



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 15th October 2025

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| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls has denied ramping targets at Ipswich Hospital contributed to the death of 75-year-old Christine White, with Ms White's daughter calling for a repeal of the targets, warning it could lead to further deaths.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports COVID emergency measures have been reinstated at Fiona Stanley Hospital to deal with historic ramping levels, according to the WA Health Department's annual report which details a number of missed targets, while WA Health director-general Shirley Bowen praised health workers for dealing with "extraordinary levels of need".
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 3) reports the private Hobart Clinic will receive a one-off payment from the state government for the mental health service to remain open for a further six months, with Tasmanian Minister for Health Bridget Archer saying the clinic must be able to prove it can run without government aid after that time.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 3) reports a gag order on the discussion of VAD with Victorian GPs is set to be lifted as part of proposed amendments to current legislation, with VAD advocacy groups praising the reforms while urging further reforms to ensure fair and equitable access, including the removal of religious objections. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#)*
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 4) reports Ambulance Victoria has been accused of a toxic workplace culture and deliberately hiding deaths from Safer Care Victoria in a parliamentary inquiry report

that also alleged bullying and nepotism are rife at the organisation, the report making 21 recommendations to fix governance and structural issues.

- **ABC Online** reports WA has recorded its worst flu season since 2001, exceeding 30,000 cases this year, a doubling of 2024 numbers, with health experts positing below average flu vaccination rates are a contributing factor.
- **The Northern Territory News** (page 6) reports NT Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro has refused to use a draft VAD bill from the opposition as the basis for new VAD legislation, claiming work is already underway on drafting a new bill based off the recommendations from a Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee report.
- **The Australian** reports president-elect of the RACP Dr Sharmila Chandran has accused the college of bullying, racism and abuse at a Fair Work Commission hearing, alleging board members often excluded her participation in meetings and made insensitive comments about race and religion in her presence, with the RACP yet to respond to the allegations.

MINISTER BUTLER

Access for mobile related disability

Blacktown News, General News, 01/10/2025, Page 19

More than two million Australians with mobility-related disabilities can now access over 1,000 safe and secure public toilets and Changing Places facilities with the Master Locksmiths Access Key (MLAK). [...] This recognition, announced by Minister Mark Butler, follows decades of advocacy by ACCRRM, RACGP, and the RG Recognition Taskforce.

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'Exploited': alarm over medicinal cannabis use

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/10/2025, Page 10

Doctors and pharmacists have raised concerns about medicinal cannabis, alleging excessive and poorly regulated prescribing practices outside of "typical care pathways". Largely unregulated prescribing and dispensing of medicinal cannabis needs to be tackled, influential industry groups the Australian Medical Association and Pharmacy Guild of Australia said in a joint letter to Health Minister Mark Butler.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Australian Associated Press \(Online\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Batemans Bay Post \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Queanbeyan Age \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [South Western Times \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [Busselton Dunsborough Times \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Guild of Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Medical Republic \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Rural Generalists formally recognised as medical specialists

Yorke Peninsula Country Times - Kadina, General News, 14/10/2025, Page 12

Australia's Rural Generalists have officially been recognised as medical specialists within the field of general practice, marking a milestone in rural healthcare. Announced by the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon. Mark Butler MP, this change acknowledges the vital role RGs play in delivering comprehensive healthcare in rural and remote communities.

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Guild, AMA unite on med cannabis

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 14/10/2025, Page 1

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Australian Medical Association (AMA) have written a joint letter to Health Minister Mark Butler calling for urgent action to tackle the largely unregulated increase in medicinal cannabis prescribing and dispensing across the country. The organisations expressed concerns about the overuse and inadequate regulation of prescribing practices, the prolonged reliance

on special access schemes for medicinal cannabis, and the growing number of prescribing and dispensing clinics operating outside conventional models of care.

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Experts demand 'apology' for Covid vaccine mandates to restore public health trust

Herald Sun, Other, 14/10/2025, Frank Chung

Elton John observed that it seems to be the hardest word — but five years on from Covid, a simple sorry could go a long way to fixing a global “crisis”. [...] “We have a responsibility, particularly as a government, to examine our response to the pandemic, to learn what we did well, and in particular, to learn what we could have done better, and importantly, to build, as this report describes it, a high-level playbook for the next pandemic because we know there will be the next pandemic,” Health Minister Mark Butler said at the time.

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

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Lismore's illegal tobacco and vape shops in councillor's sights

Echo NetDaily, Other, 14/10/2025

The high number of 'illegal tobacco' and vape shops in Lismore has promoted Labor councillor Jasmine Knight-Smith to pen a motion for the upcoming meeting on October 14 (today). [...] 'That's why this motion calls on Council to write to the Federal Minister for Health, the Hon Mark Butler MP, and the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Tony Burke MP.

[Read More](#)

Slow down on Thriving Kids, and consult on what's needed, survey tells government

Communitydirectors.com.au, Other, 14/10/2025

The federal government's planned Thriving Kids rollout is rushed, leaving those affected with not enough time to prepare and putting vital supports at risk, according to a first pass at data from a new national survey. [...] CYDA described the survey as “the first significant community pulse check of its kind since Disability Minister Mark Butler announced Thriving Kids on 20 August.”

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No more waiting: Aussies get pathology results instantly

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/10/2025, Amanda Sheppeard

Australians and their healthcare teams now have immediate access to most pathology reports through My Health Record and the my health app. [...] It said it had written to the federal health minister Mark Butler and ADHA CEO Minister for Health and ADHA CEO Amanda Cattermole PSM to raise concerns that the change could pose unacceptable clinical and operational risks.

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By Australasian Pharmacy

WEB Australasian Pharmacy, Other, 14/10/2025

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia together with the Australian Medical Association have written to Australia's Health Minister Mark Butler calling for urgent action to tackle the largely unregulated increase in medicinal cannabis prescribing and dispensing across the country. The PGA and AMA raised their concerns in a joint letter to Minister Butler about excessive and poorly regulated prescribing practices, the long-term use of the special access schemes for medicinal cannabis, and the proliferation of prescribing and dispensing clinics operating outside typical care pathways.

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Channel 7, National News At Noon, 14/10/2025, Natarsha Belling

The AMA and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have warned of a surge in unregulated medicinal

cannabis use. In a letter to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, they raised concerns over poor prescribing practices, coercive cannabis companies, and questionable online clinics. Experts say stronger regulation is needed after rising hospitalisations for psychosis and cognitive impairments linked to cannabis use.

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ABC Illawarra, Breakfast, 14/10/2025, Melinda James

Interview with AMA president Dr. Danielle McMullen about prescription regulation. McMullen cites concerns over poorly regulated prescribing practices, including medicinal cannabis via telehealth and prescriptions for cosmetic injectables, weight loss, and hair loss drugs. She says the AMA and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia wrote to Health Minister Mark Butler to keep pressure on regulators and highlight patient safety risks and worrying outcomes.

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3AW, Breakfast, 14/10/2025, Ross Stevenson & Russel Howcroft

Interview with AMA president Dr. Danielle McMullen about the regulation of the online medicinal cannabis industry. McMullen cites concerns over widespread prescribing and dispensing of products that lack strong evidence and TGA approval. She says doctors and pharmacists have urged Health Minister Mark Butler to act swiftly on the TGA review to strengthen governance and ensure Australians receive safe, evidence-based care.

Continuing on: [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#).

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6PR, 16:00 News, 14/10/2025

Doctors and pharmacists are warning of risks in Australia’s medicinal cannabis industry, calling for tighter regulation. The AMA and Pharmacy Guild have urged Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to act, citing concerns over rising prescriptions and online services that lack continuity of care. AMA president Danielle McMullen says this exploitation could harm vulnerable patients and put extra pressure on hospitals and psychiatric units.

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River 1467, Breakfast, 14/10/2025, David Burrows

Burrows discusses a joint letter from AMA and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to Health Minister Mark Butler, calling for urgent action on the largely unregulated growth of medicinal cannabis prescribing and dispensing. He highlights their concerns about coercive practices by cannabis companies, poor clinical oversight, and patients bypassing regular GPs and pharmacists. He says this issue raises important questions about regulation and patient safety.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Mental health boost for Ipswich youth

Ipswich Tribune, Other, 15/10/2025, Lara Hart

PROMISES were kept by Blair MP Shayne Neumann with a \$1.3 million funding allocation for Headspace in Ipswich. [...] Last week was National Headspace Day and the Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride announced a \$72.7 million boost to Headspace services in Australia.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Changes to Medicare a boost for women

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/10/2025, Bailey Forbes, Page 6

Australian women will pay next to nothing for a popular and effective contraceptive, thanks to upcoming changes to Medicare. [...] Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White said in the case of the IUD, the upfront cost has been a barrier to women receiving the implant.

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LA FM, 07:30 News, 14/10/2025

Tasmanian women will soon have more affordable access to long-acting contraceptives like IUDs, with a new bulk billing incentive starting next month. Currently, women can pay up to \$400 out of pocket, but Assistant Minister for Health Rebecca White says the changes will increase options and allow more procedures to be bulk-billed. The updated Medicare benefits schedule takes effect on 1 November.

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SEA FM , Breakfast, 14/10/2025

From November, contraceptives like IUDs will become more affordable under a new federal bulk billing incentive. Tasmanian women, who currently pay up to \$400 out of pocket for long-acting contraceptives, will benefit from reduced costs. Assistant Minister for Health Rebecca White says the changes will give women more choice by lowering the price barrier.

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[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

\$2.6 million for Port Broughton village

Plains Producer, General News, 15/10/2025, Page 15

A Port Broughton retirement living village has secured government funding to develop staff accommodation in the area. Barunga Village has secured \$1.66 million in federal funding through the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's Aged Care Capital Assistance Program (ACCAP) to support the development of new staff accommodation in Port Broughton.

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Experts demand 'apology' for Covid vaccine mandates to restore public

health trust

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/10/2025, Frank Chung

The world is currently facing a "crisis" that could "go on for generations" — even though experts say fixing it could start with a simple word. [...] As of July 2025, 2.3 million people, or about 8 per cent of the population, had taken a Covid vaccine in the prior 12 months, according to Health Department data.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

WA's flu season exceeds 30,000 cases as authorities blame low vaccination rates

ABC Online, Other, 14/10/2025, Lauren Smith

Western Australia has experienced its worst flu season on record, with more than 30,000 influenza cases reported this year. [...] It's also the longest flu season WA has experienced — with more cases recorded already this month than any other October since the federal health department began publishing records in 2001.

Also reported by: [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#).

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CHSP transition to SaH timeline still uncertain

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/10/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing continues to be vague on when the Commonwealth Home Support Program will transition into Support at Home. CHSP is designed to be entry-level support for older people requiring help to stay independently at home, and includes services like transport, meal delivery, social support and nursing care

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Ahpra updates prescribing framework to meet evolving healthcare needs

Australian Dental Association (ADA), Other, 14/10/2025

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra), in collaboration with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, has released the third edition of the National Prescribing Competencies Framework – Embedding quality use of medicines into practice (the framework), marking a significant step forward in patient-centred care and safe prescribing practices across regulated health professions.

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One in five NSW students suspended before finishing school

School News Australia, Other, 14/10/2025

A new QUT-led study has revealed that one in five New South Wales public school students has been suspended or expelled at least once before finishing school, raising concerns about the long-term impacts of exclusionary discipline and the need for alternative behavioural support. [...] The study was conducted as part of the NSW Child Development Study with support from the Australian Research Council, National Health and Medical Research Council, and Department of Health and Aged Care Medical Research Future Fund.

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HerCanberra

Her Canberra, Other, 14/10/2025

For years, before my ADHD diagnosis at 42, I masked my authentic self. [...] As a Branch Head in the Federal Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing, I had the opportunity to drive Neuroinclusion efforts.

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[Back to Top](#)

Sector key to longer and healthier lives for Aussies

The Australian, Business News, 15/10/2025, Mark Eggleton, Page 17

The retirement living sector sits at a major inflection point as Australia's population ages and the nature of retirement continues to evolve. On the one hand, there's huge demand for retirement living communities to be built, while on the other, the needs of community residents are evolving as Australians live longer, healthier lives.

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Critical homecare packages finally set to be rolled out

The Australian, Business News, 15/10/2025, Mark Eggleton, Page 17

With the federal government currently funding 20,000 more homecare packages, with double that to be funded from November 1, Australia will finally get moving on shifting the backlog of more than 230,000 Australians either awaiting care or waiting to be assessed for care. While it may be too late for the 5000 Australians who have died on the waitlist in the meantime, it does quicken the timeline on delivery of the 83,000 packages promised as part of the federal government's broader health reforms.

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Active, healthy life matters to seniors

The Australian, Business News, 15/10/2025, Nathan Cockerill, Page 17

When Australians talk about their retirement, there is a huge focus on ageing in place. We want to live long, healthy and active lives in our own homes and communities.

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New resources for 1 November transition

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/10/2025

In less than three weeks, the new Aged Care Act will come into effect, and with it comes new regulations on "associated providers. To support aged care providers in the transition to the new Act, the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission has published a regulatory bulletin explaining the concept of associated providers, who is classified as an associated provider and the relevant regulations registered providers have to adhere to in reference to associated providers.

[Read More](#)

OPAN launches new decision-making resources for seniors

Australian Seniors News, Other, 14/10/2025

A new legislated supported decision-making approach for Australia's aged care sector is set to commence on 1 November under the new Aged Care Act, creating significant responsibilities for those providing care, as well as for families and others who support older people. "The new regime is about rebalancing the power dynamics in aged care and putting the wishes of older people front and centre," said Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) CEO, Craig Gear.

[Read More](#)

The retirement village identity crisis

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/10/2025, James Wiltshire

It is with great interest we are following the developments in South Australia regarding the planning classification of retirement villages as 'essential infrastructure'. The catalyst? Senior Australians locked in hospital beds with no place to go.

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 14/10/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with University of New South Wales adjunct professor Kathy Eagar about the future of aged care. Eagar warns that by 2030, more than 300,000 elderly Australians could miss out on home care packages under the new Support at Home model, with government budget papers showing no funding

growth. She urges the government to retain the Commonwealth Home Support Program and cap fees so pensioners don't pay more than 10% of their income for care.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Frankie's future at stake

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/10/2025, Susie O'Brien, Page 6

Tracey and Nate Constable spent \$8000 on a diagnosis for their son Frankie, 5, so he could access the NDIS. Now Frankie, who has autism level two to three and a developmental delay, faces the possibility he will be kicked off the scheme.

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Financial pressure is changing how we make health decisions

Nursing Review, Other, 14/10/2025, Stefanie Schultz

An increasing number of Australians' healthcare decisions are being impacted by cost of living pressures, new research has found. The seventh Australian Healthcare Index by Healthengine and Patients Australia looked at the healthcare habits of over 8000 Australians, revealing more than half (55 per cent) are visiting their GP less often due to cost.

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3AW, Drive, 14/10/2025

A Parliamentary Committee has found that Ambulance Victoria is still in crisis, plagued by bullying, harassment, nepotism, and reprisals. Staff who challenge authority continue to face retaliation, highlighting a deeply toxic organisational culture.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 14/10/2025, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with RACGP Vice President Dr. Ramya Raman about RACGP WA's four-point plan to strengthen primary care. Raman discusses proposals to reduce hospital readmissions by incentivising GP visits within a week of discharge, expand after-hours GP services through government grants, and fund additional vaccines. She also calls for the appointment of a Chief GP Advisor in WA to improve coordination between primary and tertiary care.

Continuing on: [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

State lifts 'gag clause' on VAD talks by doctors

The Australian, General News, 15/10/2025, Anthony Galloway, Page 8

Doctors in Victoria will be free to discuss voluntary assisted dying with terminally ill patients as part of major reforms the Allan government says will modernise the state's end-of-life laws. The new legislation unveiled on Tuesday removes the controversial "gag clause" that has prevented medical practitioners from initiating conversations about VAD.

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

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Ron & Molly. A love story

West Australian, General News, 15/10/2025, Caleb Runciman, Page 1

An elderly man who was saved by his dog has lived long enough to see his beloved labradoodle win an award for her efforts. [...] Mr Griffiths accessed voluntary assisted dying after a battle with cancer.

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Assisted dying overhaul

Herald Sun, General News, 15/10/2025, Alex White, Page 3

Doctors in Victoria will soon be able to openly discuss voluntary assisted dying (VAD) as part of end-of-life care options, as part of a long-awaited overhaul of the state's euthanasia laws.

The Allan Labor government has unveiled plans to remove the current gag order, which prevents health practitioners from raising assisted dying unless the patient initiates the conversation.

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

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The 'old ways' inspire healthy futures

Cairns Post, General News, 15/10/2025, Page 6

A new campaign will target remote Far North Queensland consumers to make healthier choices, both at the grocery and at home. Not-for-profit remote store operator Community Enterprise Queensland has launched a new health and wellbeing campaign across its network of shops in North Queensland.

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Chief rejects VAD Bill

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/10/2025, Fia Walsh, Page 6

The Country Liberal Party government has shut down the opposition's offer of Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation it drafted as a private member's Bill. On Monday, Opposition Leader Selena Uibo sent a completed draft VAD Bill to the Chief Minister and Attorney-General, urging them to use it as a basis for public feedback rather than "waste more time" developing legislation from scratch.

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

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As illicit tobacco sales rise into the billions, economist Arthur Laffer puts blame on high tobacco taxation rate

ABC Online, Other, 14/10/2025, Mike Lorigan

Internal tobacco industry data estimates the illicit tobacco market now makes up 64 per cent of all tobacco consumed in Australia and 82 per cent of the total nicotine consumed. And as of September the size of that illicit market is estimated to be worth almost \$10 billion.

[Read More](#)

'Her death was tranquil': why Eve is urging Victorian MPs to make access to voluntary assisted dying easier

The Guardian, Other, 15/10/2025, Benita Kolovos

Eve Crotty describes her mum Marion's death as peaceful and painless. They were on the couch in their family home, Crotty on one side, her dad on the other, singing Sex on Fire by Kings of Leon.

[Read More](#)

Wait times halved, gag binned for state euthanasia laws

The Border Mail, Other, 14/10/2025, Callum Godde

What are the proposed changes to victoria's voluntary assisted dying laws? Doctors able to raise the issue of voluntary assisted dying with terminally ill patients, removing the "gag clause".

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Victoria's overhauled voluntary assisted laws give 'dignity' to those suffering, says Premier

9News, Other, 14/10/2025, Patrick Brischetto

The Victorian Government has made changes to the state's voluntary assisted dying (VAD) laws to make the service more accessible to those suffering from terminal illnesses. There have been 13 proposed amendments to the current legislation that was introduced in 2017, including removing a clause that banned doctors from suggesting VAD as a valid option to terminally ill patients wishing to discuss end-of-life options.

[Read More](#)

NT maternity crisis laid bare at forum

Nursing Review, Other, 14/10/2025

Territorian families and healthcare workers have continued to express concern over government maternity care facilities as private sector 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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Rural miscarriage care 'fragmented, dismissive'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 14/10/2025

A report from an early pregnancy loss support agency has called for national reforms to address what it says is 'fragmented, dismissive' miscarriage care for people in rural, regional and remote Australia. [...] Looking to the future, Pink Elephants said the Federal Government has funded and commenced the AIHW scoping review of Sexual and Reproductive Health data collection.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 14/10/2025, Jennifer Keyte

Victorian doctors will now be allowed to raise voluntary assisted dying with patients under proposed reforms before Parliament, which also include extending the prognosis requirement from six to 12 months and removing the gag clause. Premier Jacinta Allan said the changes provide compassion and clarity for accessing end-of-life options. More than 1,600 Victorians have accessed the scheme since 2019.

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3AW, Afternoons, 14/10/2025

Victoria will expand access to voluntary assisted dying, removing a gag clause that stops doctors from raising the option and extending the eligibility prognosis from six to twelve months.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 14/10/2025

The Victorian Government will move to ease restrictions on the state's assisted dying scheme. Doctors would be permitted to raise assisted dying as an option for terminally ill patients, and conscientious objectors would be required to provide basic information about it. The amendments will be introduced to Parliament this week, with Labor MPs expected to have a conscience vote.

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Weakening cancer cells

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 15/10/2025, Page 6

The discovery of a new vulnerability in prostate cancer cells could help improve treatment for one of the most common cancers affecting men. The research reveals that two enzymes PDIA1 and PDIA5 play a crucial role in helping prostate cancer cells grow, survive, and resist treatment.

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Time the enemy in dementia prevention, study finds

Australian Seniors News, Other, 14/10/2025

Time – or the lack of it – could be a missing link in dementia prevention, according to new research from UNSW Sydney's Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHeBA). The research, published today in The Lancet Healthy Longevity, identifies time as an under-recognised social determinant of brain health, potentially as important as education and income.

[Read More](#)

Cold Power safe for allergies, asthma

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/10/2025

Cold Power Sensitive laundry liquids have been approved by the National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) Sensitive Choice program to display the blue butterfly logo. Cold Power Sensitive laundry liquid, sold in many pharmacies, has been reviewed and approved by an independent expert panel as providing potential benefit to those with asthma or allergies.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 14/10/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with HeartKids CEO Marcus Sandmann about the Two Feet & A Heartbeat. Sandmann discusses the impact of childhood-onset heart disease, noting that four children die each week and eight babies are born daily with a heart condition in Australia. He says the walk aims to raise awareness, provide community support, and fund HeartKids' work supporting affected families.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 14/10/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with AirHealth CEO Dr. Edwin Lampugnani about the impact of grass pollen on asthma and hay fever. Lampugnani discusses how increased rainfall has led to higher grass pollen levels across South Australia, heightening risks for asthma sufferers. He recommends using the AirRater app for pollen alerts, maintaining an asthma action plan, and managing hay fever to reduce asthma symptoms.

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FIVEAA, Breakfast, 14/10/2025, Will Goodings & David Penberthy

Interview with Asthma Australia SA Director Nigel Cooper about the worsening hay fever season. Cooper explains that heavy winter rainfall has led to increased grass growth, resulting in higher pollen levels this spring and summer. He advises keeping windows closed, using air conditioning, avoiding outdoor activity on high pollen days, and managing asthma and hay fever symptoms with medications and preventative plans.

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[Back to Top](#)

Banker takes on \$100m mental health mission

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 15/10/2025, Michael Smith, Page 15

Career banker Joseph Healy has been surrounded by people struggling with mental illness his whole life.

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Mental health start-up looking for backers

The Australian, Business News, 15/10/2025, David Ross, Page 15

Joseph Healy has retired his suit and adopted the founder uniform of a T-shirt as the veteran banker launches his mental health startup Malu, a \$100m private sector answer to Australia's care crisis. Mr Healy, who founded neobank Judo, is using his banking nous to scoop up Malu's first four clinics and advance a plan to grow to 100 sites.

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Former banker builds mental health network

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 15/10/2025, Elias Visontay, Page 23

A new mental health venture founded by a tragedy-affected career banker is aiming to fill a gap in the overwhelmed sector by bringing specialist referrals, in person care and telehealth therapy under a single umbrella. Malu Health, which launches today, has so far acquired four bricks-and-mortar mental healthcare clinics, and is looking to raise up to a \$100 million to expand that footprint.

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

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Lend an ear on this issue

Herald Sun, General News, 15/10/2025, Page 11

Hearing loss affects one in six Australians and is often overlooked as a major factor impacting mental health. More than half of adult Australians are concerned to some degree about their hearing, but only 7 per cent have done something about it, according to Hearing Australia research.

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

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ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 14/10/2025, Sajarn Stow

Interview with Flinders University professor James Smith about men's health in the Northern Territory. Smith discusses rising suicide rates among men, and emphasises the importance of strengths-based engagement, healthy masculinities, and community programs like sporting clubs. He highlights the need for greater funding and collaborative efforts between researchers, government, and community organisations to improve men's mental health and wellbeing.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 14/10/2025

Tasmania Health Minister Bridget Archer says a key hurdle in plans to save the Hobart Clinic has been resolved. A group of clinicians seeking \$2 million to keep the 27-bed private mental health hospital open have now secured the clinic board's support for their proposal. Archer says she hopes to make a decision in the coming days.

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[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 14/10/2025, Chris Bath

Interview with Westmead and Blacktown Hospitals consultant cardiologist Professor Timothy Tan about shingles. Tan discusses the symptoms and complications of shingles and explains that risk increases after age 50 or in those with weakened immune systems. He highlights the benefits of the shingles vaccine, noting it reduces the risk and severity of disease, and recommends vaccination even for those who have previously had shingles.

Continuing on: [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Clinic lifeline

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/10/2025, David Killick, Page 1

Tasmania's only southern private mental health clinic has been granted a \$2m lifeline by the state government enough funding to keep it open for a further six months. Health Minister Bridget Archer announced the one-off grant for The Hobart Clinic, which was due to close at the end of October.

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

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Drinking early more harmful

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 15/10/2025, Page 7

The earlier teenagers begin drinking before the minimum legal age for purchasing alcohol, the higher the risk of heavy drinking and alcohol-related harms in early adulthood. Researchers led by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) at UNSW Sydney said teenagers who began drinking early (age 12) were more likely to report heavy episodic drinking and alcohol abuse than those who began drinking at age 18.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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Lifeline buys time for clinic

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 15/10/2025, Page 14

There will be many people relieved to see The Hobart Clinic has been offered a \$2m lifeline, which aims to keep Tasmania's only southern private psychiatric facility open. Since the clinic announced it would close its doors about a month ago, clinicians, nursing staff and patients have all warned of the dire consequences of it closing down.

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How Australia compares in global antibiotic resistance crisis

Adelaide Now, Other, 14/10/2025, Blair Jackson

Bacterial infections resistant to antibiotics are rising worldwide, but the threat is less severe in Australia. A report from the World Health Organisation this week found one-in-six bacterial infections causing common infections in people worldwide in 2023 were resistant to antibiotic treatments.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Warning issued for heat stress risk for Queensland workers as

temperatures continue to rise

7news.com.au, Other, 14/10/2025, Sarah Keszler

An urgent health warning has been issued for Queensland's resource workers as weather conditions continue to reach above-average temperatures in the state. [...] The World Health Organization (WHO) said heat stress is the leading cause of weather-related deaths.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Blue-sky inspiration on the 10-year plan

The Australian, Higher Education, 15/10/2025, Stephen Matchett, Page 21

When Richard Robson won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry last week his boss was quick to point out his achievement demonstrated what "blue-sky research" could deliver. The problem is deciding how much to spend on projects that may or may not change science in 20 years when there is an insatiable demand for funding on research to deliver national dividends now.

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Psychedelics work like magic

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 15/10/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 11

Australia's first psychedelic trial for treatment-resistant depression has uncovered potential markers that could predict which patients will respond to the emerging therapy. The pilot study tracked eight patients over 12 weeks of treatment, which involves two sessions on psilocybin, the active ingredient in magic mushrooms, alongside talk therapy to prepare and then process the experience.

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

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Study reveals even a sip of alcohol before 18 increases risk of alcohol abuse

West Australian, Other, 14/10/2025, Tahnee Graham

The risk of experiencing alcohol-related harm as an adult increases the earlier a child starts to drink alcohol, a major Australian study has found. Researchers from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of New South Wales observed the drinking patterns of more than 900 young Australians — some as young as 12 — over 11 years, finding that early exposure was linked to higher rates of harmful drinking behaviours.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Closer care helps ease the burden

Cairns Post, General News, 15/10/2025, Catherine Duffy, Page 6

For Torres Strait transplant patient Aunty Rosie Sambo, receiving specialised care in her home town will be a game changer for her treatment. Ms Sambo, a Thursday Island resident, had to travel to Brisbane in 2023 for a transplant after spending eight years on dialysis.

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Victorian Opposition vows to scrap Treaty within 100 days if elected

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/10/2025, Dechlan Brennan

The Victorian Liberals have pledged to repeal the state's historic Treaty legislation within 100 days if

they win government in 2026. Introduced last month, the bill has been described as a proud and historic step forward for First Peoples.

[Read More](#)

Aboriginal community health leaders work with Air Force to deliver services in Far North Queensland

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/10/2025, Joseph Guenzler

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Far North Queensland are working with the Royal Australian Air Force through Exercise Kummundoo 2025, delivering health services and building stronger relationships. The month-long initiative, running from 1 October to 6 November in Mareeba, is now in its 11th year and is delivered in partnership with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

[Read More](#)

Victorian Coalition pledges to tear up Treaty laws if elected in 2026

SBS, Other, 14/10/2025

Victoria's Opposition has vowed to scrap the state's landmark Treaty legislation within 100 days if it wins government in 2026 - pledging instead to create a new First Nations department. The future of Australia's first state Treaty has been thrown into doubt, with the Victorian Opposition pledging to repeal the landmark legislation within 100 days if it wins government in 2026.

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[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Fears of more ramping deaths

Courier Mail, General News, 15/10/2025, Emma Cam, Page 1

The family of a woman who died soon after leaving Ipswich Hospital has warned new ramping rules could lead to more people dying after missing out on care. Christine White's daughter Brooke Watson has also blasted Health Minister Tim Nicholls for getting crucial details about her mother's death in August wrong.

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Hospitals fail to keep up with the demand

West Australian, General News, 15/10/2025, Jessica Page, Page 1

The impact of WA's buckling hospital system has been laid bare by new figures confirming key targets have been missed, as the State's health boss blamed "extraordinary levels of need" for record ramping. The Health Department's latest annual report has revealed that the number of priority-one calls to triple-0 attended within the 15 minutes has fallen further behind the 90 per cent target, from 86.3 per cent in 2023-24 to 83.3 per cent in 2024-25.

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

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

Dozens of ambulance call-outs, three fatalities mar season

Canberra Times, General News, 15/10/2025, Lucy Arundell, Page 3

It's been one of the Snowy Mountains' deadlier snow seasons, with at least three people dying from ski or snowboard incidents on the slopes. Two uni students and a father from the South Coast died within three weeks of each other at Perisher and Thredbo over the winter months.

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Ambo HQ 'runs on bullying and fear'

Herald Sun, General News, 15/10/2025, Shannon Deery, Page 4

Victoria's ambulance service is in crisis, with a toxic workplace culture and excessive workloads

pushing paramedics to breaking point, a damning report has found. A parliamentary inquiry into Ambulance Victoria has called for sweeping reforms of the service it says is putting Victorian lives at risk, while also forcing an ombudsman's investigation into the agency.

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

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Nicholls in focus on bungle

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 15/10/2025, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 9

Health Minister Tim Nicholls has hit back on claims he knew about a medical bungle at Townsville Hospital before he went on leave. Last month it was revealed the hospital did not complete after-care follow-ups correctly for 11 urology patients, some with cancer.

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

Situation in ED 'critical'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 15/10/2025, Emily Williams, Page 1

For about 14 years, nurse Megan Whish-Wilson has been working at the Mersey Community Hospital's emergency department (ED) but it's currently the worst she has ever seen it. "We now have access block every shift, we are now treating patients in the waiting room, we've got the worst ramping in the state," she said.

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Only half of urgent patients seen on time at Canberra emergency departments: report

Canberra Times, Other, 14/10/2025, Lanie Tindale

Only half of urgent patients presenting at Canberra emergency departments were seen on time in 2024-25, according to Canberra Health Services' latest annual report. The directorate failed to meet its target of having 80 per cent of category 3, or urgent, patients seen within 30 minutes of presenting at an ED.

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COVID-era fix ordered at Perth's busiest hospital as ramping crisis leaves patients waiting longer

West Australian, Other, 14/10/2025

The impact of WA's buckling hospital system has been laid bare by new figures confirming key targets have been missed, as the State's health boss blamed "extraordinary levels of need" for record ramping. The Health Department's latest annual report has revealed that the number of priority one calls to triple-0 attended within the 15 minutes has fallen further behind the 90 per cent target - from 86.3 per cent in 2023-24 to 83.3 per cent in 2024-25.

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

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Delegation of GPs hand State Parliament a wish-list to solve WA's ramping crisis

West Australian, Other, 14/10/2025

General Practitioners are demanding more after-hours funding and free vaccinations, to help solve WA's ramping crisis. A delegation from the Royal Australian College of GPs spent Tuesday lobbying MPs at State Parliament, in the wake of three straight months of record ambulance ramping - exceeding more than 7000 hours each month.

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

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Border, North East medicos form body to tackle Albury Wodonga

Health issues

The Border Mail, Other, 14/10/2025, Ted Howes

The formation of a new medical body to address Albury Wodonga Health issues has been supported unanimously at a closed-door meeting of more than 70 Border senior clinicians on Monday night. It is understood the first meeting of the Albury Wodonga Health Senior Medical Staff Association will take place on Wednesday night, October 22.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Heartache at loss of much-respected practitioner

Border Mail, General News, 15/10/2025, Beau Greenway, Page 1

A much-loved member of the Border medical community is being mourned after her death in a bicycle crash. Alison Green, 63, was a highly-respected GP obstetrician who had built a strong bond with her community over the course of her 35 years of service.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#).

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Remote university access aimed at addressing workforce shortages in WA's Kimberley

ABC Online, Other, 14/10/2025

For high-schoolers graduating in remote communities across Australia, the pathway to university can seem fraught with obstacles. Uprooting your life and moving to a capital city is not always viable, which is the case for many young people in the outback Kimberley town of Broome, where the state's capital is over 2,000 kilometres away.

[Read More](#)

Targeted support key to building rural allied health workforce

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/10/2025

Staff turnover and a lack of resources remain a challenge for the regional, rural and remote allied health workforce, but new research from Flinders University shows there are several personal and organisational factors that can help retain workers. In 2019 South Australia Health introduced the allied health rural generalist pathway as a workforce building strategy, and research – also conducted by Flinders University – has shown it has a positive impact on participants and consumers and is cost-effective.

[Read More](#)

Connection, support key to rural retention

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/10/2025

Strengthening community ties, managing workloads effectively, and delivering timely professional development for early-career allied health professionals are key to improving staff retention and healthcare outcomes in rural Australia, new research suggests. As regional towns continue to face high staff turnover and limited resources, a Flinders University study has identified both personal and organisational factors that can help attract and retain allied health workers, including pharmacists.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 14/10/2025, Ryk Goddard

Interview with ANMF Tasmanian Branch Secretary Emily Shepherd about proposed staffing cuts at the Royal Hobart Hospital's cancer clinical trials unit. Shepherd discusses how a potential 58% reduction in staff could threaten specialised cancer trials. She emphasises the impact on patient care and the stress on nurses, calling for government support to maintain these critical services.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Digital Health Record 'significant failure of governance': Auditor-General

Canberra Times, Other, 14/10/2025, Lanie Tindale

An ACT digital medical records project could be "the most significant failure of governance" Auditor-General Michael Harris has ever seen. There was much fanfare, including confetti cannons, when the ambitious Digital Health Record went live in November 2022.

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[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

FWC 'bullying' hearing opens

The Australian, General News, 15/10/2025, Penny Timms, Page 7

The president-elect of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians alleges she was subject to antagonistic, aggressive and disruptive behaviour from senior members of the college, including its current president and CEO, which she argues amounts to bullying. Dr Sharmila Chandran and her legal representative used the opening day of a Fair Work Commission hearing to allege instances of racism, fiery tempers and bullying and a college incapable of stopping it, therefore making it complicit.

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

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'War hero' doctor caught self-prescribing

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/10/2025, Megan Haggan

A pharmacist checked SafeScript when they became concerned about a doctor who presented scripts he had written in his wife's name, resulting in a notification to Ahpra. In November 2023, the Medical Board referred allegations about the doctor to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

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[Back to Top](#)

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

'A bit overboard': Dentist speaks out after NSW Health's warning

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/10/2025, James Willis

A long-time Sydney dentist has defended the safety of his clinic after NSW Health urged his current and former patients to get tested for bloodborne viruses, including HIV. Safuan Hasic, also known as Steven Hasic, has had his registration as a dental practitioner suspended, and NSW Health has issued a closure order for his Mortdale surgery.

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

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'Am I going to die?': Mum recalls son's heartbreaking last words hours before he succumbed to a deadly disease

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/10/2025, Caitlin Powell

The mother of a 16-year-old boy who died just hours after he contracted a deadly strain of meningococcal disease has recalled his heartbreaking final moments. Levi Syer, a Year 10 student at St Francis Xavier College in Beaconsfield, came home complaining about sore muscles on September 23.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

2CC, Breakfast, 14/10/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with RACGP president Dr. Michael Wright about online weight-loss medications. Wright discusses the risks of unregulated or AI-generated health information and warns that some online 'herbal' substitutes for GLP-1 medications are untested and potentially unsafe. He advises checking a doctor's registration, confirming TGA approval, and consulting a GP who knows your medical history before using such medications.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Back Country Cuisine's two camping meals, Spaghetti Bolognese and Mushroom Bolognese, recalled over undeclared egg

7news.com.au, Other, 14/10/2025, Demi Huang

Two ready-to-eat camping meals have been recalled due to an undeclared allergen. The alert for Back Country Cuisine's Spaghetti Bolognese and Mushroom Bolognese, both made by Sea to Summit Pty Ltd, was issued by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) on Tuesday.

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[Back to Top](#)

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