



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 10th September 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 6) reports the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found nearly 90 per cent of veterans who died by suicide between 2010 and 2020 had accessed health services in the year before their deaths, with its defence unit head Paul Pham saying the data will inform suicide prevention efforts. *Also reported by:* [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#).
- The **[Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 3) reports the Therapeutic Goods Administration has warned weight loss drugs such as tirzepatide may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives, with cases of unintended pregnancy emerging and animal studies showing risks to fetal development.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (online) reports a national review by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care found sepsis cases are more common and deadly than previously understood, causing one in seven hospital deaths in 2022-23.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports Coalition backbenchers including Richard Colbeck, Mary Aldred and Michael McCormack have urged action on the \$5bn illicit tobacco trade, calling for a pause on excise hikes and stronger enforcement, while other MPs warned against cutting cigarette taxes.

- [The West Australian](#) (page 1) reports Health Minister Meredith Hammat told Parliament five new samples of unsafe lead levels were found in Perth Children's Hospital water, days after the paper revealed earlier contamination was kept secret by the Cook Government.
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 4) reports NSW hospitals are failing wait-time targets and facing record emergency demand due to bed block, with Health Minister Ryan Park saying government efforts have diverted 222,000 patients away from EDs in the past year.
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 3) reports AI "scribes" that generate consultation notes are being trialled in SA hospitals to cut doctors' administrative workloads, with Health Minister Chris Picton calling the technology a potential "game-changer".
- [Canberra Times](#) (page 7) reports ANU professor Simon Haberle warned pollen levels in the ACT could rise sharply this summer due to wet winter and spring conditions, increasing the risk of hay fever, asthma and thunderstorm asthma. *Also reported by:* [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#).
- [The Guardian](#) reports a Senate inquiry heard that South Australians with asthma and other respiratory illnesses face potential risks from toxins in an algal bloom that has killed more than 42,000 marine animals, with experts calling for national oversight and early warning systems.

MINISTER BUTLER

Home care packages released

Buloke Times, General News, 09/09/2025, Page 3

After two days of sustained questioning in Parliament the Coalition has forced the Albanese Labor Government to belatedly release tens of thousands of home care packages for older Australians who have been left waiting for far too long. [...] "Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Health Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae must all now explain to Australians why it took the Coalition holding their feet to the fire in the Senate to release this much-needed support.

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A need to create safe and inclusive spaces

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, St George Edition, 10/09/2025, Page 23

On AUGUST 20, 2025, at the National Press Club, Health Minister Mark Butler highlighted the importance of early, accessible, community-based supports through the Thriving Kids strategy and the rollout of Kids Hubs. At the Autism Community Network (ACN), we are proud to say we were the first organisation in NSW established solely to provide peer-to-peer support for autistic individuals, their families, and carers.

Also reported by: [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader \(Online\)](#).

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PSA25: Constructing excellence

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/09/2025, Hailey Settineri, Page 10

Welcoming more than 1200 pharmacists, industry representatives and stakeholders from across the country to further their knowledge and practice, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia last month held its biggest national conference yet. [...] Health plans In a virtual message to PSA25, Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler informed that negotiations had begun for the first 'Pharmacy Programs Agreement' with the PSA, which will lead negotiations on behalf of the profession and be signatory to the agreement.

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'They should never have been delayed'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 09/09/2025, Natasha Egan

The announcement of additional home care packages before 1 November is cause for celebration, says Ageing Australia chief executive officer Tom Symondson, but the latest number of people waiting for their assessed level of care means there can be no more delays. [...] AAA has sought a response

from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing about whether the system will be available for testing before the go-live date.

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The Zap: a comprehensive update on health and aged care news, plus key consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 09/09/2025, Melissa Sweet

The column this week is packed with important updates and sharp commentary on a wide range of topics, including health technology assessment – an area where "tectonic plates move faster than policy development". [...] Minister Butler joined with Minister for Women Katy Gallagher and Assistant Minister for Health Rebecca White in a statement marking Women's Health Week, focussing on cheaper access to oral contraceptives and hormonal therapies recently listed on the PBS.

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New child mental health guidelines released

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 09/09/2025, Jolyon Attwooll

New guidelines designed to help work mental health into early childhood health checks (EHCs) were published this week. [...] Last month, Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler suggested Medicare-funded child health checks could return as part of reforms of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 09/09/2025, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Education Minister Jason Clare about boosting Year 12 completion rates. Clare discusses the need for major change in public schools and links this to government initiatives like the Thriving Kids program, coordinated with Health Minister Mark Butler. He says \$16 billion in extra funding will go towards phonics and numeracy checks, small group tutoring, mental health supports, and full-service schools.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

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Buloke Times, General News, 09/09/2025, Page 3

After two days of sustained questioning in Parliament the Coalition has forced the Albanese Labor Government to belatedly release tens of thousands of home care packages for older Australians who have been left waiting for far too long. [...] "Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Health Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae must all now explain to Australians why it took the Coalition holding their feet to the fire in the Senate to release this much-needed support.

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ABC Radio Perth, 17:00 News, 09/09/2025

WA Aged Care Minister Simone McGurk has raised concerns over the 2,000 West Australians waiting for Level 4 home care packages, the highest level of support before residential aged care. She said the state has been pressing the Commonwealth for more care in line with its population, but so far only secured a visit from Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae next week. McGurk disputed Rae's assurance that some people will instead receive Level 3 packages.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

The Zap: a comprehensive update on health and aged care news, plus key consultations now open

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Riverlanders to talk about aged care

Murray Pioneer, General News, 10/09/2025, Page 23

The Berri Barmera Health Advisory Committee is inviting Riverlanders to join them this month for a discussion on how and where to find Commonwealth funded aged care services. Featuring representatives from the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing, plus Services Australia, Care Finder, Aged Rights Advocacy Service, and Dementia Australia, the discussion will be held at the Berri Senior Citizens Hall, on Tuesday, September 30, from 11am to 12:30pm.

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Food, staff communication still big issues in aged care

Health Services Daily, Other, 09/09/2025, Cate Swannell

The third annual Residents' Experience Survey, used to help determine aged care homes' star ratings, has been released by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and while there have been some small improvements, some things never change. A total of 36,221 residents across 2603 RACH's took part in the 2024 RES.

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Dept squeezes PBAC deadline

Pharma In Focus, Other, 09/09/2025

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has brought forward the cut-off for providing a Notice Of Intent for pharmas to submit for the March 2026 PBAC meeting, and is demanding additional information to accompany it. The new due date for the NOI is 17 September 2025, and the Department has said it will seek approval to formalise the change in regulations so that from 2026 onwards the standard NOI deadline will move to eight weeks prior to the submission due date.

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New children's health guidelines take aim at the brain

The Medical Republic, Other, 09/09/2025, Euan Kielly

The guidelines for early childhood health checks have now landed, with a focus on how social inequity can affect the process of GP care. New national guidelines on implementing mental health and wellbeing care in early childhood health checks (ECHCs) have arrived, with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing claiming it will meet the unique needs of families and prioritise child safety and wellbeing.

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Australia is at a critical point on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder

Women's Agenda, Other, 09/09/2025, Sophie Harrington

Australia is at a critical point on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). [...] The Australian Department of Health and Aged Care can be applauded for their commitment to the implementation of the National FASD Strategic Action Plan.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

A 25-year-old Melburnian now has a \$100m robot helper start-up

Australian Financial Review, Other, 09/09/2025, Yolanda Redrup

Andromeda, a robotics company building companion robots for the elderly, led by a 25-year-old Melburnian, is worth \$100 million after scoring the biggest early-stage funding round for a woman-led start-up this year.

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'You grieve': a family'd legacy after losing Louis to childhood dementia

Canberra Times, Other, 09/09/2025, Carla Mascarenhas

For James Lovell, not being able to see his son Louis smile was the moment it hit him. [...] After a

number of medical misdiagnoses, Louis was finally diagnosed with Krabbe disease, a form of childhood dementia.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Ballarat trial to help aged care residents avoid hospital visits

Ballarat Courier, Other, 09/09/2025, Michelle Smith

Ballarat aged care resident David is typical of many older people who find themselves in hospital - he'd rather be cared for at home. "I've been in the hospital after a couple of falls, and I just want to get home where I can also be cared for," he said.

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Opal HealthCare powers ahead with triple Victorian acquisition

The Weekly Source, Other, 09/09/2025, Caroline Egan

Australia's largest aged care operator, Opal HealthCare, has added three more homes to its Victorian footprint after completing the acquisition of Australian Aged Care Group (AACG) on 1 September 2025. The purchase of AACG's three facilities – a combined 379 beds – brings Opal HealthCare's portfolio to 142 care communities nationwide, including 56 in Victoria.

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Care deserts emerging due to lack of service access

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 09/09/2025

A new national dataset developed by home care provider HomeCaring has highlighted a number of "care deserts" where communities have "dangerously low" access to aged care services and disability support. HomeCaring classifies "care deserts" as areas that are at increased risk of service bottlenecks, delayed access and unmet care needs and with populations greater than 20,000 but in the lowest 20 per cent of provider density.

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Progress report shows more reform needed

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 09/09/2025, Natasha Egan & Katarina Lloyd Jones

The Inspector-General of Aged Care Natalie Siegel-Brown has published the 2025 Progress Report, warning that Australia is not on track to deliver the necessary transformation to meet the aged care royal commission recommendations. The 218-page report assesses the government's progress in responding to the royal commission recommendations and provides further recommendations on co-payments, dementia care and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elder care, among other reforms.

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Rural, remote providers need to create 'alliances'

Community Care Review, Other, 09/09/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

CHSP providers who operate in "thin markets" have to look at forming new alliances but it is crucial that a sense of community identity is maintained, say CEOs John Baillie and Dr Liam Mayo. Regional, rural and remote aged care providers operate in "thin markets," but as Invox director and conference emcee Roland Naufal and Comlink Australia chief executive officer Dr Liam Mayo reminded last week's Invox National CHSP conference, this is just bureaucratic slang for market failure.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Autistic boy allegedly forcibly restrained more than a dozen times, sparking a landmark legal challenge

Australian parents are taking landmark legal action after their autistic son was allegedly forcibly restrained up to 14 times in four weeks. Australian schools are continuing to physically restrain and seclude students with disabilities two years after the Disability Royal Commission called for it to be outlawed.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Robots to take medical notes

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/09/2025, Paul Starick, Page 3

AI "scribes" that listen to doctors' consultations with patients and automatically generate clinical notes are being tested in the public health system in a bid to boost productivity and cut waitlists. The scribes, an artificial intelligence tool that converts conversations into a clinical note, summary or letter, are being tested at Queen Elizabeth Hospital's emergency department in a trial that started in August.

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Red tape is care trap

Courier Mail, General News, 10/09/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 10

Regional Queenslanders forced to travel to get critical medical care would get access to subsidies sooner if doctors didn't have to fill in reams of paperwork, with the state's peak medical body calling for the government to cut red tape as part of a review. The Australian Medical Association Queensland has welcomed the Courier Mail's At What Cost? campaign which is pushing for an increased allowance for patients and for claims for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme to be made easier.

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

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Women still being written off as 'hysterical' in health system

West Australian, General News, 10/09/2025, Karen Lombardi, Page 44

Have you ever been called hysterical? [...] More than 70 per cent of women reported experiencing bias in the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions, with about the same amount reporting experiencing bias at the GP.

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NT healthcare 'in good hands' as medics celebrated

Northern Territory News, General News, 10/09/2025, Lottie Hood, Page 9

Eight GP registrars were formally honoured at the weekend for their dedication to healthcare in the Territory. At the General Practice Registrars Australia (GPRA) NT GP Registrars Forum on Saturday night, medical professionals gathered in Darwin to take part in educational workshops and recognised the eight winners of the GPRA NT Scholarships.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Tender opens for Cairns care clinic

Cairns Post, General News, 10/09/2025, Arun Singh Mann, Page 9

Applications to build Cairns' second urgent care clinic have opened but there's no timeline on when the centre will be operating. The Medicare-funded facility to be established in the city's north received bipartisan support during the federal election, and is now reportedly being eyed off by a number of local medical practice s considering a potential bid.

Why international students are struggling to access ADHD treatment in Australia

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/09/2025, Taylor Penny

A Brazilian national living in Australia has spoken of the challenges accessing treatment for ADHD because his diagnosis is not recognised here. [...] The Department of Health said re-diagnosis was up to the individual doctor, however there were no set rules on if an additional confirmation was necessary.

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Leading GP's passion for electropop makes new health campaign personal

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/09/2025, Jamie Thannoo

A downside to Dr Toby Gardner's love of music festivals is the multiple medical emergencies he encounters during his supposed leisure time. The RACGP Tasmania faculty chair and electronic music fanatic remembers attending Splendour in the Grass in NSW in 2016 — Flume was the Australian headliner — when the person in front of him collapsed in a seizure.

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Service gets special treatment

Shepparton News Online, Other, 09/09/2025, Owen Sinclair

A newly minted upgrade to NCN Health's Cobram campus has arrived, with ultrasound services more accessible than ever before. Now available across the week, the ultrasound service at the campus has received treatment of its own kind after construction finished last month on a brand-new fit-for-purpose room dedicated to diagnostic imaging.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Rethink tobacco excises: Coalition

The Australian, General News, 10/09/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 3

Cracking down on illicit tobacco can't wait until the next election, Coalition MPs say, with backbenchers urging Sussan Ley to take up the fight against Labor's "disinterest" in addressing the \$5bn-a-year black market that they warn has become "every bit as bad as the drug wars of the 1980s and '90s".

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

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Tobacco regime is leaving revenue to go up in smoke

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/09/2025, Pat Conaghan, Page 13

Over the past two years, the number of concerns around vaping and illicit tobacco that have hit the front desk, phones and inbox of my office have increased tenfold. [...] As a former Drug Squad detective, I have long been vocal on these realities, introducing an amendment to motion for second reading of the Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Bill 2024.

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Pollen counts: summertime and the livin' is sneezy

Canberra Times, General News, 10/09/2025, Steve Evans, Page 7

The pollen count - and allergic reactions to it - is set to rise this coming summer because of a rainy winter and early spring which boosted the growth of grass. "This year's grass pollen season has the potential to be much stronger than 2024," Simon Haberle of the Australian National University said.

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Salmon crisis fake: Greens

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/09/2025, David Killick, Page 4

The government has been accused of manufacturing a crisis in the state's salmon industry to justify action intended to secure the support of anti-aquaculture MPs and the approval of new antibiotics in the marine environment. A mass mortality event last summer prompted the industry in February to seek approval for the use of a new antibiotic, florfenicol, as a preventive measure.

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Traffickers on notice

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/09/2025, Page 8

Hi-tech mail screening, sniffer dogs and community tips are helping stop drugs and firearms being trafficked into Tasmania. [...] The latest National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Report shows a 38 per cent increase in methylamphetamine (ice) use in Tasmania over the past year, with ice accounting for two-thirds of hard illicit drugs by weight.

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

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Market 'out of control'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 10/09/2025, Hamish Geale, Page 1

The tobacco black market has won a foothold in Tasmania, and local businesses are shuttering their doors. [...] In Tasmania, the Department of Health has jurisdiction rather than Tasmania Police.

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Crackdown on illicit items in the post

Launceston Examiner, General News, 10/09/2025, Lauren Richardson, Page 3

Illicit drug use in Tasmania has soared, prompting a new crackdown from police and Crime Stoppers on postal traffickers. The latest National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Report shows ice, cocaine, ecstasy, and heroin use increased 50 per cent in Tasmania in the last year.

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Tipping point: algal bloom's grim toll revealed

West Australian, Other, 09/09/2025, Abe Maddison Aap

The grim and far-reaching consequences of South Australia's harmful algal bloom will be laid bare at a Senate inquiry that will scrutinise responses and seek solutions to the ecological and economic disaster. The inquiry will stage its first hearing in Adelaide on Tuesday, taking evidence from scientists, environmentalists, government representatives, tourism and fishing industry figures and recreational bodies.

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

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CT scans before conception linked to pregnancy risks

Newcastle Herald, Other, 09/09/2025, Sam McKeith

Women who undergo CT scans before becoming pregnant are at increased risk of birth defects and pregnancy loss, research shows. Officially known as a computed tomography scan, a CT scan is a type of X-ray that gives health professionals more detailed results.

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

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WA Health Minister Meredith Hammat says no risk to safety from lead in water at PCH

ABC Online, Other, 09/09/2025, Mya Kordic

High levels of lead detected in the water at Perth Children's Hospital do not pose a risk to patient

safety, health authorities say. It was revealed last week that testing conducted at a number of locations at the hospital between 2023 and mid-2024 showed higher-than-acceptable levels of lead.

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Australia may be losing its sweet tooth – but sugar is only part of our health story

The Guardian, Other, 09/09/2025, Lauren Ball, Emily Burch & Mackenzie Derry

Australia is now meeting the World Health Organization's (WHO) guidelines on sugar, which recommend keeping sugar below 10% of daily energy intake. New data published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) shows there is less sugar in our diet from food and drinks than three decades ago.

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South Australians with asthma warned of 'potential risk' of toxic algal bloom as senate inquiry begins

The Guardian, Other, 09/09/2025, Tory Shepherd

South Australians living with asthma or other types of respiratory illness have been warned of a "potential risk" posed by a toxic algal bloom dominating the state's coastline at a senate committee inquiry into the natural disaster. The senate committee had its first public hearing on Tuesday, and heard there were now toxins in the bloom that could exacerbate asthma; that very little was known about the species in the bloom, and that even its cause was not fully understood.

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South Australian beaches to remain open for summer despite toxic algal bloom

9News, Other, 09/09/2025, Gus Macdonald

Health experts say South Australia's beaches will remain open this summer despite an algal bloom crisis plaguing much of the state's coastline. However, a change in health advice came under close scrutiny today as a swarm of senators arrived in Adelaide for a federal inquiry into the disaster.

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'Concerning': Low levels of contraception alongside GLP-1 use

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/09/2025, John Smith

Off-label use of GLP-1s among women of reproductive age has skyrocketed since 2020, with researchers concerned about its potential impact on unintended pregnancies. Community pharmacists have an opportunity to counsel women of childbearing age using GLP-1 receptor agonists about appropriate contraceptive methods, in light of findings about low contraception coverage in this group, say researchers.

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WA's smoking success story threatened by vapes

Medical Forum, Other, 09/09/2025, Cathy O'Leary

Western Australia has long been recognised as a world-leader in tobacco control, adding its own weight to efforts at a national level to stub out smoking. Its playlist has included graphic public education campaigns showing surgical removal of a smoker's larynx, backed up by law reforms that have progressively restricted how cigarettes can be advertised, sold and used.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 09/09/2025, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings

Weight loss injectables like Ozempic are being linked to a rise in unplanned pregnancies, with some users reporting reduced effectiveness of contraceptive pills. A study found 2% of women on these medications became pregnant within six months, rising to 4% among those aged 25 to 34, while Monash Health confirmed at least a dozen pregnancies in the past year.

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3AW, Breakfast, 09/09/2025, Ross Stevenson & Russel Howcroft

Interview with RANZCOG President-Elect Dr. Nisha Khot about the impact of weight loss injections like Ozempic on oral contraceptives. Khot explains that these drugs slow stomach emptying, which may reduce the absorption and effectiveness of the pill, while weight loss itself can also improve fertility. She stresses the importance of reliable contraception while using these medications.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 09/09/2025, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Women's Health Matters CEO Lauren Anthes about the Health and Wellbeing Survey in Canberra. Anthes discusses sustained concerns around affordability of services, high rates of psychological distress, and women feeling their symptoms are not taken seriously by healthcare providers. She also notes unmet needs in treatment for conditions like endometriosis, PCOS, and menopause, despite recent investments.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Community club's helping hand

Northern Territory News, General News, 10/09/2025, Nathaniel Chambers & Thomas McLean, Page 1

The Humpty Dumpty Foundation has praised the Darwin Brothers Rugby League Club for the continued support of its members and supporters. [...] Club president John Adams said the club had always sought to do its part for the community by supporting causes, including Breast Cancer NT.

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'Low levels of satisfaction' with healthcare in Canberra for endometriosis, menopause, identified in Women's Health Matters survey

ABC Online, Other, 09/09/2025, Rosie King

A survey of women in Canberra about the state of their health and wellbeing has revealed large gaps in access and affordability, as well as the staggering statistic that almost half of respondents felt doctors didn't take them seriously. Megan Phipps isn't even the slightest bit surprised.

[Read More](#)

Be asthma ready this spring

Shepparton News Online, Other, 09/09/2025, Ryan Bellingham

While the changing of seasons may come as a relief for many, the warmer conditions bring an increased risk of asthma flare-ups. Consequently, Ambulance Victoria is urging those with the condition to update their asthma action plans with the arrival of spring.

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Millions of Aussies warned of health condition triggered by wild weather: 'Unusually high'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 09/09/2025, Joe Attanasio

Australians are being urged to take extra health precautions in the coming weeks, with wetter soil, greener pastures, and forecasts of above-average spring rainfall creating ripe conditions for seasonal health events including "thunderstorm asthma". The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting a wetter-than-usual spring for most of Australia, a shift that's likely to drive up grass pollen levels and other allergens compared with drier seasons.

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Early detection key to pulmonary fibrosis

A dry cough or shortness of breath can often be taken as a sign of ageing, or asthma. However, a simple CT scan might reveal a more sinister cause – one that, if found early, can make a life-saving difference.

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More than four in 10 diabetes cases undiagnosed: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 09/09/2025, Jolyon Attwooll

Substantial regional differences have been found in diabetes diagnosis rates. A study appearing this week in The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology journal suggests more than four in 10 diabetes cases globally are going undiagnosed.

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PoCT: empowering early diagnosis and care

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/09/2025, Keely Paul, Page 37

Community pharmacies are rapidly evolving into front-line healthcare hubs. As access to general practice becomes more limited and patient expectations shift towards immediacy and convenience, the 'test and treat' model supported by point-of-care testing (PoCT) is transforming how Australians manage their health.

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6PR, Drive, 09/09/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with USANZ president Damien Bolton about rising prostate cancer rates in younger men. Bolton discusses the nearly seven-fold increase in diagnoses among men aged 40 to 49 over the past two decades, noting the disease is often more aggressive in younger patients. He highlights upcoming guidelines recommending PSA testing from the early 40s to improve early detection and survival outcomes.

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6PR, Drive, 09/09/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Heart and Lung Research Institute of WA chair Dr. Warren Pavey about the Institute's work and the upcoming Breaths and Beats Ride. Pavey discusses the Institute's focus on advanced heart and lung disease, transplant patients, and medical research advancements such as less invasive valve replacement surgery. He also highlights the fundraising ride in Perth, noting that all proceeds go directly to research supporting WA patients.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Boost for cop calls

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/09/2025, Danielle Gusmaroli, Page 16

A pilot service where police and health experts tackle mental health call-outs in peak times across swathes of Sydney could be rolled out across the state to free up officers to concentrate on crime if a recommendation of a review of operations is adopted. As part of an internal NSW police and government review, the current PACER system trialling in the Northern Beaches, St George, Sutherland Shire, Blacktown, Eastern Beaches, Ku-ring-gai and the metro areas of Kings Cross, Surry Hills, City of Sydney, South Sydney and Bankstown, could become a statewide initiative to free up police and deescalate violence on mental health call-outs.

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Camp fear

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/09/2025, Shashi Baltutis, Page 1

Anxious kids around the country are either refusing to attend school camp or are calling their parents, pleading with them to pick them up early. It is also becoming increasingly difficult to persuade parents to let their children attend camps, as many of them no longer see them as vital for personal development.

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Suicide veterans 'sought help'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/09/2025, Adella Beaini, Page 6

Shocking new data has revealed that nearly 90 per cent of veterans who died by suicide had sought help in the year before their deaths. Between 1997 and 2023, 1840 serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members died by suicide, according to new figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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

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Kids must not hurt from sting in Covid's tail

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 10/09/2025, Page 18

The onerous Covid-19 lockdowns are, thankfully, fading into a distant memory, but they are leaving a terrible legacy for young people. The Advertiser's Lockdown Kids series in March revealed that more than 40 per cent of youth were battling significant mental health concerns, while almost half a million were failing to attend school full-time.

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Let veterans know that they are loved

Courier Mail, Editorials, 10/09/2025, Page 20

One year after the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide handed down its final report, the issue is still a dark stain on this nation. As Veterans Affairs and Defence Personnel Minister Matt Keogh noted in a column in The CourierMail yesterday, the government is acting on the recommendations of the royal commission, has established a new oversight body and is working on ways to improve ADF culture.

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

Just 'being there' could help save someone's life

Courier Mail, General News, 10/09/2025, Bronwen Edwards, Page 21

Over the last 14 years I have had the privilege of working with and hearing the stories of hundreds of people with lived experience of suicide. There are a number of recurring themes the incredible strength and courage that underpins every story, the myriad of causes of distress that lead people to consider suicide, the lasting impact on people left behind, and the determination of those supporting loved ones in crisis.

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Ex-ADF rate of suicide is 'a tragedy'

West Australian, General News, 10/09/2025, Caitlin Vinci, Page 8

Veterans Affairs Minister Matt Keogh has described the suicide rate among Australian Defence Force veterans as "tragic", after figures revealed it is still the leading cause of death for ex-servicemen and women under 30. The sobering data, released on Monday by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, comes one year after the royal commission into defence and veteran suicide made 122 recommendations aimed at tackling the crisis.

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

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

Veterans still in need of vital support

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/09/2025, Elise Kaine, Page 8

Veterans continue to be over-represented in suicide, poor mental health and homelessness statistics. A

year out from the handing down of the final report from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, stakeholders in Tasmania want more to be done.

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Yes, a few kind words can hope to save a life

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/09/2025, Dr Michael Kelly And Christina Medhurst, Page 16

At the core of our work in suicide prevention is hope, writes Dr Michael Kelly and Christina Medhurst Today, people across the globe will pause for World Suicide Prevention Day.

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Veteran suicide rate falls

Newcastle Herald, General News, 10/09/2025, Andrew Brown, Page 11

The annual veteran suicide rate is at its lowest level in a decade, as the Commonwealth spruiks new measures to support defence force members following a royal commission. A report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showed there were 73 suicide deaths of current and former defence force members in 2023, according to preliminary data.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Age assurance technology needed to protect teens from AI chatbots

Australian Financial Review, Other, 09/09/2025, Emma McGrath-Cohen

The same software needed to implement the under-16 social media ban will be required to enforce the eSafety Commissioner's new industry-backed online safety codes.

[Read More](#)

Grandmother's urgent plea for regional areas after losing granddaughter to bullying

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/09/2025, Cydonee Mardon

A grandmother reeling the death of her 13-year-old granddaughter has issued a desperate plea after six more teens have committed suicide because of bullying. Corrine Lee Cheu ended her life in September 2023. She was "pushed around in the playground, told to kill herself and called an ugly rat to her face and online" her grandma said.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Crackdown on 'lawful but awful' content to protect kids

West Australian, Other, 09/09/2025, Zac da Silva

Australians using some artificial intelligence chatbots will need to prove their age from March next year in a bid to reduce children's access to confronting or sexual content online. [...] The eSafety Commissioner is also hoping to limit children's exposure to chatbots which have, in some cases, encouraged self-harm or suicidal thoughts.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Wounded Heroes Australia expands into Townsville with second veteran centre

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 09/09/2025, Leighton Smith

A national charity providing 24/7 crisis support to veterans has received strong support from the Townsville community. Wounded Heroes has opened Australia's second veteran centre concept store – combining an op shop and cafe to raise much-needed funds.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern](#)

WA gun laws in the firing line as Parliamentary Committee hearings kick off

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 09/09/2025, Georgia Campion

WA's contentious new gun laws are in the firing line as public hearings on the "flawed" legislation begin this week — with farmers, police, conservationists, and mental health advocates lining up to raise serious concerns. The bipartisan parliamentary committee examining the Firearms Act 2024 will hold eight closed-door hearings from September 10-22 amid a growing backlash over strict new licensing rules, mental health checks, and firearms limits many say will devastate rural communities and undermine pest control efforts.

[Read More](#)

Advanz agrees to PI/CMI changes

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/09/2025

Advanz Pharma, sponsor for antidepressants Tofranil and Parnate, has agreed to update its consumer medicines information (CMI) and product information (PI) documents to better reflect current best practice - the first pharma to do so. TaperMate app founder Alicia Martin revealed the news in a LinkedIn post, and is also asking other pharmas to include information on current evidence about risk of withdrawal and the need for tapering, and to remove references to the outdated chemical imbalance theory.

[Read More](#)

The changing landscape of ADHD in Australia

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 09/09/2025, John Kramer

The need for greater access to care for those with the disorder is finally being recognised, says Associate Professor John Kramer. Several additions to the 'ADHD toolkit' have helped improve diagnosis and management for Australian GPs, according to expert Associate Professor John Kramer.

[Read More](#)

Building connections starts with us

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/09/2025, Jenny Kirschner, Page 8

Loneliness isn't just a feeling. It's a growing public health issue. One in three Australians reports feeling lonely, and for many patients, the only regular conversation they have is with their local pharmacist.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 09/09/2025, Natalie Forrest

New data shows 73 serving and former Australian Defence Force members died by suicide in 2023, with more than 1,800 deaths recorded since 1997. The release comes a year after the Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide, with the government pledging to implement most of its 122 recommendations next year, including a new wellbeing agency.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 09/09/2025, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Minister for Veterans Affairs and Defence Personnel Matt Keogh about veteran suicide. Keogh discusses the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, saying the government has committed to most of its 122 recommendations, including establishing an oversight body and a new wellbeing agency. He says suicide rates are beginning to fall but remain too high, particularly among those who leave Defence involuntarily.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 09/09/2025

A new report has found most Australian veterans who died by suicide had accessed health services in

the year prior to their death. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found 86% had used services, with one third receiving mental health care as their last type of treatment. A Department of Veteran Affairs spokesperson says the findings will help shape future policy and programs.

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IMMUNISATION

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

APC welcomes NSW full-scope training

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/09/2025

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has applauded the announcement from NSW Premier Chris Minns that the University of Technology Sydney and University of Newcastle are aiming to offer full-scope training for community pharmacists from 2026 (PD 05 Sep). "We welcome and fully support the initiative to embed Pharmacist Prescriber programs across universities, enabling accessible, people-centred care," said CEO Bronwyn Clark.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 09/09/2025, Rory McClaren

Interview with Australian Red Cross Lifeblood spokesperson Emily Granland about the current blood shortage. Granland discusses record hospital demand, high winter cancellations, and low donor bookings, saying an extra 12,500 donations are needed nationally this week. She stresses that only 3% of Australians donate and urges people to roll up their sleeves, noting blood can help patients within 48 hours.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Best diet for chronic pain

Courier Mail, General News, 10/09/2025, Page 11

New research from the University of South Australia shows that eating nutritious food is about far more than ticking off the five food groups it can also significantly reduce chronic pain. In a weight-loss study of 104 Australian overweight or obese adults, researchers found that people who improved their diet quality over a three-month period reported far less joint and muscle pain, with the benefits not explained by weight lost.

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

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

Healthy diet can drain pain

West Australian, General News, 10/09/2025, Page 12

Research from the University of South Australia shows that eating nutritious food is about more than ticking off the five food groups it can also significantly reduce chronic pain. In a weight-loss study of 104 Australian adults living with overweight or obesity, researchers found that people who improved their diet quality over a three-month period reported far less joint and muscle pain, with the benefits not simply explained by weight lost.

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\$250 billion in assets is the way of the Future

West Australian, Business News, 10/09/2025, Jacob Shteyman, Page 21

Australia's Future Fund has smashed its investment target, delivering a 12.2 per cent return to send the nation's sovereign wealth fund above \$250 billion for the first time. [...] The fund also manages several subsidiary funds including the Medical Research Future Fund valued at \$24.5b, the \$10.9b Housing Australia Future Fund, the \$17.7b DisabilityCare Australia Fund and the \$4.9b Disaster Ready Fund.

Also reported by: [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#).

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Researchers reveal milk-based solution to plastic waste crisis

The Australian, Other, 10/09/2025, Bimini Plessner

Researchers have developed a milk-based film that could replace single-use plastic food packaging and breaks down in just 13 weeks. Biodegradable plastics made from milk-based nanofibres could be the future of single-use packaging and a key step towards lowering pollution rates, researchers say.

[Read More](#)

3D-printing glue gun offers hope for mending broken bones

The New Daily, Other, 09/09/2025, Velentina Boulter

A bone repair solution that could reduce surgery times might soon find its way onto the operating table, with researchers testing out a 3D-printing glue gun on rabbit bone fractures in a study published in the journal Device They showed the glue gun device can print bone grafts directly onto fractures and breaks during surgery by designing the graft on the spot.

[Read More](#)

Broad-spectrum antibiotic prescribing to kids falling 15% a year: Aussie study

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/09/2025, Antony Scholefield

Australian antibiotic prescribing for children is smashing WHO targets, researchers say. Doctors' prescribing of antibiotics to children, especially broad-spectrum antibiotics, has shrunk significantly over 10 years based on PBS data, Australian researchers say.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

New Palmerston Katanning office provides access to crucial resources for mental health, drug & alcohol issues

West Australian, Other, 09/09/2025, Hannah Whitehead

The official opening of Palmerston's Katanning office will provide accessible and fundamental services for residents struggling with substance abuse, violence, homelessness and mental health issues.

Minister for the Great Southern Reece Whitby, WA Nationals deputy leader Peter Rundle, Palmerston staff, community members and funding partners gathered for the ribbon cutting, tour and lunch at the newly refurbished building on Friday.

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

[Read More](#)

Victorian Treaty bill hailed as historic while Coalition warns of 'unanswered questions'

National Indigenous Times, Other, 09/09/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Despite broad support among Victorian Traditional Owners, the Opposition's shadow minister for Indigenous Australians, Kerryne Liddle, says there are "many unanswered questions with respect to Treaty". [...] Gellung Warl will include a truth-telling body, Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna ("sitting and

listening" in Wamba Wemba), and an accountability body, Nginma Ngainga Wara ("you will do" in Wadi Wadi), which will hold the state accountable for progress on Closing the Gap targets in health, education and economic outcomes.

Also reported by: [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Aboriginal professor to study Indigenous genomics data gap with support of ARC funding

National Indigenous Times, Other, 09/09/2025, Callan Morse

An Indigenous professor at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) has been awarded \$1.59 million from the Australian Research Council to conduct genomic research among First Nations Australians. Professor Maree Toombs, a Euralayie/Kooma woman from north-west NSW and Deputy Dean Indigenous at UNSW Medicine & Health, will use the allocation to address a 60-year research gap in blood group genetics in relation to Indigenous peoples.

[Read More](#)

Why amplifying the student voice matters

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/09/2025, Page 20

This Q&A with Australian Pharmacy Council CEO Bronwyn Clark and National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association President Sebastian Harper follows the signing of a memorandum of understanding to formally establish the strong working relationship between the organisations. [...] The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has a long history of student engagement, which is now formalised through its MOU with the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA), the peak representative body for pharmacy students in Australia.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Bed block in emergency departments

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 10/09/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 4

NSW hospitals are being paralysed by bed block, triggering potentially life-threatening delays in treatment for patients in emergency departments, even as thousands are diverted to urgent and virtual care services. New Bureau of Health Information data revealed hospitals are failing wait time targets set by the state government amid record waves of patients needing care.

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Delays as NSW plays catch-up on elective surgeries

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/09/2025, Elizabeth Pike, Page 10

NSW patients are waiting longer than they did last year for elective surgeries, as the health system clears a backlog of overdue operations. On Wednesday, the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) released its quarterly report for April to June that showed patients waited a record high of 343 days on average for surgeries that should be completed within 365 days.

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Lead astray on PCH's water

West Australian, General News, 10/09/2025, Jessica Page & Adrian Rauso, Page 1

The Health Department has confirmed new cases of dangerous amounts of lead in the water at Perth Children's Hospital just five days after it was revealed test results were being kept secret. Health Minister Meredith Hammat said yesterday that new "exceedances" of the toxic metal had been recorded, with five samples at the hospital testing higher than the national safety benchmark.

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

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RPH revamp finally on the horizon

West Australian, General News, 10/09/2025, Jessica Page, Page 7

Labor has set a date for its promised \$104 million revamp of Royal Perth Hospital, as the Premier resists mounting pressure to redirect more funding to health. The West Australian can reveal that construction on the expansion of the emergency department will not start until 2026, despite then health minister Amber-Jade Sanderson promising in February that Labor was ready to "take this to Budget and get it to tender".

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

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Surgeries bounce back in Hunter hospitals

Newcastle Herald, General News, 10/09/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 9

More than 8270 elective surgeries were performed in Hunter New England from April to June, a 19 per cent rise on the same quarter last year. It was the second-highest number of surgeries done in a quarter on record, Bureau of Health Information data showed.

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NSW ambulance ramping figures turning but 'more to do', Minister says

The Australian, Other, 10/09/2025, Blair Jackson

The number of NSW ambulances sitting outside hospitals with patients on-board is improving but there is 'more to do', the Minister says. A half-billion-dollar push to slash hospital waiting times in NSW has begun to flush through the system, with a host of schemes sending patients places other than hospitals to be treated.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care: 'Prevalence of sepsis worse than we thought'

West Australian, Other, 10/09/2025, Hannah Cross

One in seven sepsis cases resulted in a hospital death in 2022-23, according to a new report revealing sepsis is more prevalent and deadly than previously understood. The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care investigated the "sepsis patient journey", when a person is admitted to a public hospital with sepsis in Australia

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

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Illawarra hospital EDs record improvement, but lag behind targets

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 10/09/2025, Natalie Croxon

A greater proportion of patients who have attended Illawarra emergency departments have received treatment on time, but hospitals are lagging significantly behind new targets for the length of stays. A new report from the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) shows more patients at Wollongong Hospital started treatment on time than at any other similar hospital in NSW in the April-June 2025 quarter.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Wage deal falls short

Shepparton News Online, Other, 09/09/2025, Zoe McMaugh

The NSW Government is not doing enough to address nursing shortages in NSW. That is the opinion of Deniliquin NSW Nurses & Midwives Association branch spokesperson Jessica Donaldson, as the NSW Government celebrates striking a three per cent wage increase deal with nurses.

[Read More](#)

NSW nurses accept interim pay offer

Nursing Review, Other, 09/09/2025, Stefanie Schultz

NSW public sector nurses and midwives have voted to accept an interim pay and conditions offer from the NSW government, marking a significant, albeit temporary, step in their ongoing industrial dispute. The agreement provides immediate financial relief and improved work-life balance, while the broader fight for a substantial pay increase continues.

[Read More](#)

QNMU members vote yes to gov't pay offer

Nursing Review, Other, 09/09/2025

Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU) members have overwhelmingly voted to accept the state government's offer of an 11 per cent pay rise. Three-quarters of the union's 57,000 members voted to support the offer and now a final ballot will open to all Queensland Health nurses and midwives for their final say.

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 09/09/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with ANMF SA Branch associate professor Elizabeth Dabars about today's rally outside the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Dabars discusses the union's frustration with the state government over pay and conditions, saying the current offer leaves SA near the bottom nationally and risks worsening workforce shortages. She says rallies will be held across metropolitan and regional hospitals over the next two weeks.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Mike Walsh called to rescue another flailing health system

The Mandarin, Other, 09/09/2025, Dan Holmes

'Mr Payroll Fix-It' is headed to the national capital to chair an inquiry into the pressures and opportunities facing the ACT health system. [...] Walsh will advise the ACT government on improving health data, implementation of the Digital Health Record, and planned care reforms.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

RN prescribing webinar – Be ready for the change

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 09/09/2025, Anmj Staff

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) and Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) will host a webinar later this month on designated registered nurse prescribing to help stakeholders prepare for the landmark change. [...] Government, employers, professional and peak bodies representing registered nurses (RNs) and authorised health practitioners are encouraged to attend the upcoming webinar to learn more about: The role of the NMBA and ANMAC during implementation Planned activities and timelines over the next 12-18 months The application process and when practitioners are expected to apply for the endorsement Accessing support during implementation Guest speakers will include NMBA Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey, ANMAC CEO Tanya Vogt, and Alley Peck, Executive Officer Nursing and Midwifery/Acting Executive Director Corporate Affairs and Regulatory Governance at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra).

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Pill pledge challenge

Cairns Post, General News, 10/09/2025, Samuel Davis, Page 3

A Far North doctor has challenged Premier David Crisafulli's pledge to stop pill testing in Queensland after advocates warned more young people will die without access to the harm-reduction service. [...] The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has called for fixed and mobile pill testing services to be established nationwide following a spate of drug-related deaths and hospitalisations last year.

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Drug war

Cairns Post, General News, 10/09/2025, Page 12

Mass overdose incidents and drug-related deaths are more likely to occur as long as the Queensland government is committed to waging an ideological war on drugs and ignoring the facts. A horrifying series of unintended overdoses, including an incident where nine festivalgoers were hospitalised after consuming a suspected "bad batch" of MDMA, forced the Victorian government to introduce pill testing clinics recently.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Weight loss drugs could impact oral contraceptives

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/09/2025, Freya Parsons, Page 3

Weight loss drugs could impact oral contraceptives, leading to unintended pregnancies among women looking to slim down, experts have found. Medicine watchdog the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and other clinical bodies report that certain antidiabetic medicines could impact the pill.

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

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Channel 9, Nine News, 09/09/2025, Peter Overton

The Therapeutic Goods Administration says weight loss injections like Ozempic and Mounjaro may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives. It follows reports of women falling pregnant while using the drugs, with experts advising extra precautions.

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

Attack on 'shrinkflation'

Herald Sun, General News, 10/09/2025, Page 3

If the size is reduced, shoppers should know Changes could soon be coming to supermarkets across the country after the federal government announced a crackdown on shrinkflation to help Australians "get a better deal at the checkout". [...] "Even in this, there are multiple factors that affect decisions on size of product including health considerations, portion size and cost."

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

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Researchers reveal milk-based solution to plastic waste crisis

The Australian, Other, 10/09/2025, Bimini Plessner

Researchers have developed a milk-based film that could replace single-use plastic food packaging and breaks down in just 13 weeks. Biodegradable plastics made from milk-based nanofibres could be the future of single-use packaging and a key step towards lowering pollution rates, researchers say.

[Read More](#)

The grocery store in a garage which has got a neighbourhood up in arms

Canberra Times, Other, 09/09/2025, Petlee Peter

A grocery store seemingly running from a garage in Wright has its owner and some local residents at loggerheads over the legitimacy of the business and its constant customer traffic on a residential street. [...] However, an ACT government spokesperson said that under the Food Act, any business that handles or sells food in the ACT must apply to the Chief Health Officer for registration, and this includes home-based food businesses.

[Read More](#)

'Weird' supermarket sight baffles Aussies

NEWS.com.au, Other, 09/09/2025, Eleanor Wicklund

A tourist spotted an unusual sight in the vegetable section at a Woolworths store this week and her discovery has left many Aussies confused. [...] Food safety experts note onions are not especially vulnerable once cut, provided they are handled and stored properly.

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AICIS

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