



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 18th August 2025

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

- **[The Australian \(page 4\)](#)** reports that Independent MP Monique Ryan has written to Health Minister Mark Butler, urging him to ensure that funds in Medical Research Future Fund are released and utilised, with Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes chief executive Saraid Billiards saying it made no sense to leave funds unused when the sector was facing an "existential crisis".
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the number of syphilis cases in Australia has risen and there is a nationwide shortage of key antibiotic benzathine benzylpenicillin due to manufacturing issues according to the TGA, leading Mater Health director of infectious disease Professor Paul Griffin to warn there is a lack of public vigilance and call for increased screening tests.
- **[The West Australian \(page 11\)](#)** reports that, according to Juniper Aged Care chief executive Russell Bricknell, data from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has shown that Western Australia does not have enough support for its ageing population, however WA Premier Roger Cook said that his government had made a record investment in the state's health sector. *Also reported by:* [West Australian \(page 10\)](#), [ABC Online](#)
- **[The Age \(page 27\)](#)** reports that Go1 co-founders Vu Tran and Andrew Barnes have launched OneMRI to provide whole-body MRI scans nationwide, with Tran, a GP, noting that Medicare

does not cover such scans and that demand is growing among people focused on preventive health.

- **The Burnie Advocate (page 2)** reports that four doctors have opened My Clinic Plus in Burnie's CBD to deliver urgent and regular GP care, and are seeking Medicare funding to grow their bulk-billing services.
- **The Australian (page 14)** reports that the Federal Government is considering to bid for Healthscope that could involve transferring its hospitals to the states, increasing public hospital capacity amid current bed shortages, and putting pressure on health insurers that have been reluctant to increase the reimbursement payments to the private hospitals.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald (page 3)** reports former staff at eduKare Childcare in Muswellbrook have accused director Hayley Challita of fraudulently using their Medicare numbers to obtain multiple prescriptions, after asking for their details under the guise of employment or regulatory updates.

MINISTER BUTLER

ALP accused of 'starving' medical research

The Australian, General News, 18/08/2025, Stephen Lunn, Page 4

The Albanese government has been accused of hanging on to hundreds of millions of dollars a year in a \$24bn fund earmarked for health and medical research as national productivity flatlines and medical research institutes say they face closure without an imminent injection of funds. [...] Independent MP Monique Ryan has written to Jim Chalmers, calling for the issue to be canvassed at the upcoming productivity roundtable, and to Health Minister Mark Butler, urging him to open up the coffers.

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Labor still feeling the love from voters: poll

Age, General News, 18/08/2025, Shane Wright, Page 1

Anthony Albanese's honeymoon with voters after his election victory is showing no signs of ending as support for Labor climbs to its highest level in two years, with voters believing the government is focused on the right issues. [...] Attorney-General Michelle Rowland and Health Minister Mark Butler, who are all at plus 4.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Rehab fund cuts spark fury

Hobart Mercury, General News, 18/08/2025, Nick Clark, Page 3

A gap in drug treatment capacity in north and northwest Tasmania due to a federal government funding holdup has incurred the wrath of a Launceston magistrate. [...] A Department of Health, Disability and Ageing spokesman has defended the delay: "The government has approved up to \$821,000 to support 10 beds at Serenity House in 202526, as published on the GrantConnect website.

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Is ramping up a notch

West Australian, General News, 18/08/2025, Page 11

According to Juniper Aged Care chief executive Russell Bricknell, data from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing for the March quarter showed WA did not have enough support for the ageing population. "WA has just 43 Home Care Packages (HCP) available per 1000 older people the lowest number of any State or Territory," Mr Bricknell said in an online article.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Broome Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [South Western Times \(Online\)](#), [Kimberley Echo \(Online\)](#), [Countryman \(Online\)](#), [Busselton Dunsborough Times \(Online\)](#), [Bunbury Herald \(Online\)](#), [Narrogin Observer \(Online\)](#), [Midwest Times \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [Geraldton Guardian \(Online\)](#), [North West Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [Great Southern Herald \(Online\)](#), [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Private health code reform

Herald Sun, Editorials, 18/08/2025, Page 22

There is no doubt hospitals in Victoria and across the nation are under increasing pressure to cater for a booming and ageing population. Australian hospitals and medical professionals are among the very best in the world, but it's not a standard we can take for granted or assume will continue without the targeted and appropriate allocation of funding and focus on maintaining and improving performance.

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Preparing for a further delay

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/08/2025, Darren Birbeck, Page 28

Recently, I was asked by one of our home support team whether we had a backup plan in place should the launch of the new Aged Care Act, planned for November 1 this year, be delayed again. After explaining that another delay was unlikely, given the political and legal consequences, and the fact that

the final rules have been released by the Department of Health and Ageing, I began to feel a little uneasy.

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The cost of dying

Canberra Times, General News, 18/08/2025, Steve Evans, Page 1

Everyone knows the cost of living is through the roof, but it's not cheap at the other end of the existential equation, either: As The Canberra Times begins on a new series on the business of death, today we look at the associated costs of saying farewell and how the industry is responding.

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Grim times as housing crisis hurts retirement

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 18/08/2025, Twane Wessels and Lucia Viegas, Page 6

Millennials are staring down a retirement time bomb and it's ticking louder by the day. Unlike their parents, many won't own a home by the time they retire.

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Entitled generation: what adult kids are doing to ensure an inheritance

Canberra Times, Other, 17/08/2025, Lisa Edser

With the cost of living soaring and home ownership out of reach for many of the younger generations, some are hell-bent on protecting an inheritance they believe should be theirs. Over a quarter of Australians are not sure if they will have enough money for their retirement, according to Finder and with the average cost of a house now \$1.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).

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'Feels like being back home': Is goulash the secret to this aged care facility's success?

SBS, Other, 17/08/2025, Cheyne Anderson

Four years on from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, experts say rates of malnutrition in aged care facilities are still high. But a growing awareness of culturally appropriate meals could be the secret to nutritious, delicious meals that spark joy ...

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Care sector 'can still experience output boost'

The Australian, General News, 18/08/2025, Jack Quail, Page 5

The ballooning growth of the care economy should not automatically be viewed as a concern, despite poor productivity performance, Productivity Commission chair Danielle Wood says. In a major speech delivered on the eve of Jim Chalmers' economic reform roundtable, Ms Wood will highlight the sector's potential for efficiency gains and urge governments to back rather than block technological and regulatory reforms.

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Illawarra woman's NDIS plan slashed

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 18/08/2025, Natalie Croxon, Page 3

When Illawarra woman Susan* received a call from an employee of the agency that administers the NDIS, she thought it was an informal check-in to see how she was going. But less than two weeks

later, she said, she got a phone call about a new plan which drastically cut her funding to a point where she would be unable to go about her daily life.

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The roundtable is a test of Labor's courage and vision. Will it rise to the occasion?

The Guardian, Other, 18/08/2025

We must fix a tax system that disproportionately burdens younger Australians. If not now, with Labor's comfortable majority, when?

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Trauma of missed signs still haunts

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 18/08/2025, Carrie Fellner, Page 1

Complex medical cases are being missed in Australia's emergency departments, resulting in agonising pain, traumatising surgeries and infertility. Irena Black is still haunted by her experience at a major hospital more than a decade ago.

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A call to action

Age, General News, 18/08/2025, Page 15

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 practice. 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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Founders Go again with scan plan

Age, Business News, 18/08/2025, David Swan, Page 27

They created one of Australia's most valuable technology startups in a Brisbane garage Go1, an education platform most recently valued at \$3 billion. Now, Go1 co-founders Vu Tran and Andrew Barnes and entrepreneur Gopi Sara have unveiled their next company, OneMRI, which they say is Australia's first and only national provider of whole-body MRI scans.

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

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Clinic set to ease pressure on hospital

Burnie Advocate, General News, 18/08/2025, Helen Kempton, Page 2

Four doctors who have worked feverishly to open a new My Clinic Plus medical practice in Burnie's CBD are now working on obtaining Medicare funding so it can extend its bulk-billing offering. The group of doctors behind Devonport's Urgent Care Clinic and the reopening of the East Devonport My Clinic Plus centre purchased the property in the centre of Burnie, next door to McDonald's, earlier this year.

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Unhealthy blame game

West Australian, General News, 18/08/2025, Charlton Hart, Page 10

The Prime Minister has rejected claims by the Cook Government he is responsible for the pressure on WA's hospitals and worsening ambulance ramping. Anthony Albanese's comments came after The West Australian revealed at the weekend that new St John WA data showed the problem was continuing to spiral out of control.

New service opens in bid to save lives

Newcastle Herald, General News, 18/08/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

An aftercare service for people who have attempted suicide has opened in Charlestown in a bid to reduce the Hunter's shocking suicide rate. The program, to be officially unveiled tomorrow, is being funded through the Hunter and Central Coast Primary Health Network [PHN] over two years.

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

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'Treated like a hysterical mother': Assaulted by her son, Alison's pain was ignored until she collapsed

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 17/08/2025, Charlotte Grieve

Alison Beatty's adult son was in the midst of a 48-hour schizophrenic episode when he threw her against the wall of their family home. When she next went to the bathroom she noticed blood in her urine, so immediately took herself to Katoomba Hospital's emergency department.

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WA government defends 'world-class' health system after ramping, hospital concerns

ABC Online, Other, 17/08/2025, Keane Bourke

Western Australia's health system is not in good health, and the signs for the future aren't much better. The state government has spent the week defending its record, particularly around a range of issues at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, which is reportedly falling apart.

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Michael's daughter died while riding an e-scooter. He's calling for better regulation

SBS, Other, 17/08/2025, Aleisha Orr

With e-scooters becoming increasingly affordable and commonplace, regulators are playing catch-up to make these personal transport devices safe for use in Australia. The topic of e-scooters is a difficult one for Michael Seculovic.

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2GB, Weekends, 17/08/2025, Luke Grant

The Albanese Government is being accused of hanging on to hundreds of millions of dollars a year and a \$24b fund earmarked for health and medical research. It comes as national productivity flatlines and medical research institutes say they would face a problem without an imminent injection of funds. The Medical Research Future Fund, established 10 years ago to support health and medical research into areas like brain cancer, cardiovascular health, and dementia, provides an annual amount of funding for grant applications.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Row over bail laws widens the Gap

The Australian, General News, 18/08/2025, Paige Taylor, Page 1

States and the Northern Territory are in revolt against the Closing the Gap agreement, asserting their right to prioritise election promises and make laws as they see fit during a tense discussion with Attorney-General Michelle Rowland about soaring Indigenous incarceration rates. An unprecedented crisis now threatens the national agreement for reducing disparity between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians. [...] Nationally, 83 per cent of Indigenous children in detention in

2023-24 were there on remand meaning they did not ask for or were denied bail according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Take action against flu, doctors urge

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/08/2025, Page 29

As flu season continues to hit hard in Australia, rural doctors are urging local residents to get vaccinated and take some simple steps to prevent the spread in their communities. The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine says influenza is placing increasing pressure on rural, remote, and First Nations health services and low vaccination rates could make things worse.

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Tatts just disturbing

West Australian, General News, 18/08/2025, Kate Emery, Page 1

A Perth tattoo artist has warned there is a "disturbing" rise in parents asking to get their underage children tattooed. Juliana Beatrix, who has worked in the industry for 15 years, said she had seen an increase in requests for children, some as young as 12, who want tattoos like their favourite celebrities.

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

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Parents fear poison where children play

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 18/08/2025, Lucy Crock, Page 11

A group of Apollo Bay residents is calling for a regional council to ban glyphosate use in playgrounds and public spaces. Steph Drewry is one of several residents preparing to launch a petition calling for the Colac Otway Shire to ban glyphosate.

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

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Cash and burn ... nanny state's smoking self-own

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 18/08/2025, David Penberthy, Page 21

In hindsight, it probably is not what the Rudd government had in mind when it declared war on tobacco almost 20 years ago. But it certainly succeeded at one thing changing the Australian retail landscape forever.

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GPs demand national consistency for ADHD diagnosis and management

The Australian, Other, 17/08/2025, Penny Timms

It was at the height of the pandemic when Caroline Yates realised her eldest son was struggling to focus on his school work so much that she grew suspicious he may have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. "When we started doing home schooling, it became very glaringly obvious that there was something going on, and that had been one of the big things contributing to a lot of anxiety for him at school," Yates says.

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Why does WA keep topping the nation for meth use?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 17/08/2025, Rebecca Peppiatt

Western Australia has recorded its highest levels of methamphetamine consumption at both a city and regional level, according to new data shining a light on the nation's drug use. The latest report from the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission has revealed an estimated 1716.4 kilograms of methamphetamine was consumed in WA during year eight of the commission's National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program.

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'Real and right': Why Lynne McGranger wanted Irene's Home and Away exit to matter

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 17/08/2025, Thomas Mitchell

It's fair to say there is a tendency in soap land to ensure that every high-profile departure has a high-octane exit to match. Throughout the years, shows such as Home and Away and Neighbours have delivered all sorts of memorable farewells involving earthquakes, explosions, cult kidnappings and, of course, that time Toadie drove his new wife off a cliff on their wedding day.

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Medical experts warn people not to be complacent on sexual health

The Mercury, Other, 17/08/2025, Alison Foletta

Syphilis has been declared a national health crisis by Australia's chief medical officer due to an increase in cases over the past 10 years. Family Planning Tasmania senior medical officer Dr Catherine Moulton said "alarmingly" the cases of the STI were on the rise in Tasmania as well.

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

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Female-founded AI tool aims to transform women's health

Canberra Times, Other, 17/08/2025, Maeve Bannister

Women are taking control of their health with a game-changing artificial intelligence tool to help navigate a medical system that has historically gaslit, dismissed and ignored their symptoms. More than half of Australian women live with a chronic health condition and wait years to be diagnosed, often as a result of being dismissed by health professionals.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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Sydney tobacco shop slammed after featuring Labubu holding vape

7news.com.au, Other, 17/08/2025, Demi Huang

'Do you know what the worst thing is? My kid walked past and called it 'the lolly shop.'

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Are we letting 'stranger danger' get in the way of connecting with our community?

The Guardian, Other, 18/08/2025, Dellaram Vreeland

My children are used to watching me strike up conversations with strangers – and now they do it too. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare states that social isolation and loneliness can harm mental and physical health and may affect life satisfaction.

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Milk, carbohydrates or a late-night pudding: what's the secret to eating for a good night's sleep?

The Guardian, Other, 17/08/2025, Bianca Nogrady

Many of us suffer with bad sleep. Could changing what – and when – we eat improve our chances of sleeping well?

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[Back to Top](#)

Marrow map key to blood cancer

Daily Telegraph, General News, 18/08/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 3

A groundbreaking "Google map" of bone marrow has challenged our understanding of an incurable blood cancer, paving the way for new treatments. Scientists have long believed the cancerous plasma cells in myeloma patients shape their bone marrow in similar ways, meaning a universal treatment that targets these similarities could be developed.

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

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'Mini hearts' could save cancer survivors from disease

Canberra Times, General News, 18/08/2025, Maeve Bannister, Page 4

Breast cancer survivors at risk of severe heart disease due to chemotherapy and other treatments could benefit from a new drug to protect them from cardiovascular illness. In Australia, more than 21,000 people are diagnosed with breast cancer, and about 3300 die from the disease each year.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#)

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'Absolute trauma': Family of 28yo Aussie woman issue plea in rare cancer fight

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 17/08/2025, Blair Jackson

A 28-year-old Aussie battling a rare type of cancer says her doctors are struggling to identify exactly what is slowly killing her. AI can be used as a 'data crunching machine' for medical research Business owner and AI consultant Rion Ahl discusses how AI can be applied to increase the speed of .

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From celebration to collapse

Ballarat Courier, General News, 18/08/2025, Nick Powell, Page 1

Catherine Hamilton and her husband had been away celebrating their wedding anniversary when she suddenly felt unwell. Ms Hamilton remembers relaxing after arriving home, when she got what she described as "a really bad headache".

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Fighting back after surviving strokes

Newcastle Herald, General News, 18/08/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

When John Rice had a series of strokes, it came soon after his wife Glenda died. "She was in intensive care at the Mater for 18 days before passing away in January 2023," said John, 68, of Lemon Tree Passage.

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Trendy drink could help lower your cancer risk

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 18/08/2025, Eleanor Wicklund, Page 5

The global obsession with matcha green tea shows no signs of slowing, and health experts are now touting its potential benefits. Once just a trendy beverage, matcha is now being promoted for its possible health perks beyond providing a gradual caffeine boost including reducing cancer risk and offering antioxidant protection.

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Barunga West Council CEO Maree Wauchop shares melanoma fight, urging others to get checked

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/08/2025, Erin Jones

The fingernail-sized lump on her scalp was initially dismissed by a GP but it was cancer with high risk of spreading, then treatment left Maree unrecognisable. Maree Wauchope is 25kg lighter and says it's not uncommon for friends to walk past her on the street or stare back at her in confusion, if she waves at them in restaurants.

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

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Wylie thought he was fit and healthy. Now he's fighting for his life at just 39 after doctors dismissed his 'vague' symptom

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 17/08/2025, Cindy Tran

Wylie Dixon was excited to build a future with his beautiful wife - from travelling across Australia to starting the family they had always dreamed of. But everything came to a halt when the 'fit and healthy' retail manager received devastating news that he had an aggressive form of appendix cancer [...]

According to Cancer Council, appendix cancer occurs when cells in the appendix become abnormal and continue to grow, forming a tumour.

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Bindi Irwin sparks endometriosis conversation after sharing her story

ABC Online, Other, 17/08/2025, Madeline Grace and Jessica Ross

Bindi Irwin is urging women not to accept endometriosis pain as normal. The 27-year-old's post on social media in 2023 detailing her diagnosis with endometriosis has been liked more than one million times.

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Healthier workers: How productivity reform hides in plain sight

The New Daily, Other, 17/08/2025

Australia stands at a crossroads. After more than a decade of economic turbulence – marked by global shocks, a pandemic, war-induced supply constraints, and cost-of-living crisis – we face an urgent national challenge: Lifting productivity growth the social democratic way.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Intensive Care and Counselling program designed to support parents in NT's unique geography

Cairns Post, Other, 17/08/2025, Lottie Hood

A new program supporting soon-to-be and new parents in the NT has been launched in the hopes it can meet the Territory's unique needs. The newly planted Intensive Care and Counselling program is aimed at offering specialist therapeutic support for families experiencing "significant psychosocial complexity" during pregnancy and the first year of their child's life.

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[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Raising research capability a nation building imperative

The Australian, General News, 18/08/2025, Emma Johnston, Page 11

This month, thousands of newly qualified teachers, engineers, urban planners, artists, psychologists, historians, economists, IT specialists and other professionals will graduate from the University of Melbourne. These are the people who help our communities thrive.

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New warning on concussion

Courier Mail, General News, 18/08/2025, bridget clarke, Page 1

Athletes might not be getting the required recovery time from concussion, as symptoms may clear before the full effects, new research shows. A study by Melbourne's Swinburne University found while athletes' self-reported symptoms typically resolved 12 days after concussion, cortical inhibition continued to be altered for up to 26 days.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Healthscope buy a possible answer to hospital crisis

The Australian, Business News, 18/08/2025, Bridget Carter, Page 14

The Albanese government could emerge as a left-field bidder for the country's second-largest private hospital operator, Healthscope, if the sale process falls flat, with talk that there's been some contemplation out of Canberra about the move. The understanding is the plan would involve the federal government buying the business, which would see Healthscope's senior lenders recoup loans to the healthcare provider, and then giving the 37-odd hospitals to the states.

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

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Mater water quality fears

Newcastle Herald, General News, 18/08/2025, Jamieson Murphy, Page 1

Concerns have been raised about the Calvary Mater drinking water, as leaked pictures show the hospital's water tanks are severely corroded, filled with mould and without vermin control. It's been revealed the tanks, which supply the hospital's drinking and bathing water, were due to be replaced two years ago.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Ben's prescription? Follow your passion

Border Mail, General News, 18/08/2025, Sophie Else, Page 2

When Ben Brndusic was a child, he wandered through pharmacies, fascinated by the idea that something as small as a pill could transform someone's health. He didn't realise it at the time, but those moments planted the seeds of a lifelong career.

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Familiar face stays on

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 18/08/2025, Jessica Howard, Page 1

One of two highly respected leaders will remain at Warrnambool's revamped medical school site amid a contentious restructure at Deakin University. Former deputy director, now Associate Professor Brendan Condon, is the new Clinical Education Lead at Deakin Medical School, Warrnambool-South West (formally Warrnambool Rural Clinical School), while the position of former director, Associate Professor Barry Morphett, was made redundant.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#)

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Canberra doctors given millions in bonuses amid health cuts

Canberra Times, Other, 17/08/2025, Lanie Tindale

Canberra public system doctors, already making hundreds of thousands a year, were given bonus payments while the government sought savings and paused recruitment of other health staff. Canberra Health Services is the only directorate to offer bonuses in the past three years, but says it is used to attract and keep specialist doctors in a competitive labour market.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Roundtable ignores the most urgent leak in our productivity pipeline

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 17/08/2025, Tushaar Garg

Every year, more than 200,000 Australians slip through the departure gates. Among them are some of our brightest minds, lured by the glittering promise of opportunity overseas.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Medicare levy surcharge payers almost quadruple in six years

The Australian, Other, 17/08/2025, Anthony Keane

More Australians are paying extra tax through the Medicare levy surcharge, potentially wasting their money. The latest Australian Taxation Office figures show a sharp rise in taxpayers hit by the surcharge, which is between 1 and 1.5 per cent extra tax on their income above a certain threshold if they do not have private hospital insurance.

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Childcare boss accused of using bogus scripts to obtain opioids

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 18/08/2025, Amber Schultz and Emily Kowal, Page 3

A childcare director has been accused of fraudulently using staff Medicare numbers to get prescriptions for Panadeine Forte, a strong pain medication containing the opiate codeine, from different doctors in NSW's Hunter region. Hayley Challita was the director of eduKare Childcare and Preschool in Muswellbrook between April 2024 and March 2025.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

At-home monitors linked to baby deaths

Age, General News, 18/08/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 13

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 reported to the Therapeutic Goods Administration on Tuesday, a spokesperson said.

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The problem with taking advice from 'finfluencers'

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 17/08/2025, Victoria Devine

For better or worse, now when people go looking for life advice or want to find answers to burning questions, the place we increasingly turn to is social media. [...] In 2022, the Therapeutic Goods Administration announced restrictions on how influencers post about products such as vitamins, protein powders, supplements, sunscreen, medical devices and medicines.

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