



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 12th October 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports a shortage of permanent specialists in Canberra's public health system, particularly in obstetrics and gynaecology, is forcing the ACT government to pay temporary interstate locum doctors up to four times the rate of a local senior doctor to ensure essential 24/7 service.
- **[The Sunday Telegraph](#)** (page 5) reports that questions are being raised about the efficacy and continuation of the pill-testing trial at NSW music festivals after 14 suspected drug overdoses occurred at the Knockout Festival, resulting in five urgent hospital transfers, despite the availability of the drug-checking service.
- **[The Daily Telegraph Australia](#)** (page 3) reports Cancer Council Queensland is facing internal claims from staff that it has been refusing essential services for fifty cancer patients each week due to a lack of funding, despite the organization's CEO denying the allegations.
- **[The Sunday Age](#)** (page 1) reports Victoria's sole mental health hospital for prisoners is eliminating key specialist healthcare roles, raising concerns about compromised care for high-risk psychiatric patients amidst escalating issues of illicit drug abuse and staff injuries within the facility.
- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)** (page 1) reports the Crime and Corruption Commission is reviewing documents held by Queensland Health regarding the failed appointment of Dr.

Hajkowicz as Chief Health Officer after his job was withdrawn following ministerial intervention.

- **The Sunday Herald Sun** (page 1) reports a ninety-three year old GP has become a new father, which he attributes to an anti-ageing regimen including human growth hormone injections, a practice not supported by the Endocrine Society of Australia. HGH is regulated by the TGA, which primarily approves its use for growth disorders.
- **The Sunday Telegraph** (page 29) reports the Federal Government's reforms, including mandated 24/7 nursing and care minutes, are addressing high fall rates in residential aged care facilities that experts attribute to insufficient staffing and lack of Allied Health exercise programs, as noted by Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae.
- **The Australian Today** reports the Federal Government's expansion of Urgent Care Clinics is proving successful in diverting almost half of patients away from hospital emergency departments by providing fully bulk-billed urgent care, according to Minister for Health and Ageing, Mark Butler.

MINISTER BUTLER

Stuck in the pipe

Sunday Times, General News, 12/10/2025, Page 29

Saving lives really shouldn't be controversial. But the brouhaha over an anti-choking device in Australia engulfing local councils and child and aged-care providers has seen it become just that. [...] He's taken his battle with the TGA on the matter to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and the Commonwealth Ombudsman among others.

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Hundreds of kids get boot

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/10/2025, Charlie Dadds, Page 25

The future of nearly 400 junior soccer players and one of Adelaide's biggest community carnivals is in doubt as concerns mount over the proposed \$5m redevelopment of a western suburbs sporting precinct. [...] The proposed redevelopment, spearheaded by a \$5m commitment from federal MP Mark Butler, would include new and upgraded sports lighting, female-friendly change rooms and improved clubroom spaces.

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'What is being done by Federal Gov?': Future and funding of Darwin's maternity care raised

Herald Sun, Other, 11/10/2025, Lottie Hood

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. [...] When contacted, Mr Gosling said he was speaking regularly with Health Minister Mark Butler and met with various community members and health professionals about the issue.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Genomic medicine researchers work to fix 'European bias' in DNA databases

ABC Online, Other, 11/10/2025, Lachlan Bennett

Genomic medicine could be the next big thing in healthcare. Some believe doctors may soon routinely use a patient's DNA to better diagnose conditions, prevent illness and predict the effectiveness of different treatments. [...] When launching Genomics Australia in July, Health Minister Mark Butler said a coordinated approach "will drive world-class health outcomes across the country".

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Medicare urgent care clinics reach two million visits as rollout expands nationwide

The Australia Today, Other, 11/10/2025, Amit Sarwal

Australians have made more than two million visits to Labor's free Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, helping ease the strain on hospital emergency departments and ensuring critical care stays focused where it is needed most. [...] Once all 137 clinics are operational, the Department of Health and Aged Care estimates that four in five Australians will live within a 20-minute drive of a clinic.

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NSW Health Minister Ryan Park apologises to Jennifer Kerrison

Singleton Argus, Other, 11/10/2025, Damon Cronshaw

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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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

Standards fall in aged homes

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 12/10/2025, Julie Cross, Page 29

Not enough staff and a lack of exercise are being blamed for the shocking number of aged care residents having falls, with one facility reporting six in 10 of its residents suffered a fallsome with major injuries in just a three-month period. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said Labor has mandated 24/7 nursing in aged care homes and mandatory care minutes since coming to government.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#),

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Shocking rate of falls

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/10/2025, Julie Cross, Page 28

Not enough staff and a lack of exercise are being blamed for the shocking number of agedcare residents having falls, with one South Australian facility reporting seven in 10 of its residents suffered a fall in a three-month period. [...] Homes are allowed to review their ratings before the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing publishes them online.

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'What is being done by Federal Gov?': Future and funding of Darwin's maternity care raised

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/10/2025, Lottie Hood

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.

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

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Medicare urgent care clinics reach two million visits as rollout expands nationwide

The Australia Today, Other, 11/10/2025, Amit Sarwal

Australians have made more than two million visits to Labor's free Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, helping ease the strain on hospital emergency departments and ensuring critical care stays focused where it is needed most. [...] Once all 137 clinics are operational, the Department of Health and Aged Care estimates that four in five Australians will live within a 20-minute drive of a clinic.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

'We're marooned in this place'

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 12/10/2025, Petlee Peter, Page 1

Little did some residents moving into the LDK Amberfield seniors' living development realise that their "freedom of movement" would be snatched away. The village on Weston Creek, home to nearly 600 residents, is situated directly fronting the busy Cotter Road, an uninterrupted 80kmh zone that entirely lacks traffic lights, a bus stop or a pedestrian pathway.

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'Full' aged-care homes screening out needy residents

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 12/10/2025, Abe Maddison, Page 30

Australia's aged-care system is "effectively full" and close to breaking point, with providers routinely rejecting older people who need the most support. Aged-care providers are screening out older people with high-support needs and ending clients' services without warning because of debts they were unaware of.

Also reported by: [Sunday Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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Church appeals to God and maybe to court

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 12/10/2025, Kylie Lang, Page 9

The embattled Presbyterian Church of Queensland has asked for prayers as it looks to appeal a Supreme Court ruling to repay debts of \$32m over failed aged-care centres. At a crisis meeting of church leaders the day after The Courier-Mail broke the story, lawyers were brought in to assess grounds for appeal.

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

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Corrections and clarifications

The Guardian, Other, 11/10/2025

•An article confused two different health strategies when it described pacing as "gradually increasing exercise" and something that is "challenged by some ME patient groups". Pacing, also called energy management, involves a person managing their activities to stay within their energy limit, and it can be used by those with ME.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Defunct NDIS provider given record \$2.2 million penalty after Queensland man fatally hit by car

ABC Online, Other, 11/10/2025, Emily Dobson

A record fine has been handed to an NDIS provider that failed to supervise a participant living with an intellectual disability who wandered away onto a nearby highway and was fatally struck by a car in 2023. The now-defunct Aurora Community Care Pty Ltd has been ordered to pay a \$2.2 million pecuniary penalty by the Federal Court following the Queensland man's death, in the highest civil sanction imposed on an NDIS provider to date.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 11/10/2025, Lorna Dunkley & Thomas Oriti

The SCIVIS Space Camp at the US Space and Rocket Centre offers adapted space experiences for blind and low-vision students, such as shuttle simulations, low-gravity exercises, and sleeping in NASA rockets. The camp, organised by NextSense, welcomes approximately 150 senior students from eight countries and provides accessible learning, social connections, and opportunities for confidence building in the disability sector.

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SBS, World News Australia (Saturday), 11/10/2025, Anton Enus & Janice Petersen

Report by SBS's Fares Zakhour. Music therapy, which recently regained NDIS eligibility, helps people with mental health issues, neurological disorders, and physical disabilities like MS and Parkinson's. Rita Messak, a Melbourne music therapist, leads sessions for clients like Michael Ritchi, assisting them in managing emotions, reducing anxiety, and expressing themselves. According to the Australian Music Therapy Association, approximately half of all therapists work with mental health clients.

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PRIMARY CARE

Why the job of a local GP has become more complicated

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 12/10/2025, Andrew Brown, Page 31

GPs are having to see patients for longer appointments to treat more complex medical needs, a

snapshot of Australian practice reveals. The Health of the Nation report also finds a slight increase in the number of people delaying a visit to the doctor due to the cost of treatment.

Also reported by: [Sunday Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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Millions of visitors for free care clinics

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/10/2025, Page 28

Australians have clocked up more than two million visits to Labor's free Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, easing pressure on hospital emergency departments, Anthony Albanese says. The Prime Minister says new data shows the average number of visits to Medicare Urgent Care Clinics has risen to almost 26,000 a week nationally, which is expected to continue to grow as more clinics open.

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Catchments remain vulnerable despite eased winds

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 12/10/2025, Elise Kaine, Page 4

While the severe weather seen across the state over the past three days has eased, authorities remain ready to assist. [...] Premier Jeremy Rockliff and Health Minister Bridget Archer visited the Mersey Community Hospital on Saturday after the building was damaged by the severe weather.

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Concord Hospital's Ebola practice run-through tests department's emergency response plans

ABC Online, Other, 11/10/2025, Fiona Willan

In a quarantine room at Concord Hospital in Sydney's inner west, a high-stakes mission is underway. A returned traveller showing symptoms of the potentially deadly Ebola virus is being strapped into a bio-containment bubble on a stretcher.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Funding disgrace for the forgotten cancer

Sunday Times, General News, 12/10/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 22

When Kingsley mother Tania Rego went to the doctor just before Christmas 2023 feeling bloated, she did not think it was anything serious. [...] The statistics are sobering only 48 per cent of West Australian women diagnosed with ovarian cancer survive more than five years, according to the most recent Australian Institute of Health and Welfare statistics.

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Ageing fathers a bigger DNA risk

Sunday Times, General News, 12/10/2025, Nancy Lapid, Page 22

The age of the father plays a role in pregnancy outcomes, with harmful genetic changes in sperm being substantially more common in older men, new research shows. Along with a steady buildup of random changes in DNA as men got older, the researchers also discovered the increase in mutations is due to a subtle form of natural selection, with some mutations having a competitive edge during sperm production in the testes, according to a report in science journal Nature.

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Move over Dad Bod, it's RAD DAD'S time

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/10/2025, Angela Mollard, Page 26

Remember when the "dad bod" was king? Soft-edged and full of suburban charm, it was a badge of honour for dads who were comfortable in themselves even if their buttons were straining over their (very loveable) paunches. [...] Now that wellness culture is mainstream, today's dads are more likely to

be listening to a Huberman podcast, meal prepping or reading Atomic Habits than going on a bender, with research from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showing younger people are drinking less with more opting for non-alcoholic beverages.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Fat acceptance ignores serious health problem

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/10/2025, Amanda Blair, Page 55

This is a heavy column, because it's a weighty issue. Chew on these statistics.

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Clear heads prevail as we ditch drinks

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/10/2025, Peter Goers, Page 55

Many young Australians are drinking less alcohol and some are embracing sobriety. [...] Young people have increasingly also forsworn cigarettes perhaps because they saw the damage wrought on their parents and grandparents, and they see the similar damage of alcohol.

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Ask Dr Zac: Are there really tiny mites living on our faces?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/10/2025, Zac Turner

I know this sounds gross but one of my friends said the reason I'm getting red flushes on my face is because my skin might be infected with mites and they're feasting on my skin. Yuck! Surely that can't be true.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 11/10/2025, Lorna Dunkley & Thomas Oriti

Dunkley and Oriti are joined by ABC's Matthew Qvortrup. Qvortrup reports that Northern Territory is now the only Australian jurisdiction that does not allow voluntary assisted dying, despite being the first jurisdiction in the world to do so in the 1990s. He says that a recent review of 86 recommendations proposes reintroducing the practice more broadly than in other states, with 79 per cent public support, despite opposition from some Aboriginal and religious communities. He notes that legislation is expected to pass, with politicians promising a free vote in the Assembly while consulting with their constituents.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Scientists tackle rare syndrome in global first

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 12/10/2025, Shannon Deery, Page 24

Victorian scientists are leading a world-first program that could transform understanding and treatment of a rare genetic condition. Globally there are just 805 people diagnosed with the rare PURA syndrome, a neurodevelopmental disorder that causes developmental delay, decreased muscle tone and speech difficulties.

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Lag in Breast Screen bus plan

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 12/10/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 3

A vital mobile health service providing free mammograms to Tasmanian women is not expected to be fully operational again until September next year after one of its buses was put out of commission as a result of water damage. Health Minister Bridget Archer has announced that engineering and

manufacturing firm, Varley Group, has been awarded a tender to deliver the new mobile unit, a key tool used to screen women for breast cancer.

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Popular drug fails to kill pain

Sunday Times, General News, 12/10/2025, Page 34

The opioid painkiller tramadol is not very effective for easing the chronic pain for which it is widely prescribed, and it likely increases the risk of serious side effects, a new study found. Researchers who pooled data from 19 previous trials involving 6506 volunteers with chronic pain concluded the potential harms of tramadol probably outweigh its benefits.

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Alarm over prostate cancer rates in younger men

Canberra Times, Other, 11/10/2025, Rachael Ward

Prostate cancer wasn't on Ben Jenkins' radar when he was unexpectedly diagnosed with an aggressive form of the condition at age 36. His GP suggested a prostate specific antigen test to get a baseline result against checks in the future but it came back with a red flag.

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

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Staff at Cancer Council Qld say they must tell patients no financial support available

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/10/2025, Jackie Sinnerton

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: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Donna Lee on the reality of living with young onset dementia

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/10/2025, Sarah Sharples

When Donna Lee was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease at just age 52 many did not believe she had the debilitating condition and instead accused her of lying. "I think I would have gotten more sympathy if I had cancer than having dementia, even though they are both terminal," Ms Lee told news.com.au.

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

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Lung cancer researchers identify 'breakthrough' patterns predictive of treatment success

ABC Online, Other, 11/10/2025, Janelle Miles & Emma Pollard

Researchers have discovered a way to predict whether patients with lung cancer will respond to expensive immunotherapy treatment in the latest breakthrough in personalised medicine. University of Queensland researcher Arutha Kulasinghe studied lung biopsies from the tumours of almost 250 patients with non-small cell lung cancer across Australia, the United States and Europe.

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A GP guide to unexplained infertility

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/10/2025, Michael Costello, Robert Norman & Helena Teede

It is estimated that 30% of infertile heterosexual couples are affected by unexplained infertility, which is a diagnosis of exclusion. Infertility is one of the most common chronic diseases in those of reproductive age, affecting approximately one in every six individuals of reproductive age worldwide.

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Samuel Johnson's precision cancer treatment trial in Ballarat

Ballarat Courier, Other, 11/10/2025, Michelle Smith

Patients with advanced cancer in Ballarat are gaining access to world-leading precision oncology to give them the best chance at finding "right drug for the right patient at the right time". Renowned Australian actor, philanthropist and cancer research advocate Samuel Johnson's charity Love Your Sister is funding a precision oncology trial at Grampians Health and more broadly.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 11/10/2025, Lorna Dunkley & Thomas Oriti

Researchers at the University of Queensland used AI to analyse biopsies from nearly 250 patients with non-small cell lung cancer, identifying tissue patterns that predict response to the immunotherapy drug Keytruda. The findings, published in Nature Genetics, represent a step towards personalised cancer treatment and give patients hope, with a clinical trial planned to expand the study to other solid tumours.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Hospital cuts staff as illicit drug fears rise

Sunday Age, General News, 12/10/2025, Rachel Eddie & Grant McArthur, Page 3

Victoria's only mental health hospital for prisoners is slashing key specialist roles that care for some of the state's highest-risk psychiatric patients while at the same time concerns grow over the danger of drug abuse within its wards. Doctors and drug specialists are being cut from Thomas Embling Hospital even as the state government adds dozens of beds to the Fairfield facility, which already has staffing "challenges" in coping with demand.

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

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Film partnership for mental health

Broken Hill Times, General News, 10/10/2025, Em Jensen, Page 9

Broken Hill filmmaker and mental health advocate Jason King has teamed up with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (South East Section) for King's upcoming impact documentary, The Jordan Liberty Project. [...] King said he hopes the film may spark a national conversation about youth mental health, suicide prevention and resilience, particularly in remote communities.

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Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 11/10/2025, Chris Bath

Prince William was moved to tears during a World Mental Health Day conversation with Rhiann Mannings, who founded a bereavement charity after her husband committed suicide. He called for a 'bold, unified national response' to address the preventable tragedy of suicide, emphasising the profound impact of such deaths.

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IMMUNISATION

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

How to easily cut the cost of any insurance premium

Sun Herald, Business News, 12/10/2025, Nicole Pedersen-Mckinnon, Page 35

Mention insurance to any Aussie and you will see pain flicker across their face premiums are now hurting budgets badly thanks to a collision of factors from rising health costs and an ageing population, to natural disasters. [...] This is an approach you can apply with virtually all general insurance and with private health, where you may not realise you can now have an excess as high as \$750 as a single and \$1500 as a family and still be exempt from the Medicare Levy Surcharge.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Liquid metal key to superior implants

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/10/2025, Page 28

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 confirms the special metallic material is far more biocompatible with bones giving patients potential for quicker healing and device longevity after major orthopaedic surgery.

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Benefits of genomic screening at birth

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/10/2025, Page 28

Adding genomic sequencing to newborn blood screening could detect hundreds of additional childhood conditions, providing much earlier diagnosis and treatment. A new study led by Murdoch Children's Research Institute and Victorian Clinical Genetics Services found genomic screening, a test that reveals a person's entire genetic makeup, could easily be included as part of the newborn heel prick test and deliver results for hundreds of treatable conditions within 14 days.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Group work a healthy move

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/10/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 18

A new study has revealed the benefits of a grassroots initiative aimed at boosting health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The Flinders University research evaluated the Enough Talk, Time for Action program, co-designed with Aboriginal men and delivered through an Aboriginal healthcare service.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Patients shouldn't be facing a postcode lottery for health care

Canberra Times, Other, 11/10/2025, Anne Cahill Lambert

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.

[Read More](#)

Hobart Clinic rescue plan gains momentum, but time is running out

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/10/2025, Elise Kaine

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: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Crisis rates

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 12/10/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 1

A top doctor has warned that specialists ought to be "treated with respect", as Canberra public hospitals increase rates for interstate doctors to cover shortages. The ACT government is paying temporary obstetrics and gynaecology doctors, known as locums, up to \$3000 a day to work in public hospitals.

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They care for us but are we taking care of our nurses?

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 12/10/2025, Katrin Leifels Azizur, Page 30

Imagine seeking urgent help during an acute mental health crisis event and expecting calm, capable support. You enter the hospital and notice that the mental health nurses, normally a source of strength, appear to be under significant stress themselves.

Also reported by: [Sunday Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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'Every option is being stripped away': Territorians raise voices on maternity care crisis in Darwin

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/10/2025, talkUrl coralComments, Lottie Hood

Families and healthcare workers in Darwin say the current maternity care system is costing young lives and options are disappearing, with some women sharing stories of traumatic loss. Territorian families and healthcare workers are warning government maternity care concerns are not going away especially as their options appear to be disappearing.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Prescription drug coverage options are shrinking for Medicare shoppers

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/10/2025

Fewer choices may be on the menu again as Medicare patients shop for prescription coverage this fall. The number of available, stand-alone drug plans has fallen for a few years, and that trend will continue for 2026.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

CCC investigates CHO docs

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 12/10/2025, Hayden Johnson, Page 1

The Crime and Corruption Commission is reviewing documents held by Queensland Health about the failed appointment of Krispin Hajkowicz as chief health officer, it can be revealed. Documents sought by The Sunday Mail under Right to Information have been captured by the CCC's investigation and are now unlikely to be released until it is finalised.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

I'm a new dad at 93

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 12/10/2025, Lucy Callander, Page 1

A 93-year-old great grandfather thought to be Australia's oldest new dad believes he will still be around when his son turns 21 and he and his wife have not ruled out giving their toddler a sibling. [...] HGH is regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, a federal authority responsible for ensuring medicines and devices are safe and effective for public use.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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'Practically comatose' mum told she was having panic attack

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 12/10/2025, Isabella Pesch, Page 34

A Queensland mother claims she was traumatised after she was allegedly wrongly diagnosed with a panic attack despite presenting to a Brisbane hospital "practically comatose" following an adverse

reaction to medication. The woman, who wished to remain anonymous, told how she had taken two Panadeine Forte tablets to help with a migraine in June last year.

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Rachael Finch puts her daughter, 11, through a three-month 'detox protocol' that includes eating CLAY - after discovering she has 'mould sickness'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/10/2025, Monique Friedlander

Rachael Finch has raised eyebrows after revealing she has put her 11-year-old daughter Violet through a rigorous 'detox' program for a mould-induced sickness. [...] Daily Mail approached the Therapeutic Goods Administration in relation to this story.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Pill test didn't stop the overdose

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 12/10/2025, Madeline Crittenden Josh Hanrahan, Page 5

More than a dozen people overdosed at a music festival last weekend despite pill testing and amnesty bins with questions now being raised over the safety of the pill-testing trial and whether it should continue. Police sources told The Sunday Telegraph that 14 people suffered suspected drug overdoses at the Knockout Festival at Sydney Olympic Park last Saturday, while NSW Health confirmed five had been rushed to hospital as a result, classing them as "urgent medical transfers".

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

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