



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 23rd August 2025

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
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[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that a veteran in his forties died by suicide on Anzac Day at Toowoomba Hospital's Acute Mental Health Unit, with Queensland's state coroner investigating how the man could have taken his own life in a facility designed for his protection.
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 1) reports the NDIA has repaid more than \$145,000 to 26 participants, and could be facing \$3 million in payments to service providers, after a review of its debt policies found a slew of errors due to "poor processes amnd human error".
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 2) reports a coronial inquest has Dr Raad Hassan did not follow correct procedures in the lead up to the death of a toddler he had conducted a circumcision on, with the coroner finding the death could have been prevented, while doctors are calling for greater regulation following the incident.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 3) reports that Queensland hospitalisation rates for influenza patients have reached a new peak due to low vaccination rates, placing significant pressure on the public health system.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 4) reports parents who describe the current NDIS system as a "nightmare" have welcomed Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement of \$2 billion in funding to divert children with mild to moderate autism away from the NDIS into the new Thriving Kids program.

- [The Herald Sun](#) (page 4) reports that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee has rejected an application to add Kisunla, a newly-approved treatment for Alzheimer's, to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
- [ABC Online](#) reports health experts and the federal health department are warning for-profit telehealth business models can incentivise revenue over patient care as the number of providers continues to increase.
- [ABC Online](#) reports that as the Federal Government's future funding contributions to Western Australia remains unclear, the AMA places the blame for the lack of availability in WA's emergency departments on bed shortages in aged care facilities.
- [The Saturday Age](#) (page 5) reports junior doctor Dr. Ryan Cho, accused of secretly filming hundreds of people at several Melbourne hospitals, has been released on bail into the care of his parents ahead of his return to court next week.
- [The Australian Financial Review](#) (page 9) reports Ultra Violette has pulled an SPF 50 sunscreen from the shelves over concerns that the reported SPF may not accurately reflect the level of protection provided.

MINISTER BUTLER

Labor won't clamp down on spending

AFR Weekend, General News, 23/08/2025, Michael Read & John Kehoe, Page 1

Chalmers rejects calls for tougher budget rules Treasurer Jim Chalmers has pushed back on calls from former treasury secretary Ken Henry and other participants at his Economic Reform Roundtable to restore tougher budget spending rules from the Howard and ...

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Ambition v reality: Labor at crossroads

Weekend Australian, General News, 23/08/2025, Paul Kelly, Page 1

Labor is full of intent, poised in anticipation, but still largely inhibited. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, announcing the change, said the 2023 Labor cabinet decision to reduce NDIS growth to 8 per cent annually still a huge increase was a target "simply unsustainable in the medium to long term".

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Relief at overhaul of living 'nightmare'

Weekend Australian, General News, 23/08/2025, Jack Nivison, Ria Pandey & Will Seitam, Page 4

Labor's plan for children with mild to moderate autism to be diverted away from the NDIS has been welcomed by families of disabled children, with one parent describing the system as a "nightmare" that had strayed from its original purpose. Tara Hannon, whose daughter Tracy has permanent cerebral palsy and has been on the NDIS since 2016, told The Australian she welcomed changes to the disability support scheme eligibility. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced the eligibility changes on Wednesday as part of the Albanese government's cost-cutting reforms to the federal budget.

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States 'putting NDIS in danger'

Weekend Australian, General News, 23/08/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 4

State governments apprehensive about the commonwealth's plan to change NDIS eligibility and create new programs outside the \$46bn disability scheme need to "deal with" their concerns about what the reforms will cost them or else put at risk the sustainability of the NDIS, the chair of parliament's health committee says. Mike Freeland a NSW Labor MP and pediatrician said concern from states in recent days over the policy and federal Health Minister Mark Butler's failure to consult with them before announcing the reform stemmed from their preoccupation with their own financial issues.

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Chalmers hits reset as nation goes for growth

Even before bums hit padded seats in the cabinet room on Tuesday, the very idea of the Albanese government's economic reform roundtable was jeered by a chorus of complainers. [...] Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler announced the government's intention to return the National Disability Insurance Scheme to its original purpose of servicing people with permanent disabilities, and will aim to limit spending growth in the scheme to 5 per cent in coming years.

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Mission critical: fight to steer the NDIS mothership

Weekend Australian, General News, 23/08/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 20

This week, as federal Health Minister Mark Butler rose to speak at the National Press Club in Canberra to face the fire of the "burning platform" of National Disability Insurance Scheme sustainability, my aunt Vicki, who lives with severe disability, lay in hospital. [...] The task ahead of Butler and NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister is monumental.

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The MP 9 his daughter and the NDIS: We've got to tell people everything

The Saturday Age, General News, 23/08/2025, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 10

Liberal MP Phil Thompson is in an unusual position. [...] That tension was brought into sharp focus this week, when Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler outlined major changes to the \$46 billion NDIS that will result in autistic children with mild to moderate support needs being diverted onto a new program from mid-2027.

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Risks of NDIS change fall on the children

The Saturday Age, Editorials, 23/08/2025, Page 32

When federal Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler used a National Press Club address on Wednesday to announce plans to divert children with autism or a developmental delay from the NDIS into a new program called Thriving Kids, Treasurer Jim Chalmers used his seat at the government's economic roundtable to say "the timing of that is perfect". Chalmers and Butler are keenly aware of the challenge spending growth in the National Disability Insurance Scheme presents to federal budget repair.

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Delivery key test of the roundtable

Canberra Times, General News, 23/08/2025, Michelle Grattan, Page 38

As Jim Chalmers was navigating his economic reform roundtable, his colleague Mark Butler on Wednesday took a dive from the 10-metre board into the pool of budget repair. The announcement by Butler, Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), that the government will try to curb its cost growth to 4-6 per cent annually is ambitious in policy terms and robust politically.

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

Minister denies blindside

Burnie Advocate, General News, 23/08/2025, Page 15

The minister in charge of the NDIS has denied he did not consult state and territories about an overhaul of the scheme, despite some premiers saying they were blindsided by the decision. Disability Minister Mark Butler unveiled changes to the NDIS that would see children with autism and developmental delays moved off the disability scheme and into a separate \$2 billion program called Thriving Kids.

Also reported by: [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Inverell Times \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Thenightly.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Queanbeyan Age \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [CathNews \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Supermodel ambassador joins forces with fashion brand for ovarian cancer campaign

The Australian, Other, 22/08/2025, Jenna Clarke

The phrase "silent killer" gets bandied about a lot when it comes to health. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler told WISH the initiative by Camilla and Marc is "an important reminder about how many women this cancer touches ... The Albanese Labor Government is doing all we can to support patients, families, loved ones and carers on their ovarian cancer journey".

[Read More](#)

Patrick Gorman, Anthony Albanese's main man in WA involved in awkward exchange over health blame game

West Australian, Other, 22/08/2025, Jessica Page

The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister Patrick Gorman has refused to say whether should get an urgent funding uplift for aged care to ease pressure on overwhelmed hospitals. [...] "It's not. Minister (Sam) Rae's office and the Department have been out consulting with the sector and took advice, to make sure that everything was up to date and in line for all of those packages," she said.

Also reported by: [Narrogin Observer \(Online\)](#), [Bunbury Herald \(Online\)](#), [Broome Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [North West Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [South Western Times \(Online\)](#), [South Western Times \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [North West Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [Broome Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Bunbury Herald \(Online\)](#), [Narrogin Observer \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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Urgent Care Clinic confirmed for Somerville

Mornington Peninsula News Group, Other, 22/08/2025, Cameron McCullough

The federal Labor government has reconfirmed its commitment to build a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Somerville, despite a call for tenders indicating a preference for the clinic to be located in Hastings. [...] By Friday afternoon, The News had received confirmation from the Minister for Health and Ageing, Mark Butler MP, reiterating the plan to establish an Urgent Care Clinic in Somerville.

[Read More](#)

After three days of talks, a fairer tax system is on the agenda. There's no shortage of ideas

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 22/08/2025, Stephen Bartos

Day three of the government's economic reform roundtable was about budget sustainability. [...] Indeed, Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement of changes to the NDIS goes some way towards that.

[Read More](#)

Reform roundtable ends with key health voices still overlooked

Croakey, Other, 22/08/2025, Jason Staines

After three days of exchanges, the Federal Government's Economic Reform Roundtable has wrapped up in Canberra, with big talk on productivity, housing and fiscal repair. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler warned that without restraining costs – projected to reach \$105 billion – the scheme's future was at risk.

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Call for GPs' bolstered role in NDIS overhaul

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 22/08/2025

As the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) undergoes a major overhaul, the role of GPs in managing patients' life-long care must be supported with adequate funding and reduced red tape, an expert suggests. On Wednesday, Disability and NDIS Minister Mark Butler announced a new Thriving Kids program will be rolled out from 1 July next year, flagging the potential for an expanded GP role in early childhood care.

[Read More](#)

2SM, Mornings, 22/08/2025, Chris Smith

Interview with Health Minister Mark Butler. Compere mentions that Butler has unveiled a major overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme [NDIS], which includes the creation of a new programme called 'Thriving Kids', which is aimed at treating autistic children with moderate diagnoses. Butler explains that the plan comes after two years of negotiations and discussions between the States and the Commonwealth. He adds that back in 2023, there was a big review of the NDIS that brought about a recommendation for an alternative system of support for kids with mild to moderate needs.

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ABC Radio Darwin , 11:00 News, 22/08/2025

Fertility group Monash IVF has reported an 8.1% fall in net profits following a year that was marred by separate embryo mix-up incidents. In response to the incidents, Health Minister Mark Butler has joined the call for an independent review and for the details of the incidents to be made public.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 22/08/2025, Sally Sara

Interview with Minister for Early Childhood Education and Vic Senator Jess Walsh. Compere mentions that this week, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced a new programme called 'Thriving Kids', which is part of efforts to divert young children with mild to moderate developmental delays and autism from the NDIS; however, according to the State and Territories, they were not consulted before the move was announced. Walsh admits that this particular issue of moving those kids into a new support programme has been something that has been put forward to her just this week. At the same time, she visited a high-quality service that aims to integrate the services children need into early childhood education.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 22/08/2025, Rory McClaren

Pre-recorded interview with Health Minister Mark Butler. Compere mentions that NDIS Minister Mark Butler has been busy this week after he announced changes to the NDIS and introduced the new 'Thriving Kids' scheme, which is potentially designed to try and help minimise some costs of the NDIS by diverting children to this new programme. Butler points out that the NDIS was originally set up to support Australians with permanent and significant disability, and they would like to come back to that original concept of the scheme. He adds that they have been told that a lot of systems that have been set up years before the NDIS was established are putting pressure on the system now.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 22/08/2025, Matt Shirvington & Natalie Barr

Panel discussion with Health Minister Mark Butler and Liberal Senator Jane Hume. Compere mentions that the State and Territories were 'blindsided' by Butler's plan to reform the NDIS and introduce a new 'Thriving Kids' support programme for children with mild and moderate autism, which is a move to avoid a budget 'blowout' on the NDIS. Butler argues that they have been discussing this particular matter with the States and Territories, and they have received two pieces of feedback from them, particularly for the Commonwealth to take on a more leadership role and commit funding on an ongoing basis, rather than just for five years. Hume admits that it's to be expected that people who rely on current programmes would be concerned if any changes happen to said programme, but she believes that Butler is correct because they are simply following a recommendation from a review two years ago.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Mission critical: fight to steer the NDIS mothership

This week, as federal Health Minister Mark Butler rose to speak at the National Press Club in Canberra to face the fire of the "burning platform" of National Disability Insurance Scheme sustainability, my aunt Vicki, who lives with severe disability, lay in hospital. [...] The task ahead of Butler and NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister is monumental.

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Movers & Shakers: NDIS advisory committee revealed

The Mandarin, Other, 22/08/2025

Jakub Bartkowiak has been promoted to first assistant secretary for enterprise technology Services and digital services at the Department of Home Affairs. [...] NDIS minister Jenny McAllister has revealed the members of the NDIS reform committee.

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MINISTER RAE

Patrick Gorman, Anthony Albanese's main man in WA involved in awkward exchange over health blame game

West Australian, Other, 22/08/2025, Jessica Page

The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister Patrick Gorman has refused to say whether should get an urgent funding uplift for aged care to ease pressure on overwhelmed hospitals. [...] "It's not. Minister (Sam) Rae's office and the Department have been out consulting with the sector and took advice, to make sure that everything was up to date and in line for all of those packages," she said.

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2LT, 12:05 Local News, 22/08/2025

Older Lithgow residents are being encouraged to apply for a position on the Federal Government's Aged Care Council of Elders. The council was established in response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety to improve the quality and safety of care. According to Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae, they are particularly seeking to hear from older residents in regional areas.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 22/08/2025, Loreta Ryan, Craig Zonca & Joel Spreadborough

Interview with Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride. Compere mentions that three Medicare mental health centres will be opened in Brisbane's Northside, which will allow patients in need to walk through the door for support without issues. McBride confirmed that three Medicare mental health centres will open in Brisbane's Northside. She explained that these new walk-in centres are designed to provide immediate support and advice to anyone who needs help with their mental health, with all services being free of charge. McBride adds that this ensures people worried about financial constraints won't be discouraged from seeking help.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Wuchopperen's \$2.6m air quality upgrade helping control respiratory diseases

The Courier Mail, Other, 22/08/2025, Arun Singh Mann

A Far North primary health provider was awarded \$2m in government funds to upgrade its clinic's air quality, but the measure is unlikely to be rolled out across other centres in the region. [...] Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White said the upgrade was an initiative of the health provider which applied for a grant, and did not expect her government to roll out or regulate the primary care sector to include special air ventilation systems across similar clinics.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Sky News Regional, Breakfast, 22/08/2025, Jaynie Seal

Interview with Special Envoy for Men's Health and Federal Member for Hunter Dan Repacholi. Compere mentions that a survey from the Cancer Council showed that 54% of male deaths in Australia are potentially avoidable, and men are less likely to visit a doctor than women. Repacholi stated that one of the best ways to prevent these deaths is for men to see their GP more often and get regular yearly check-ups. He specifically advised men to have their blood and blood pressure checked every 12 months.

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DEPARTMENT

Easing the pain

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/08/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 14

The closure of Peterborough's sole GP clinic this month was emblematic of the workforce crisis in rural health but work is under way to find solutions. [...] The federal Health Department says there are incentives of up to \$60,000 a year for doctors to work in rural and remote communities.

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Survivors call for more cost assistance

Irrigator, General News, 23/08/2025, Maeve Bannister, Page 6

A young breast cancer survivor is calling for diagnostic tests to be made free because she fears high living costs could deter others seeking early examinations. [...] According to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, federal, state and territory governments recently undertook a BreastScreen funding review, with the final report now being considered.

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Are online telehealth appointments legit? Experts warn they may not be as safe as you think

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2025

As our lives moved indoors and online in 2020, so too did much of our healthcare industry. [...] Abby did not respond to triple j hack's questions, while a spokesperson from the federal Health Department said the department takes "concern about incorrect and fraudulent claiming of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) very seriously".

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ATSA calls for redesign of assistive tech loan scheme

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/08/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Peak body Assistive Technology Suppliers Australia has launched a national campaign calling on the government to stop the implementation of the National Assistive Technology Loans Scheme under the incoming Support at Home program and co-design an open market model. [...] Instead ATSA is urging the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to work with them and other stakeholders to co-design an open market delivery model that allows for direct purchasing and renting of assistive technology and is underpinned by nationally consistent standards.

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The Economic Reform Roundtable must listen to the health experts

The Medical Republic, Other, 22/08/2025, Sophie Scamps

Never more so than as the nation's decision makers at the Economic Reform Roundtable wrestled with the many reasons their policies have underperformed so drastically that their legacy could well be to bestow lower standards of living, health and wellbeing on our children. [...] According to the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, nearly 40% of disease could be prevented by reducing risky lifestyle factors.

Also reported by: [Health Services Daily \(Online\)](#).

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Join the Medical Republic

The Medical Republic, Other, 22/08/2025, Jeremy Knibbs

The idea that you could somehow migrate the management of the GP sector from a largely commonwealth responsibility, to a state one, is generally dismissed as a fever dream of those who have no idea of how our healthcare system really works. [...] Their masters – DoHDA – don't use them as they're designed to be used because it's too tempting to use them as tactical deployment units for their, often fragmented, tactical project ideas.

Also reported by: [Health Services Daily \(Online\)](#).

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Extra fee arrangement for aged care residents

National Seniors Australia, Other, 22/08/2025

The Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing has announced new fee arrangements for aged care residents wanting higher quality services. Permanent and respite residential aged care residents who pay extra for higher quality services that are in addition to the usual services will transition to a new fee arrangement from 31 October this year.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Musical chairs for CEO

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 23/08/2025, Eddie Russell, Page 21

A Geelong aged-care service with about 400 employees has appointed a second chief executive in four months in a game of corporate musical chairs. On April 29, Cultura announced Peter Birkett would take over from long-time leader Joy Leggo.

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Perth aged care worker accused of \$14k shopping spree with clients' money

A 28-year-old woman has been charged with fraud after she allegedly went on a shopping spree with the credit cards of elderly clients she was employed to take care of. Police allege the care worker used the bank card details of three people to make purchases totalling more than \$14,500.

[Read More](#)

Federal funding unclear as pressure mounts on WA health system due to stretched aged care sector

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2025, Grace Burmas

Perth's hospitals are full and an aged care system operating at capacity is partly to blame, but with the federal government's commitment to WA unclear, the sector is concerned the problem will only get worse. More than 100 elective surgeries were delayed in Perth's major hospitals this week to make room for a surge in demand at emergency departments.

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BaptistCare expands NSW mid-north coast presence

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/08/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Christian-based not-for-profit aged care provider BaptistCare has taken over operations of Sunrise Supported Living's Tuncurry retirement village and home care services, adding 106 independent living units and 262 home care clients to its portfolio – 196 of which are across the wider mid-north coast region of New South Wales. BaptistCare already has home care hubs in the nearby towns of Forster and Wauchope, which serve as a base for home care staff and clients as BaptistCare continues to expand.

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ROSA study flags gaps in care quality

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/08/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The quality of aged care has been shown to vary across the country, and researchers are encouraging better adherence to clinical care standards and practice guidelines to improve health outcomes. Significant gaps in the quality of aged care services being provided across Australia have been found in a study led by researchers from the Registry of Senior Australians Research Centre, based at SAHMRI, and the Caring Futures Institute at Flinders University.

[Read More](#)

Labor-stacked Senate Inquiry presses for urgent passage of Aged Care Act changes

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/08/2025, Caroline Egan

Less than a month after being introduced to Parliament, two Bills amending the new Aged Care Act have been backed by a Senate inquiry report that calls for them to be passed "without delay." The Aged Care and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Aged Care (Accommodation Payment Security) Levy Amendment Bill 2025 were introduced on 24 July 2025, and referred to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee a week later.

[Read More](#)

99-year-old blind woman dies after spilling hot tea on herself in nursing home

HelloCare, Other, 22/08/2025, Jakob Neeland

In a heartbreaking incident, Margaret Eluned Roberts, a 99-year-old blind woman who dreamed of celebrating her 100th birthday, passed away following a scalding accident involving a cup of hot tea at Glan Rhos nursing home in Brynsiencyn, Anglesey, UK. An inquest held on August 19, 2025, detailed the devastating sequence of events that led to her death, raising critical questions about safety protocols for vulnerable residents in care facilities.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

NDIA chased disabled for debts not owed

The Saturday Age, General News, 23/08/2025, Grant McArthur, Page 1

More than 100 people with disabilities were chased for debts they did not owe by the National Disability Insurance Agency, which has blamed "poor process and human error" for the bungle. The agency has repaid \$145,000 to 26 participants after a review of its debt policies revealed it had incorrectly tried to claw back payments from 115 National Disability Insurance Scheme participants.

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Cashing in on naughty corner

Courier Mail, General News, 23/08/2025, Page 9

Spiralling autism and ADHD diagnoses by teachers are fuelling growth in "secret" payments to schools under a \$5bn-a-year scheme. One million Australian schoolchildren are now viewed as disabled under the federal disability payments scheme known as the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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New clinic offers help for autism support

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 23/08/2025, Karli Farrell, Page 3

Parents in Sunraysia can struggle to find the right pathways for early autism diagnosis, and when they do, wait lists for pediatricians and other support services can be overwhelming, lengthy, and pricey. As a way of addressing that lack of access Victorian Early Assessment Clinic, or VEAC, representatives were in Mildura this week to raise awareness for their new clinic, which is based at La Trobe University in Bundoora but is also available via Telehealth.

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Families shocked, Eden-Monaro MP disappointed after NDIS provider put into liquidation

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2025, Alasdair McDonald

Families have been left in limbo after a popular National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provider focusing on childhood development was placed into liquidation after four decades of operation. Not-for-profit organisation PlayAbility provides inclusive playgroups, individual support to children and their families, speech pathology, psychology and a mobile toy library in South East NSW.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 22/08/2025, Tiffany Warne

Hundreds of disability, aged care, and public hospital workers have marched to South Australian Treasurer Stephen Mullighan's office to demand better pay after months of negotiations. In a statement, Mullighan said the government's offer includes wage increases that are double those in previous enterprise agreements. He also noted that the deal includes a specific pay increase for aged and disability care workers.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

Stroke patients out on a limb

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/08/2025, Madeleine Bower, Page 10

Terry Melton has had eight strokes in one year, but he fears his local hospital won't be able to care for

him when it's downgraded. The 65-year-old from the small town of Wee Waa in northwest NSW, near Narrabri, is one of many locals fighting to have their 24-hour emergency ward reinstated after the Minns government announced it would replace it with an urgent care clinic.

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Regional GPs incentives 'not working'

Courier Mail, General News, 23/08/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 12

A multimillion-dollar scheme is "not working" to bring more doctors to the regions, according to a government-commissioned review that Canberra has been sitting on for almost a year. The fate of the scheme is now hanging in the balance after the independent review of GP incentives recommended overhauling GP payment structures to support better care, having found it had so far had little impact on boosting recruitment or easing doctor shortages.

Also reported by: [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Doctors shortage is beyond critical

Courier Mail, Editorials, 23/08/2025, Page 60

It has been an open secret for years that the life of a doctor in regional Queensland is a tough gig. Forget about A Country Practice.

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

RFDS is creating healthy connections with children

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 23/08/2025, Brendan Casey, Page 43

In a quiet outback town, 200km west of Mount Isa, Zendayah Major's connection with Royal Flying Doctor Service's Lesley Mallard is evident as she checks the little girl's ears and heart at the Dajarra Primary Health Clinic. Despite the stifling heat and relentless flies, Zendayah grins as Ms Mallard the primary health care nurse manager for Cairns and Mount Isa hands her a piece of fruit, donated by Woolworths as part of the Free Fruit For Kids program.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Cougar post not so flash

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 23/08/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 16

Queensland Health has come under fire by enraged women for calling perimenopause "cougar puberty" in a social media post on the government's Facebook page. And the "appalling" post has been tagged to menopause groups in the US and UK as an example of the state health authority's attitude to the stage of life that can be debilitating and can even push women to suicide.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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

Channel 10, 10 News, 22/08/2025, Natalie Forrest

Elective surgery procedures in Perth's major hospitals have been cancelled for a third consecutive day. Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson apologised for the delays, admitting that the system is "swamped" due to a surge in flu cases. The cancellations follow a warning from the Australian Medical Association [AMA] that further delays could lead to adverse patient outcomes.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Close to 1.7 million illegal smokes found

Daily Advertiser, General News, 23/08/2025, Page 6

A man caught with two others north of Holbrook with \$2.5 million worth of illegal cigarettes in their truck claimed he was just working as a removalist. Jinli Cai was sitting in the passenger seat of an Isuzu truck transporting a load of 22 large boxes packed with cigarette cartons.

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

We have to stamp out illicit tobacco

Courier Mail, Editorials, 23/08/2025, Page 60

The illegal tobacco industry has been allowed to flourish in this country right under our noses. But the Australian Border Force's \$12m bust in Queensland, which it says has crushed one of the nation's biggest illicit tobacco syndicates, is a good sign that is about to change.

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

Fighting a cancer on our society

Courier Mail, General News, 23/08/2025, Shayla Bulloch, Page 8

One of Australia's biggest alleged illicit tobacco syndicates has been crushed in a massive operation seizing \$12m in illegal cigarettes, tobacco and vapes in South East Queensland. The alleged serious organised crime group which also owns multiple tobacconists across the country has been left reeling after the Australian Border Force (ABF) closed in on a safe house and seven storage sheds on the Gold Coast.

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

Traffic pollution contributes to more than 1,800 premature deaths per year, study estimates

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2025, James Purtill

Vehicle pollution may contribute to more deaths each year than the number caused by road accidents. That's according to the first assessment of the health impact of traffic-related pollution (TRAP) in Australia.

[Read More](#)

Seizure of \$7.2 million worth of illicit tobacco is linked to an alleged Iraqi crime syndicate

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2025

Victorian police say the seizure of \$7.2 million worth of illicit tobacco is linked to an alleged Iraqi crime syndicate that is laundering money and using it to fund serious offending like aggravated burglaries. Police said they became aware an organised crime syndicate was conducting cash drops and collections at a small takeaway shop in Somerton, in Melbourne's north, in January.

[Read More](#)

More than \$7m in tobacco, cash and watches seized after alleged syndicate busted

9News, Other, 22/08/2025, Mikala Theocharous

More than \$7 million in illegal tobacco, luxury watches and cash have been seized in Melbourne after several investigations into an alleged money laundering ring and organised crime group. Police seized over \$1.9 million worth of illegal tobacco during search warrants in two properties in Dallas and Epping, Victoria, yesterday.

[Read More](#)

Quit Centre highlights pharmacist resources

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/08/2025

Quit Centre provides health professionals with the latest information on smoking and vaping cessation, and has partnered with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) to provide free CPD-accredited training. Pharmacists and pharmacy assistants can undertake online modules designed to support the development of knowledge and skills to confidently help patients stop either of the habits in a community pharmacy setting.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 22/08/2025, Rory McClaren

Interview with Mental Health Coalition SA's Geoff Harris. Harris stated that, according to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, funding for psychosocial support has dropped by 30% in real terms over recent years. He believes this decline is a significant problem in terms of government commitment. Harris added that the coalition is awaiting the next interim budget to see if there will be better changes.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Free lung screening program launches to save lives

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 23/08/2025, Lung Screen, Page 56

Despite advances in cancer care, lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Australia. It accounts for nearly one in five cancer deaths, largely because it is often diagnosed at a later stage.

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

The silent burden many women carry

Launceston Examiner, General News, 23/08/2025, Vanessa Cahoon, Page 21

For too long, endometriosis has been the hidden disease shaping the lives of hundreds of thousands of Australian women. It is a condition where tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside it, often causing severe pain, heavy bleeding, infertility, and a range of other debilitating symptoms.

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

AI could soon predict worsening arthritis

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/08/2025

Artificial intelligence could soon help diagnose worsening knee arthritis, thanks to a new model based on data from the MRIs and biochemical tests of almost 600 patients. The model improved the accuracy of doctors' predictions of worsening osteoarthritis from 46.9 to 65.

[Read More](#)

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Digger death probe

Courier Mail, General News, 23/08/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

A veteran's suicide inside a mental health unit has sparked fury from defence force advocates should have who he say been kept safe. The man in his 40s died at Toowoomba Hospital's Acute Mental Health Unit and it is understood the tragedy was discovered by another patient.

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

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Poor mental health support is 'risky and damaging'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/08/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 11

Regional mental health care is the "worst it's been" in a long time, a peak body has warned, after years of funding issues, workforce shortages, rising living costs and natural disasters. The rate of mental health related emergency department visits often a last resort indicating other options were not available at remote hospitals has doubled in the past decade.

Rural health focus

Herald Sun, Editorials, 23/08/2025, Page 58

Per capita presentation rates for mental health issues at some regional and rural hospital emergency departments are twice as high as those being seen in the city. Bush communities are known for their resilience but with rural economies heavily influenced by weather, together with the isolation that can come with small or remote towns, mental health services must be supported.

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'We've got to do something'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 23/08/2025, Bella Munro, Page 6

A mental health service that has supported the Darling Downs for almost three decades will lose \$640,000 in funding at the start of next year, impacting their services in Toowoomba, Dalby, Chinchilla, Warwick, Miles, Tara, and Kingaroy. After weeks of uncertainty, Momentum Mental Health was informed by the Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN that they were unsuccessful tenderers for Toowoomba's new Integrated Mental Health Hub, and they would lose vital funding.

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IMMUNISATION

Jab call as hospital flu cases hit new high

Courier Mail, General News, 23/08/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 3

The number of Queenslanders in hospital with the flu is at the highest level this year despite the number of cases dropping. Patients are being hit harder with the virus due to low vaccination rates and the hospital system is under pressure.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 22/08/2025, Michael Thomson

A major study is underway in Perth tracking how often young children catch the common and sometimes dangerous RSV virus. Right now the immunisation programme is only for pregnant mothers and newborns with the Kids Research Institute hoping this information will help shape future vaccination strategies and minimise the spread of RSV in our community.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 22/08/2025, Michael Thomson

A universal vaccine for Strep A is currently undergoing clinical trials at the University of Queensland. The research utilises the same mRNA vaccine technology used in COVID-19 vaccines to protect against the bacteria.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Hospital video consults for kids

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/08/2025, Elizabeth Pike, Page 15

Cameras will be installed on beds at the embattled Northern Beaches Hospital so staff can quickly seek advice from specialists when a child is facing an emergency, following a scathing inquiry into the facility's quality of care. The over-the-bed cameras are currently being installed in the emergency

department, pediatric ward and specialist care nursery at the hospital after an independent inquiry, released this month, which found there was serious lack of this technology.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Brain cancer find 'biggest in 20 years'

Weekend Australian, General News, 23/08/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 10

Australian scientists have pioneered the most promising breakthrough in brain cancer in two decades after shrinking incurable tumours by 90 per cent through targeted treatment. A type of slow-growing brain tumour called low-grade glioma was targeted in 10 patients in Melbourne as part of a groundbreaking clinical trial platform led by The Brain Cancer Centre, with tumours shrinking by up to 90 per cent.

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

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

Autism hope in epilepsy drug

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 23/08/2025, Zoe Smith, Page 4

A drug being studied to treat epilepsy could reverse common signs of autism, a new study has suggested. Stanford Medicine researchers found that hyperactivity in the medial prefrontal cortex of the brain can drive autism-like behaviours in mice.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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

Massive find about cancer

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 23/08/2025, David Wu, Page 18

A cheap medicine already on the market and used by millions of people may be able to stop a type of aggressive breast cancer from spreading, according to a new study by Aussie scientists. Monash University scientists said beta blockers medication which hinders the stress hormone and reduces blood pressure and heart rate could help triple-negative breast cancer sufferers.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Going bush is like entering a new country

Northern Territory News, General News, 23/08/2025, Harry Brill, Page 16

Midwife Tylah McConnell has seen the full spectrum of support available to pregnant Australian women. Originally from Sydney, she started her profession in the sprawling NSW metropolis before taking her career to Alice Springs and Tennant Creek here in the Territory.

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

Health service under special administration

Daily Liberal, General News, 23/08/2025, Ciara Bastow, Page 14

Continuing disputes between directors, a lack of board meetings, and failure to meet key obligations have led to an Aboriginal Health Service being placed under special administration Between March and June 2025, the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) undertook a comprehensive examination of the Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service's (WACHS) books. WACHS

provides care for Aboriginal people in Wellington, Dubbo, Moree, Western Sydney, Penrith and Nepean Blue Mountains.

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Treaty negotiations complete, a historic agreement is within reach

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 22/08/2025

An elected Aboriginal body with powers to question ministers, call public hearings and hold to account policies and programs designed to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Victorians will be established under an in-principle treaty agreement reached between First Peoples and the Allan government. The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria met on Friday and ratified the agreement produced by statewide treaty negotiations, which are now complete.

[Read More](#)

\$10 million Moorundi health hub 23 years in the making

National Indigenous Times, Other, 22/08/2025, David Prestipino

The wellbeing of the Ngarrindjeri people was given a major long-term boost on Friday with the long-awaited opening of a multi-million-dollar health centre for the community in Murray Bridge on Ngarrindjeri Country. Moorundi has provided three pillars of care (cultural and country, spiritual and mind, physical and body) to Aboriginal people in the Murray Mallee, Southern Fleurieu, Kangaroo Island, Coorong and Adelaide Hills regions since 2015.

[Read More](#)

Victoria's First Peoples' Assembly reveals proposed treaty-backed powers to create new education facility

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2025, Kate-Ashton

Victoria's First Peoples' Assembly will be given the power to establish its own educational institute under the forthcoming statewide treaty agreement, the ABC can reveal. The revelation is one of the first practical outcomes to be detailed following nine months of negotiations between the elected Victorian Aboriginal body and the Victorian government.

[Read More](#)

Positive effect from eye-catching campaign

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 22/08/2025, Denika Anderson

An anti-vaping and anti-smoking campaign aimed at Indigenous youth that launched earlier this year has reached more than one million young people in Victoria. The campaign was launched by statewide initiative The Koori Way, led by the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, and featured influential young Indigenous leaders and advocates as the face and voice from communities including Mildura.

[Read More](#)

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

They left mum to bleed in hallway

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/08/2025, Madeleine Bower, Page 10

A young heavily pregnant mother spent 14 hours bleeding in the emergency ward of a hospital last month before she was allowed to see a doctor. In a harrowing example of the regional maternity care crisis, which has seen the state's Health Minister offer an apology, the 31-year-old Coffs Harbour mother and her husband lost their baby four hours after being transferred to the maternity ward at Coffs Harbour hospital.

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

ACT plea to NSW for funds

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/08/2025, Madeleine Bower, Page 11

NSW taxpayers are being asked for tens of millions more to prop up ACT's health system, as data shows NSW services on the territory border get less funding per person than any state region. A huge disparity exists in funding for state regional areas, with some local health districts (LHDs) getting thousands more per person than others, a Saturday Telegraph analysis of NSW Health budget allocations for the 2025/26 financial year shows.

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

Premier admits ramping failure

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/08/2025, Paul Starick & Emily Olle, Page 13

Peter Malinauskas is accepting the charge against him of a broken promise to "fix the ramping crisis" in a major concession of failure on his centrepiece election platform. In an interview at The Advertiser Bush Summit in Mount Gambier, the Premier touted his government's extra spending on health but conceded that with an ageing population he feared "it will never be enough".

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

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Hospital took 14 hours to see my baby

Herald Sun, General News, 23/08/2025, Stuart Kavanagh, Page 14

A Mildura mother says her baby was made to wait 14 hours for admission to the pediatrics ward at Mildura Base Public Hospital in an ordeal she says lays bare regional healthcare failures. First-time mum Shania Menegaldo rushed her then six-month-old Sonny to the hospital in the early hours with a 40C fever and obvious breathing trouble.

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

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Making our city regional health hub

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 23/08/2025, Page 16

The new \$1.3b Toowoomba Hospital represents a once-in-a-generation investment in our community. On paper this looks incredible; 118 additional beds, expanded emergency and intensive care capacity, new maternity services, imaging and education facilities.

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

Mackay Hospital CEO Susan Gannon resigns after leading scandal recovery

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/08/2025

A health service leader has announced her resignation, closing a chapter defined by recovery efforts after a damning obstetrics scandal involving at least three deaths rocked the Mackay region. This comes following revelations a review into Mackay Hospital and Health Service sparked a statewide audit around hiring policies made during a period of upheaval for the troubled service.

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

[Read More](#)

Biloela Hospital on maternity bypass for three years with patients treated via telehealth

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2025, Jasmine Hines

At 36 weeks pregnant, first-time mum Isabella Zarkow knew something was not right when her headache would not go away. Then came the nausea.

[Read More](#)

Contractor appointed for Bathurst Hospital's \$200m redevelopment

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 22/08/2025, Rachel Chamberlain

A contractor has been appointed to carry out the main works for the redevelopment of the Bathurst

Hospital. Icon SI (Aust) Pty Ltd was awarded the contract following a competitive tender process.

[Read More](#)

'Pay these workers a living wage': South Australian hospital staff strike in call for pay rise

9News, Other, 22/08/2025, Bianca Wylie

More than 180 hospital and disability workers have protested outside the South Australian treasurer's office to demand a pay rise. The workers, including theatre technicians, hospital cleaners, and orderlies from both metropolitan and regional hospitals, are calling for at least 20 per cent pay increase, arguing this would bring their pay into line with other states.

[Read More](#)

WA's health system facing a 'full-blown public health emergency'

Medical Forum, Other, 22/08/2025

The health system in Western Australia has come under increased scrutiny in the past fortnight culminating in AMA (WA) President Dr Kyle Hoath telling media "we are in the midst of a full-blown health emergency". Dr Hoath made the comment while speaking about the postponement of elective surgeries across a number of Perth hospitals earlier this week.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Burnt-out docs leave in droves

Courier Mail, General News, 23/08/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 12

Regional doctors working up to 80 hours a week are fleeing Queensland to take up temporary jobs interstate just to get a break from gruelling on-call demands amid the crippling workforce shortfall. Lucrative pay and better conditions are driving doctors to take up locum roles in Victoria and NSW.

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

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'Significant reform' to hospital staffing

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 23/08/2025, Natalie Croxon, Page 5

Wollongong Hospital's emergency department has reached new minimum nurse staffing levels, as recruitment begins for more nurses at Shellharbour Hospital. The NSW government says Wollongong Hospital has filled 30 full-time equivalent nurse positions in the emergency department to meet the requirements of its Safe Staffing Levels policy.

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Burnt-out docs leave in droves

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 23/08/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 16

Regional doctors working up to 80 hours a week are fleeing Queensland to take up temporary jobs interstate just to get a break from gruelling oncall demands amid the crippling workforce shortfall. Lucrative pay and better conditions are driving doctors to take up locum roles in Victoria and NSW.

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Why Lacey is swapping silks for scrubs

Weekend Post, General News, 23/08/2025, Daniel Pace, Page 62

Cairns jockey Lacey Morrison realised it was time to permanently swap her silks for scrubs after she no longer felt the same high when she crossed the finishing post as a winner. The "tough-as-nails" 41-year-old will transition into full-time nursing at the start of next year, satisfied that she has squeezed every last drop out of her career in the racing industry as a jockey, steward and trainer.

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

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'Pay these workers a living wage': South Australian hospital staff strike in call for pay rise

9News, Other, 22/08/2025, Bianca Wylie

More than 180 hospital and disability workers have protested outside the South Australian treasurer's office to demand a pay rise. The workers, including theatre technicians, hospital cleaners, and orderlies from both metropolitan and regional hospitals, are calling for at least 20 per cent pay increase, arguing this would bring their pay into line with other states.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Alzheimer's drug snub 'needs national conversation'

Herald Sun, General News, 23/08/2025, Andrew Hedgman, Page 4

The federal government will not subsidise a newly approved Alzheimer's treatment that can slow disease progression, leaving patients to pay up to \$80,000 a year. Kisunla (donanemab), a disease-modifying therapy for early symptomatic Alzheimer's disease, was recently registered on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods, marking the first new treatment for early Alzheimer's in 25 years. [...] However, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee rejected an application for Kisunla to be added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, meaning patients must pay privately.

Also reported by: [Weekend Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Anguish at rare cancers knockback

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/08/2025, Clare Armstrong, Page 14

Patients and doctors are "astonished" and "heartbroken" a proposal to help Australians battling rare cancers afford a cutting-edge therapy has been knocked back. They warn patients will have no choice but to forgo life-changing treatment.

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

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Blow for new Alzheimer's therapy

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 23/08/2025, Justin Langer, Page 32

A newly approved Alzheimer's treatment that can slow progression of the disease won't be subsidised by the Federal Government, leaving patients to pay up to \$80,000 a year. [...] However, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee has rejected an application for Kisunla to be included on

the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, meaning patients will need to pay privately, with treatment costs ranging between \$40,000 and \$80,000 a year.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctors push for tighter regulation of circumcision after child dies

The Saturday Age, General News, 23/08/2025, Hannah Murphy, Page 2

Doctors are calling for greater regulation following the death of a young boy after a circumcision procedure in Western Australia. An inquest in Perth has heard that David Flynn was two when he and his brother were admitted to Gosnells Medical Clinic in December 2021 for circumcisions.

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

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

Doctor accused of toilet spying bailed

The Saturday Age, General News, 23/08/2025, Erin Pearson, Page 5

A trainee doctor accused of spying on hundreds of women in bathrooms across major Melbourne hospitals has been granted bail on the condition he live with his parents, who vowed in court to financially support him and take him on long walks. Ryan Cho faces more than 130 charges, but that is expected to rise to 500 over the next two months, prosecutors told the Supreme Court yesterday.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Australian doctors subjected to vexatious complaints over social media posts on Gaza, GP peak body says

The Guardian, Other, 22/08/2025, Stephanie Convery

A growing number of Australian GPs have reported being subjected to frivolous or vexatious complaints to the health regulator about social media posts opposing Israel's war in Gaza. Dr Michael Wright, president of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), wrote to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) on 14 August about "concerning reports" from multiple members of the college who had "publicly expressed views on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza".

[Read More](#)

Patients speak out after Brisbane doctor accused of 'excessive' pap smears, kissing woman on lips

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2025, Eden Gillespie

Former patients of a Brisbane doctor accused of performing an "excessive" number of pap smears on seven women and kissing one patient on the lips say they feel "violated". [...] "At the time, I did not fully appreciate the extent of the problem or limits of [the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's] powers to respond," she said.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Ultra Violette pulls sunscreen amid SPF doubts

AFR Weekend, General News, 23/08/2025, Carrie Lafrenz, Page 9

Beauty Ultra Violette is pulling a popular sunscreen product off the shelves after testing showed wild variations in how much protection it provides.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Mamamia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Slip, slop, scrapped as screen test fails

Weekend Australian, General News, 23/08/2025, Duncan Evans, Page 9

Australian skincare company Ultra Violette has recalled one of its sunscreens after testing revealed it failed to meet the advertised SPF 50+ standard. [...] In June, the Therapeutic Goods Administration said it would investigate Choice's findings and take "regulatory action as required".

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Cannabis sold sans TGA tick

Northern Territory News, General News, 23/08/2025, Robert White, Page 7

Almost all medicinal cannabis products being prescribed to patients in Australia are unapproved by the federal drug regulator. According to a consultation paper published by the TGA, 99 per cent of medicinal cannabis products had not undergone any pre-market assessment by the TGA and subsequently their "quality, safety, efficacy or performance could not be established".

Also reported by: [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Query on SPF after factory recall

Herald Sun, General News, 23/08/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 7

Sunscreen regulation, an Australian brand and a British laboratory are under scrutiny after Ultra Violette abruptly recalled a top product over concerning SPF tests. [...] The TGA, which relies on brands to commission tests at independent laboratories, is still investigating CHOICE's report, but the recall has raised questions.

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Sunscreen standards questioned as product withdrawn after testing fail

Newcastle Herald, General News, 23/08/2025, Savannah Meacham, Page 25

A popular Australian sunscreen brand has withdrawn one of its products after tests revealed it failed to provide consistent protection. Ultra Violette came under fire in June when consumer agency Choice tested a range of sunscreens, discovering the brand's Lean Screen 50+ Mattifying Zinc Skinscreen scored the lowest SPF rating of four. The company disputed Choice's testing methodology and results, saying it followed Therapeutic Goods Administration guidelines and did not arbitrarily slap on a SPF 50+ label.

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

Serena Williams opens up about post-baby weight loss transformation

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/08/2025, Maria Bervanakis

Serena Williams has revealed she has lost 14kg after struggling with baby weight for years. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued restricted guidelines on prescriptions for the medication that GPs are expected to follow.

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

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Calls for a 'fit for purpose' regulatory system for medicinal cannabis

Medical Forum, Other, 22/08/2025

AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen welcomed the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) consultation into the use and prescribing of medicinal cannabis. The consultation seeks to understand whether current regulatory arrangements that enable patients to access medical cannabis via the Special Access Scheme (SAS) and Authorised Prescriber (AP) scheme provide adequate oversight for the more than 1000 unapproved products currently supplied in Australia.

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ABC News, ABC National News, 22/08/2025, Lorna Dunkley

Australian sunscreen company Ultra Violette has recalled one of its products from stores after concerns about its sun protection and inconsistent SPF rating. CHOICE CEO Ashley De Silva says the consumer watchdog wants urgent action from the Therapeutic Goods Administration [TGA]. It is also calling for assurance that no other sunscreens with similar reliability issues are being sold.

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ABC, Late Night ABC News, 22/08/2025, Michael Tetlow

News Australian sunscreen company Ultraviolet has pulled one of its products from shelves over concerns about sun protection. Customers will be offered refunds after testing showed inconsistent SPF ratings, some as low as four. [...] Choice now wants urgent action from the Therapeutic Goods Administration We want to know that there are no other sunscreens that are being sold that might be facing similar reliability issues.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Sorting healthy food a process

Herald Sun, General News, 23/08/2025, Zoe De Koning, Page 11

New research has dispelled the assumption all ultra-processed foods are harmful, suggesting some may even have "protective" effects for our health. The independent Swinburne University of Technology study reviewed the NOVA classification system a global framework that categorises foods into four groups based on how processed they are.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Yoghurts pulled from supermarket shelves in nation-wide recall

9News, Other, 22/08/2025, Adam Vidler

A range of coconut yoghurts have been pulled from the shelves at Woolworths, Coles, and IGA around the country. The Cocobella banana coconut yoghurt pouch, Cocobella mango coconut yoghurt pouch, and Cocobella strawberry coconut yoghurt pouch, have all been subjected to a recall notice.

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