



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 25th August 2025

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

- **The Australian** (page 4) reports that Treasurer Jim Chalmers has suggested that Commonwealth hospital funding could be tied to state support for Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler's changes to the Federal Government's NDIS policies, including the newly-announced Thriving Kids program. *Also reported by:* [Australian Financial Review](#) , [ABC Online](#)
- **The Australian** (page 1) reports that the board of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians has passed a vote of no-confidence in its president-elect amid turmoil pertaining to internal governance reforms.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 1) reports that data from the Australian Crime Intelligence Commission (ACIC)'s waste water reports have shown a rise in nicotine use across the nation, casting doubt on claims by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – often quoted by Health Minister Mark Butler – that cigarette smokers' numbers are falling. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Cairns Post](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#)
- **The West Australian** (page 1) reports that health professionals and advocates are urging parents to obtain vaccinations against whooping cough for babies and children amid a sharp rise in cases across Perth.

- **The Newcastle Herald** (page 2) reports that health researchers are calling for a youth-focused national contraception education campaign after a La Trobe University study concluded that much of the information about birth control disseminated on social media platforms, such as TikTok, is unreliable and of dubious quality. *Also reported by:* [Daily Advertiser](#), [Launceston Examiner](#), [Warrnambool Standard](#), [7news.com.au](#)
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 7) reports that new research lead by scientists from the CSIRO and the University of South Australia, in partnership with Chinese and American researchers, has found that the monitoring of wastewater from aircraft toilets could be an effective tool to track the global spread of antimicrobial resistant (AMR) superbugs. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#)
- **The Courier Mail** (online) reports that the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union has spoken out against aged care provider BlueCare's decision to replace up to 60 per cent of its enrolled nurses with lesser-qualified personal care workers. QNMU secretary Sarah Beaman has said that the plan has prompted the union to seek a meeting with Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.
- **ABC Online** reports that aged care advocates are calling for greater awareness of sexual violence against older people, as a Queensland parliamentary inquiry into the consequences of elder abuse commences.
- **ABC Online** reports that dieticians and coeliacs are calling for improved Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) legislation regarding labelling and testing requirements for food products marketed as "gluten-free" amid confusion regarding gluten-free oat products made with "uncontaminated" oats.

MINISTER BUTLER

Back NDIS change 'or risk billions in hospital funding'

The Australian, General News, 25/08/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 4

Jim Chalmers has issued a veiled threat to states that they face missing out on billions of dollars in commonwealth hospital funding should they refuse to support the Albanese government on its NDIS reforms. Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler's announcement that NDIS eligibility would change by mid-2027 and a new \$2bn program for autistic children would be created was met with shock and outrage from state governments this week.

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

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NDIS reform timetable is fair

The Australian, Editorials, 25/08/2025, Page 12

Returning the NDIS to its original intent of caring for Australians with severe disabilities is the most significant single budget reform the Albanese government needed to take. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler expects the states to match that funding.

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

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States could lose billions in NDIS plan

Australian Financial Review, General News, 25/08/2025, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

The states and territories stand to lose up to \$18 billion in extra funding for their hospitals over five years if they refuse to sign up to a new plan to stop children with mild autism and other minor developmental issues from accessing the bloated NDIS.

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

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Thriving Kids will make care fairer and more accessible

Anxious parents seeking early intervention by the National Disability Insurance Scheme to potentially transform the life of a child with developmental delays or autism can wait for months. I meet them every week. [...] The Thriving Kids initiative announced by Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler presents an opportunity to get things right.

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

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Not out of puff yet

Herald Sun, General News, 25/08/2025, Jon Kaila, Page 1

More nicotine was consumed by Australians last year than eight years ago, plunging into doubt the federal government's claims people are quitting the habit. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler regularly quotes these figures, saying a world-record tax on cigarettes is putting people off smoking.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Health spend needs a target

Herald Sun, Editorials, 25/08/2025, Page 22

The number of Australian kids being diagnosed with autism and developmental delay is astonishing and so is the cost. [...] Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler has now announced that kids with mild to moderate autism or developmental delay will be diverted, from next year, off the NDIS to a new program known as Thriving Kids.

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

Delivery key test of the roundtable

Central Western Daily, General News, 25/08/2025, Michelle Grattan, Page 12

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.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#).

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Another area of NDIS reform needs attention

Wangaratta Chronicle, General News, 25/08/2025, Page 6

While Commonwealth Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing, Mark Butler's announcement to establish a dedicated focus on children with mild to moderate developmental delay or autism is welcome, there is a critical area of urgent reform in the NDIS that remains overlooked. The Summer Foundation remains concerned for the very people the NDIS was designed to support who are still stuck in group homes and have not been able to benefit from the transformational intent of the scheme.

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States threatened to get on board with NDIS changes or risk hospital funding deal

ABC Online, Other, 24/08/2025, Jake Evans

The states have been warned to get on board with a federal government plan for the NDIS that would save billions of dollars in spending, or else risk losing hospital funding being negotiated. State leaders said they were caught off guard by Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement of a new scheme for children with mild autism called Thriving Kids, which would be run in conjunction with the states as an alternative support to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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Thriving Kids: Australia's new approach to supporting children with developmental delays

WEB Back Country Bulletin, Other, 24/08/2025

Health Minister Mark Butler has announced a significant shake-up of Australia's disability support system, revealing plans for a new program called Thriving Kids that will see thousands of young children with autism and moderate developmental delays transition away from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Speaking at the National Press Club on Wednesday, Mr Butler outlined the Government's vision for a more targeted approach to early childhood intervention, arguing that the NDIS was never designed to cater for the growing number of young children currently enrolled in the scheme.

[Read More](#)

ABC, Insiders, 24/08/2025, David Speers

Panel discussion with Jane Norman, ABC News, Philip Coorey, Australian Financial Review, and Shane Wright, The SMH and Age, on the states and territories' reactions to the new Thriving Kids program. Norman says the premiers learned about the program as well as the government's ambition to reduce spending growth even further overall for the NDIS when NDIS Minister Mark Butler got up at the National Press Club. She says the Government needs the states in these situations, and they're going to have to bring them on board, and perhaps it is the negotiation of the hospital funding that does ultimately convince the states to produce the cashier.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Weekend Sunrise, 24/08/2025, Monique Wright and Chris Reason

There are a lot of families concerned about Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's plans to slash the growth of the NDIS and the Thriving Kids program, which will focus on kids with autism. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park is saying that they can't pay for it.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, 22:00 News (Weekend), 24/08/2025

Millions of Australian parents are now scrambling to find out how the move to scale back young people with autism on the NDIS could impact their children. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler last Thursday proposed that children with mild to moderate autism or developmental delays could be removed from the NDIS and a new program known as Thriving Kids by July 2027.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Minister for Youth supports move to reduce NDIS funding for kids with autism

Wamn News Online, Other, 24/08/2025, Meleva Thorn

The Western Australian Minister for Youth was faced with some difficult questions regarding a recent announcement of cuts to the NDIS for children with autism. [...] The state minister said that she has had conversations with the Federal Minister for the NDIS Jenny McAllister, and that she "look[s] forward" to speaking with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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MINISTER RAE

BlueCare replaces nurses with care workers in Qld facilities

The Courier Mail, Other, 24/08/2025, Taylah Fellows

BlueCare will axe 60 per cent of its nurses this week, replacing them with low-paid carers in a move feared to put elderly lives at risk. Don't miss out on the headlines from QLD Politics. [...] "We are also seeking an urgent meeting with the Federal Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae and the federal Aged Care Department on this matter," Ms Beaman said.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Rear window

Australian Financial Review, General News, 25/08/2025, Hannah Wootton & Joshua Peach, Page 40

Of all the things we expected from Australia's 48th parliament, consistency wasn't one.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

BlueCare replaces nurses with care workers in Qld facilities

The Courier Mail, Other, 24/08/2025, Taylah Fellows

BlueCare will axe 60 per cent of its nurses this week, replacing them with low-paid carers in a move feared to put elderly lives at risk. Don't miss out on the headlines from QLD Politics. [...] "We are also seeking an urgent meeting with the Federal Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae and the federal Aged Care Department on this matter," Ms Beaman said.

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

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Aged care: WA issues warning to Canberra on 'undeniable' shortage of beds

West Australian, Other, 24/08/2025, Jessica Page

State Minister John Carey has vowed the Premier and Health Minister will be "very clear" in their demand for more aged care beds, but would not say whether he is confident the Albanese Government will listen. [...] WA's 65.5 residential aged care places per 1,000 people aged 70 and over, according to Department of Health, Disability and Ageing data, lags behind South Australia at 71.7, Victoria at 71.5, New South Wales at 69.2 and Queensland at 67.2.

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

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Focus on the 'grandparent gap'

Herald Sun, General News, 25/08/2025, Jared Lynch, Page 2

Older Australians are facing a relentless onslaught of online scams, with new data revealing they were the only age group to suffer an increase in financial losses, totalling \$120m. To combat this "grandparent gap", Google and the Council on the Ageing have partnered with the National Anti-Scam Centre to launch Project Bridge.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#)

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Superannuation helps secure the future of Australians

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 25/08/2025, Noel Whittaker, Page 10

Last July marked an important milestone in Australia's financial history. The superannuation guarantee system introduced 33 years ago finally reached its long-planned target of 12 per cent of wages.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#)

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Advocates highlight sexual violence against older people, with Queensland elder abuse inquiry underway

ABC Online, Other, 24/08/2025, Claudia Williams

The sexual abuse of older people, especially women, is "one of the most neglected forms of elder abuse" according to advocates. The number of alleged incidents of unlawful sexual contact in residential aged care facilities is estimated to be about 50 a week, according to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's report, which described it as a "disgrace".

[Read More](#)

Getting restraint right in aged care: why general practitioners and aged care providers must work together

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 25/08/2025

Australia's aged care system is undergoing a necessary transformation — one that places the rights and dignity of older people front and centre. At the heart of this is the need to minimise restrictive practices, including the use of chemical restraint.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Critical review must strike right balance

West Australian, Editorials, 25/08/2025, Page 2

Kids causing mayhem in class or dropping out of school altogether because they don't have the specialist learning support they need. [...] The Federal Government last week revealed plans to curb ballooning NDIS costs by diverting children with mild developmental delays into a separate scheme called Thriving Kids.

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Better system within reach

West Australian, General News, 25/08/2025, Andrew Leech, Page 43

We're about to see some major changes to the way we support children with developmental challenges

like autism and developmental delays. [...] There are three key factors I believe have contributed to the current situation and that any NDIS reform must address.

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PRIMARY CARE

New health centre open

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 25/08/2025, Jessica Antoniou, Page 1

The Royal Flying Doctor Service WA's Goldfields Health Centre has taken off, with the organisation officially opening the doors to its newly built clinic on Monday. The centre will not only provide accessible, patient-centred care, but also serve as a training hub for local medical students.

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

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

Sam Faiers and Billie Shepherd called 'dangerous and irresponsible' for promoting holistic healthcare over modern medicine

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/08/2025, Milly Veitch

Sisters Sam Faiers and Billie Shepherd have been branded 'dangerous' and 'irresponsible', for their frequent promotion of using holistic health over modern medicine. The former TOWIE stars have recently found themselves embroiled in a number controversies, after heaping praise of natural medicines while decrying the use of SPF and mammograms.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Pirouette and glide your way to life of wellbeing

The Australian, General News, 25/08/2025, Penny Timms, Page 3

Tie Yamato is graceful and poised as she glides seamlessly across the dance studio floor. For an hour and a half, she uses the room to reconnect with her mind and body, challenging both to work together for the most complex of ballet moves.

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The gym supplement that could help you perform better at work

Australian Financial Review, General News, 25/08/2025, Euan Black, Page 36

A naturally occurring compound long favoured by elite bodybuilders to pack on muscle could also boost your mind. Creatine has long been favoured by bodybuilders hoping to build strength and pack on extra muscle.

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A dietitian's guide to salt in your trolley

Age, General News, 25/08/2025, Susie Burrell, Page 17

With so much public focus on all things carbohydrates and protein in the diet, the amount of sodium or salt the average Australian consumes is sometimes forgotten. The truth is: too much added salt isn't good for us, and is associated with higher blood pressure and an increased risk of stroke.

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Tax hike attacks to spark

Herald Sun, General News, 25/08/2025, Jon Kaila, Page 11

Police are bracing for a spate of firebombings in the aftermath of yet another tax hike on cigarettes next

Monday. Last September, when a 5 per cent tax rise came in, there were 32 firebombings in the following eight weeks, as serious organised crime gangs fought for control of the lucrative illicit market.

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Call to tackle birth control myths

Newcastle Herald, General News, 25/08/2025, Maeve Bannister, Page 2

Young people are increasingly turning to social media platforms for information on contraception but experts warn a national education campaign is needed to ensure they are not led astray by incorrect advice. TikTok in particular has become a major source of information on contraception, but a La Trobe University study has found much of the content is unreliable and of poor quality.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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This could save your life: the signs of sepsis you can't ignore

Canberra Times, Other, 24/08/2025, Lisa Edser

A medical phenomenon stemming from something as small as a cut on the hand, a bout of gastro or the flu is killing thousands of Aussies each year, yet few know about it. Sepsis is responsible for 8,700 deaths annually, three times higher than people lost to common cancers, and four times more than people killed in "road trauma across the country".

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

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New study highlights alarming vape risks to young people

The New Daily, Other, 24/08/2025

Young people who vape are three times more likely to start smoking and also at higher risk of developing other drug issues and a range of health problems, according to research. The researchers, who carried out an overarching review of existing research published between 2016 and 2024, said their findings supported introducing policy measures aimed at restricting sales and marketing of e-cigarettes to younger people.

[Read More](#)

So, you're going through menopause right now? Here's 7 things you should know.

Mamamia, Other, 24/08/2025, Valentina Todoroska

If you're reading this, chances are you (or someone close to you) have started experiencing the hormonal shifts, hot flushes, or even emotional roller-coasters that come with this menopause. For many women, this new phase of life can feel like an endless juggle — work, relationships, energy levels, sleep, and suddenly, all the symptoms you never asked for start showing up uninvited.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

PCOS is still misunderstood by far too many doctors

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 25/08/2025, Hannah Bamba, Page 23

Seven years ago, after I didn't have my period for six months, I asked my GP if she thought it could be polycystic ovary syndrome. One of the most common symptoms of PCOS a condition associated with increased levels of hormones in the body, which can disrupt your cycle's irregular periods.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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A vision splendid

Herald Sun, General News, 25/08/2025, Rebecca Borg, Page 15

A rising number of Victorian families are turning to charities to reduce the financial pressure that comes with purchasing glasses for their children, as household budgets buckle under cost-of-living pressures. Not-for-profit organisation State Schools' Relief (SSR) has reported its highest demand for welfare assistance in almost a century, including a surge in requests for its vision care program.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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Balgownie dad, 36, faces cancer shock

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 25/08/2025, Nadine Morton, Page 3

How do you prepare to say goodbye to everyone you love when you're only 36 years old? [...] "Colorectal cancer was the fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia in 2020," Cancer Australia said.

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How a medical error changed Melanie's life

Newcastle Herald, General News, 25/08/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 6

Melanie Standring knows the importance of doctors and nurses hearing personal stories of cancer. Ms Standring, of Wallsend, was diagnosed with a rare form of ovarian cancer in 2016 at age 43.

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I've been diagnosed with cancer twice in the past 12 months. Here's what the pamphlets don't tell you

The Guardian, Other, 24/08/2025, Emily Thompson

The hospital gave me a stack of helpful information when I was first diagnosed last Christmas. [...] At one of your initial appointments, you will be handed a tonne of information from the Cancer Council, and most of it is solid gold.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 24/08/2025, Chris Bath

A concerning rise in the number of children spending too much time using electronic devices has experts warning we're in the grip of a nationwide eye disease epidemic. The latest data reveals that unless kids start spending more time outdoors, by the time today's toddlers reach adulthood, 50% will suffer short-sightedness.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Warning for kid hunters

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 25/08/2025, Lachlan Leeming, Page 3

An online platform which allows children to meet with random strangers on a video call has been the first to be hit with new powers aimed at protecting young people on the internet. The OmeTV app, which allows strangers to talk via video call through a roulette-style matchmaking process, has received a formal warning from the government's eSafety office over its lack of guard rails, amid concerns from experts the platform is a hunting ground for sexual predators.

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

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School 'dumbing' it down to fight bullying

As Geelong schools battle cyber-bullying, image abuse and phone addiction, one college has dialled up the fight, asking parents to dump modern mobiles for "dumb" phones. In July, the eSafety Commissioner reported 57 per cent of children aged 13 to 15 had been cyberbullied and almost one in four children had experienced online sexual harassment, or had been tracked, monitored or harassed online.

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Can you replace your therapist with an AI chatbot?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 25/08/2025

An increasing number of people are using artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots such as ChatGPT for mental health and support. There are both benefits and risks associated with the use of AI for mental health.

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IMMUNISATION

Whooping cough epidemic strikes

West Australian, General News, 25/08/2025, Jay Hanna, Page 1

Cases of potentially fatal whooping cough have hit a seven-year high across Perth as experts worry official numbers are just "the tip of the iceberg". In the first eight months of this year, case numbers are up nearly 50 per cent on those reported last year.

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The beautiful baby face saving others

West Australian, General News, 25/08/2025, Jay Hanna, Page 9

It's a picture that should elicit smiles. A cute little cherubic face poking out from under a slightly too big blue-and-white striped beanie that looks like it might unravel at any moment to cover those bright eyes entirely.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Superbug arriving at Gate 1

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/08/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 7

Superbugs are jetting into Australia but aircraft toilets could be a useful tool in managing the threat, according to new research. Wastewater from aircraft toilets could provide a critical warning system for the global spread of antimicrobial resistant (AMR) superbugs - a silent pandemic that threatens to kill more people than cancer by 2050.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Arteries cleared by tiny particles

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/08/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 9

Researchers at SAHMRI are using specially designed nanoparticles to search and destroy plaque build-up in arteries, offering a potential new approach to diagnosing and managing heart disease. A study led by Dr Victoria Nankivell has found the nanoparticles are absorbed by immune cells in the arteries, where they work to lower inflammation and draw out harmful cholesterol.

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

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

Drug has link to autism

Hobart Mercury, General News, 25/08/2025, Page 4

The world's most popular painkiller may put children at risk of ADHD and autism, experts have warned. Paracetamol is a common medication used by millions of youngsters and adults to treat mild symptoms from colds to headaches.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Major study uncovers Covid's lasting damage to women's heart health

Adelaide Now, Other, 24/08/2025, Maddison Brennan-Mills

Covid-19 could leave behind a hidden problem that lingers in women's bodies for years, a new study has found. The research revealed the virus can prematurely age women's blood vessels by around five years, raising their risk of heart attack and stroke later in life.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Lockdowns take their toll as prisoners resort to self-harm

Age, General News, 25/08/2025, Lachlan Abbott, Page 15

Kelly Flanagan remembers the screams from the cell next door and despairing at being locked away in her own small room as guard shortages meant prisoners weren't allowed out into common areas. [...] Indigenous women were particularly vulnerable: the First Nations share of Victoria's prison population has almost doubled over the past decade, and the self-harm rate at Dame Phyllis Frost was the highest of any Victorian jail.

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

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Chopper rise a bad sign

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 25/08/2025, Lydia Roberts, Page 1

The number of missions carried out by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter service has spiked in the past year, latest data shows. Tamworth Regional Council mayor Russell Webb, who is on the advisory board of the New England and North West helicopter service, believes the spike reflects the district's ailing health service.

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Boost for hospital but the fight goes on

Newcastle Herald, General News, 25/08/2025, Jessica Belzycki, Page 6

The nurses and midwives' union has welcomed a safe staffing initiative at Maitland Hospital, but says the fight to improve working conditions is not yet over. As part of a statewide staffing reform, more than 25 new full-time equivalent nurses will be added to the hospital's emergency department.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Stethoscopes at 10 paces: board revolt rocks 'undemocratic' medical college

The Australian, General News, 25/08/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

One of Australia's largest medical colleges has publicly exploded into infighting, as its board passed a vote of no confidence in the incoming president amid high-level governance reforms. The board of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians at the weekend passed the vote of no confidence in its president-elect, renal physician Sharmila Chandran, and eight of its 10 members threatened to immediately resign if Dr Chandran becomes president.

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

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NSW Health trying to 'gag' frontline workers from posting online, union warns

The Guardian, Other, 24/08/2025, Natasha May

The doctors' union is warning a New South Wales Health social media policy being drafted will gag frontline health workers speaking up publicly for patient care in Australia, as the government agency insists it is an update to an existing policy. According to the "final draft" document, social media subject to the rules includes "internal communication tools" such as Microsoft Teams, and instant messaging software applications including WhatsApp, as well as social media networking sites and forums for discussion.

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Australia has 120 health workforce policies. But with no national plan, we're missing the big picture

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 25/08/2025

Australia's health workforce is under pressure. Wait times are growing. Burnout is rising. Yet the country is awash in policy – just not the kind that solves these problems at the root.

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Cleared of 'absurd' bullying allegations

Canberra Times, General News, 25/08/2025, Tim Piccione, Page 9

A group of public servants has been cleared of bullying allegations described by a workplace regulator as "absurd", "baseless" and "irrational". [...] The bullying claims were brought forward by an Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) employee whose name has been suppressed.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

His shop is covered in sand, crushed by the trams outside. He worries about the health risks

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 24/08/2025, Liam Mannix

Anthony Moore named his Reservoir record shop Desert Highways. [...] Silicosis is a chronic long-term disease that can leave victims struggling to breathe; governments are only just starting to wake up to the risks from the explosion in the use of artificial stone benchtops.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Your energy drink habit may lead to debilitating nerve damage – and it takes far less than you'd think to reach a toxic overdose

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/08/2025, Elen Johnston

Those knocking back multiple cans of energy drinks a day may be risking a toxic overdose, doctors have warned. [...] But last month, the Australian medicine regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), reported a surge in vitamin B6 toxicity cases – with 170 confirmed so far, and fears that thousands more may be undiagnosed.

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2GB, Weekends, 24/08/2025, Luke Grant

According to a new paper from the Therapeutic Goods Administration, 99% of all medicinal cannabis products haven't undergone any pre-market assessment by the TGA. And as a result, the regulator says the quality, safety, efficacy or performance of the medicines couldn't be established.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Shroom haul 'for mental health'

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 25/08/2025, Mark Morri, Page 7

A man caught with magic mushrooms said he picked them from Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens to treat himself for depression, according to documents tendered to the NSW District Court last week. [...] In April 2024, while at St Vincent's Hospital, he asked to enrol in a trial using the drug to treat his depression after two suicide attempts, but was told there was a long waiting list.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

Push for healthy food subsidies, not ad bans

The Australian, General News, 25/08/2025, Danielle Long , Page 25

Australians want the government to provide greater education and subsidies for healthy eating, rather than junk food advertising bans and regulation, according to new research commissioned by the nation's biggest advertisers. The study, conducted by Nielsen for the Australian Association of National Advertisers (AANA), found 74 per cent of Australians would prefer the government invested in wide-reaching education initiatives, such as school programs and improved food labelling, rather than policies that restrict advertising.

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Oats free of gluten contaminants can't be labelled gluten-free

ABC Online, Other, 24/08/2025, Halina Baczkowski

The sweet, nostalgic scent of Anzac biscuits fills the air in a small factory in Toowoomba in Queensland's south-east. [...] Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) has no legislation to regulate the marketing and does not require any testing for gluten contamination.

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