



# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 11th October 2025

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that state and territory governments across Australia are co-ordinating a campaign to pressure the Federal Government to do more for the public hospital system as they grapple with the issue of aged care-related bed block.
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 1) reports that under recently-announced changes, surgeons and other medical professionals in Victorian public hospitals will no longer be able to invoice the Transport Accident Commission and WorkSafe directly for services provided, following allegations of billing fraud associated with the insurance schemes.
- **[The Northern Territory News](#)** (page 1) reports that NT health workers, families, and healthcare advocates have voiced their concerns regarding maternity care in the region during a closed forum this week, following the closure of the Territory's sole private maternity ward in Darwin and recent changes to the RDH Midwifery Group Practice.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that questions have been raised about possible TGA regulation breaches by direct-to-consumer telehealth company Pilot Health, following the rollout of a series of advertisements on social media encouraging viewers to consider prescription erectile dysfunction treatments as gifts for Father's Day.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 3) reports that frontline workers at Cancer Council Queensland are claiming that patients in need of financial assistance are being turned away, amid reports of

staff turnover and concerns that funding for program changes has been prioritised over patient services.

- **The AFR Weekend** (page 5) reports that Health Department secretary Blair Comley has said that several conversations took place between Health Minister Mark Butler and the states and territories before the announcement of the Federal Government's new Thriving Kids program, despite claims by states and territories that they were surprised by the introduction of the scheme.
- **The Guardian** (online) reports that a public health warning has been issued in Queensland for teddy bear-shaped pills containing highly potent synthetic opioids called nitazenes, which have already been linked to one fatality in the state. *Also reported by:* [ABC Online](#)
- **ABC Online** (online) reports that Federal Government officials have said that the benefits of the \$8.5 billion in funding for the GP subsidy scheme may not be immediately experienced by patients, as it could take up to four years for GPs to adjust to the scheme.
- **ABC Online** (online) reports that a new survey by mental health organisation Beyond Blue has found that respondents experiencing loneliness reported greater rates of mental health concerns than those experiencing financial challenges. *Also reported by:* [Toowoomba Chronicle](#)

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Bed bloc: hospital fight unites states

Weekend Australian, General News, 11/10/2025, Paul Garvey, Page 1

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park had only just stepped into the job two years ago when he was first briefed on the growing problem of aged-care bed block within the state's hospitals. [...] Ms McGurk on Tuesday met federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae, as well as several aged-care providers, to discuss the federal government's recently announced pricing review as well as ways to speed up the delivery of extra aged-care beds.

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

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### Hotel hospital a symptom of a sick system

Weekend Australian, General News, 11/10/2025, David Penberthy, Page 10

It's the public hospital equivalent of the Hotel California where ailing elderly patients can check in any time they like, but often never leave. [...] "All state health ministers have raised this issue with ministers Mark Butler and Sam Rae."

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### Top health official denies NDIS blindside

AFR Weekend, General News, 11/10/2025, Sumeyya Ilanbey, Page 5

The secretary of the Health Department has rejected claims by states and territories that they were blindsided by a new program to provide early intervention autism services.

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

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### Running against the herd

The Saturday Paper, General News, 11/10/2025, Kristina Kukolja, Page 10

The latest drop in childhood immunisation rates has raised concerns among medical authorities that some communities are losing herd immunity to diseases such as measles. Kristina Kukolja is a Walkley Award-winning journalist and broadcaster. [...] Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler has described the fall in childhood immunisation rates as "alarming".

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## Ramp up the funding

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 11/10/2025, Paul Starick & Aden Hill, Page 2

Premier Peter Malinauskas has attacked a "deficient" federal health funding offer as plunging the state's finances into turmoil, while sidestepping a flagship election vow to fix the ambulance-ramping crisis. [...] Asked on Friday about the shortfall's impact, Mr Malinauskas said he had been appealing to federal SA Labor colleague, Health Minister Mark Butler, as part of the negotiation.

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## Sorry state

Newcastle Herald, General News, 11/10/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has apologised to Jennifer Kerrison, the 72-year-old who waited three weeks for surgery on a broken upper arm. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is working on the next five-year hospital deal with the states.

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## Aged care a rewarding challenge, Minister Sam Rae tells AAA

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 10/10/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae shares his thoughts in a one-on-one interview about home care assessment wait times, workforce recruitment, sector investability and the challenges of the role so far. [...] Mr Rae pointed to his senior minister Mark Butler as a key mentor throughout the "difficult but necessary and important" decisions he has had to make as minister so far – which has included delaying the implementation of the new Aged Care Act from 1 July to 1 November.

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## National survey: Vision impairment rates down but access gaps remain

Insight, Other, 10/10/2025

A national survey has revealed that rates of vision impairment around Australia have fallen over the past decade, but challenges remain in bridging vital eyecare access gaps for many. Health and Ageing Minister Mr Mark Butler launched the Australian Eye and Ear Health Survey (AEEHS) at Parliament House, Canberra, on 9 October, World Sight Day.

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## Home care waitlist surges past 120,000 ahead of 1 November

The Weekly Source, Other, 10/10/2025, Lauren Broomham

The number of Australians waiting for a Home Care Package has jumped to 121,909 – up 26% in just three months – as fresh data reveals the full scale of the home care backlog. [...] Facing pressure from crossbenchers, Aged Care Minister Sam Rae and Health Minister Mark Butler later reversed the freeze, committing to release 20,000 Packages by 1 November, a further 20,000 by the end of 2025, and another 43,000 by mid-2026.

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## ABC Central Coast, Breakfast, 10/10/2025, Scott Levi

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 10/10/2025, Rory McClaren

Interview with National Disability Services CEO Michael Perusco. A national crackdown has uncovered many NDIS providers exploiting the system, with more than 3,000 providers leaving the scheme and millions in claims wiped and tougher rules are now in force. Perusco says the crackdown is needed for the sustainability of the scheme. He notes that NDIS Ministers Mark Butler and Jenny McAllister are looking at ways to broaden the regulation in the scheme.

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 10/10/2025, Steve Austin

Interview with National Disability Services CEO Michael Perusco. Perusco says that quality providers

are under immense financial strain, and Ministers Mark Butler and Jenny McAllister are increasingly aware of the issue. He notes that the Federal Government must ensure that these organisations remain part of the scheme.

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## **ABC Western Queensland, Breakfast, 10/10/2025, Danny Kennedy**

Interview with Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia Board member Rob Ramjan. The Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia says large numbers of regional Queenslanders who have mental health issues are not getting sufficient support. He notes that the Health Minister Mark Butler's Partners in Recovery was the best mental health service in the country, and the government needs to bring it back.

*Also reported by: [ABC Central Coast \(Erina\)](#).*

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## **Radio National, Breakfast, 10/10/2025, Sally Sara**

Sara is joined by ABC reporter Brett Worthington. There has been a 26 per cent jump in the number of Australians waiting for home care packages in the past three months, and it comes as the government faces calls to release more packages. Worthington says the Federal Government has claimed that many of those who have been approved are getting care in some ways. He claims that the Coalition, Greens, and Senator David Pocock have criticised the government, saying that it is having additional health impacts on elders, and adds that funding the home care package will be the biggest issue for Health Minister Mark Butler in the Senate.

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## **MINISTER MCALLISTER**

### **Labor failing disabled: MP**

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 10/10/2025, Nikita Mcguire, Page 2

Carers for people living with disability are being forced to provide tens of thousands of dollars in unpaid work to their clients due to being "abandoned by a system that was designed to support them," a federal MP says. [...] A spokesman for NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the Albanese government was targeting fraud and waste in the scheme.

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### **2GB, Mornings, 10/10/2025, Mark Levy**

A huge 3,000 providers have left the NDIS following the crackdown by the Federal Government. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister says the government is determined to protect people with disability from dodgy providers looking to drain their plans and abuse the NDIS. Before the NDIA targeted the sector, claims had grown by about 30 per cent per year, with more than 20,600 providers paid for services in 2023-2024.

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## MINISTER RAE

### Bed bloc: hospital fight unites states

Weekend Australian, General News, 11/10/2025, Paul Garvey, Page 1

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### ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 10/10/2025, Melissa Clarke

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### Radio National, Breakfast, 10/10/2025, Sally Sara

Panel discussion with ANU Professor and Democracy Sausage host Mark Kenny, The West Australian Canberra bureau chief Katina Curtis, and ABC senior digital political correspondent Brett Worthington. Worthington thinks there is a need to watch the parliamentary performances of newer federal ministers, such as Minister Sam Rae, in relation to aged care issues.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Mental health facility making a difference

Daily Liberal, General News, 11/10/2025, Dane Wilson, Page 6

A new, free-of-charge walkin mental health clinic has been opened in Dubbo, and The Daily Liberal was there to bring you a tour of the facility. [...] "It has been too hard for people to access the mental health support and care they need, especially outside of major cities, and the Medicare Mental Health Centres are designed to remove barriers to care," Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health, Emma McBride MP, said.

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### Commissioners to support healthcare in Australia's regions

The Mandarin, Other, 10/10/2025, Melissa Coade

Two new deputies join the national rural health team, aiming to boost regional workforce growth and ensure stronger rural representation. Two deputy commissioners for national rural health have been announced this week: Wiradjuri woman Professor Linda Deravin and Associate Professor Geoff Argus, appointed by Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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## DEPARTMENT

### Top health official denies NDIS blindside

AFR Weekend, General News, 11/10/2025, Sumeyya Ilanbey, Page 5

The secretary of the Health Department has rejected claims by states and territories that they were blindsided by a new program to provide early intervention autism services.

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

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### Fear over Top End maternity crisis reaches Canberra

Northern Territory News, General News, 11/10/2025, Lottie Hood, Page 13

Labelled a "crisis" by many in the Top End, the future of many mums and bubs and the closing of the private maternity ward has reached Canberra this week. [...] " Blair Comley PSM, secretary of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said he was "cautious" about saying too much as Commonwealth-State/Territory negotiations would be ongoing for the next few months.

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## Basic instinct

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 11/10/2025, Page 26

As the NT's maternity crisis continues, frustrated families and staff speak out [...] Before the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee in Canberra this week, NT Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price raised the issue which led to a back and forth between fellow NT Senator Senator Malarndirri McCarthy and Blair Comley PSM, secretary of the Department of Health, over funding and reform, with the onus then put back on the NT government.

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## Narrabri faces extended water restrictions amid crisis

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 10/10/2025, Fiona Ferguson

Level Four water restrictions will remain in place in Narrabri for as long as it takes to rebuild supplies in the reservoir and secure water for essential use. [...] While the Tibbereena Street bore has previously returned PFAS readings above the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, Council has consulted with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Department of Health experts to determine a safe ratio for blending the two water sources.

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## Ask for forgiveness not permission when innovating in a public hospital

Health Services Daily, Other, 10/10/2025, Jeremy Knibbs

The road to hospital reform has become so political and sclerotic that administrators and clinicians seeking to innovate their way to more efficiency and better patient outcomes are resorting to tactics generally reserved for guerilla warfare. [...] Things went off the rails for this whole process pretty rapidly after the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing inherited the NDIS earlier this year and the federal government decided to haggle with the states for them to take back more responsibility for reining in the NDIS as part of a quid pro quo on funding.

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## Summit tackles kidney crisis

Pharma In Focus, Other, 10/10/2025

Major pharmas are teaming with Kidney Health Australia on an Emergency National Kidney Summit held today to tackle escalating kidney disease in Australia, as it heads towards crisis level. [...] The opening plenary will be given by NSW Health Secretary Susan Pearce, while former Chief Medical Officer of Australia and former Secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care, Brendan Murphy , will be involved in presentations and workshops.

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## DoHDA to send 'early intervention letters' in October

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

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is advising recipients to take proactive steps to identify incorrect 'moiety' claims and put them right. Around 100 GPs who may have charged a co-payment for a bulk-billed service are set to receive letters this month.

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## Mental health funding: kinda depressing

The Medical Republic, Other, 10/10/2025, Euan Kielly

The RACGP has dropped a new position statement on rural mental health amidst recent senate discourse. [...] "The model development is happening now and will continue through to early next year," Department of Health, Disability and Ageing assistant secretary of child, youth and priority populations Matthew Short told the estimates committee.

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## Want the new PIP? Don't miss this step

The Medical Republic, Other, 10/10/2025, Holly Payne

Practices must register as universal bulk billers on Healthdirect and order signage within 24 hours of signing up to the Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is giving GP clinics which sign up to its Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program just 24 hours to register as universal bulk-billing practices on the National Health Services Directory.

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## Ruston homes in on DoHDA's election activity in estimates

The Medical Republic, Other, 10/10/2025, Mariella Attard

Meanwhile, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has affirmed its commitment to a greater role for GPs in both diagnosis and prescription in ADHD treatment. Coalition's health spokesperson Senator Anne Ruston spent her allotted time in Senate estimates on Thursday alleging that the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing was "either coerced or asked to make departmental communications reflect what the government was doing" during the lead-up to the May election.

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## Supporting healthy habits: Australia's screen time and activity guidelines for children aged birth to five

The Sector, Other, 10/10/2025, Fiona Alston

As digital devices become more embedded in daily life, families and early childhood services face increasing challenges in managing screen time for young children. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care, have recommendations that offer evidence-based advice to help parents, carers and educators make informed decisions about screen exposure and physical activity during the early years.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Careful look and it's plain to see the jobs are in ageing economy

Weekend Australian, General News, 11/10/2025, Jack Nivison, Page 7

Aged-care workers are on the rise, with the number of people entering the caring economy surging as Australia's elderly population balloons. Demographer Bernard Salt said Australia was "on the precipice of an extended era of care as baby boomers spill into the care-rich 80s and 90s".

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

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### AI, WFH and the great Australian job shift

Weekend Australian, General News, 11/10/2025, Bernard Salt, Page 20

The first half of the 2020s has delivered shocks to both the job market and the way we work. There's the rising cohort of aged and disabled carers, the role of Covid in unleashing the work-from-home genie and, more recently, the threat of artificial intelligence in reshaping the job market.

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### Mum and I had a night in hospital: We saw a system in crisis

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/10/2025, Sarah MacDonald, Page 38



"It has to be hospital, I'm afraid" are never the words you want to hear, particularly when you are caring for an elderly relative. A few weeks ago, after hearing that dreaded phrase, my 92-year-old mum and I spent a night in Ryde Hospital emergency.

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

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## Spotlight on downsizing

Courier Mail, Home, 11/10/2025, Stephen Nadin, Page 14

Retirees considering their downsizing options place a high priority on security and support when choosing a retirement community, according to the 2025 Ageing Australia Study. The second landmark study commissioned by retirement living provider Aveo gathered insights from 1260 Australians, aged 65-85, representing a cross-section of the population, largely representing the baby boomer generation.

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## Tricky finances, shortage of smaller homes keeping would-be downsizers in large family dwellings

ABC Online, Other, 10/10/2025, Emma Wynne

Gary, who lives in the affluent Perth suburb of Wembley, summed up the dilemma of many retired would-be downsizers at an ABC Radio Perth live radio forum. "I live in a five-bedroom house with just my boomerang son, who keeps leaving and coming back," he said.

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## Hugh Roberts reveals wife Alison's devastating journey dementia

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/10/2025, Sarah Sharples

It was a difficult road for Alison Roberts to get her dementia diagnosis with the particularly insulting statement from one health professional that the "good news" was she didn't have a brain tumour. After trouble at work as an accountant, Mrs Roberts was initially diagnosed with anxiety and depression but something was still wrong, her husband Hugh Roberts said.

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

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## Seniors living with disabilities expose Support at Home flaws in documentary

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

In a bold move to amplify the voices of Australia's ageing population, a group of seniors living with disabilities has produced a poignant short documentary titled Keeping Our Lights On at Home. Created by Peter Willcocks and Angus McMillan, the film highlights deep-seated concerns about the new Aged Care Act, particularly the contentious Support at Home program set to roll out in just a few weeks.

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## Illawarra worst in the country for bed block – but no ROI to build aged care beds

The Weekly Source, Other, 10/10/2025, Lauren Broomham

With one in five hospital patients waiting for discharge to aged care and a rapidly ageing population, NSW's Illawarra region desperately requires new beds – yet operators say there is no ROI on building beds and they are turning their focus to retirement living. Across the country, thousands of older Australians remain stranded in hospital beds because there's nowhere else for them to go.

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## NDIS probe but still raking in state cash

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 11/10/2025, Simone Grogan, Page 139

A now-banned WA disability care firm was granted State Government work with vulnerable children despite being under scrutiny for mismanaging client complaints and facing allegations of mishandling NDIS funding. In the Department of Communities' annual report tabled only last month, the AuditorGeneral specifically raised concerns about its procurement controls, saying they were "inadequate" and increased the risk of ordering "inappropriate or unnecessary goods or services".

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## Inside mum's fight over horror baby slur

Daily Telegraph, Weekend, 11/10/2025, David Campbell, Page 12

After receiving an official letter labelling her newborn son 'defective', one Aussie mum launched a crusade to protect thousands of Australian families. Finding out in the delivery room, without warning, the baby you've been waiting nine months to meet has Down syndrome is world-altering for any parent.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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## Former NDIS provider fined millions over man's death

Canberra Times, Other, 10/10/2025, Tom Wark

A company caring for a mentally disabled man who died after walking into traffic has been hit with a record civil penalty against an NDIS provider. Aurora Community Care's "ongoing and flagrant disregard" for its obligations were slammed by a court on Friday after being sued over the death of a 38-year-old man with an intellectual disability.

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## Centacare ceases operation after 40 years of providing disability support in south-east Queensland

ABC Online, Other, 10/10/2025, Antonia O'Flaherty

A major south-east Queensland disability support provider has ceased operating its National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)-funded services after providing care for 40 years, devastating hundreds of clients and staff. Centacare, the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane's social services agency, announced in August it would cease providing its NDIS-funded disability services this year because it was financially unviable.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Postcode lottery for healthcare?

Canberra Times, General News, 11/10/2025, Anne Cahill Lambert, Page 39

The ACT Health Minister recently denied that Canberra hospitals are refusing to accept NSW referrals for elective surgery. The kicker is that she eventually added that NSW patients were not refused access to services not available in their region.

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### Clinic concerns

Border Watch, General News, 10/10/2025, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

Concerns have been raised once again about general practitioner numbers within the Mount Gambier/Berrin region following the announcement of its Urgent Care Clinic reopening. The Australian Medical Association (AMA) president Peter Subramaniam expressed his concerns regarding the clinic stating it would not fix the current general practitioner crisis.

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## Critical capacity

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 11/10/2025, Jessica Howard, Page 1

The south-west's healthcare system is at critical capacity, a local doctor has warned, as patients' health declines while waiting months for appointments and clinics are forced to turn away new clients. Rural Generalist Dr Stefanie Hammond said the Terang Medical Clinic had been forced to halve the number of appointments available in recent months following the departure of three doctors, including Dr Timothy Fitzpatrick, who concluded his 34-year career at the clinic in July 2025.

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## Patients may not see benefits of \$8.5 billion bulk billing boost for four years

ABC Online, Other, 10/10/2025, Jake Evans

Patients may not see the benefits of higher bulk billing for years despite \$8.5 billion being tipped into the GP subsidy scheme from November. The health department conceded overnight it expected the benefits of that money to take about four years to flow through.

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## The doctor behind the resolution to oust the next president of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Australian Doctor, Other, 10/10/2025, Paul Smith

New Zealand physician Dr John O'Donnell has drafted the resolution to remove the college's president-elect. Forget the rights and wrongs for a moment.

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## Controversial change to My Health Record's seven-day 'lock' delayed at the last minute

Australian Doctor, Other, 10/10/2025, Jamie Thannoo

The four-day delay is meant to provide time to address a major concern from pathologists. The Federal Government quietly scheduled a My Health Record update to scrap the default seven-day lock on patients viewing test results this week — only to delay it at the last minute.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Why more Aussies are choosing to keep working into their 70s

Weekend Australian, Business News, 11/10/2025, James Gerrard, Page 31

The definition of what it means to retire is changing. Australian Bureau of Statistics data reveals interesting trends have emerged over the past 25 years when it comes to how much we work and when we decide to retire. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare says that people are working longer due to longer life expectancies and more years of good health.

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### Hospitals look to help cure homelessness

The Saturday Age, General News, 11/10/2025, Henrietta Cook, Page 6

Living on the streets took a toll on Richo's body. He developed abscesses under his skin from injecting drugs and spent many nights shivering in a swag with little sleep.

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

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### Call for education around 'date rape' drug

Canberra Times, General News, 11/10/2025, Maeve Bannister, Page 10

Young women are accounting for increased overdoses from a popular party drug as experts call for change in the way the drug is talked about in education campaigns. GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyrate) - sometimes called G, juice, Gina or fantasy - is a colourless and odourless drug often used in drink spiking as it can go undetected in drinks.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#).

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## Deadly opioid sold as MDMA

Courier Mail, General News, 11/10/2025, Mikaela Mulveney & Isabella Pesch, Page 19

A second person has died after ingesting a deadly synthetic opioid, as experts warn the lives of thousands of teenagers could be at risk during Schoolies this year as more of the drug hits the streets. Queensland Health confirmed another person had died, with the death coming to light as part of an ongoing coronial investigation.

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## How a community said no to 'tough love'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 11/10/2025, Jessica Greenan, Page 13

It's a David and Goliath story: a locally-led health service steered by volunteers wanting to change attitudes to addiction 40 years ago that now gives hundreds of people their lives back each year. When Warrnambool's Western Region Alcohol and Drug Centre (WRAD) was established in January 1986, chronic drinking was rapidly rising as a key community concern.

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## Quad bike deaths reduced

Border Watch, General News, 10/10/2025, Page 44

New research published recently shows there has been a small reduction in quad bike deaths at work in Australia since new safety standards were introduced five years ago, but public health experts say more needs to be done to keep Australians safe at work and on farms. The research, published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, was led by academics at the University of Sydney.

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## Towns take heart in AED project

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 11/10/2025, Denika Anderson, Page 12

Merbein and Wycheproof have graduated this month as Heart Safe Communities, while Red Cliffs has begun the life-saving 12-month joint initiative between Ambulance Victoria and the Heart Foundation. "The Heart Safe Communities program is all about teaching Victorians that anyone can save a life," AV Loddon Mallee regional director Matt McCrohan said.

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## Public health alert for nitazenes issued after person dies in Queensland

ABC Online, Other, 10/10/2025, Janelle Miles & Emma Pollard

A person has died after taking a substance containing a synthetic opioid in Queensland, just weeks after the government pushed law changes through parliament to ban community pill testing services. Queensland Health issued a public health alert this month after strong synthetic opioids, known as nitazenes, were found in tablet samples.

[Read More](#)

## Highly potent synthetic opioids found in teddy bear-shaped pills linked to a death in Queensland

The Guardian, Other, 10/10/2025, Daisy Dumas

Public health warning issued after drugs known as nitazenes detected amid move to ban pill testing  
Teddy bear-shaped pills laced with synthetic opioids have been linked to a death in Queensland, triggering a public health warning about a group of highly potent illicit drugs called nitazenes

[Read More](#)

## 'It's really good for the staff': how restaurants adapt to customers drinking less

The Guardian, Other, 11/10/2025, Myffy Rigby

Alcohol is an important source of revenue for many restaurants. With consumption on the decline, venues could be left in a precarious position. Until relatively recently, boozing on was considered a vital part of dining out.

[Read More](#)

## How a 'deeply-embedded' part of Australian culture could change forever

SBS, Other, 10/10/2025, Josie Harvey

A new study has found gen Z is turning away from alcohol far more than older generations, a trend that could bring major public health gains and signal a shift in the nation's "deeply embedded" drinking culture.

[Read More](#)

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Struggle to get support

Courier Mail, General News, 11/10/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 3

Struggling cancer patients unable to work and desperate for fuel or food vouchers have been let down by the Cancer Council Queensland, staff from the charity claim. CCQ frontline workers allege that oncology clinicians, breast care nurses and social workers have been put in the "terrible situation" of having to tell sick Queenslanders, who need help to keep their families afloat while fighting the disease, that there is no financial assistance available to them.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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

### Cancer cases skyrocket

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

Cancer will be responsible for about three of every 10 deaths in Australia this year. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) says almost one million Australians have been diagnosed with cancer in the past 10 years.

Also reported by: [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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

### Short by 150 donors a day

Courier Mail, General News, 11/10/2025, Isabella Pesch, Page 21

The family of a "cheeky" Queensland toddler who relies on plasma donations to live has thrown its support behind a search for 150 more donors a day to meet critical demand across the state. Little lumps on then four month-old Joey Kelly's rib cage alerted his mum, Alexandria De Re, that something wasn't right.

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

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

### Now I'm running on air

Herald Sun, General News, 11/10/2025, Taylor Penny, Page 18

Doctors told avid marathon participant Kirsten Jackson she would never run again after she spent \$400,000 on treatment for a rare condition. But thanks to a last-resort surgery, she will lace up her

runners for her first endurance event in seven years when she partakes in the Melbourne Marathon this Sunday.

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## Get checked: women urged to book free mammogram

Newcastle Herald, General News, 11/10/2025, Page 6

About 40 per cent of women in the Hunter New England health district are overdue for their two-yearly breast cancer screening. In October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, eligible women are being urged to book a free mammogram.

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## The pain of Cooper's hidden condition was labelled 'fake'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 11/10/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 20

When Cooper Smylie was nine, he suffered a foot injury during an incident at school in Port Stephens. He was treated at hospital but sent home with "a sheet printed off the internet by the doctor".

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

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

## Singing for science - and relief

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 11/10/2025, Anna Houlahan, Page 17

Warrnambool's Kaye-Maree Hollingsworth was struggling to take a deep breath as her chronic lung disease worsened. Her unlikely relief? Crooning along to jazz standards.

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## Fears 'silent killer' too often goes undetected

Canberra Times, Other, 10/10/2025, Rachael Ward

Carla McNaughton was 30 when she was diagnosed with the "silent killer" of chronic kidney disease. She went to a doctor with dehydration and dark urine, and was found to have the illness also known as CKD.

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

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# MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

## Beyond Blue supports farmer mental health

Border Watch, General News, 10/10/2025, Page 47

Beyond Blue has announced the appointment of farmer, filmmaker and mental health advocate Leila McDougall as a campaign ambassador for farming and rural communities in Australia as part of the Just a Farmer Regional Screening Project. This comes as a part of Beyond Blue's commitment to supporting mental health in farming and regional communities, as well as supporting small businesses in rural and regional Australia.

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## Young Aussies' distress

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 10/10/2025, Page 24

Almost half of young Australians (49 per cent) are experiencing high or very high levels of psychological distress. The headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation survey found that psychological distress increased with age, rising from 31 per cent of 12-14-year-olds to 65 per cent for those aged 18-25.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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## Trend turning kids into zombies

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 11/10/2025, Bek Day, Page 3

"To say kids are at the coalface of risks we don't really understand is a massive understatement," says Nara\* a mother from the Gold Coast, who describes her 15-year-old daughter as a "phone zombie". "I don't know what's normal teen apathy and what's an addiction to her phone that drives out what I would consider 'normal' teen behaviour.

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

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## Loneliness taking a toll

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 11/10/2025, Taylor Penny, Page 24

Loneliness and a weakened sense of community are taking a toll on the mental health of Australians, with one in three distressed due to isolation. New Beyond Blue research, which surveyed more than 5000 people, found 30 per cent of respondents rated their sense of community as either "poor" or "fair" in 2024, up from 28 per cent in 2022.

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## Beyond Blue survey finds loneliness has deeper impact on some Australians' mental health than financial hardship

ABC Online, Other, 10/10/2025, Ciara Jones

Soon after moving abroad to Canada in her 20s, Roxy Aila's mental health began to unravel. In a demanding, high-pressure advertising job — and thousands of kilometres away from family in Papua New Guinea and Brisbane — anxiety, depression and loneliness set in for the now-42-year-old.

[Read More](#)

## 'Ripple effect': Statistics all Australians should be concerned by

NEWS.com.au, Other, 10/10/2025, Ella Mcilveen

"Check in on your mates." It's a sentence we hear so often but sometimes fall short of understanding the gravity of. [...] Earlier this year, the Federal Government announced the National Suicide Prevention strategy; a crucial road map for co-ordinated, whole-of-government action to prevent suicide.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 10/10/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

This World Mental Health Day, Beyond Blue has found loneliness, anxiety, and depression are on the rise. Nearly one in two Australians aged between 18 and 24 has identified loneliness as a key concern, while 30 per cent say it causes them distress. Beyond Blue is urging Australians to create a culture of connection at home, at work, in schools, and in communities.

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## ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 10/10/2025, Rick Hind

Interview with headspace National Clinical Advisor Caroline Thain. Compere mentions that according to a new study, nearly half of young Australians, namely at 49% are experiencing high levels of psychological distress. Thain explains that headspace currently has 172 centres across Australia, and they provide support for young people aged 12 to 25 for their mental health, physical health, drug, and alcohol issues. She states that headspace has been set up with young people in mind, which is why they also offer online services, which they call 'ehespace'.

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## ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 10/10/2025, Rick Hind

Interview with Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia CEO Tony Stevenson. Stevenson says right across Australia, they focus on people living with severe and complex mental illness like schizophrenia, bipolar

disorder, and severe depression. He says that, unfortunately, people with severe and complex mental illness do not work and are at a higher risk of homelessness.

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### **4BC, Drive, 10/10/2025, Gary Hardgrave**

Interview with Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia CEO Tony Stevenson. The Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia says 460,000 people with mental health conditions have no access to community support. Stevenson notes that this support is needed to help them stay well and safe and avoid unnecessary hospitalisations.

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### **4BU, The Big Breakfast, 10/10/2025, Victoria Clarke**

GPs are calling for all levels of government to improve access to mental health support in rural and remote communities. On World Mental Health Day, the RACGP says now is the time to act and that more needs to be done to ensure people have access to the health services they need.

[Play Now](#)

### **ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 10/10/2025, Lucy Breaden & Kylie Baxter**

Interview with Beyond Blue CEO Georgie Harman. A new survey from Beyond Blue has found that loneliness has a deeper impact on mental health and financial hardship for young people. Harman says it is surprising to know that loneliness is more pressing for young people than for any other group. He claims that one in two people aged between 18 to 24 who responded to the survey said that loneliness was a major cause of distress for them.

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### **FIVEAA, Mornings, 10/10/2025, Graeme Goodings**

Interview with Relationships Australia clinical psychologist Dr Elizabeth Shaw about World Mental Health Day. Shaw says the research is telling them that the state of relationships or a lack of quality relationships is going to be a real detractor for people's mental health. She adds that people themselves are often part of the solution to the problems.

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## **IMMUNISATION**

No relevant coverage

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## **HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES**

### **Clinic campaigners hopeful after Archer signals rethink**

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/10/2025, Elise Kaine, Page 3

Those fighting for the Hobart Clinic to stay open are hopeful for a positive development after the Health Minister's "attitude shift" on Thursday evening, but are waiting for a full commitment to keep the doors open and the workforce together. A government spokeswoman said they had received further correspondence from the clinic late on Friday and were now "seeking appropriate advice".

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

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### **60-bed mental health upgrade**



Private mental health services across the Gold Coast are set to expand with development of a 60-bed facility in Southport to open early next year. Planned to deliver 60 private mental health beds, day programs, integrated outpatient pathways, research, training and innovation in partnership with universities and health partners.

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## Pleas for action on mental health health clinic

Launceston Examiner, General News, 11/10/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 2

The state government has yet to take firm action to save Tasmania's only large-scale private mental health clinic weeks out from imminent closure, a union has said. It follows the announcement in mid-September that The Hobart Clinic, a 27-bed facility in Rokeby that has operated for more than 40 years, would close by October 31.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Shaken baby syndrome

The Saturday Age, Good Weekend Magazine, 11/10/2025, Michael Bachelard, Page 1

For decades, the diagnosis of shaken baby syndrome has been putting parents in jail all over the world. But some jurisdictions are beginning to ask: are heartbroken people being put in the dock for crimes they never committed?

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

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### Gene screen to save lives

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/10/2025, Page 21

Adding genomic sequencing to newborn blood screening would detect hundreds of additional childhood conditions, providing much earlier diagnosis and treatment, a new study says. A baby's genome, which stays with them for life, could also be re-examined if a health issue arises later in life.

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### Liquid metal implant tech

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/10/2025, Page 34

A pioneering liquid metal combination is shaping up as a potential secret weapon in the global fight against antimicrobial resistance and promises to outlast existing implant materials. While also able to combat infections, Flinders University research says the metallic material is far more biocompatible with bonesgiving patients potential for quicker healing after major orthopaedic surgery.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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### Hidden harms of drinking

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 10/10/2025, Page 3

A global analysis led by La Trobe University has highlighted the hidden harms to women and children caused by men's alcohol use. Globally, up to one in three women in some countries report living with a heavy-drinking partner and children exposed to men's harmful alcohol use face increased risk of violence, neglect, poor health and reduced life opportunities.

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### Channel 10, 10 News, 10/10/2025, Jennifer Keyte

A breakthrough by Melbourne researchers has shown how DNA testing of newborns could be life-

saving. A genomic testing trial has found that the testing is far more effective than current screening for medical conditions, but it raises ethical issues about what might be done with the information.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### AFL star Keidean Coleman visits Galiwin'ku promoting Deadly lifestyle choices

Northern Territory News, Other, 10/10/2025, Lottie Hood

A Northern Territory AFL star visited Miwatj Health Clinic in Galiwin'ku with an important message and Deadly free T-shirts this week. On Thursday, Brisbane Lions AFL player Keidean Coleman travelled to Galiwin'ku on Elcho Island as part of a new partnership aimed at promoting health in Yolŋu Communities.

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

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### Universities Australia welcomes more places for First Nations medical students

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

Universities Australia has welcomed the federal government's decision to remove caps on Commonwealth Supported Places for First Nations medical students through the Education Legislation Amendment (Integrity and Other Measures) Bill 2025. "If passed by the Parliament, it will be a really important reform that will change the lives of First Nations students, their families and communities, as well as our health system," Universities Australia, Chief Executive Officer, Mr Luke Sheehy said this week.

[Read More](#)

### Lack of culturally specific eating disorder screening for Aboriginal youth

Medical Forum, Other, 10/10/2025

Despite research finding a higher prevalence of eating disorders among Aboriginal youth in Australia there is a lack of culturally specific screening tools to support this population. Recent research found 28.6% of Aboriginal youth were affected by eating disorders, compared with 21.7% of non-Aboriginal Australian youths, with night-time binge eating being the most common occurrence.

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Hospital left me in a chair for 55 hours

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/10/2025, Madeline Crittenden & Elizabeth Pike, Page 21

A Sydney hospital has apologised to a mum who spent 55 hours in its emergency department "so sick she could barely walk" only to be rushed out the door without proper treatment for her symptoms. Anika Saad, 32, spent more than two days in Liverpool Hospital's emergency department last week waiting for a bed, after suffering from severe flu symptoms, which had become so bad she couldn't tolerate food, water or even stand up.

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

### 'Lives are on the line'

Northern Territory News, General News, 11/10/2025, Lottie Hood, Page 1

Territorian families and healthcare workers are warning government maternity care concerns are not going away, especially as their options appear to be disappearing. During a closed forum this week, hundreds of Territorians including families, midwives, doctors and healthcare advocates shared their experiences of maternity care across all sectors, exposing issues and personal heartbreak.

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## 'Say what I couldn't'

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 11/10/2025, Ann Wason Moore, Page 1

"Don't let me be forgotten, don't let my strength go to waste. Be what I couldn't, say what I couldn't."

These are the last words that 17-year-old Giaan Ramsay wrote to her beloved oldest sister Justine, one of the four siblings who, alongside her parents Steve and Lizel, fought with her as she battled both an eating disorder and a health system her family says was beating her down.

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## Mersey Hospital damaged in night of wild weather

Burnie Advocate, General News, 11/10/2025, Sarah Fittock , Page 2

The Code Yellow emergency response at the Mersey Community Hospital has been stood down, the Department of Health says. The Latrobe hospital was damaged in the early hours of Friday by the severe weather.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#).

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

## Labor MP Mark Bailey claims hospital expansions cut for Olympic funding

Cairns Post, Other, 10/10/2025, Luke Lay

Labor has blasted the Crisafulli government for placing what he called an "indefinite block" on Mackay's hospital expansion to fund Olympic stadiums. A Labor MP has claimed the government secretly blocked funding for hospital expansions across the state, including in Mackay amid a 179 per cent uptick in patients waiting longer than recommended.

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

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 10/10/2025, Max Futchter and Katrina Blowers

The construction on Mater Springfield is now in its final stages, with the community's first public hospital set to open in April next year. The outpatient, inpatient, and ICU wards will open first in April. By the end of May, every department will be operational, including operating theatres, a 44-bed ED, paediatric ward, and full maternity services.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 10/10/2025, Georgie Gardner

Eleanor Berbari has spent three days and three nights in Campbelltown Hospital's ED waiting for a bed and is warning that her experience could have had serious consequences for others. The 21-year-old was diagnosed with influenza A and pneumonia, but was told there were no beds in the respiratory ward. In a statement, Campbelltown Hospital has sincerely apologised to Eleanor for her experience and is conducting a review.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Recognition of gender clinic boss sparks fury

Weekend Australian, General News, 11/10/2025, Rachel Baxendale, Page 8

Medical and human rights law experts and women's advocates have accused the Australian Human Rights Commission of a "grotesque inversion" of human rights for naming Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital gender clinic director Michelle Telfer as a finalist for the 2025 Australian Human Rights Award.

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### Geraldton pharmacist among the first group of WA pharmacists selected for Enhanced Community Access Pilot

West Australian, Other, 10/10/2025, Josephine Hingst

Geraldton pharmacist Ben Crick from Pharmacy 149 has been named among the first group of WA pharmacists selected for training to be able to treat a range of common conditions. Under the State Government's Enhanced Access Community Pharmacy Pilot, pharmacists will be trained to assess and treat a range of common health conditions — such as mild asthma, dermatitis, acne and gout — helping to relieve pressure on busy GP clinics, particularly in regional areas.

[Read More](#)

### Medical reps to discuss possible industrial action after Border surgeon's sacking

The Border Mail, Other, 10/10/2025, Ted Howes

A group of senior clinicians will meet with Australian Medical Association representatives on Monday in the wake of the sacking of Border breast cancer surgeon John Stuchbery. The meeting on October 13, called by Australian Medical Association Victorian president Simon Judkins, will include members of the association's industrial relations team.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 10/10/2025, Leon Compton

Interview with RACGP rural generalist Dr Tim Jones. The Federal Government is removing GP Mental Health Treatment Plan Review and mental health consultation from the Medicare Benefits Schedule. Jones says the move will make it harder for people to get access to mental health care, as it could increase the costs.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Surgeons hit with billing ban over roorting claims

The Saturday Age, General News, 11/10/2025, Henrietta Cook, Page 1

Surgeons have been banned from billing WorkSafe and the Transport Accident Commission for

procedures carried out in Victorian public hospitals following revelations by The Age that some doctors have allegedly rorted millions of dollars from the insurance schemes. In a bid to stamp out fraudulent claims, the government-owned insurance schemes have told public hospitals they will now receive a single payment to cover the cost of treating patients injured at work or in transport accidents.

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

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## Face-off in 'filler' action

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 11/10/2025, Sean Fewster, Page 18

A cosmetic injector's defence to a million-dollar claim her unlawful facial filler ruined a woman's business and scarred her face now "lies in tatters", a court has heard. On Wednesday, counsel for Brigid Ellen Piro told the Supreme Court their case had been bolstered by Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency documents.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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## Doctor who alerted police to Erin Patterson ordered to take ethics and social media training after calling triple murderer a 'sociopathic nutbag'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 10/10/2025, Joseph Palmer

The doctor who alerted police to mushroom murderer Erin Patterson has been ordered to undergo ethics and social media training after calling her a 'sociopathic nutbag'. Dr Chris Webster, a rural GP from Leongatha, Victoria, gave crucial testimony at Patterson's murder trial, which ended last month with her being sentenced to life in prison with a 33-year non-parole period for murdering three family members.

[Read More](#)

## Fake news? AHPRA nixes claims it has shut down telephone prescribing

Australian Doctor, Other, 10/10/2025, Heather Saxena

New AHPRA guidelines actually extended the current rules for doctors to other health professions. No, GPs will not be chased by AHPRA for writing first-time scripts over telehealth despite what some websites claim.

[Read More](#)

## Renew rego now: Board

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 10/10/2025, Benjamyn Sung

Pharmacists are being urged to renew their professional registration early to "avoid delays". The Pharmacy Board of Australia announced the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahptra) has opened the renewal portal today (Friday 10 October 2025).

[Read More](#)

## AHPRA appoints cultural safety lead

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 10/10/2025

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has appointed Wakaya Distinguished Professor Yin Paradies to lead the evaluation and development of the National Scheme's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural safety priorities. Professor Paradies, a renowned Aboriginal race scholar, will head the review of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Cultural Safety Strategy 2020-2025 and shape its next five-year plan, including setting strategic goals for cultural safety within the National Scheme Strategy.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### 'Gift for dad': erectile ads risk breach

Weekend Australian, General News, 11/10/2025, Penny Timms, Page 3

A company that bills itself as Australia's largest provider of erectile dysfunction treatments has encouraged customers to "gift" its prescription medication to their dads, raising questions about whether it is meeting the guidelines for advertising such treatments. [...] In a statement, Pilot said: "Pilot takes compliance and patient safety seriously and regularly reviews its marketing and communications materials with regard to Therapeutic Goods Administration requirements."

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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## FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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## AICIS

### Heat on as town runs out of water

Weekend Australian, General News, 11/10/2025, Nathan Schmidt, Page 7

The mayor of a regional town in NSW's northwest has made a desperate plea after contamination crippled the water supply, saying he doesn't want to have to "hand out water bottles" over the summer, when days can near 50C. [...] Narrabri town only has one active water source as two other bores remain offline while levels of PFAS, also known as forever chemicals, continue to exceed maximum limits.

*Also reported by:* [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

### Federal government investigates PFAS spread in Rockhampton amid concern for property prices

ABC Online, Other, 10/10/2025, Aaron Kelly

When Christine Stasch purchased her country property in central Queensland, she was lured by its natural beauty and picturesque surroundings for her children and grandchildren to be raised on. [...] But Ms Stasch's property is now at the centre of a battle with authorities for compensation after discovering per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS, in soil and groundwater on her rural paradise.

[Read More](#)

### Narrabri faces extended water restrictions amid crisis

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 10/10/2025, Fiona Ferguson

Level Four water restrictions will remain in place in Narrabri for as long as it takes to rebuild supplies in

the reservoir and secure water for essential use. [...] While the Tibbereena Street bore has previously returned PFAS readings above the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, Council has consulted with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Department of Health experts to determine a safe ratio for blending the two water sources.

[Read More](#)

## **ABC News, News Breakfast, 10/10/2025, Emma Rebellato and James Glenday**

Interview with Narrabri Mayor Darrell Tiemens. Narrabri has about 10 days left of water after two of its three bores closed earlier this year due to PFAS contamination. Tiemens says the town will face a water crisis if the NSW Government does not do something to resolve the contamination.

*Interview continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).*

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