crowd of about 200 people at the Corryong rally for a greenfield hospital site on Sunday, accusing Bill Appleby of prioritising profit over patient care, citing concerns about ambulance wait times, emergency department overcrowding, and inadequate services for the public.

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Ambo delays spark fears

Shepparton News, General News, 15/08/2025, Monique Preston, Page 5

Only 53 per cent of ambulance arrivals at Goulburn Valley Health were transferred into emergency department care within 40 minutes between January and March this year. The 40-minute timeframe for being transferred into the emergency department is a benchmark time for the industry that is supposed to be achieved.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Cosmetic market lures nurses with promises of better pay

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/08/2025, Joel Ehsman, Page 6

Nurses from the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District are leaving the hospital system to pursue a career in the cosmetics market. The cosmetic sector has expanded rapidly, with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) calling it a "billion-dollar" industry.

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SBS, World News Australia, 14/08/2025, Janice Petersen

The Productivity Commission is urging reform to the care sector, including single national screening for staff across aged, NDIS, veteran and childcare. Productivity Commissioner Angela Jackson says it is important to retain quality staff in the sector.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Wrinkles exposed in drug network

Age, General News, 15/08/2025, Clay Lucas & Henrietta Cook, Page 1

At 7.48am on Christmas Day in 2020, a desperate plea pinged in a WhatsApp group for nurses subscribing to Australia's largest cosmetic injectables telehealth company. [...] " Approached about this and other issues raised in WhatsApp messages, the Therapeutic Goods Administration declined to comment, saying responsibility rested with states and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

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Star surgeon's unravelling CV stretches to University of Sydney

Age, General News, 15/08/2025, Charlotte Grieve, Page 12

Australia's top-ranking university has denied any affiliation with disgraced surgeon Munjed Al Muderis after he claimed in sworn evidence to hold a current honorary associate position with the institution and promoted the relationship online. [...] The healthcare regulators, Health Care Complaints Commission

(HCCC) and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), are currently reviewing the judgment that found the investigation revealing Al Muderis' unethical surgical practice was true and in the public interest.

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

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 14/08/2025, Leith Forrest

Interview with Star Pharmacy Chemist Chief Pharmacist Shannon Hewitt on health matters. Hewitt says there is a global outbreak of measles and they are seeing cases in Australia among people who travel. She states SA Health has noticed the problem and instigated a program where certain eligible people can actually get a free or a funded measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Fake Ozempic detected in Australia

Diabetic Living, General News, 01/08/2025, Page 12

According to Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration, counterfeit Ozempic-labelled injection pens have been discovered at the border, suggesting some, with a false batch number of MPD916, may already be present in the country. These 'fake medicines' haven't been assessed for quality, safety or efficacy and as a result, may contain incorrect or even harmful ingredients, which could result in serious side effects if they're used.

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Supplement safely

Diabetic Living, General News, 01/10/2025, Page 114

Wondering if vitamin, mineral or herbal supplements will help you manage your diabetes? [...] In Australia, complementary medicines are regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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Male contraceptive pill trial: How Australians really feel about the medical breakthrough and would they take it?

7news.com.au, Other, 14/08/2025, Tim McLachlan

A new hormone-free male birth control pill has been developed in the US, which has been proven safe in a small human trial. [...] It is not yet known how much the drug — which hasn't been approved for sale in the US or considered by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration — would cost to produce.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No wonder people get sniffy over cost of smokes, booze

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/08/2025, Caleb Bond, Page 13

You're better off snorting a line of cocaine than lighting up a dart. [...] The 2022-23 National Drug Strategy Household Survey found that 7.5 per cent of Australians aged 14 and older had used meth.

Latest wastewater report reveals Australians consumed 22 tonnes of illicit drugs over one year

The Australian, Other, 14/08/2025, Emma Kirk

The latest wastewater report has revealed Australians consumed more than 20 tonnes of illicit drugs worth billions of dollars over one year. The report, released by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC), found 22.2 tonnes of methylamphetamine, cocaine, heroin and MDMA worth an estimated \$11.5bn were used by Australians between August 2023 to August 2024.

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

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Policy leader says medicinal cannabis reform impossible without legalisation

The Australian, Other, 14/08/2025, James Dowling

A leading drug policy think tank has argued that the gradual decriminalisation of recreational cannabis will be the only way to begin fixing predatory and commercialised practices caused by medicinal cannabis access. In an address to the Medicinal Cannabis Industry Australia Conference, Penington Institute chief executive John Ryan blamed state governments for shoddy regulation that pushed those searching for recreational cannabis to either deceive their way into a prescription or try their luck with illegal drug dealers, tying up resources on petty offences and encouraging loose prescribing practices in the process.

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New study finds medicinal cannabis may reduce total sleep time in adults

9News, Other, 14/08/2025

The common struggle to get a good night's sleep is one of the top reasons why Australians are turning to medicinal cannabis, but experts say the science is yet to prove the products work. Jodie Buddle turned to a trial of medicinal cannabis after years struggling with insomnia, which only worsened with menopause and stress.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 14/08/2025, Alicia Loxley & Tom Steinfort

Sleep is one of the top reasons why Australians are turning to medicinal cannabis, but experts say the science is yet to prove the product's work. Experts at the Woolcock Institute in Sydney tested two chemicals from the cannabis plant, CBD and THC, and found that participants had the medication had less sleep than when they had the placebo.

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2GB, Drive, 14/08/2025, Clinton Maynard

Maynard notes doctors employed by companies that are marketing medicinal marijuana are over-prescribing them, and he adds they often happen during telehealth appointments. He says the TGA this week has started a public consultation period about this for better regulation of cannabis. He states Penington Institute CEO John Ryan believes that regulation of recreational cannabis is probably needed as a device to effectively change what is happening in the medicinal prescription area.

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