



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 7th October 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review \(page 18\)](#)** reports that new guidance published by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency on Tuesday includes a list of "good telehealth practices", including the recommendation that doctors should first assess a patient in person before writing a prescription, coming the wake of Health Minister Mark Butler asking the medicines regulator in May to consider how to regulate the industry.
- **[Disability Support Guide \(online\)](#)** reports that Federal Health, Aged Care and Disability Minister Mark Butler has said that \$4.4 million in federal funding for disability employment provider Bedford would ensure that jobs and services continue during its sale process, which is expected to take place throughout October.
- **[The Hobart Mercury \(page 1\)](#)** reports that an Older Persons Advocacy Network review found that overwhelmed hospitals are placing elderly patients in hotels while they wait for aged care beds, and some residential facilities are refusing those with mental illness or dementia. While the report also raised concerns about the Federal Government's new Single Assessment System, aimed to simplify access to aged care services, saying contractors lacked training and were providing wrong information.
- **[The Age \(page 6\)](#)** reports that families have expressed concern about the proposed timeline for a new scheme called Thriving Kids that will start replacing NDIS support for thousands of

children in mid 2027, fearing moving to a more standard system of care will create a "one-size-fits-all" approach that will leave children behind.

- **The Australian (page 7)** reports that the 2025 Health of the Nation Report by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has found that patients are increasingly asking their GPs to treat complex health conditions because they can't afford to pay specialists' fees, with GPs saying this has meant that they are seeing patients for longer and that the demands on them are more challenging due to a lack of adequate resources.
- **The Courier Mail (page 17)** reports that a new report has found that nearly one in three GPs had seen racism towards patients in the healthcare system in the past year. while nearly one in five had personally experienced racism from a patient within their practice in the same period and 10 per cent had experienced it from a colleague.
- **The Canberra Times (page 7)** reports that the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners 2025 Health of the National Report. has found that the ACT has only 91 GPs per 100,000 people, compared to a national average of 113, and has the lowest bulk-billing rates in the country.
- **The Age (page 2)** reports that following a review into complaints about podiatric surgeons, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has announced the practitioners will be forced to rebrand as "surgical podiatrists" from October 2026. "The title change does not alter the standard of care provided but will help guide consumer expectations and allow for informed decision-making," Podiatry Board of Australia chair Kristy Robson said.

MINISTER BUTLER

Telehealth advice challenges online scripts

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 07/10/2025, Amelia McGuire, Page 18

New guidelines from the pharmaceutical regulator say telehealth doctors should first prescribe medication after an in-person consultation, dealing a blow to online health service providers including Wesfarmers-owned InstantScripts and Woolworths-backed [...]

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

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NDIS reforms raise alarm bells for families with children on the spectrum

Region Riverina, Other, 06/10/2025, Noah Beltrame

The recent Federal Government announcement on reform to disability support for children on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has sparked grave concerns about the future of care for autism in Australia. Federal Minister for Disability Mark Butler says his government is introducing a new program called 'Thriving Kids', which focuses on transitioning children with mild and moderate autism away from the NDIS.

[Read More](#)

Urgent Care clinic revival

The SE Voice, Other, 07/10/2025

Mount Gambier's Medicare Urgent Care Clinic is set to reopen under new management, and in a new location – however no date has been identified for the new clinic to open its doors. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the appointment followed a competitive tender process.

[Read More](#)

AusBiotech welcomes \$13.6 million investment to strengthen clinical trials

Biotech Dispatch, Other, 06/10/2025

AusBiotech has welcomed the Albanese Government's announcement of a \$13.6 million investment to advance national health and medical research reforms and further strengthen Australia's clinical trials

ecosystem. The funding, announced by Health Minister Mark Butler, will support the design of the National One Stop Shop (NOSS) for clinical trials, the development of national standard operating procedures, the implementation of the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework, and the creation of an accreditation scheme for human research ethics committees.

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Federal funding keeps Bedford afloat as buyer search continues

Disability Support Guide, Other, 06/10/2025

Disability employment provider Bedford has secured \$4.4 million in federal funding to keep its doors open while a buyer is found, safeguarding 1,500 supported jobs in South Australia amid ongoing financial uncertainty. One of Australia's largest disability employment providers, Bedford, has received an additional \$4. [...] Federal Health, Aged Care and Disability Minister Mark Butler said the latest funding would ensure that jobs and services continue during the sale process, which is expected to take place throughout October.

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States and feds go toe-to-toe over hospital funding

HealthTimes, Other, 06/10/2025

Angry state premiers from both sides of politics have accused the federal government of driving up pressure on the hospital system by failing to properly fund the aged care sector. The states have also taken the Commonwealth to task for what they say is a shortfall in health funding worth tens of billions of dollars, warning the lack of spending could mean Australians miss out on crucial hospital services. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler promised to cover 42.5 per cent of the running costs by 2030 and 45 per cent by 2035, with the states to pick up the rest.

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States say funding shortfall puts hospital care at risk

HealthTimes, Other, 06/10/2025

Battlelines are being drawn in a fight between states and the federal government over who should pay for health and disability services. In a blistering statement, state and territory health ministers claim Commonwealth funding is falling tens of billions of dollars short of what is needed. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler promised to cover 42.5 per cent of the running costs by 2030 and 45 per cent by 2035, with the states to pick up the rest.

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ABC NewsRadio, Mornings, 06/10/2025, Chris Mitchell

Earlier this year, federal, state and territory health ministers agreed to prioritise delivering more psychosocial supports and Federal Minister Mark Butler said a focus is adults with serious psychosocial disability who are outside the NDIS. We think this would be a great idea because it would provide much needed support for people who currently don't get it.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

Care staff take home more

Cap Coast Today, General News, 04/10/2025, Grace Crivellaro, Page 48

Aged care workers will receive more money in their pocket, with a fourth pay rise in three years set to take effect. Wednesday's increase means a level two registered nurse, which is the most common level, will receive an extra \$60.20 a week, with enrolled nurses to earn an additional \$62.20 a week. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae thanked those in the sector for helping others live "dignified and joyful lives".

Also reported by: [Emerald Today \(Emerald\)](#).

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The Zap: the latest health and aged care news, plus key consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 06/10/2025, Melissa Sweet

Calls for action on a variety of fronts feature in The Zap this week, including for a national action plan to address ageism, to improve the national breast cancer screening program, and to protect doctors and healthcare workers from escalating violence and aggression in medical settings. [...] Ministers and government Aged Care Minister Sam Rae issued a statement titled ' Australian Government progressing a national worker registration scheme for aged care workers ' – a strong contender for the "most pointless media release of the year" award.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

China's Primavera Capital tests market for \$500m Vitaco sale

The Australian, Business News, 07/10/2025, Bridget Carter, Page 14

Primavera Capital is understood to be starting to sound out potential buyers for its Australian and New Zealand vitamin manufacturing business Vitaco. Vitaco provides sports nutrition, supplements and health food products across Australia and New Zealand under the brands Musashi, Healtheries, Nutra-Life and Athena.

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Aged care hotel crisis

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/10/2025, Julie Cross, Page 1

Elderly people are being put up in hotels by overburdened hospitals and are being chased by debt collectors, in alarming signs that the aged care system is in crisis. [...] A spokesman for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said the federal government was working with the states and territories to identify region-specific solutions in relation to older people waiting in hospitals, which were "numerous and complex".

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Aged care system crisis

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 07/10/2025, Page 14

The latest revelations from the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) paint a deeply troubling picture of Australia's aged care system. Elderly Australians, some of our most vulnerable citizens, are being shunted into hotels by overstretched hospitals and pursued by debt collectors because there is simply nowhere else for them to go.

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Federal Treasurer urged to get his 'skates on' regarding promised cash mandate

6PR, Other, 06/10/2025, Oliver Peterson

National Seniors Australia is urging the Federal Treasurer to get his "skates on" in regards to the cash mandate due January 1 2026.

[Read More](#)

Older Territorians say they still feel unsafe as residents' homes targeted by armed thugs

ABC Online, Other, 06/10/2025, Jason Walls

Trevor Miller was asleep when two young teenagers broke into his home in April and dragged him from his bed by the hair. "I fought back as best I could, that's when the bedroom wall got damaged," he says.

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Hospital nurses claim toxic workplace culture hiding patient risks

HelloCare, Other, 06/10/2025, Jakob Neeland

Nurses across Queensland say they are being silenced from speaking out about dangerous hospital conditions, with some fearing reprisals if they raise patient safety concerns. Reports from Bundaberg and Toowoomba hospitals paint a troubling picture of overcrowded wards, misdiagnoses and patients left waiting so long for treatment that they walk out and seek help elsewhere.

[Read More](#)

Abuse of seniors with cognitive impairment continues to rise

Your Life Choices, Other, 06/10/2025, Abigail Abrugar

When trust becomes a weapon, the consequences can be devastating. Across Australia, senior people living with dementia and cognitive impairment are falling victim to financial abuse by the very people they should be able to rely on.

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Families worried over NDIS revamp

Age, General News, 07/10/2025, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 6

Health department officials say the \$46 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme has distorted the spread of allied health workers, the prices they charge for services and the time families are forced to wait for support, as work gets under way on a new disability system for thousands of children. But most affected families say they're worried about the timeline to roll out the scheme, which will be called Thriving Kids, and will start replacing NDIS support in mid2027, and they fear moving to a more standard system of care will create a "one-size-fits-all" approach that leaves their child behind.

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One-third of West Aussies rent. They deserve basic protections

West Australian, General News, 07/10/2025, Alice Pennycott, Page 32

You probably didn't know that Monday was International Tenants' Day. Maybe you've never even heard of it, and who could blame you?

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Move to boost psychosocial disability support

ABC Online, Other, 06/10/2025, Isabel Moussalli

After the federal government announced a shakeup of the support system for autistic kids, it's now turning its attention to psychosocial disabilities. That's a disability arising from a mental health condition.

[Read More](#)

Supporting every child's start: new framework guides early childhood intervention

Disability Support Guide, Other, 06/10/2025

The National Best Practice Framework for Early Childhood Intervention sets a national standard for supporting children with developmental delay or disability, outlining eight guiding principles and five key areas of practice for families and professionals. Families, educators and practitioners working with young children who have developmental delay or disability now have a new national guide to help them provide the right support, at the right time.

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PRIMARY CARE

Patients abandon specialists

The Australian, General News, 07/10/2025, Page 7

Patients are asking their GPs to treat complex health conditions because they can't afford to pay specialists' fees, according to a new report looking at the state of general practice. As a result, GPs say they are seeing patients for longer and the demands on them are more challenging because they do not have adequate resources to cope with the changing dynamic.

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AI uptake sparks new guidance for telehealth services

The Australian, General News, 07/10/2025, Page 7

Doctors and nurses working for telehealth companies must ensure patients who use a chatbot or AI to talk about their care know they are not talking to a health professional, the medical regulator has warned in updated guidelines. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority has updated its advice amid concerns some companies and their health practitioners are not following the rules set out in existing guidelines, especially regarding companies reliant on text, email, online questionnaires and AI to assess a patient's medical needs.

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

Sydney clinic helping most vulnerable can't find a GP

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/10/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 4

There's a new clinic on a quiet Sydney street, fully equipped, with dedicated staff and pristine consulting rooms up the road from a major hospital. The trouble is, it can't find a GP to work there.

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

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Overrun, racism in shock GP study

Courier Mail, General News, 07/10/2025, Isabella Pesch, Page 17

Nearly three-quarters of GPs are shouldering cases typically treated in "overrun" emergency departments or urgent care clinics, as a national peak body calls for federal change to target "systemic" racism felt across the healthcare sector. The alarming data is part of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' annual Health of the Nation report, with more people putting off GP visits due to cost, increasing from 7 per cent to 8.8 per cent between 2022/23 and 2023/24.

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

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Zoning change proposed for inner-south health centre

Canberra Times, General News, 07/10/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 4

The public can now view and give feedback on a proposal for an inner-south health centre. It is one of four new health centres for the ACT.

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Fewer GPs in the ACT than any other state or territory

Canberra Times, General News, 07/10/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 7

Gowrie mum Kailah Willcocks did extensive research before finding a general practitioner for her three-year-old son. She chose Dr Khalil Obeid at Greenway Medical Centre because he bulk-bills and specialises in children's health.

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Prognosis not so great for overworked general practitioners in WA

West Australian, General News, 07/10/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 5

WA has the smallest GP workforce of any State as doctors treat patients with increasingly complex conditions. The Royal College of General Practitioners' Health of the Nation report revealed the number of doctors per 100,000 people in WA has fallen for the fourth consecutive year, with just 97 full-time equivalent GPs per 100,000 in 2024.

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Two new sites confirmed

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 07/10/2025, Clemency McRae, Page 1

Illawarra front-line emergency care is set to improve as two new purpose-built ambulance stations sites have been confirmed in Warilla and Unanderra. The stations will contribute to the NSW government's \$615.5 million NSW Ambulance Infrastructure Program and assist local paramedics in serving these high priority communities.

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Build the Base calls for ministerial meeting

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 07/10/2025, Lochlainn Heley, Page 3

Members of the Build the Base campaign have requested a meeting with State Minister for health Mary-Anne Thomas to push the Victorian State Government to progress with the redevelopment of the Mildura Base Public hospital. President of the BTB campaign Ali Cupper wrote to Ms Thomas last

Friday to organise an in-person meeting at Spring Street, following months of garnering support through local petitions.

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National health funding stoush puts ACT hospitals under pressure

ABC Online, Other, 06/10/2025, Ian Cutmore

The national stand-off between the states and the federal government over hospital funding is adding fresh pressure in the ACT. Health now makes up more than a third of the territory's budget, with aging patients and blocked hospital beds straining the system.

[Read More](#)

New report from GP peak body reveals racism a major issue in healthcare

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/10/2025, Giovanni Torre

Almost one third of GPs witnessed racism towards patients in the health system in the past year, according to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' 2025 Health of the Nation report. The nationwide survey of more than 2,400 RACGP members also found that around two in 10 GPs personally experienced racism from a patient within their practice during that time, while one in 10 personally experienced racism from a colleague.

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'Truly invaluable' impact of GP trainee grants

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 06/10/2025

Doctors have spoken about the help provided by Victoria's pioneering grants program for GPs-in-training, with a similar Federal initiative now also confirmed. A number of doctors have said the grants encouraged them into a career in general practice.

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Racism a major issue in healthcare: RACGP Health of the Nation

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 06/10/2025

Almost one third of GPs witnessed racism towards patients in the health system in the past year, according to the RACGP's 2025 Health of the Nation report.

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A need to 'uplift entire workforce, not just early adopters'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 06/10/2025

An upcoming conference will see GP experts promoting the benefits of a connected and 'digitally capable' primary care workforce. Digital health is becoming increasingly embedded in clinical practice and system-wide reform, but levels of capability within Australia's primary healthcare workforce remain uneven, holding back opportunities to reap the benefits digital health technologies can bring.

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From audit to action: why Australia must fund real-time registries

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/10/2025

Clinical quality registries have never been more important, yet the question is whether they are breaking barriers or reinforcing silos. Access and affordability remain the two biggest challenges in Australian healthcare.

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Conflict at the counter: When pharmacists' and patients' values collide

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 06/10/2025

Imagine walking into your pharmacy, handing over your prescription and having it denied. Now imagine that the reason is not insufficient insurance coverage or the wrong dose, but a pharmacist who personally objects to your medication.

POPULATION HEALTH

Crusade for assisted dying laws

Northern Territory News, General News, 07/10/2025, Fia Walsh, Page 4

Broadcaster Andrew Denton has called on the Northern Territory government to legalise voluntary assisted dying, sharing the personal heartbreak that led him to become an advocate for end-of-life choices. Mr Denton told Darwin audiences "a dark secret" he discovered after his father's death was the way in which many terminally ill Australians were "often dying in brutal, cruel ways within our health system".

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

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Is 'the male loneliness epidemic' real?

ABC Online, Other, 06/10/2025, Pip Rasmussen and Dee Salmin

The conversation around men feeling lonely has become a lightning rod for social, political and cultural weigh-ins by everyone - but how do guys actually feel about their loneliness? We asked you to cut through the noise to give your honest experiences of loneliness and male friendship, and we investigate the research to find out if this can even be called an 'epidemic'.

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Decades-old 'conversion therapy' resurfaces in today's trans youth healthcare debate

ABC Online, Other, 06/10/2025, Mon Schafter

When Jayne McFadyen was ten years old, she was admitted to a state-run psychiatric hospital in Perth. Her "condition," as doctors described it, was that she wanted to be a girl.

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Women's heart attack care improving but not fast enough, researchers say

ABC Online, Other, 06/10/2025, Olivia Willis

Australian women having a heart attack are less likely to be promptly diagnosed and treated compared to men, although the gender gap in cardiac care is narrowing. A new study, led by researchers at the University of Sydney and published in the Medical Journal of Australia, analysed hospital records and heart attack outcomes in almost 30,000 people in NSW over nine years.

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Advancing equity: the urgent need to include trans and gender diverse people in cervical cancer prevention in Australia

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 06/10/2025

The right to safe, equitable, and timely health care is recognised as a fundamental human right. Despite this, trans and gender diverse people face significant barriers to accessing safe, appropriate, and inclusive health care tailored to their specific needs, including cancer prevention and follow-up services.

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Antenatal visits key to reducing smoking, alcohol in pregnancy

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 06/10/2025

Women who have less than two antenatal visits are 15 times more likely to drink alcohol later in pregnancy, a study found. The highest rates of smoking in early and late pregnancy are among women

who do not receive any antenatal care.

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Study shows gender disparity in heart attack treatment

ABC Online, Other, 06/10/2025

Australian women having a heart attack are less likely to be promptly diagnosed and treated compared to men, although the gender gap in cardiac care is narrowing. A new study, led by researchers at the University of Sydney and published in the Medical Journal of Australia, analysed hospital records and heart attack outcomes in almost 30,000 people in NSW over nine years.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Dancers put best foot forward in cancer fight

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/10/2025, Molly Appleton, Page 5

Supporting people with cancer is personal for Sharon Shirley. The founder of Tassie Dancers Against Cancer has witnessed first-hand its impact after losing three people close to her her mother, a young dancer and a staff member to cancer. The charity is hosting Dancer Fest Gala Showcase to raise money for Cancer Council Tasmania.

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Health in good hands

West Australian, General News, 07/10/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 9

Meet the bright minds breaking ground for sick kids thanks to Telethon Three of the brightest minds in paediatrics will embark on research projects over the next year in a bid to improve children's healthcare from hospital to home.

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Baby dummies in toxic chemical warnings

West Australian, Business News, 07/10/2025, Page 16

A range of baby dummies has been pulled from shelves because they contain a toxic ingredient that could lead to long-term health problems. The recalled Curaprox Australia baby soothers are available in three colours and sizes, including blister packs and cellophane packs in blue, pink and turquoise in size zero, one and two.

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Goondiwindi man's loving tribute to wife

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 07/10/2025, Bella Munro, Page 7

A man was met with a few strange looks as he ran through Toowoomba's main street dressed in a bright pink hospital gown and pushing a wheelbarrow, but as he ran 40km there was just one thing on his mind. His wife.

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The role of GLP-1 receptor agonists in the management of obesity: risks and opportunities for the Australian health care system

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 06/10/2025

The recent perspective by Kanellis and colleagues 1 describes important tensions arising between health outcomes, funding and equity of access in the context of glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) in Australia. People with significant mental illness are a population of particular importance in this regard.

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Aussie woman participates in new breast cancer trial after shock holiday discovery

NEWS.com.au, Other, 06/10/2025, Brielle Burns

Wendy Rolls was on a holiday when she noticed a lump on her body. After a string of clear and inconclusive tests, she was handed a "shock" diagnosis.

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NCCN Guidelines Navigator for Breast Cancer Genetic Testing and Treatment Debuts During Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Border Mail, Other, 07/10/2025

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network expands interactive library of evidence-based, expert consensus-driven cancer care guidance to now cover treatment for more than a dozen cancer types, along with hereditary risk assessment, featuring seamless integration with additional resources.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 06/10/2025, Bridget Brennan and James Glenday

Hundreds of women are dying each year from preventable heart disease because of misdiagnosis. A University of Sydney study reviewed the hospital records of nearly 30,000 adult patients who experienced the most severe form of heart attack over a nine-year period. It found women were 16% less likely than men to receive life-saving treatment.

Also reported by: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 06/10/2025, Peter Overton

New research from the University of Sydney shows women are up to 16% less likely than men to receive lifesaving care after a heart attack. The study also reveals women are more likely to die within 12 months, and 20% of those deaths are preventable if the treatment gap were closed.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 06/10/2025, Virginia Langeberg

New research from the University of Sydney reveals women are less likely than men to receive timely, lifesaving care after a heart attack. The study, which covered almost 30,000 NSW patients over nine years, found that outdated perceptions are partly to blame, as heart disease is largely associated with men. Academic Director of the Westmead Applied Research Centre at the University of Sydney, Prof Clara Chow, says women present different symptoms that lead to delayed diagnosis.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Labor lauded him a hero five years ago. Now McCann fears he's 'a pawn'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/10/2025, Michael McGowan, Page 4

Five years ago Chris McCann, the former general manager of compliance at icare, stepped out of the shadows and into a firestorm surrounding the state insurer. McCann had been instrumental in exposing a litany of issues within icare, including cases of dodgy procurement, conflicts of interest over contracts and alleged corruption.

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Sufferers of abuse in ADF can now hope for belief, aid

Former navy chaplain Mel Baker was often at the front line of trauma. She helped soldiers battling with suicidal thoughts, led a funeral service for a sailor who had taken his own life and helped soldiers grieve when they lost friends in battle or to suicide.

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

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How many more private psychiatric hospitals have to close before government acts on mental health crisis?

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/10/2025, Brett Heffernan, Page 16

The irony of acute psychiatric hospitals closing while demand for mental healthcare is exploding in suburbs and towns across the country should not be lost on anyone. Despite private hospitals accounting for 61 per cent of acute psychiatric care, over the past two years 10 private mental health hospitals closed and more closures are looming.

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New 'staff' to make paw-sitive difference

Ballarat Courier, General News, 07/10/2025, Michelle Smith, Page 3

A new breed of support staff is helping patients at Grampians Health remain pawsitive through their hospital stay. A new pet therapy program will bring 10 volunteer handlers and their certified therapy dogs into various departments throughout Ballarat Base Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Centre.

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It's the age of discontent

Border Mail, General News, 07/10/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

Students questioning the need for education has been given as a reason for Wodonga Middle Years College being among the worst schools in Victoria for absenteeism. The two-campus school, for years 7 to 9, had only 29 per cent of students attending at least 90 per cent of the time in 2024, compared to 60 per cent in 2019 and 47 per cent in 2022.

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Caring for son helps mum focus on 'what really matters'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 07/10/2025, Rodney Woods, Page 5

Kathryn McDermott is not just a mum; she is also a carer. The single mother of three cares for her six-year-old son, Kye Bramich, who was diagnosed at the age of two with stage three ASD (autism spectrum disorder) because he is non-verbal and has a global delay due to an intellectual disability.

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Scientific attention turns to the gut's key role in ADHD

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/10/2025, Page 16

ADHD is the most prevalent neurodevelopmental disorder in the world, and boys are more than twice as likely as girls to be diagnosed. Far from being confined to childhood, ADHD remains one of the most common disorders in adults.

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New studies confirm mental mental health benefits of school phone bans

Education Matters, General News, 01/11/2025, Dan King, Page 6

Following wider acceptance of school phone bans and taking 'digital breaks', South Australian experts have produced more evidence of the potential benefits to student wellbeing, mental health outcomes and their overall lived experience. New research by Flinders University and international experts focused on school students' feedback before and after mobile phone bans were introduced in South Australia in June 2023, as well as in-depth follow-up insights from hundreds of students on the mobile phone ban.

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IMMUNISATION

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Funding is dire

Local Government Focus, General News, 01/10/2025, Page 1

Alga has stressed that future-proofing communities for changing climates was now a national priority following the Federal Government's first National Climate Risk Assessment (NCRA) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The Council peak body's president Mayor Matt Burnett said the assessment underscores the importance of supporting councils in protecting communities from the changing climate. The NCRA outlined a sobering but important picture of the ways the changing climate is affecting Australia's health systems, regional areas, infrastructure and the environment.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

The cheap kitchen spices that can prevent dementia, according to experts

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/10/2025, Cassidy Morrison

Researchers have identified simple and cheap ingredients that can help stave off dementia, and some of them may already be in your kitchen cabinet. While early research has suggested that spices like saffron and cumin may support brain health, a study published this month explains the mechanism.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Judge: ATO officer lied in fraud case

Australian Financial Review, General News, 07/10/2025, Emma McGrath-Cohen, Page 6

The Queensland Supreme Court has ordered the ATO to stop a years-long fraud probe into a medical researcher after ruling a tax officer lied and tampered with evidence during the investigation. In an extraordinary ruling, Justice Paul Smith found the condu...

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Title stripped from podiatric surgeons

Age, General News, 07/10/2025, Charlotte Grieve, Page 2

Podiatric surgeons will be stripped of their title and forced to change the name of their profession after a review found widespread confusion among patients and the wider public about their level of qualification. The national healthcare regulator, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), announced yesterday that podiatric surgeons would be forced to rebrand as "surgical podiatrists" from October 2026 after approval by state and federal health ministers.

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

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It's time to back regional renaissance

Daily Liberal, General News, 07/10/2025, ACM Newsroom, Page 6

Regional Australia feeds and powers the country, dominates our exports and generates almost 40 per cent of national GDP. And research by the Regional Australia Institute (RAI) shows that 40 per cent of city dwellers are considering a move to the regions.

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Minns loses key industrial stoush with salaried state psychiatrists

The Mandarin, Other, 06/10/2025, Julian Bajkowski

Psychiatrists working in the New South Wales public health system have won a long-running dispute with the Minns government after the state's Industrial Relations Commission ruled the salaried mental health practitioners should receive a combined 20% pay increase. After a bruising year of negotiations, the IRC has decided staff specialist psychiatrists across the state will receive a 10% attraction and retention allowance in addition to a 10% abnormal duties allowance, following mass resignations of salaried psychiatrists over pay disparities with other states and the private sector.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Josh pays \$7.50 for this life-changing drug. Soon it could cost \$45K

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/10/2025, Courtney Kruk

Josh High doesn't remember much about the day doctors discovered he had brain cancer. The 28-year-old landscaper from Ipswich went to work in the morning but came home early feeling unwell. [...] Servier Laboratories, the company that manufacturers Voranigo, submitted the drug to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme earlier this year.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

ABC Radio Brisbane, Evenings, 06/10/2025, Kelly Higgins-Devine

In response to the rapid growth in number and type of unapproved medicinal cannabis products, the Therapeutic Goods Administration launched a consultation in August, and that consultation closes tomorrow.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Do plastic poisons in food hurt fertility?

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/10/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 9

The effects of poisons leaching into the female body from plastic food and drink packaging will be investigated in Newcastle. Emerging evidence shows that the "plastic toxicants" known as bisphenols [BPA, BPS and BPF] "pose significant health risks", says Jessie Sutherland, of the University of Newcastle. [...] Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) disputes this.

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Are you eating forever chemicals?

Australian Healthy Food Guide, General News, 01/11/2025, Page 16

'Forever chemicals' have been found in everything from drinking water and biodegradable food packaging to fresh, locally grown vegetables in Australia. So should you be worried?

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