



# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 16th August 2025

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports women suffering from anaemia and chronic iron deficiencies say they feel gaslit by health practitioners who dismiss their concerns as imagined or normal aspects of womanhood. Health Minister Mark Butler has instructed a review into GP rebates for iron infusions, saying "Women have asked government to take their healthcare seriously, and we have listened". *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports allegations of a culture of cover-ups around failing infrastructure at Charles Gardiner Hospital have been made by a senior maintenance staffer who says serious defects have not been reported to the state Department of Health.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 1) reports medical experts have warned of the dangers of freebirths following an increase in birthing influencers spreading misinformation online likening hospital births to torture and abuse.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 3) reports scientists hope the use of AI in antibiotic development could help in the fight against superbugs following the eradication of antibiotic-resistant gonorrhoea and MRSA in mice.
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 4) reports a plan to move foundational supports from the NDIS to state funding will not go ahead as planned, with sources saying a national approach will be developed to avoid the creation of multiple, separate schemes.

- **The Canberra Times** (page 4) reports a review of NDIS staff has found around 21 per cent of respondents have experienced bullying in the past year, while 70 per cent of staff with a disability say they feel the agency is inclusive.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 5) reports two NDIS providers are facing federal legal action from the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission in a move NDIS's Louise Ganville says demonstrates the agency's commitment to enforcement.
- **ABC Online** reports the Australian Crime Intelligence Commission's annual wastewater report has revealed drug use is up across Australia, with a 34 per cent increase in cocaine, MDMA, heroin and methamphetamine usage. *Also reported by:* [Hobart Mercury](#), [Canberra Times](#), [Newcastle Herald](#), [Central Western Daily](#), [Burnie Advocate](#), [Launceston Examiner](#), [Warnambool Standard](#)

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Gaslit, undiagnosed and untreated dismissed and gaslit: the gender divide in treatment

The Saturday Age, General News, 16/08/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 1

Iron-deficient and anaemic women are being gaslit and denied effective treatment, while pathology companies systematically report "normal" blood test results for females who would be diagnosed with iron deficiency if they were male. [...] In response to questions from this masthead, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said he had asked the Medical Services Advisory Committee to look at a Medicare item for iron infusions in general practice.

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

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### Medical misogyny: a call to action

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/08/2025, Page 8

The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age last year launched an investigation into medical misogyny: ingrained, systemic sexism across Australia's healthcare system, medical research and practise. More than 2000 women shared their experiences as part of our crowd-sourced investigative series, which prompted a national outpouring of grief and frustration as women described feeling gaslit, dismissed or being told their pain was "all in their heads".

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### Voices raised on misogyny in healthcare

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 16/08/2025, Page 38

Nine months ago, the Herald published the first articles in a wide-ranging investigation into medical misogyny, exposing the shameful cost, damage and insults inflicted on women by the institutionalisation of treating one human differently whenever they sought care and treatment. [...] In response to questions, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said he had asked the Medical Services Advisory Committee to look at a Medicare item for iron infusions in general practice.

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### Minister vows to 'listen and learn' for care economy productivity

The Mandarin, Other, 15/08/2025, Melissa Coade

Mark Butler has convened a group of health stakeholders ahead of Treasurer Jim Chalmers' economic roundtable in a bid to show the government is committed to consulting with the disability and ageing care sectors. [...] Together with Minister for Disability and the NDIS Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Jenny McBride, and Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi, Butler will take the feedback to next week's economic roundtable.

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### Bulk billing incentive to be split equally between GP and practice

As part of this commitment participating practices would receive an additional 12.5% incentive payment on every \$1 of MBS benefit earned from eligible services. [...] Now, federal Minister for Health Mark Butler has announced the incentive would be split equally between GPs and practices registered for the Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program.

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## **‘Disappointing’: Bulk-billing loading allocation revealed**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/08/2025

GPs will be allocated only half of the new 12.5% bulk-billing incentive payment, leaving the RACGP ‘disappointed’ its advice and the voice of GPs have been ignored by the Federal Government. [...] While the RACGP pushed for GPs to be allocated 100% of that bonus, Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler revealed on Friday that practices and doctors will share a 50:50 split, following ‘close consultation’.

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## **Practices, GPs to split new PIP 50/50**

The Medical Republic, Other, 15/08/2025, Holly Payne

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has now confirmed that funds from the incoming Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program (BBPIP) will be split evenly between practices and GPs – a call that has been met with scepticism from the sector. The split will only apply to the BBPIP, which is the new 12.5% loading payment for practices that commit to universal bulk billing of GP non-referred attendance items set to kick in from November.

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## **Channel 10, 10 News, 15/08/2025, Sandra Sully**

The Federal Government is expanding its bulk billing incentives in an effort to make GP visits more affordable for all Australians. This comes as general practitioners previously received an additional Medicare incentive only for services provided to concession card holders and children under 16 years of age. According to Health Minister Mark Butler, approximately a quarter of all GPs in Australia currently bulk bill every patient who comes to their practice for a consultation.

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## **Channel 7, National News At Noon, 15/08/2025, Angie Asimus**

Doctors and their practices are expected to split a cash bonus from the Federal Government's new bulk-billing plan. The government revealed the finer details of its centrepiece election policy today, which aims to provide an incentive payment for those who bulk-bill. Health Minister Mark Butler stated that individual doctors should be rewarded for deciding to bulk-bill every patient they see.

Also reported by: [NBN Lismore \(Lismore\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#).

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## **Channel 7, Sunrise, 15/08/2025, Matt Shirvington & Natalie Barr**

Panel discussion with Liberal Senator Jane Hume and Health Minister Mark Butler. Compere stated that the Federal Attorney-General, Mark Dreyfus, will be meeting with his state and territory counterparts today. Butler commented that all levels of government should have acted more quickly on this matter, especially after a similar recommendation was made in 2018.

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## **NBN Central Coast, NBN News, 15/08/2025, Tyson Cottrill**

The federal government today giving more details of its major Medicare investment, an incentive to expand access to all Australians with an additional 12.5% payment for doctors who bulk bill. Health Minister Mark Butler says that individual doctors should be rewarded for taking a decision to bulk bill every patient but that it must also be made to work for the practice.

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## **NBN Tamworth, NBN News, 15/08/2025, Tyson Cottrill**

A cash bonus will soon be on offer for GPs who bulk bill in a bid to ensure seeing a doctor is more accessible. It's hoped it will lead to nine out of ten GP visits being bulk billed by the end of the decade. Health Minister Mark Butler says that individual doctors should be rewarded for taking a decision to bulk bill every patient but that it must also be made to work for the practice.

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## **Hope 103.2, 12:00 News, 15/08/2025**

A total of 30 childcare centres, which have been accused of breaching their obligations for at least seven years, have been advised to improve their safety standards or risk having Their Federal funding taken away. Health Minister Mark Butler says nine out of 10 GP visits will be bulk billed by 2030.

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## **MINISTER MCALLISTER**

### **Minister vows to 'listen and learn' for care economy productivity**

The Mandarin, Other, 15/08/2025, Melissa Coade

Mark Butler has convened a group of health stakeholders ahead of Treasurer Jim Chalmers' economic roundtable in a bid to show the government is committed to consulting with the disability and ageing care sectors. [...] Together with Minister for Disability and the NDIS Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Jenny McBride, and Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi, Butler will take the feedback to next week's economic roundtable.

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### **The age where one in six boys is now on the NDIS**

CathNews, Other, 15/08/2025, Rebecca Comini

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 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.

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### **Tomakin's Rally For Recovery accessibility grant**

WEB Moruya Mail, Other, 15/08/2025, Alex Rea

Volunteers and visitors to Tomakin's Rally For Recovery op-shop will soon enjoy a new accessible shed, thanks to a \$18,500 grant from the Albanese Labor Government's Stronger Communities Programme. During a visit to the region, Federal Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Senator Jenny McAllister, and Federal Member for Gilmore Fiona Phillips dropped into the shed today (Thursday 14 August) to congratulate the volunteers.

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### **Channel 9, Today , 15/08/2025, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo**

More children aged between five and seven are now using the National Disability Insurance Scheme [NDIS]. This comes as the program has experienced significant growth, with tens of thousands of families joining in the past year. The expansion comes as NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister flags further reforms to make it more sustainable.

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### **Sky News Regional, Breakfast, 15/08/2025, Jaynie Seal**

According to a new Sydney Morning Herald report, a significant number of children are now using the

NDIS, with one in 10 children aged five to seven being participants. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister is warning that further reforms are needed to make sure that the scheme is sustainable.

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## ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 15/08/2025, Adam Steer

Compere says one in six boys are now on the NDIS, with Australian children flocking, according to a new report. She states that according to NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister, 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 of the programme.

Also reported by: [Gold 101.7 \(Sydney\)](#).

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## MINISTER RAE

### Government calls for new members to join Aged Care Council of Elders

The Indian Sun, Other, 15/08/2025

The Albanese Government has opened applications for older Australians with lived experience of the aged care system to join the Aged Care Council of Elders from January 2026. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said the Council brought a range of perspectives to government decision-making.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Minister vows to 'listen and learn' for care economy productivity

The Mandarin, Other, 15/08/2025, Melissa Coade

Mark Butler has convened a group of health stakeholders ahead of Treasurer Jim Chalmers' economic roundtable in a bid to show the government is committed to consulting with the disability and ageing care sectors. [...] Together with Minister for Disability and the NDIS Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Jenny McBride, and Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi, Butler will take the feedback to next week's economic roundtable.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### Poor effort, one-star: experts pan health rating uptake

HealthTimes, Other, 15/08/2025

Consumers are stilling having to digest complex nutrition tables when shopping as brands thumb their nose at voluntary health star labels. [...] Federal Agriculture Minister Julie Collins and Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White were contacted for comment.

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

## Minister vows to 'listen and learn' for care economy productivity

The Mandarin, Other, 15/08/2025, Melissa Coade

Mark Butler has convened a group of health stakeholders ahead of Treasurer Jim Chalmers' economic roundtable in a bid to show the government is committed to consulting with the disability and ageing care sectors. [...] Together with Minister for Disability and the NDIS Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Jenny McBride, and Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi, Butler will take the feedback to next week's economic roundtable.

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## Sky News Regional, Breakfast, 15/08/2025, Jaynie Seal

Interview with Labor MP and Special Envoy Dan Repacholi. Compere mentions that this week, health ministers and politicians have hosted a meeting that aims to boost productivity, economic resilience, and budget sustainability. Repacholi says the key takeaway from the meeting is that a lot of ministers and politicians are on the same page in looking forward to being more productive and treating the Australian public, the best they can.

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## DEPARTMENT

### Respect cements Vic rural presence further

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 15/08/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

According to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, one in three older Australians live in regional, rural or remote communities, and even though older people make up a greater part of rural populations, fewer aged care services are available to them than their counterparts living in major cities. Not-for-profit provider Respect has been building on its rural and regional portfolio, announcing its ninth acquisition for 2025 with the takeover of fellow not-for-profit residential care provider Chaffey Aged Care's 100-bed home in Merbein, in rural Victoria.

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### Big week for talking. What about the doing?

Health Services Daily, Other, 15/08/2025, Cate Swannell

All this talk of efficiency and productivity. Where is the patient experience in all this? [...] Just as a side note here – sorry to keep going on about this, dear readers at the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing – but that Boston Consulting Group review of the PHN business model that you say hasn't been sent to PHNs, and that you keep hiding away in your top drawer?

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### Bulk billing incentive to be split equally between GP and practice

Medical Forum, Other, 15/08/2025

As part of this commitment participating practices would receive an additional 12.5% incentive payment on every \$1 of MBS benefit earned from eligible services. [...] Now, federal Minister for Health Mark Butler has announced the incentive would be split equally between GPs and practices registered for the Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program.

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### Audit flags PHN's use of 'self-generated income'

The Medical Republic, Other, 15/08/2025, Holly Payne

Accounting firm McGrathNicol has found that Western NSW PHN's use of what it regarded as "self-generated income" was "potentially not in accordance" with Commonwealth funding arrangements. [...] The foundation was set up in September 2023 without funding approval from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and was closed in March 2024 before it had delivered any projects.

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## Practices, GPs to split new PIP 50/50

The Medical Republic, Other, 15/08/2025, Holly Payne

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has now confirmed that funds from the incoming Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program (BBPIP) will be split evenly between practices and GPs – a call that has been met with scepticism from the sector. The split will only apply to the BBPIP, which is the new 12.5% loading payment for practices that commit to universal bulk billing of GP non-referred attendance items set to kick in from November.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Why this boss negotiated a 25pc pay rise for her staff

Australian Financial Review, Other, 15/08/2025, Patrick Durkin

Regis Healthcare chief executive Dr Linda Mellors says she is still suffering post-traumatic stress after living through the lethal COVID-19 outbreaks that hit the company's aged care facilities, and Victoria's prolonged lockdowns.

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### Noticing red flags: How to spot a psychopath working in aged care

HelloCare, Other, 15/08/2025, Jakob Neeland

The aged care and disability sectors bear a profound responsibility to protect some of society's most vulnerable individuals. Residents, often elderly or living with complex physical or cognitive impairments, rely on carers for their safety, dignity, and quality of life.

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### Dementia is “galloping” in retirement villages – and operators aren't ready

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2025, Lauren Broomham

Across the country, residents themselves are raising the alarm about a surge in dementia in retirement villages – and with aged care beds full and Home Care Packages scarce, the challenge for operators is no longer theoretical.

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### The dementia village changing the face of aged care in Port Macquarie

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2025, Lauren Broomham

In a region with the second-highest rate of dementia in NSW, an aged care experiment is quietly rewriting the rulebook. Open just 12 months, Emmaus Village in Port Macquarie already has a wait list of 80 – proof that small-house dementia care is resonating far beyond the Netherlands, where the model was born.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### States back away from cost of support for kids

AFR Weekend, General News, 16/08/2025, Phillip Coorey, Page 4

A plan for the states to take back responsibility for children with mild developmental issues has been shelved, with the federal government now forced to create a new solution to help reduce the spiralling cost of the NDIS.

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## Review exposes the extent of bullying

Canberra Times, General News, 16/08/2025, Miriam Webber, Page 4

A sweeping review of culture at the agency that regulates the National Disability Insurance Scheme has found 20 per cent of staff have experienced bullying recently, including "public humiliation, verbal abuse or intimidation". Elizabeth Broderick's report into workplace culture at the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Commission was set up following "numerous complaints of bullying and harassment, alleged to be occurring across multiple business areas and by staff of different position levels within the organisation".

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## NDIS is cracking down on scams

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/08/2025, Charlotte Karp, Page 5

The NDIS watchdog has launched civil cases against two known fraudsters who allegedly continued to provide support to disabled people even though they were banned from doing so. Synthia Restar, a former NDIS provider CEO, and Lynette Peters are being sued separately by the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission in the Federal Court over allegations that they ignored orders banning them from providing care.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### LNP takes hypocritic oath

Courier Mail, General News, 16/08/2025, Hayden Johnson & Thomas Chamberlin, Page 3

Treasurer Krispin Hajkowicz is understood to be seeking legal advice about the intervention of senior ministers to withdraw an offer for him become chief health officer. Dr Hajkowicz who declined to comment when approached by The Courier-Mail is thought to be considering legal options after ministers in July overruled an independent selection panel than recommended he be appointed chief health officer.

*Also reported by:* [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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### 'Freebirth' can cost your baby

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/08/2025, Suzan Giuliani, Page 1

A wave of misinformation about "freebirths" has led to a rise in the practice, with medical authorities claiming influencers are "brainwashing" women to give birth without qualified medical professionals present, leading to babies dying or suffering defects. [...] Australian Medical Association NSW president Kathryn Austin warned the practice was "anecdotally on the rise" due to the greater exposure of the practice from social media platforms.

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### 'Meteoric rise' in medicinal cannabis use

Burnie Advocate, General News, 16/08/2025, Desiree Savage, Page 9

Cowboy doctors have been put on notice, as telehealth services prescribing unapproved medicinal cannabis to seniors and other vulnerable Australians come under the microscope. Experts have welcomed a move by the government's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to review the safety and regulatory framework for medicinal cannabis products after increasing public and professional concern.

*Also reported by:* [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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## AdPha backs AMA AI oversight call

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/08/2025

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) is calling for the establishment of a dedicated group of health experts to provide clinical leadership and guidance on the regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare, with Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) backing the call.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Doctor's case for science in teen gender dysphoria care

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/08/2025, David Penberthy, Page 16

Finnish psychiatrist Riittakerttu Kaltiala holds a unique and important position in the treatment of gender dysphoria. She has had a front-row seat for the introduction and subsequent rollback of gender-affirming care in her native Finland across the past 15 years.

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### Medical misogyny: a call to action

The Saturday Age, General News, 16/08/2025, Page 4

The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald last year launched an investigation into medical misogyny: ingrained, systemic sexism across Australia's healthcare system, medical research and practise. More than 2000 women shared their experiences as part of our crowd-sourced investigative series, which prompted a national outpouring of grief and frustration as women described feeling gaslit, dismissed or being told their pain was "all in their heads".

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### Perth's hottest killer: tobacco

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 16/08/2025, Ben Harvey & Caleb Runciman, Page 1

Black-market cigarettes are being brazenly sold up to \$20-a-packet cheaper by convenience stores in Perth, lining the pockets of organised criminals fuelling a tobacco war across WA. And one of Australia's most wanted criminals is believed to have links to drive-by shootings and firebombings targeting tobacconists in Perth's east.

*Also reported by: [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [Countryman \(Online\)](#), [Bunbury Herald \(Online\)](#), [Kimberley Echo \(Online\)](#), [Narrogin Observer \(Online\)](#), [Manjimup-Bridgetown Times \(Online\)](#), [North West Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [Great Southern Herald \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#).*

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### Warnie's legacy lives on

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/08/2025, Page 8

The results are in from Australia's most important Test of the summer and it wasn't just on the pitch. A national heart health screening initiative launched in memory of cricket legend Shane Warne has found nearly seven in 10 Australians tested have at least one uncontrolled risk factor for cardiovascular disease.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).*

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### Shane Warne heart testing bowls up 'bittersweet' results

Newcastle Herald, General News, 16/08/2025, Callum Godde, Page 16

Shane Warne was a master at putting rival batsmen under the pump, and Australian hearts are facing similar strain. The late king of spin died, aged 52, in March 2022 after suffering a heart attack while on holiday on the Thai island of Koh Samui.

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## \$40,000 seized in tobacco black market crackdown

Daily Liberal, Other, 15/08/2025

Around \$40,000 believed to be linked to the tobacco and vape black market has been seized following a routine stop on one of the region's busiest highways. On Tuesday, August 12, highway patrol officers pulled over a vehicle for a routine testing on the Golden Highway.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### The wait for proton therapy

AFR Weekend, General News, 16/08/2025, Terry Plane, Page 20

Teddy Marchmont is six now, but late last year, when he was five, he was diagnosed with medulloblastoma a brain tumour.

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

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### It was all a lie

Courier Mail, General News, 16/08/2025, Shayla Bulloch, Page 1

Amanda Power fooled everyone into believing she had terminal cancer. She preyed on the generosity of friends, family and strangers, stealing thousands of dollars from them. She even conned the Cancer Council, who gave her a job and made her a global ambassador.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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### Hopes Leo will escape generational legacy

Burnie Advocate, General News, 16/08/2025, Helen Kempton, Page 1

Peter Evans and his daughter Erica have had their lives rocked by serious heart conditions. Now, with the arrival of little Leo, the father and daughter team hope the family legacy is not passed down to the next generation.

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### Life starts to shine again for warrior

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/08/2025, Letea Cavander, Page 21

Sunshine Coast celebrity Bindi Irwin has shared the rollercoaster of emotions she has endured in her endometriosis battle. In a stirring social media post to her 2.8m followers, the Australia Zoo wildlife warrior and now endometriosis awareness advocate outlined how she is emerging after "13 years of fighting for answers" over her ill health.

Also reported by: [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Sunshine Coast Daily \(Online\)](#).

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### Qld dad facing third cancer battle doesn't match a single stem cell donor in Australia

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2025

Jake Parker has had to fight off Hodgkin lymphoma twice before turning 40. Now he is battling the cancer of the lymphatic system for a third time.

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## Depression, breast cancer and migraines among disease and health conditions impacting productivity

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2025, Bronwyn Herbert & Melanie Vujkovic

Depression and cancer, alongside chronic conditions like sleep apnoea and migraines, are among the leading health burdens on the workforce and costing the economy billions of dollars in lost work and lowered productivity, preliminary research from Monash University has revealed. Health economists have developed a "productivity index" to compare the economic burden of diseases in the hope of creating a more holistic approach to health care and in turn boost productivity.

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## From grand finals to the frontline: Royce Simmons' toughest fight yet

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2025, Lauren Broomham

The Panthers legend opens up about his dementia diagnosis, retirement village life, and why awareness – not just research – is key to tackling the disease. When the Penrith Panthers announced their new retirement living and aged care development in Penrith, 55km west of the Sydney CBD would be named The Royce, it was a nod to the club's legendary captain and coach, Royce Simmons.

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## From hospital bed to nowhere: dementia care's bottleneck

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2025, Lauren Broomham

One in three Australians over 85 lives with dementia. That's not an emerging challenge – it's here now.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Teens are waking up to screen perils. But they can't stop scrolling

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/08/2025, Ros Thomas, Page 1

A 10-year-old Adelaide boy reports that he has become "superaddicted" to pornography and "funny, racist reels"; a 15-year-old Perth girl reveals she spent nine hours and 15 minutes online one Saturday; and in Melbourne, a 19-year-old recalls how keeping up appearances on TikTok left her so paranoid she turned to medication. What does each of these young Australians blame?

Also reported by: [Weekend Australian \(Australia\)](#).

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### Prisoners of a system that doesn't care

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/08/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 17

I was The Australian's Northern Territory correspondent in 2008 when a contact summoned me to his offices on an early December wet season day. [...] The NT, which has one of the highest imprisonment rates in the world, is of course an outlier in its almost total lack of forensic healthcare facilities for prisoners such as Faulton, with an unknown number of cognitively disabled and severely mentally ill individuals housed in prison.

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### Mental health unit to close next week

Newcastle Herald, General News, 16/08/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 6

A 12-bed neuropsychiatry unit at Morisset hospital will close next week, ending a 24-year service that "treated some of the most vulnerable patients in the state". Internal Hunter New England Health documents, obtained by the Newcastle Herald, reveal that the Kaoriki Unit will "no longer have admitted patients from Thursday".

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

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## A new epidemic

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 16/08/2025, Dr Warren Ward & Lexi Crouch, Page 12

In 2024, the Butterfly Foundation - Australia's leading advocacy body for those affected by eating disorders - commissioned Deloitte Access Economics to research the extent of eating disorders in Australia. The results of their investigations, detailed in a report called Paying the Price, were shocking.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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## IMMUNISATION

### Flu toll rises as vax rate plunges

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/08/2025, Madeline Crittenden, Page 15

More people have died from the flu in NSW than anywhere else in the country so far this year, as the state's vaccination rates drop well behind the national average. In the first six months of this year 78 people in NSW died from the flu; 71 each in Victoria and Queensland, and 58 in the rest of the country.

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### Flu wave sweeps kids

Courier Mail, General News, 16/08/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 21

As Queensland's leaders refuse to reveal if they are vaccinated against the flu, the state has recorded its highest weekly total of cases this year with an astonishingly low 12 per cent vaccination rate in those diagnosed and cases in children under five are leading the way. In recent weeks, flu cases and hospital admissions among children have increased in the most vulnerable demographic with under-fives now having the highest rate of influenza in Queensland per capita sparking concern.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Hospitals buyer faces HMC test

Weekend Australian, Business News, 16/08/2025, Ben Wilmot, Page 23

The major landlords of embattled hospital operator Healthscope are moving to protect their properties in the event that a sale run by receivers McGrathNicol fails to find a buyer for Australia's second-largest private hospital group. One of those landlords, HMC Capital, revealed it has struck conditional agreements with alternative tenants to run the hospitals if no acceptable offer can be found.

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### Covid funding sparks lawsuit

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/08/2025, Elizabeth Henson, Page 9

The state government is suing an eastern suburbs day surgery over claims the private hospital pocketed almost half a million dollars in taxpayer funds that it was not entitled to during the Covid-19

pandemic. Restoration Clinics Pty Ltd, the then-operators of Norwood Day Surgery, denies it owes the government the money and is seeking to have the District Court application thrown out.

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

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### AI drugs potentially flag 'second golden age in antibiotics'

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/08/2025, Page 3

Scientists have used artificial intelligence to design two antibiotics that could provide a powerful weapon against superbugs including MRSA. In what scientists hope could start a "second golden age" in antibiotic discovery, the drugs, created by a team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, were able to kill antibiotic-resistant gonorrhoea and MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) in the laboratory and in tests on infected mice.

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

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### Blood clot discovery

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/08/2025, Page 21

The discovery of a new biological pathway may explain why people with type 2 diabetes are more prone to develop blood clots, potentially paving the way for treatments that reduce their cardiovascular risk. The University of Sydney researchers have found a protein called SEC61B is significantly increased in the platelets of people with type 2 diabetes.

Also reported by: [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#).

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

### Call for closer watch on psychotropic meds

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/08/2025

People with mental illness need better holistic healthcare to manage the physical side effects of their medications, experts have warned. University of Queensland-led research, conducted with UK colleagues, investigated the side effects of psychotropic drugs, including antidepressants and antipsychotics, and found increased medical monitoring was needed to help manage side effects, such as weight gain, increased blood pressure and sleep disturbance.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### For some, reaching old age is an historic first we must learn from

The Saturday Age, Business News, 16/08/2025, Millie Muroi, Page 3

As much as it is a privilege, caring for our parents and grand-parents the people we have relied on can be confronting. We see their vulnerability, their pain, and we have to step up in ways we're often unprepared for.

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

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### This team is trekking to stop a preventable disease that's hyperendemic in remote Indigenous communities

SBS, Other, 15/08/2025, Emma Kellaway

Among the ancient sandstone gorges carved out by the Katherine River, an unlikely group of Aboriginal leaders, cardiologists, and local medicos have teamed up for a trek to save lives. Over two weeks the team will visit nine remote communities throughout the Big Rivers Region of the Northern Territory.

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Staffer makes cover-up claims

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 16/08/2025, Charlton Hart, Page 1

A senior maintenance staffer at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital claims a "culture of cover-ups" is leaving serious infrastructure issues unaddressed and putting the public's health at risk. The worker said a special investigation by The West Australian that exposed thousands of repair work orders caused by leaks had uncovered a larger "scandal" in which infrastructure failures like a sewage pipe burst in August last year in the intensive care unit were not being treated seriously by the health department.

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### The town delivering billions but not babies

Newcastle Herald, General News, 16/08/2025, Matthew Kelly, Page 1

Muswellbrook couple Steven and Tiarne Fordham are preparing to welcome their third child in the next few months. Even though the local mines generate \$4.5 billion in coal mining royalties annually, their town's hospital has not provided a birthing service since March 2022.

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### New theatre to ease the load on region's hospitals

Border Mail, General News, 16/08/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 2

The waiting list load of hospitals in Albury-Wodonga and Wangaratta is set to ease with the opening of a new surgical theatre at Yarrawonga Health. The first operations at the theatre are expected to occur in September, with an opening on Thursday, August 8, which saw members of the public inspect the \$10.9 million project.

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### Leadership shift: departure of key manager at Orange Hospital

Central Western Daily, General News, 16/08/2025, Nick McGrath, Page 14

There will be new leadership at Orange Hospital following the retirement of general manager Catherine Nowlan. The departure was confirmed in an email sent to health service staff at the start of August.

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### Hunter town's \$4.5b maternity void

Newcastle Herald, General News, 16/08/2025, Page 56

Muswellbrook's coal mines send \$4.5 billion a year in royalties to the state government - a staggering contribution from a town of just 16,000 people. Yet for more than two years, the hospital there has been unable to deliver a single baby.

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### Australian Medical Association voices concern for allied health workers in South West in survey's wake

West Australian, Other, 15/08/2025, Warren Hatelly

The Australian Medical Association says the State Government must not allow working conditions for staff to "go backwards" while Bunbury Regional Hospital undergoes its lengthy redevelopment. AMA WA president Kyle Hoath said last week's Times report that focused on a survey by the Health Services Union casting light on conditions for allied professionals, mirrored some of the poor outcomes of the AMA's own survey earlier this year.

[Read More](#)

## Union hopeful as NSW government vows to refurbish Broken Hill ambulance station

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2025, Oliver Brown

When Ben Weller moved to far-west New South Wales to join the local paramedic squad in 2022, his place of work was equipped to handle 18 full-time employees. A few years on, the number of paramedics in Broken Hill has more than doubled, although there have been no changes to the decades-old infrastructure to accommodate them.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 15/08/2025, Sonya Feldhoff & Jules Schiller

The comperes are joined by ABC's Aaron Bryans. Bryans points out that the issue of ramping was a key focus of the 2022 election campaign. Compere adds their opinion that the situation has been negatively impacted for four years, attributing the blame to Premier Peter Malinauskas.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Heading out to the regions for more opportunities in health

Central Western Daily, General News, 16/08/2025, Phoebe Christofi, Page 69

Job stability is important to many Australians, so there's nothing more encouraging than learning there's solid demand in your chosen field. Jobs and Skills Australia has identified a strong need for health and disability workers in regional areas.

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### Business warns of 'union veto' of AI use

Australian Financial Review, Other, 15/08/2025, David Marin-Guzman

The country's four major business groups have united to oppose a key government agency's backing for workers to co-design the rollout of artificial intelligence, fearing it paves the way for a union veto over the technology.

[Read More](#)

### Praise for Goldfields GPs working as part of a 'limited health workforce'

Medical Forum, Other, 15/08/2025

RACGP President Dr Michael Wright visited Plaza Medical in Kalgoorlie during his trip to WA. RACGP President Dr Michael Wright was impressed by the collaboration happening between GP clinics in Kalgoorlie-Boulder to support patients in the area.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS



## Medicine price cuts 'going to be huge'

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 16/08/2025, Ben Loughran, Page 8

Bendigo parents may no longer have to choose between who in their family receives medication with plans for a price cut on key pharmaceutical drugs. White Hills pharmacy owner Sanjay Jhaveri said the proposal to cap the cost of all prescriptions for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medication to \$25 would be "huge".

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### HotDoc relaunches its Telehealth On Demand service after GP concerns

Medical Forum, Other, 15/08/2025

Online patient engagement platform HotDoc has relaunched its telehealth platform after a five week pause prompted by concerns from GPs the platform would funnel patients away from their regular clinicians. The platform launched a trial of its Telehealth On Demand service for patients requesting a same-day telehealth consult where they could be matched up with GPs who had availability within two hours.

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### NBN Tamworth, NBN News, 15/08/2025, Tyson Cottrill

A cash bonus will soon be on offer for GPs who bulk bill in a bid to ensure seeing a doctor is more accessible. It's hoped it will lead to nine out of ten GP visits being bulk billed by the end of the decade. Health Minister Mark Butler says that individual doctors should be rewarded for taking a decision to bulk bill every patient but that it must also be made to work for the practice.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Defamation defeat not the only court trouble for star surgeon

The Saturday Age, General News, 16/08/2025, Charlotte Grieve, Page 32

One of the first things Sharon Jones-Baldwin noticed when she entered Munjed Al Muderis' clinic was the large portrait of the star doctor hanging on the wall. [...] This week the medical regulators, HCCC and AHPRA, signalled they were reviewing the judgment but surgeons and experts have little faith action will be taken.

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

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### Midwife charged after baby dies

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/08/2025, Suzan Giuliani, Page 8

A midwife who allegedly did not act upon signs of complications of an expectant mother leading to the death of her baby was a prominent birth content creator. [...] A NSW Health spokesman said Coxon had not worked for NSW Health for more than two years: "The former employee was registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) during her period working as a midwife at Hunter New England Local Health District".

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

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### Qld Health nurse suspended after alleged rape at Logan Hospital

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/08/2025, Patrick Billings , Vanda Carson & Shayla Bulloch



A nurse has been accused of rape at a Queensland hospital. [...] Queensland's Health Ombudsman said it took immediate action against the registered nurse suspending him on August 5.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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## AHPRA's new portal to oblivion: An attempt to weed out older doctors?

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/08/2025, Craig Lilienthal

If you haven't yet responded to AHPRA's recent invitation to re-register as a healthcare professional before the end of September, watch out. Be very concerned — especially if you, like me, are a late-career doctor.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Soaring syphilis rates prompts concern for babies as STD prevalence described as a crisis

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 15/08/2025, Laura Newell

Syphilis cases in the Kimberley have already rocketed above last year's figures despite there being another four months of the year to go. WA Department of Health figures reveal that the Kimberley has seen 64 cases so far this year to 2024's 59, making it the regional area hardest hit by the sexually transmitted disease.

[Read More](#)

### Channel 10, 10 News, 15/08/2025, Natalie Forrest

Australians suffering from silicosis may find hope in a new human trial. Researchers in Melbourne have initiated trials for an anti-inflammatory drug, Infliximab, which they hope will slow the progressive damage to patients' lungs. The trial is a significant step, as there is currently no cure for the debilitating condition.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Cochlear backs new device for earnings boost

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 16/08/2025, Michael Smith, Page 27

Medical technology Cochlear chief executive Dig Howitt is pinning his hopes on the rollout of a new hearing implant to boost earnings, saying this year's disappointing result is just a blip in a two-decade run of strong growth.

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### When treatment makes things worse

Western Advocate, General News, 16/08/2025, Kate Mcilwain, Page 67

Penny Thompson spent nearly 13 years and thousands of dollars trying to get a diagnosis for her "mystery illness", which paralysed her vocal cords, damaged her nerves and left her unable to work, socialise or study. [...] According to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, taking too much can cause nerve damage, which many people experience as peripheral neuropathy - or numbness and tingling in the fingers and toes.

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## Popular at-home fetal monitors linked to stillbirths, newborn deaths

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/08/2025, Kate Aubusson

Australia's medical device watchdog is warning pregnant women against using popular portable fetal heart monitors, after the devices were implicated in six stillbirths and newborn deaths since 2022. The most recent death was on Tuesday, a spokesperson for the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said.

[Read More](#)

## Warning illegal pregnancy devices could be associated with baby deaths

9News, Other, 15/08/2025, Adam Vidler

Banned pregnancy devices are leading to deaths around Australia as they continue to be illegally traded, the Therapeutic Goods Administration has warned. Following a review in September last year, the TGA removed all home-use foetal heart monitors from the Australian Registry of Therapeutic Goods, meaning they are no longer approved for sale or advertising in Australia.

[Read More](#)

## BMI not good enough to decide who gets subsidised weight loss drugs: GPs to PBAC

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/08/2025, Mohana Basu

As pharmaceutical companies hope the PBAC will decide to fund weight loss drugs, GPs worry that BMI will remain the keystone of any PBS eligibility criteria. [...] In Australia, when the TGA approved Mounjaro for weight loss in 2024, the indications were a BMI over 30kg/m or a BMI of 27-30kg/m and one weight-related comorbidity.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Use of ice, cocaine, heroin at record high

Canberra Times, General News, 16/08/2025, Jack Gramenz, Page 25

Australia's insatiable appetite for illicit drugs is fuelling demand from international crime groups and drug dealers cashing in on the lucrative market. Analysis of wastewater by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, in partnership with universities, detected a growth in consumption of major illicit drugs around the nation.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

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### Illicit drug use shows up

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/08/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 3

Consumption of heroin, cocaine, methylamphetamine, and MDMA has shot up across Tasmania amid mounting concerns about the influence of serious and organised crime groups in the illicit drug trade.

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## Australia's meth, cocaine, MDMA and heroin consumption up by 34 per cent

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2025, Liana Walker

Australians consumed 34 per cent more methylamphetamine (meth), cocaine, heroin and MDMA in 2024 compared to 2023, according to the latest wastewater survey. The annual National Wastewater

Drug Monitoring Program shows Australians consumed 22.2 tonnes of the four drugs between August 2023 and 2024.

[Read More](#)

**Channel 7, Seven News, 15/08/2025, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings**

An analysis of wastewater has revealed a high level of illegal drug consumption in Australia, though the specific figure of 22.2 tonnes for 2024 is unverified. It's important to note that the latest data from the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's (ACIC) National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program consistently reports a significant annual consumption of drugs such as methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and MDMA.

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