



# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 30th October 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has said that comments by Andrew Hastie and Barnaby Joyce on late-term pregnancy terminations during a debate on new stillborn parental leave legislation was a “distressing political exercise”.
- **[The Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has encouraged superannuation funds to invest in the aged-care sector ahead of the implementation of the Aged Care Act on Saturday.
- **[The Australian \(page 4\)](#)** reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has said that the Federal Government may intervene into primary care clinics if they do not accept and integrate themselves into the bulk-billing scheme coming into effect on November 1.
- **[The Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the Victorian Greens party has called on the Victorian State Government to implement a \$30 million emergency funding deal with cohealth, coming as Better Health Network announces another two site closures at Clarinda and Bentleigh.
- The **[Herald Sun \(page 1\)](#)** reports that former president of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Professor John Wilson, has criticised St Vincent's Hospital's policy of treating First Nations patients within 30 minutes of their arrival.

- **The Australian (page 3)** reports that a study of the Australian Preterm and Early Term Birth Prevention Program, published in the The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Women's Health, has found that the program lowered harmful early birth rates by 7 to 10 per cent.
- The **Herald Sun (page 4)** reports that new voluntary assisted dying legislation which will allow GPs to discuss end-of-life options with patients has passed in the Victorian Government's lower house.
- The **Sydney Morning Herald (page 9)** reports that all NSW public hospitals will undergo an urgent security audit of their medical gases, following a sabotage that led to the death of a 72-year-old man.
- **Northern Territory News (page 10)** reports that the total number of influenza cases in Northern Territory from August to mid-October rose to 1236 cases, with a total of 14 deaths linked to the influenza outbreak reported this year.
- The **Adelaide Advertiser (page 9)** reports that up to 100 South Australian GPs will be able to diagnose ADHD in patients, as well as treat and prescribe medication, from February 2026.
- **The ABC (online)** reports that construction at the South Australian Women's and Children's Hospital, Mount Barker Hospital, and Flinders Medical Centre have all been delayed, with the cost blowout of the two hospitals reaching \$96 million and \$146 million respectively.
- **The ABC (online)** reports that a study conducted by University of Newcastle researchers has linked PFAS chemicals in drinking water to adverse effects in male reproductive health, with reductions in daily sperm production as well as testosterone and dihydrotestosterone levels.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Medicare changes: GPs put on notice

The Australian, General News, 30/10/2025, Penny Timms, Page 4

The federal Health Minister has flagged government intervention in primary care may be needed if medical practices fail to get onboard with Medicare bulk-billing changes due to come into effect from Saturday. "We're going to intervene in the market," Mark Butler told the ABC, adding the government was prepared to "fund up new practices" in markets where bulk-billing rates remain low.

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

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### MPs Hastie, Joyce ignite fight over stillbirth law

Age, General News, 30/10/2025, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 1

Four Coalition MPs have renewed a debate over "late-term abortions" in federal parliament, raising concern that laws guaranteeing paid leave for parents of stillborn children will be used by mothers whose pregnancies are terminated. [...] " Health Minister Mark Butler said the debate caused distress in the community.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#).

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### 'Cynical' polities urged to rethink

Courier Mail, General News, 30/10/2025, Ellen Ransley, Page 11

Four conservative Coalition MPs have been slammed for "cynical politicking" after they claimed new laws would incentivise women to take time off for late-term abortions. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler labelled the comments as "very inflammatory and pretty distressing".

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

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### Coalition MPs slammed for abortion claim on changes to include stillbirths in paid parental leave Bill

The Australian, Other, 29/10/2025, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer

Coalition MPs claiming women who have late-term abortions could be covered by proposed tweaks to paid parental leave is "deeply cynical politicking", Health Minister Mark Butler says. Baby Priya's Bill, dubbed Priya's Law, is a proposed amendment to the Fair Work Act ensuring parents grieving a stillbirth or neonatal death can access paid parental leave.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#).

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## **'False expectations': Sydney doctors, GP slams \$8.5bn Medicare bulk-billing model**

The Australian, Other, 29/10/2025, Alexandra Feiam

The sweeping new changes come into effect this weekend, but a Sydney GP clinic has argued the bulk-billing model would harm both patients and clinics. [...] So far, 900 clinics have signed up to commit to bulk-billing full-time, with Health and Aging Minister Mark Butler adding he was "very confident" more clinics would sign up.

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

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## **More affordable contraception with new PBS listing**

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 29/10/2025, Natalie Dragon

Australian women will soon have subsidised access to more affordable contraceptive with the addition of NuvaRing to the PBS this weekend. [...] These changes to MBS and expanded options through the PBS will remove cost and access barriers so that more women can choose the contraceptive option that works best for them," said Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on Monday.

[Read More](#)

## **'Not a luxury': cheaper contraception offers choice**

HealthTimes, Other, 29/10/2025

Hundreds of thousands of Australian women will have access to another affordable contraception option as a vaginal ring is added to the government's medication subsidy scheme for the first time. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said women's health needs had been sidelined for too long.

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## **'Deeply disappointing': feds respond to Cohealth crisis**

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/10/2025, Amanda Sheppeard

Two weeks after the Melbourne community health service announced it would have to slash GP services and there is still no clear solution in sight. The Victorian and Australian governments have weighed into the financial crisis facing a community health service in Melbourne which has announced it will have to close some of its GP services by the end of the year. The federal government has expressed "deep disappointment" and called on Cohealth to "reconsider its position", while the Victorian government said it had written to federal health minister Mark Butler "advocating for an urgent solution to these issues".

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## **Keeping insurance 'phoenixing' in the ashes**

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/10/2025, Euan Kielly

A new ama submission has condemned a price-gouging tactic too commonly used in private health insurance. [...] Last December federal health minister Mark Butler threatened the insurers with legislative action, calling phoenixing "a sleight of hand that makes the best value policies disappear and forces customers to take out more expensive policies".

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## **Company blasts AMA 'mistake'**

Montu has accused the Australian Medical Association (AMA) of misinformation relating to medicinal cannabis safety but the doctor's organisation has hit back just as hard at the allegations. [...] This month the AMA joined with rival the Pharmacy Guild of Australia urging Health Minister Mark Butler to tackle regulations on medicinal cannabis prescribing and dispensing.

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## **Nov PBS listing doubles market**

Pharma In Focus, Other, 29/10/2025

A November pbs listing will open the doors to subsidised access to Boehringer Ingelheim's Jardiance for 70,000 Australians living with chronic kidney disease (CKD). [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said without reimbursement, Jardiance would cost more than \$670 a year, but crucially, subsidy helps patients maintain their quality of life.

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## **Taylor Fry awarded \$655K to review IHACPA aged care pricing advice**

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/10/2025, Caroline Egan

The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) has appointed consulting firm Taylor Fry on a \$655,000 contract to independently validate its aged care pricing advice – continuing IHACPA's long-standing annual quality-assurance practice. Under the agreement Taylor Fry must produce draft and final reports – and supplementary papers if requested by Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler – assessing whether IHACPA's calculations are "appropriate and fit for purpose," with detailed recommendations provided in the finals.

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## **PBS listing brings relief to thousands of Australians with kidney disease**

Your Life Choices, Other, 29/10/2025, Abigail Abrugar

Living with a chronic health condition often means juggling treatments, appointments, and lifestyle changes. For many, even small adjustments in care or medication can have a big impact on day-to-day life. [...] Health minister Mark Butler describes kidney disease as 'a silent epidemic' affecting more than 2.5 million Australians.

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## **ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 29/10/2025, Patricia Karvelas**

Interview with Health Minister Mark Butler. Some conservative MPs have raised concerns over the new legislation aimed at helping people who have stillbirths to take their pre-arranged paid parental leave, which some say is incentivising potentially late-term abortions. Butler clarifies the medical definition of stillbirth, reminding men to know the difference between stillbirth and abortion, and calling the comments on the legislation cynical politicking. On the expansion of bulk billing, he notes that 1,000 practices have already told the government that they will start bulk billing every single patient next week.

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

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## **Channel 10, 10 News+, 29/10/2025, Denham Hitchcock and Amelia Brace**

Starting Saturday, consultations are set to become cheaper as big changes to bulk billing come into effect, with GP clinics being offered a government financial incentive if they bulk bill all patients with a Medicare card. There are also larger rebates for menopause health assessments and long-term contraceptives such as IUDs and implants under the changes, making them more affordable or free. Health Minister Mark Butler has claimed that a thousand GPs have confirmed they will move to fully bulk billing next week.

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## **Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 29/10/2025, Kim Millar**

With brain cancer research remaining underfunded in Australia, advocates are now calling on the Federal Government for better support to treat the disease. Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston has questioned the lack of proton beam therapy in the country. Health Minister Mark Butler says they are open to these discussions.

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## **Sky News Live, The Kenny Report, 29/10/2025, Danica De Giorgio**

Interview with Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston. The Federal Government is rolling out its new bulk billing plan for GPs. Ruston says the Department of Health and Aged Care has admitted that the out-of-pocket costs to see a doctor will continue to go up despite these measures. She notes that some local GPs are saying they can't afford to fully bulk bill their patients in many instances because of the increasing costs that they are facing after Health Minister Mark Butler claimed that a doctor would earn \$400,000 a year if all of their patients were bulk billed.

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## **Sky News Live, Politics Now, 29/10/2025, Tom Connell, Kieran Gilbert, Andrew Clennell, Ashleigh Gillon**

Interview with NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister. The Federal Government is arming the NDIS Commission with greater powers to crack down on dodgy disability service providers in a bid to make the scheme sustainable. McAllister says they are expanding the number of people who are delegated to exercise powers around issuing financial penalties and notices to comply. She notes that Health Minister Mark Butler has already talked about the role of the Medicare system in establishing the Thriving Kids program.

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## **2GB, Drive, 29/10/2025, Clinton Maynard**

Maynard says Labor made an electoral promise last election to have 90 per cent of all GP appointments bulk billed. Health Minister Mark Butler says a thousand GPs have told the government they will drop out-of-pocket charges and revert to full bulk billing next week.

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## **ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 29/10/2025, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter**

Interview with CHOICE editorial director Mark Serrels. Yesterday, Health Minister Mark Butler reassured Australians that they can be confident in the efficacy of their sunscreens as summer approaches. Serrels encourages people to visit CHOICE to see which sunscreens perform best if they are planning to buy one. He believes an SPF 30 sunscreen is enough to protect skin massively.

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## **MINISTER MCALLISTER**

### **NITV, NITV News, 29/10/2025, Matty Mills**

More than 60,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are on the NDIS, but most do not receive specialised support. An estimate of between 144 to 285 First Nations providers are registered on the scheme, which is less than one per cent of almost 270,000 disability support services across the country. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister says they will work with the community to address the issue of not providing culturally appropriate services.

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## **Sky News Live, Politics Now, 29/10/2025, Tom Connell, Kieran Gilbert, Andrew Clennell, Ashleigh Gillon**

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## MINISTER RAE

### Funds targeted to boost spending on aged care

The Australian, General News, 30/10/2025, Greg Brown, Page 1

Labor is moving to encourage superannuation funds to invest in the aged care sector to help fund huge growth in demand for services due to an ageing population, amid warnings an eight-fold increase of government spending on the home care packages over the past decade is unsustainable. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the next step for reform in the sector was securing more private sector investment, with super funds targeted to "attract the capital investment required to meet population demand and demand of an ageing population".

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### Expressions of interest open for 120-bed aged care facility

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/10/2025, Zizi Averill, Page 12

The federal government has set a three-year construction deadline as it opens up bids for a future 120-bed aged care facility in Darwin. [...] Federal Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae said the promised 120-bed facility would help alleviate some of this pressure, with the Commonwealth contributing up to \$60m to the project through the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program.

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### New costs in aged care

PerthNow Central, General News, 30/10/2025, Page 7

Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has issued a blunt warning to providers: there are no excuses not to be ready with a new regime that kicks in this week. After a four-month delay, the biggest change to the sector in a generation begins on Saturday, with many, including Mr Rae, holding their breath for several unknowns.

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### Study to improve aged care access

Dimboola Banner, General News, 29/10/2025, Page 4

An evaluation of the Grampians Residential In Reach (RIR) Program, an initiative designed to improve access to specialist healthcare for older adults living in residential aged care homes across rural and regional western Victoria, has officially been launched. Western Alliance, a regional Research Translation Centre accredited by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), in collaboration with The Grampians Region Health Service Partnership (GRHSP), has marked the beginning of a 14-month evaluation in partnership with the DELIVER research team, investigating evidence-based solutions to support clinical care delivered at or closer to home for older adults.

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### 'Be ready' for new regime

Mandurah Times, General News, 29/10/2025, Page 4

Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has issued a blunt warning to providers: there are no excuses not to be ready with a new regime that kicks in this week. After a four-month delay, the biggest change to the sector in a generation begins on Saturday, with many, including Mr Rae, holding their breath for several unknowns.

## Alkira showdown

The Lockyer and Somerset Independent, General News, 30/10/2025, Michael Williams, Page 1

Elderly residents, their relatives and local MP Shayne Neumann have rounded on the operators of the Alkira nursing home in Toogoolawah following complaints about inadequate care. [...] Mr Neumann said he wrote to Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, on 1 October raising the community's concerns.

Also reported by: [Ipswich West Moreton Today \(Ipswich\)](#)

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## Aged care investigation

The Sentinel, General News, 29/10/2025, Marina Gomide, Page 1

The Federal Government has launched an investigation into a Toogoolawah aged care home, following numerous allegations, including claims an elderly woman went unshowered for three days and residents were served meals of bread and party pies. [...] Mr Neumann wrote to Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, on October 1, requesting the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission take action.

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## Politics with Michelle Grattan: Sam Rae on big changes to aged care

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 29/10/2025

This weekend, the aged care sector will see a major shakeup that's been a long time coming. [...] To talk about how the new changes will affect older Australians, we're joined by the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae.

[Read More](#)

## POWER FM Illawarra, 06:00 News, 29/10/2025

Big changes to aged care services and support for residents across the South Coast and Highlands are set to come as the new Aged Care Act and Support at Home program begins on Saturday. Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae says they're providing targeted support to help assist the transition for local seniors and regional aged care providers.

Also reported by: [Hope 103.2 \(Sydney\)](#)

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## 2SM, 08:30 News, 29/10/2025

Major changes to the aged care system will come into effect this weekend. The new Aged Care Act and Support at Home program will start on 1 November. Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae says the changes will focus on the rights of older Australians.

Also reported by: [2HD \(Newcastle\)](#)

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

**Government backs new bone health push to help Aussies stay strong**

As we get older, keeping our bones strong becomes more important than ever. [...] Assistant Minister for Health, Ageing and Women, the Hon Rebecca White MP, joined Olympic Gold Medallist and Know Your Bones Ambassador Sally Pearson OAM, along with leading doctors and advocates, at Parliament House to call for earlier testing and stronger prevention efforts.

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

### ABC Newcastle, Drive, 29/10/2025, Jenny Marchant

Interview with HMRI Infertility and Reproduction researcher Dr Geoff De Iuliis. De Iuliis talks about men's mental health in relation to fertility, saying that they had Dan Repacholi in for a visit during the week to discuss the impacts of mental health on males and society. He claims that mental health certainly does impact fertility potential for men.

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## DEPARTMENT

### Jallarah transitions care

Murray Valley Standard, General News, 30/10/2025, Kaitlyn Gibbons, Page 2

Jallarah Homes, the community-based residential aged care facility in Meningie, has announced it has begun a process to transition to a new provider. [...] Jallarah is working closely with consultants and receiving support from the Federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to continue operating and maintaining quality care for residents while identifying a new provider.

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### Dept says sign up or else!

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Antony Scholefield, Page 1

GP clinics will be forced to brand themselves as 'Medicare bulk-billing practices' if they claim the Federal Government's 12.5% loading payment for universal bulk-billing. [...] But the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing says it is sending participating practices up to four signs as part of the mandatory advertising requirements, ranging from a metre-wide decal to an A3 poster on 170gsm satin paper declaring, "We Bulk-Bill Every Eligible Patient."

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### The looming reforms to the GP consult time tiers

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Paul Smith, Page 40

The government's move to reengineer the Medicare time tiers for GP consults has the potential to become one of the most significant structural reforms to fee-for-service in decades. [...] Even the [Department of Health, Disability and Ageing] recognises that consultations are [running] longer, and that's due to mental health presentations [and] more chronic and complex disease.

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### Federal health opens \$26 million tender

AdNews, Other, 29/10/2025

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has opened a tender for two national campaigns to boost participation in Australia's bowel cancer screening program, with \$26.4 million up for grabs over two years, AdNews can reveal. Agencies can pitch for either or both components of the work, with tenders closing at 2pm on November 19.

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## Why GPs hate PHNs, but probably shouldn't

Health Services Daily, Other, 29/10/2025, Jeremy Knibbs

Missing the good old days of GP divisions, GPs quite love to dislike PHNs, if they think about them at all. But they probably should like them and think about them a lot more. [...] At last week's Australasian Institute of Digital Health's Primary Care Digitally Connected conference in Sydney, co-commissioning consultant Jay Rebbeck, who has worked extensively with PHNs over the years gave us a pretty succinct explanation for why some GPs struggle to understand PHNs The Commonwealth commissioned a \$2m review of PHNs from big C consulting firm BCG, which was delivered early this year, and was promptly stuffed in a locked bottom drawer somewhere in the bowels of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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## Government advice for providers solely focused on market share and occupancy, not care

HelloCare, Other, 29/10/2025, Jakob Neeland

In just three days, the new allocation model for residential aged care places comes into effect, reshaping the field in ways that invite serious reflection for the sector. [...] The guiding document released by the Department of Health and Aged Care places significant emphasis on business strategy rather than resident outcomes.

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## New signage running out the door

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/10/2025

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is developing additional signage for practices participating in its bulk-billing practice incentive program, it has emerged. It's estimated that up to 9000 practices across Australia will participate in the scheme and practices have been given five business days to display their signage once it's received.

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## Sky News Live, The Kenny Report, 29/10/2025, Danica De Giorgio

Interview with Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston. The Federal Government is rolling out its new bulk billing plan for GPs. Ruston says the Department of Health and Aged Care has admitted that the out-of-pocket costs to see a doctor will continue to go up despite these measures. She notes that some local GPs are saying they can't afford to fully bulk bill their patients in many instances because of the increasing costs that they are facing after Health Minister Mark Butler claimed that a doctor would earn \$400,000 a year if all of their patients were bulk billed.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### A bad meal in aged care is a risk to health and dignity

Canberra Times, General News, 30/10/2025, Sam Bridgewater, Page 22

The path to dignity in aged care often starts in the kitchen. Each year, tens of thousands of vulnerable residents in aged care settings rely on textured modified food (TMF) to enjoy an aspect of life that many of us take for granted - the ability to safely eat and enjoy a nutritious meal.

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

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### Steve Teulan: Same old aged care solutions risk locking in problems

West Australian, Other, 29/10/2025, Steve Teulan & Alex Lynch The

Demographers have long been warning of the coming "care tsunami." As the baby boomers age, a

tidal wave of older Australians will reshape our population and the social contract underpinning how we share resources and fund services. The first waves are already breaking. Demand for care is rising faster than our capacity to deliver it, and the gap between what older Australians need and want and what the current system can provide is widening.

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## Jandowae aged care seeks funds to tackle 60-person waiting list

Cairns Post, Other, 29/10/2025, Zachary Probert

A Western Downs aged care facility is in a desperate search for additional funding after it was forced to turn away dozens of elderly residents, with up to 60 people waiting for just 22 available beds. A five-star Jandowae Aged Care facility is seeking federal funding to help reduce aged care stress in the region.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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## CHSP provider Momentum Collective with 5,000 clients appoints voluntary administrator

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/10/2025, Caroline Egan

Third Sector Australia Limited, trading as Momentum Collective, has entered voluntary administration, putting the future of 5,000 clients – including 674 receiving Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) services – under a cloud. FTI Consulting was appointed administrator on 16 October 2025. In a letter to staff, the administrators said services will continue on a business-as-usual basis while they urgently review options for a sale of operations and/or an orderly transition of participants and services to new providers.

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## Benetas acquires aged care site at Keyton's Sherwin Rise retirement village in VIC

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/10/2025, Caroline Egan

Benetas will develop, own and operate a new residential aged care home within Keyton's Sherwin Rise retirement village at Wollert, 25km north of Melbourne's CBD – extending a continuum of care to village homeowners and the broader North Melbourne community. Benetas CEO Sandra Hills OAM said the Not For Profit looks forward to partnering with Keyton "to support older members of the community to age in place.

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## HomeCaring unveils new brand platform 'A Better Experience'

Your Life Choices, Other, 29/10/2025, Abigail Abrugar

When it comes to finding the right care for our loved ones, or even for ourselves as we get older, the process can feel daunting, confusing, and, let's be honest, a bit overwhelming. With so many providers out there and a system that often feels more like a maze than a helping hand, it's no wonder many families feel lost in the shuffle.

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## ABC, ABC News, 29/10/2025, Jeremy Fernandez

A council-owned car park in Sydney's Inner South will soon become a much-needed Indigenous aged care facility. The City of Sydney has awarded the \$20 million site to Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care for just \$1 to ensure elders have access to culturally safe care. In New South Wales, 1,100 people are currently in hospitals across the state, waiting for an aged care or NDIS placement. New aged care laws are set to be passed in just a matter of days, addressing 58 Royal Commission recommendations, including funding for culturally safe services like Wyanga.

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

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 29/10/2025, Peter Overton

The old Greenwich Hospital on Sydney's lower North Shore is being demolished to make way for a new \$300 million health campus for elderly Australians. The new site will feature dementia and palliative care services and senior living apartments. It's hoped the new centre will meet soaring demand as the population ages.

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## Seven Regional WA, Seven Regional News, 29/10/2025, Noel Brunning

The Aged Care Act will be enforced on November 1, with many workers and providers welcoming the overhaul. The Federal Government says the fresh model focuses on the quality of care, places greater responsibility on providers, promotes easier access to services, and better screening for workers. The United Workers Union is optimistic it will prevent providers from using dodging tactics to patch up staffing problems.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

No relevant coverage

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## PRIMARY CARE

### More clinics to close as calls grow for bailout

Age, General News, 30/10/2025, Broede Carmody, Page 1

Two more health centres are to close, including in one of the most diverse pockets of Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs, as calls mount for a bailout package for the sector. The Allan government is facing growing pressure to fund an emergency package for cohealth, a provider in the city's inner north, which is selling off its 75-year-old Collingwood site due to "significant funding challenges".

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### Farewell, Professor The grandfather of general practice

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Justin Coleman, Page 1

I remember the very first time I met Emeritus Professor John Murtagh. But then again, so do most people. Following news this month of his death at the age of 89, social media has been awash with the memories of hundreds of GPs whose professional and personal lives he touched. At the RACGP conference he attended back in 2023, he barely made it past the exhibition marquees.

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### It's not us versus them

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Page 17

Take over, step back, leave the GP to pick up the mess I hate this argument. All it does is inflame old grudges and lean into the tired old narrative of GPs feeling disrespected by specialists and vice versa. This is an unfair and purely onesided opinion from either side. I have found that, over time, (and I am also a rural GP) I have built a great relationship and rapport with my local specialists.

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### Time for a break?

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Chitra Sivaramamoorthy, Page 36

Cathy, a 71-year-old, presents with a six-month history of worsening back pain. She has a history of severe osteoporosis with vertebral fracture and has been on alendronate for 19 years. Investigation The assessing GP suspects a possible vertebral fracture and requests a CT scan. This confirms

insufficiency fractures involving L1-L4, with loss of up to 80% height. Bone mineral densitometry demonstrates a right femoral neck T-score of -2.1 and a radial T-score of -3.

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## Conversations on the Couch; personal and insightful

Shepparton News Online, Other, 29/10/2025

More than 130 residents across 15 towns, including Corowa and Howlong, have engaged with Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network's (MPHN) 2025 Conversations on the Couch series. The idea is to better understand local health needs and lived experiences with consistent themes revealed across the region. Residents in Corowa expressed frustration with the lack of continuity in GP services, describing it as a "revolving door".

[Read More](#)

## 2CC, Canberra Live, 29/10/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with University of Melbourne Honorary Enterprise Professor Dr Stephen Duckett. The Federal Government's \$8.5 billion promise to increase incentives for GPs to bulk bill will soon take effect. Duckett says the ACT has a very low rate of bulk billing relative to the rest of the country, and the government wants to increase the rate with the upcoming incentives.

[Play Now](#)

## 6PR, Drive, 29/10/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Consumers Health Forum CEO Elizabeth Devaney. According to new national research released today by the Consumer Health Forum, one in 10 Australians could not afford the medical care that they needed last year. Devaney urges people to register for PBS and Medicare to access cheaper medicines and medical services.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 29/10/2025, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter

Interview with health economist Dr Stephen Duckett. The Federal Government's \$8.5 billion promise to increase incentives for GPs to bulk bill will soon take effect. Duckett says some GPs would not bulk bill their patients despite the incentives. He adds that some GPs have already shifted to bulk billing, while some are preparing for the change in November.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### 'Harmful' early births cut by up to 10 per cent in world-first

The Australian, General News, 30/10/2025, Penny Timms, Page 3

A world-first Australian program encouraging mothers to carry their baby to 39 weeks' gestation when safe to do so has helped to reduce the rate of potentially harmful preterm births. That's one of the findings of a peer-reviewed study of the Australian Preterm and Early Term Birth Prevention Program, working as part of Every Week Counts, profiled in the latest edition of The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Women's Health.

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

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

## The system that saved Michelle is failing others

Age, General News, 30/10/2025, Carla Jaeger, Page 5

Michelle\* arrived at Bridge Haven, a women's rehabilitation centre in Preston, in 2023 desperate for help. "I felt I was a slave to the drugs. I couldn't even consider doing anything without being on drugs. I was unable to function," said Michelle, not her real name. But there were no beds available. During the

agonising and dangerous wait, without any indication of when a bed would free up, Michelle's drug addiction got worse.

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

## What have you done to my baby

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/10/2025, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis and Eliza Barr, Page 1

The mother of a little girl left concussed and bruised after she was allegedly unsupervised at a western Sydney childcare centre has accused its owners of only being "about the money" as they announced its sudden closure. Rochelle Kennedy is suing Little Zak's Academy in Doonside, which is at the centre of separate assault charges involving two staff, as the childcare sector faces a national reckoning over failures to meet quality standards and keep children safe. The NSW government is undertaking a regulatory overhaul into the sector.

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

## Don't be in a hurry, baby

Herald Sun, General News, 30/10/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 5

Fewer babies are born prematurely in Australia thanks to a world-first program developed by leading obstetric researchers. A major study published in a Lancet paper on Wednesday shows it has helped reduce premature births by 10 per cent, or 4000 births, and is changing the conversation about the best time for a safe delivery.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#). [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

## Dental delays bite hard for Tasmanian children

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/10/2025, David Killick, Page 4

Tasmanian children are missing out on vital dental care and budget cuts will make matters worse, Labor says. Shadow Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing Sarah Lovell said information released under Right to Information showed that many Tasmanian children weren't getting the dental care they needed.

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

## Birth of a program helping families

West Australian, General News, 30/10/2025, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 18

A world-first initiative developed in WA has led to a significant reduction in preterm and early birth rates, improving the outcomes for thousands of women and their babies across the country. The results from the six-year Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Program, pioneered by University of WA Professor of Obstetrics John Newnham, showed the rate of harmful early birth can be lowered by 10 per cent using current knowledge.

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

## Heat causes loss of outdoor work

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/10/2025, Poppy Johnston, Page 16

Australia lost a record 12 hours per person of potential outdoor work to intolerable heat in 2024, a Lancet Countdown report released this week has revealed. Nearly 60 per cent of the 175 million possible labour hours were in construction, a sector already struggling with productivity and under pressure to deliver more homes to house the population affordably. Hot and humid days halting outdoor work was estimated to cost around A\$8.2 billion last year.

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

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

## Medical care becoming unaffordable for more Australians

West Australian, Other, 29/10/2025, Rachael Ward

Ally Finnis has battled chronic medical conditions for years but health isn't their only worry when booking an appointment with a doctor or nurse. [...] Just over 10 per cent of Australia's total economic

activity was spent on health goods and services in 2023/24, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare figures released on Wednesday.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## World-first preterm birth prevention program has lowered the rate of early births by about 4,000 a year

ABC Online, Other, 29/10/2025, Caitlyn Gribbin and Stephanie Dalzell

Thousands of early births have been avoided with improved outcomes for women and babies, according to analysis of a world-first Australian initiative. A study recently published in The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology, & Women's Health, examined the impact of a national preterm birth prevention program introduced in Australia in 2018.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Health minister reinstates ban on puberty blockers hours after Supreme Court overturned freeze

ABC Online, Other, 29/10/2025, Janelle Miles, Jack McKay and Emma Pollard

Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls has issued a new directive to ban public doctors from prescribing puberty blockers to adolescents with gender dysphoria. It came just six hours after a judge ruled the previous freeze was unlawful. On Tuesday, Supreme Court justice Peter Callaghan set aside Queensland's controversial pause on the practice, which was issued in January by Queensland Health director-general David Rosengren.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## The diseases that dominate Australia's \$270 billion health bill

SBS, Other, 29/10/2025, Zacharias Sumer

Australia's disease and injury spending has grown by \$2.8 billion. [...] The country's total health spend sat at \$270.5 billion in 2023-24, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reports released on Wednesday.

[Read More](#)

## Australia spent \$19.7 billion fighting this one condition as health spending rises

9News, Other, 29/10/2025, Patrick Brischetto

Free online tool could save lives from cancer Australia's health spending has risen to 10 per cent of GDP, with \$270.5 billion or \$10,037 per person spent, according to new government data. It constitutes a 1.1 per cent increase, with the government alone spending \$188. 2 billion on health, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 29/10/2025, Mark Gibson

The Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance launched a program in 2018, intending to reduce the number of babies being born too early. Preterm birth is the leading cause of death and one of the major causes of disability in children across the world. New data shows the prevention initiative has led to a significant decrease in the rate of preterm and early term births in Australia.

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

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## Dying law changes passed

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 30/10/2025, Shannon Deery, Page 4

Major reforms to voluntary assisted dying laws which would allow doctors to openly discuss the end-of-life option with terminally ill patients have passed parliament's lower house. After a marathon debate on the changes, which were opposed by five government MPs who crossed the floor to vote against them, the Voluntary Assisted Dying Amendment Bill was passed 67 votes to 13 shortly before 8.30pm.

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

## Breaking ground on 'world-class' upgrade

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 30/10/2025, Tom Plevy, Page 3

A grassroots community campaign to expand palliative care services at Tamworth hospital is about to yield concrete results. On Wednesday, NSW Health Minister Ryan Park turned the first sod on the upgrade of the Nioka Palliative Care Unit, in what he described as "a home away from home for patients and family who are going through a palliative care journey".

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

## Asthma guidelines updated

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Page 6

Jamie Thannoo every adult and adolescent with asthma should be treated with inhaled corticosteroids, new Australian guidelines say. The cohort of patients recommended solely to use short-acting beta2 agonists (SABAs) had been shrinking over recent years as doctors moved towards maintenance-and-reliever therapy (MART) or anti-inflammatory reliever treatment.

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## The fax is back for screening

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Bella Rough, Page 10

Radiologists are resorting to fax machines or snail mail to register lung cancer screening results after struggling to connect their practice IT systems with the national screening register. The National Lung Cancer Screening Program launched this July with the goal of preventing 12,000 cancer deaths over a decade via early detection.

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

## Helping to close the loop on glycaemic control

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Page 34

Kaye is a 60-year-old woman with a highly demanding job as a CEO. She was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 54 and started on basal insulin glargine and bolus insulin aspart. Kaye uses a bolus calculator to determine meal doses and is diligent about administering insulin at breakfast and lunch. She is less likely to bolus for the evening meal, attributing this to exhaustion and fear of overnight hypoglycaemia.

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

## A 2am sitting, tears and dim sims: Assisted dying reform passes lower house

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 29/10/2025, Kieran Rooney

Voluntary assisted dying reform has passed the lower house of the Victorian Parliament to applause and embrace. Labor and the Coalition both granted their members a conscience vote. It gave MPs the rare chance to offer – and the public a rare chance to see – thoughtful contributions and personal stories that have informed their positions. Family members and friends they watched die painfully, who have starved themselves, or who have taken the power away from their illness to choose to die on their own terms. Constituents they have sat down with.

[Read More](#)

## Victoria's voluntary assisted dying law reforms passed in lower house

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/10/2025, Shannon Deery

While five government MPs crossed the floor to vote against the changes to Victoria's assisted dying

laws, there was a touching gesture to MP Emma Vulin, who is battling motor neurone disease, after the bill was passed. Major reforms to voluntary assisted dying laws - which would allow doctors to openly discuss the end-of-life option with terminally ill patients - have passed parliament's lower house.

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

[Read More](#)

## Victorian Labor forced to rely on One Nation and others to pass voluntary assisted dying bill after factional split

The Guardian, Other, 29/10/2025, Benita Kolovos

The Victorian government will be forced to rely on a motley crew of MPs including One Nation and the Liberals to pass its voluntary assisted dying laws after a group of Labor MPs railed against the legislation. The development comes as the lower house on Wednesday continued to debate amendments to the state's laws that would allow doctors to initiate conversations about voluntary assisted dying and expand the eligibility timeframe for all terminal illnesses to 12 months, with MPs from both Labor and the Coalition granted a conscience vote.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 29/10/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

Changes to Victoria's assisted dying laws have been debated by MPs in the lower house this morning. Under the proposal, Victorians with up to 12 months left to live would be able to choose to end their life. The changes would allow doctors to bring up VAD without having to wait for a patient to suggest it, with many MPs who opposed Victoria's euthanasia laws back in 2017 now firmly in support of it.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Boost for faster ADHD care

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/10/2025, Sam Lowe, Page 9

South Australians will be able to receive ADHD diagnoses faster and cheaper with up to 100 GPs trained and ready to diagnose and manage the disorder from early next year. Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder is a complex neurodevelopmental disorder, typically characterised by difficulties with attention, hyperactivity and impulsivity, and it's estimated 8 per cent of children and 5 per cent of adults have the disorder.

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

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## Channel 10, 10 News, 29/10/2025, Tiffany Warne

Up to 100 local GPs will soon be able to diagnose ADHD in South Australian patients as young as eight years old, a move that's expected to significantly reduce the time and cost associated with treating the neurological condition. Interested GPs will be selected to participate in training, and there are plans for further recruitment after the February rollout.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 29/10/2025, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

Treating ADHD will soon become easier with South Australian GPs given the go-ahead to diagnose and manage the condition. The SA Government hopes the move will dramatically cut wait times and costs for families right across the state. However, the Opposition fears the move will put more pressure on already stretched GPs and says more support, including extended hours, is needed to manage the demand.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 29/10/2025, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

Receiving an ADHD diagnosis will soon be easier than ever with major reforms being rolled out across SA. From February next year, a new initiative will enable up to 100 GPs across the state to diagnose and treat the neurodevelopmental disorder in people over the age of eight, with up to 5 per cent of Australian adults and 8 per cent of children estimated to be living with ADHD. The SA Opposition says while they are supportive of the initiative, they have some concerns.

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## Radio National, Life Matters, 29/10/2025, Hilary Harper and Beverley Wang

Mental health support organisations have raised concerns that National Disability Insurance Scheme approvals for people with psychosocial disability have dropped by two-thirds compared to five years ago. The Australian Psychosocial Alliance says 66 per cent were granted access in 2020, but only 25 per cent of recent applications have been successful.

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## IMMUNISATION

### NT influenza outbreak linked to more deaths

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/10/2025, Lottie Hood, Page 10

Two more have died from influenza in the Northern Territory in the past few months as the outbreak continues. When cases of the flu-like virus spiked in Central Australia in July this year, NT Health issued health warnings as weekly case numbers nearly reached 150. The outbreak also coincided with Code Yellows being called at hospitals in Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs as the facilities appeared to be under increased capacity pressure.

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

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### Plea as NT flu outbreak kills 14

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 30/10/2025, Duncan Evans, Page 5

A major flu outbreak has taken the lives of 14 people in the Northern Territory as doctors plea for needle-free vaccines to roll back the danger. The outbreak, which escalated in July this year, has resulted in 4195 cases of the deadly disease this year. In 2024, there were 3299 cases and in 2022, there were 2776 cases. But RACGP Northern Territory chair Sam Heard warned that case numbers were "no doubt far higher".

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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### Covid-19 mRNA vaccines could unlock the next revolution in cancer treatment

The New Daily, Other, 29/10/2025, Adam Grippin and Christiano Marconi

The Covid-19 mRNA-based vaccines that saved 2.5 million lives globally during the pandemic could help spark the immune system to fight cancer. This is the surprising takeaway of a study that we and our colleagues published in the journal Nature While developing mRNA vaccines for patients with brain tumours in 2016, our team, led by paediatric oncologist Elias Sayour , discovered that mRNA can train immune systems to kill tumours – even if the mRNA is not related to cancer

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

## Medibank eyes \$200m in health earnings amid strategy overhaul

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 30/10/2025, Michael Smith, Page 18

Medibank Private, one of the country's biggest health insurance companies, says it wants to more than double earnings from its health business to \$200 million by 2030.

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

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## Bupa funds pharmacogenomics

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Jamie Thannoo, Page 14

A private health insurer is offering free pharmacogenomic tests to thousands of customers, which it says will warn patients and their GPs about medicines that may be ineffective. The first 10,000 Bupa members to apply before 30 November will receive free tests from genomics company myDNA, relating to 11 genes and 100 medicines, including those for psychiatric, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal conditions.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### It's good to go out walking but how long you walk is what matters most

The Australian, General News, 30/10/2025, Stephen Lunn, Page 12

Two people walk the same number of steps in a day. One does several short bouts of walking throughout the day, all less than five minutes' duration. The other walks less often but incorporates one or two walks lasting 10 to 15 minutes. Who is looking after their health better? New research shows for those who are relatively inactive, doing fewer than 8000 steps a day in longer periods of continuous walking are more beneficial to cardiovascular health than walking the same number of steps in shorter, more sporadic bouts.

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### Saluda bookbuild targets \$227m ahead of float

The Australian, Business News, 30/10/2025, Bridget Carter, Page 14

Saluda Medical will launch its bookbuild for its initial public offering on Thursday this week to raise at least \$US150m (\$227m) as it prepares to list as a company with a market value between \$750m and \$800m by early December. Working on the float are Bell Potter, E&P Capital and Morgans in a deal that has been so far well received by the market.

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### Music good for brain

Courier Mail, General News, 30/10/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 3

Frequently listening to music in older age could lower dementia risk by almost 40 per cent, a new study suggests. Monash University researchers analysed more than 10,000 older Australians' music habits and long-term health outcomes, finding simply listening to your favourite tunes may delay the disease. They found people aged over 70 who reported "always" listening to music were 39 per cent less likely to be later diagnosed with dementia than those who did so "never", "rarely" or "sometimes".

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#). [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

### \$5.4m in grants to boost uni research

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/10/2025, Page 3

Nine University of Newcastle research terms will probe some of Australia's most pressing challenges, from climate resilience and food security to wellbeing in sport and the hidden history of polio. The

research teams will spearhead projects to advance knowledge with the help of more than \$5.4 million in Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project grants.

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## CONNEQT Health locks in new clinical trial deal with US biotech

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/10/2025

CONNEQT Health is continuing to strengthen its presence in the US cardiovascular health market after being awarded a new Phase 2b clinical trial contract. The company's latest agreement is with a privately owned American biopharmaceutical company developing treatments for hypertension and other serious cardiovascular diseases.

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

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### ER policy 'bad conduct'

Herald Sun, General News, 30/10/2025, Shannon Deery, Page 1

A pre-eminent doctor and former president of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians has slammed the St Vincent's Hospital policy to fasttrack Indigenous patients over other Victorians. Professor John Wilson, a former member of Alfred Health's ethics committee, warned the policy contradicted medical codes of conduct as well as the Declaration of Geneva by prioritising race over clinical need in healthcare.

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### Wide Bay Hospital cleared of bias claims in Indigenous health job case

Cairns Post, Other, 29/10/2025, Scott Kovacevic

Queensland's industrial watchdog has rejected claims of a 'fatally flawed' hiring process at Bundaberg Hospital, revealing the applicant's crucial oversight. Wide Bay's Hospital and Health Service has been cleared of allegations of bias over an internal senior staff promotion, with the state's employment watchdog finding the fault lay at the jobseeker's feet.

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Urgent hospital security review over sabotage

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/10/2025, Page 9

All NSW public hospitals will urgently audit the security of medical gases as authorities investigate the death of a 72-year-old man at a Sydney hospital about an hour after a woman allegedly switched off its supplies in an act of sabotage. Vanessa Moulton, 42, was arrested at 2am on Tuesday after allegedly destroying electrical wiring and scaling a wall to access a restricted area at The Sutherland Hospital in Caringbah in Sydney's south. Police allege she also tampered with water and gas mains and activated fire hoses at the nearby Kareena Private Hospital before her arrest.

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### Funding for lobbyist after debate

Border Mail, General News, 30/10/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 4

The path has been cleared to engage a professional lobbyist to fight for a new Albury Wodonga Hospital, after Wodonga Council agreed to contribute \$17,852 to the campaign. The allocation was agreed to in a 4-3 vote at the council's meeting on Monday after an hour of debate. Newly returned councillor and former mayor Ron Mildren moved an alternative motion, which read as follows.

## Bring on the build

Western Advocate, General News, 30/10/2025, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 1

Activity is starting to be seen on the Bathurst Hospital campus ahead of construction commencing on the long-awaited \$200 million redevelopment. Site fencing and sheds are being established, which form part of the early works to prepare the site. It comes more than three years after the redevelopment project was announced by the then-Coalition government in June 2022.

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## 'Almost no options' for newborn sepsis

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Amanda Davey, Page 7

Multiple recommended regimens for neonatal sepsis are now ineffective in South-East Asia, new data suggest, as researchers sound the alarm over antibiotic-resistant infections in newborns. A University of Sydney-led study, published in The Lancet Regional Health Western Pacific, analysed nearly 15,000 blood cultures from infants with suspected sepsis in 10 hospitals across five SouthEast Asian countries, including Indonesia and the Philippines.

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## Labor pains: Health minister defends overdue FNQ birthing service

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/10/2025, Samuel Davis

A pregnant pause on when babies will be delivered in Cooktown could triple in length under the LNP with Health Minister Tim Nicholls flagging the service may not return to southern Cape York until 2028. A pregnant pause on delivering babies in Cooktown could triple in length under the LNP with Health Minister Tim Nicholls flagging the critical service may not return to southern Cape York until 2028.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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## Construction delays on SA's three biggest hospital projects, auditor-general says

ABC Online, Other, 29/10/2025, Thomas Kelsall

The South Australian government's three costliest hospital projects, headlined by the \$3.2 billion new Women's and Children's Hospital, have all had "delays in starting construction", the state's auditor-general says — but the government maintains all three projects are on schedule. The two other projects — the Flinders Medical Centre expansion and new Mount Barker Hospital — have already reported cost blowouts of \$96 million and \$146 million respectively.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 29/10/2025, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry

The CCC has now commenced an investigation into the failed appointment of Queensland's chief health officer. Dr Krispin Hajkovicz offered the role in August before the offer was withdrawn. Deputy Opposition leader Cameron Dick has asked Health Minister Tim Nicholls if he would stand down during the investigation, with Nicholls bringing up former Energy Minister Mark Bailey's issue as a response.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Save mums, babies from influencers

Age, General News, 30/10/2025, Vinay Rane, Page 21

The recent and profoundly distressing death of Melbourne nutritionist Stacey Warnecke, who died after giving birth at home without medical assistance, has shaken the medical profession in a way words can barely capture. For those of us who have devoted our lives to making childbirth safe, compassionate

and dignified, it has forced a reckoning with uncomfortable truths about trust, influence and the erosion of common sense in an age when everyone has a platform yet few have responsibility.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Corporations at fault as five-year tally of workers left short hits \$2bn

The Australian, General News, 30/10/2025, Ewin Hannan, Page 2

More than \$2bn has been recovered for underpaid workers in the past five years, with over half the amount back paid by large corporate employers, the Fair Work Ombudsman has revealed. [...] During the current financial year, the FWO is targeting the "high risk sectors" of aged-care services, agriculture, building and construction, disability support services, fast food, restaurants and cafs, large corporates, and universities.

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### Honoured local medic set for \$75k payout

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 30/10/2025, Alexander Blain, Page 3

An award-winning Geelong doctor will receive a \$75,000 payout as part of a proposed \$170m class-action payout by the state government. Last month, Geelong advanced trainee anaesthetic Gaby Bolton was honoured as Victoria's Junior Doctor of the Year award by the Australian Medical Association.

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### Surgeon pens letter to GPs after sacking

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Page 5

Dr John Stuchbery says he needed to explain his stoush with hospital bosses. Carmel Sparke and Paul Smith "I WISH to clarify the present situation with you in my own words," Dr John Stuchbery begins. "Six weeks ago, Albury Wodonga Health terminated my VMO contract. "The decision was made by the board and no reason was given ... I am able to reassure you categorically that it was nothing [to] do with my clinical performance."

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### Doctors fight youth detention spit hoods

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Rachel Carter, Page 8

Earlier this year, paediatrician Dr Catherine Boyd and 44 of her colleagues wrote to the NT Government warning against its plans to reinstate spit hoods in youth detention. The Chief Minister told them to stick to their day job. Lia Finocchiaro suggested paediatricians were wasting their time by writing to her: "They can do their job, which is to look after sick children. I have to regularly look mothers in the eye who, like me, cannot get in to see one."

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### 'Shocking' risks to pregnant surgeons

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Carmel Sparke, Page 13

As an orthopaedic trainee, Dr Kate Stannage says she just wanted to blend in with the blokes even through her two pregnancies. The gender bias in orthopaedics is notorious, of course, but it still comes as a shock to discover that she was just the third female orthopaedic surgeon in WA when she secured fellowship in 2008. As such, she is a trailblazer.

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### The government has upped its pay offer to nurses to 13pc over four years with a lucrative cash bonus

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/10/2025, Brad Crouch

The state government has increased its pay offer to nurses to 13 per cent over four years with a lucrative \$4500 bonus thrown in as a sweetener. The new bid to end the long running pay dispute comes as parliament passed new laws on nursing ratios, hailed as making workplaces safer. The ratios are modelled on ratios in Victoria which the government says "prioritise both patient care and safety, and staff wellbeing", and come following consultation with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation.

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

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 29/10/2025, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

More than 1,000 nurses will walk off the job tomorrow despite the SA Government improving its latest pay offer. The proposal includes a 13 per cent pay rise over four years and \$4,500 cash bonus. The offer will now be presented and voted on by members at Parliament tomorrow.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Open wounds, itching skin: How this six-year-old overcame eczema nightmare

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/10/2025, Taylor Penny

A six-year-old lived for years with bloodstained sheets and itching wounds with her mother spending \$2000 on failed treatments. [...] Now, the Torquay mum of two is calling for changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in hopes of giving younger eczema sufferers affordable access to medications sooner.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### Pharmacy presents united front on prescribing

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/10/2025, Siya Etzebeth

"A national endorsement for pharmacist prescribing is the next logical step in... evolving practice to meet the needs and demands of patients and across our health system," a pharmacy leader says. Pharmacy bodies recommend a pharmacist prescribing model that prioritises patient access, safety and convenience in a joint submission to the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

[Read More](#)

### Autonomous pharmacist prescribing moves one step closer

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 29/10/2025, Chloe Hava

The biggest pharmacy organisations in Australia have put out a joint statement to advance autonomous pharmacist prescribing. The Joint Pharmacy Organisations' Paper for Endorsed Pharmacist Prescribers, authored by PSA, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Advanced Pharmacy Australia, recommends that the Pharmacy Board of Australia introduce an endorsement for pharmacists to be able to prescribe autonomously within a self-determined scope of practice.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## Pharmacy prescribing endorsement looms

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Antony Scholefield, Page 2

The Pharmacy Board of Australia is developing a national standard for pharmacists to prescribe S4 and S8 drugs following a request by the country's health ministers. Since Queensland began its controversial pharmacy prescribing program in 2024, states and territories have granted pharmacists with extra training a mishmash of powers to diagnose and treat medical conditions.

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## 188 complaints linked to comments on Gaza war

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Ciara Seccombe, Page 2

AHPRA has received 188 complaints related to the Gaza conflict, including health practitioners sharing news stories on social media, says the watchdog's CEO. Justin Untersteiner told a Senate estimates committee this month that AHPRA now had a unit dedicated to complaints related to the two-year-long war.

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## 'Query cannabis scripts'

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Page 4

Pharmacists have been told to reject doctors' scripts for medicinal cannabis if they suspect they are fuelled by profit motives rather than patient care. The guidance from the Pharmacy Board of Australia comes amid a surge in prescriptions for medicinal cannabis. Earlier this year, AHPRA revealed it had identified one pharmacist who had dispensed 959,000 cannabis products in 12 months the equivalent of 2600 products a day.

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## 'Devastating loss': GPs call for Dr John Stuchbery's return

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Carmel Sparke, Page 5

Dr Rebecca McGowan is one of the local GPs left reeling when she read the letter from Albury Wodonga Health telling GPs to no longer refer to Dr John Stuchbery. "That letter came out of the blue. It was printed out and left on the table in our staff tearoom. "The doctors all went WTF because we rely on John so much for our referrals and it made no sense. It was a devastating loss."

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## AHPRA sanctions GP over mushroom murder comments

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Carmel Sparke, Page 15

The GP who testified at Erin Patterson's triple murder trial is standing by his colourful post-trial comments despite being ordered to complete eight hours of education on professionalism. [...] In one interview, he called Patterson a "crazy b\*\*\*\*" and a "disturbed sociopathic nutbag", which led several social media users to threaten to report him to AHPRA.

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## Super withdrawals for dental soar to new heights, prompting calls for more oral health funding

ABC Online, Other, 29/10/2025, Celina Edmonds and Stephanie Dalzell

A 12-fold increase in Australians raiding their retirement nest eggs to fund expensive dental treatments in recent years has been labelled a "systemic failure", with experts warning the problem will snowball unless governments invest more heavily in oral healthcare. [...] The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and the health regulator — the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) — earlier this month raised concerns about businesses encouraging the use of superannuation to pay for "overly expensive or unnecessary medical treatments".

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### New measles exposure sites in South West as WA cases rise

The Australian, Other, 29/10/2025, Andrew Hedgman

The number of measles infections continues to rise, with authorities stressing the importance of vaccination and prompt medical advice if symptoms appear. Health authorities have confirmed two new measles exposure locations in Western Australia's South West, as the state's outbreak continues to grow.

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

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### Public health warning about Chikungunya mosquito-borne virus

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/10/2025, Jackie Sinnerton

A spike in Queensland cases of the devastating mosquito-borne Chikungunya virus has sparked a public health warning for people travelling overseas. There has been a 60 per cent rise in cases in Queensland in the past year and the crippling virus is taking hold globally with cases in Europe and New York.

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

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### Rising heat kills one person a minute worldwide, major report reveals

The Guardian, Other, 29/10/2025, Damian Carrington

Rising global heat is now killing one person a minute around the world, a major report on the health impact of the climate crisis has revealed. It says the world's addiction to fossil fuels also causes toxic air pollution, wildfires and the spread of diseases such as dengue fever, and millions each year are dying owing to the failure to tackle global heating.

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### Noongar medical student Shakayla Walley-Wihongi and team pioneers a new pathway to treat syphilis

National Indigenous Times, Other, 29/10/2025, Leanne Dolby

23-year-old soon-to-be doctor Shakayla Walley-Wihongi, with a team of scientific powerhouses, has blazed a trail in the treatment of syphilis. In its most dangerous form of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT), the illness claims the lives of 40 per cent of babies born with congenital syphilis. However, perinatal death is 100 per cent preventable.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### JCU probes risk into use of psychedelics

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 30/10/2025, Page 3

Researchers are examining how people who use non-prescribed psychedelics manage risk, as the practice becomes more common. [...] She said this increase occurred around the same time that psilocybin was rescheduled by the Therapeutic Goods Administration to a substance which could be accessed for treatment purposes under specific conditions.

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### Misogyny masquerading as evidence-based medicine

Australian Doctor, General News, 31/10/2025, Rachel Glasson, Page 16

IT's a strange day when the US President feels the need to start giving medical advice to expectant



mothers. Not content with just appointing his cronies the task of ripping up one of the most significant public health advances of the past 200 years namely, childhood vaccination Donald Trump has now offered his opinion about paracetamol as being "associated with a very increased risk of autism". Let's all just take a deep breath and try to stay calm while we consider this new information.

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**Experts concerned about WA's anti-vape laws as 'candy store' allegedly sells products near schools**

ABC Online, Other, 29/10/2025, Rhys Jones

An alleged illegal vape shop marketing itself as a "candy store" in one of WA's largest regional cities has raised concerns about the enforcement of the state's anti-vape laws outside the metro area. [...] Ms Joysdottir provided the ABC with copies of emails sent to the Australian Federal Police, Therapeutic Goods Administration, Border Force and the Department of Health, but said no apparent action had been taken.

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**Mum claims she used recalled sunscreen for two years before skin cancer diagnosis**

9News, Other, 29/10/2025

Australia's sunscreen scandal is deepening tonight as a skin cancer patient sounds the alarm after she used a recalled product. [...] Independent facility PCR says that its testing "reflects the specific sample and batch submitted at the time" and suggests the Therapeutic Goods Administration regulatory process might not be strict enough.

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**Channel 9, Nine News, 29/10/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort**

CHOICE has tested 20 Australian sunscreens, and 16 of which have failed, scoring below their advertised SPF. Ultra Violette's lean screen has been found to have only an SPF level of four. Ultra Violette used a base formula produced by independent Wild Child laboratories. The TGA has found 20 other sunscreen brands also use Wild Child's base formula.

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**OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL**

**Critics lament Drug Summit’s missed opportunity**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/10/2025

The NSW Government has formally responded to the 2024 Drug Summit recommendations, saying it is building on its commitment to reform the state's whole-of-government approach to alcohol and other drug use, placing harm reduction and wellbeing at the forefront of policy. In the response announced yesterday, there is support or in-principle support for 50 of 56 recommendations put forward in the Drug Summit report, which was released earlier this year.

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**FOOD STANDARDS**

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## Study finds adverse links between PFAS exposure and reproductive health in mice

ABC Online, Other, 29/10/2025, Ben Clifford

A pre-clinical animal study has found adverse links between high exposure to PFAS and male reproductive health. For 12 weeks University of Newcastle researchers exposed mice to "environmentally relevant" levels of PFAS in their drinking water.

Similar coverage reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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## Federal government investigates Inpex's Darwin oil spill, emissions error

ABC Online, Other, 29/10/2025, Roxanne Fitzgerald

An oil spill that leaked into Darwin Harbour and the substantial under-reporting of toxic emissions has put Inpex, one of Australia's biggest gas companies, under federal investigation as scrutiny intensifies over its environmental record and oversight. Earlier this month, Inpex admitted to drastically under-reporting several emissions in the 2023-24 financial year at its large-scale Ichthys onshore gas processing facility — on the edge of Darwin city.

Similar coverage reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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