



# TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 17th November 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports the Federal Government and Department of Health have circulated a discussion paper proposing an overhaul of the private hospital system by implementing a benchmark pricing model determined by activity-based funding that would replace existing individual funding agreements which have been a source of conflict between insurers and hospitals. Health Minister Mark Butler is also set to approve annual private health insurance premium increases for 15 million Australians, following proposals submitted by health funds amid predictions of rises around four per cent due to soaring hospital wage costs and health price inflation.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports the Business Council of Australia has released a health blueprint calling on the Federal Government and states to increase preventive health spending to five per cent of all health expenditure by 2030, a measure aimed at tackling the aged care system's struggles, which include thousands of older Australians occupying hospital beds while waiting for a residential placement.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports the hospital "exit-block crisis" where medically fit elderly patients are stranded in public hospital beds awaiting aged care placements, has been declared "ground zero" by Premier David Crisafulli, who is demanding a national rescue plan after the Australian Medical Association warned in February 2023 that this issue was linked to 286,050 patient delays nationally and was costing the health system up to \$848 million.

- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 1) reports the Federal Government, the states, and the territories face significant economic and service delivery costs due to the dysfunctional nature of the Australian federation, which is cited by SA Premier Peter Malinauskas as creating a "buck-pass shuffle" where both levels of government "try to play in the same space" particularly in health. This systemic failure is highlighted by the fact that states are responsible for public hospitals, while the Federal Government is responsible for aged care and general practice, resulting in thousands of long-stay hospital patients who should be in aged care, costing states over \$1,800 a day per person compared to less than half that in residential care.
- **The Australian** (page 3) reports the Federal Government is facing a potential "constitutional crisis" over state Voluntary Assisted Dying laws, as a proposed New South Wales amendment to allow faith-based aged-care providers to refuse euthanasia on their premises is being challenged as "constitutionally invalid."
- **The Herald Sun** (page 6) reports that despite the world-first HPV vaccination program launched in 2007 and a national screening program, over 250 Australian women are still dying each year from cervical cancer, which gynaecological oncologist Nim Cabraal calls "completely preventable," noting that 85 per cent of women diagnosed have not been screened in the last 10 years and that nurses are among the health providers who can conduct the test.
- **The Cairns Post** (page 5) reports professor of cognitive neuroscience, Mark Williams, described as "staggering" the rise in cases of dementia in people in their 20s and 30s, highlighting an almost 400 per cent increase in the 30-to-44-year-old age group in younger-onset dementia. It is estimated that 30,000 Australians are currently living with younger-onset dementia, which is tipped to rise to 50,000, with excessive screen use being cited as a potential contributing factor linked to impairments in memory and decision-making.
- **The Western Advocate** (page 1) reports that researchers found that 90 per cent of water tank sediment samples from nearly 140 tanks in Central and Northwest NSW exceeded the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines safe lead limit, with over half the samples containing lead at more than 100 times safe levels.
- **The Northern Daily Leader** (page 1) reports thirteen people are recovering from a "freak accident" at a demolition derby when a car slamming into a crowd at Walcha. The critical response by off-duty registered nurses was among the quick reaction, including providing "really informed detail" for a triple-zero call, which allowed for the timely deployment of appropriate care to the patients.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Plan to benchmark private hospital costs

Australian Financial Review, General News, 17/11/2025, Michael Smith, Page 1

The Albanese government has proposed an overhaul of the private hospital system with the introduction of a benchmark pricing model for procedures, replacing the existing funding model which has caused disputes between health insurers and hospitals.

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

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

### 'We are ground zero': State government renews national demand for health funding

The Age, Other, 16/11/2025, Catherine Strohfeldt

One week after publicly decrying goodwill between the Queensland and federal governments, Premier David Crisafulli has renewed cries for Commonwealth health funding to aged care and disabled patients "stranded" in hospitals. [...] In early October, state governments criticised federal Health Minister Mark Butler over plans to rein in national spending across health, aged care and the NDIS, expected to balloon to more than 25 per cent of the federal budget by the next election.

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

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## Calls for federal government to help 'stranded Australians' waiting in hospital for aged care bed

ABC Online, Other, 16/11/2025, Nikki Sorbello & Johanna Marie

George Davis thought retirement would be the best time of his life. [...] In a speech on November 10, federal Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae praised the reforms, but said the work was not over.

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## Seven Tasmania, Nightly News (Sunday), 16/11/2025, Louise Houbaer

A feud is brewing between the State and Federal Governments over Tasmania's public hospitals as the system struggles to cope with demand. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stated that the Commonwealth has increased funding for the Tasmanian hospital system in an effort to alleviate the crisis.

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## ABC Radio Hobart, 12:00 News (Weekend), 16/11/2025

A peak health body in Tasmania is calling on the Federal Government to commit to funding 45% of public hospital costs in the state. Dr Michael Lumsden-Steele, President of the Australian Medical Association's (AMA) Tasmanian branch, stated that demand for Tasmanian public hospital services continues to outpace capacity.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, 13:00 News (Weekend), 16/11/2025

A peak health body in Tasmania is calling on the Federal Government to commit to funding 45% of public hospital costs in the state. Dr Michael Lumsden-Steele, President of the Australian Medical Association's (AMA) Tasmanian branch, stated that demand for Tasmanian public hospital services continues to outpace capacity. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has acknowledged rising demand and said the Federal Government is in the process of negotiating a new hospital funding arrangement with the states and territories.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

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## MINISTER RAE

### Calls for federal government to help 'stranded Australians' waiting in hospital for aged care bed

ABC Online, Other, 16/11/2025, Nikki Sorbello & Johanna Marie

George Davis thought retirement would be the best time of his life. [...] In a speech on November 10, federal Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae praised the reforms, but said the work was not over.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

### Pauline Hanson makes bold prediction for One Nation in the Hunter

Hunter Valley News, Other, 16/11/2025, Josh Leeson

Senator Pauline Hanson believes One Nation could make history and snatch the seat of Hunter from Labor in 2028 because the issues of housing affordability and the cost of living were resonating heavily within the electorate. The firebrand politician was preaching to the true believers on Sunday when she visited the Full Throttle Ranch at Buttai to serve as the special guest judge at a car and motorcycle meet. [...] Mr Bonds secured 16.13 per cent of the primary vote and lost to Labor incumbent Dan Repacholi in the two-party preferred by just over 20,000 votes.

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## DEPARTMENT

### Hundreds of medically fit patients are stuck in Victorian hospitals. It's costing taxpayers millions

The Courier Mail, Other, 16/11/2025, Carly Douglas & Taylah Fellows

More than 450 Victorian hospital beds are blocked by patients fit for discharge, as critical shortages in aged care homes and NDIS-funded housing cost state taxpayers millions. More than 450 public hospital beds across Victoria are currently occupied by patients who are medically fit for discharge, costing taxpayers tens of millions of dollars annually. [...] "We are working closely with the NDIA, the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and with Victorian health services to address discharge issues that both older people and NDIS participants may experience in hospital."

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

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Chemists develop new prescription

Australian Financial Review, Features, 17/11/2025, Alexandra Cain, Page 13

Wellbeing Choice Chemists has quickly captured a 42 per cent share of the market for on-site pharmacists in aged care.

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### Federation fault lines exposed

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/11/2025, Shane Wright & Millie Muroi, Page 1

When the door shuts on this financial year, Australia's three levels of government will have set a record. [...] Malinauskas says while federal MPs don't feel the political pressure caused by overcrowded and financially strapped public hospitals, state MPs avoid opprobrium for the issues playing out in general practices and aged care facilities.

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

## Respite: Unlocking a critical piece of the aged care puzzle

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2025, Darren Birbeck, Page 30

Respite and carer support provides critical relief for many older Australians, reducing the need for permanent residential care and enabling people to live in their own homes longer. [...] Providing support to another person, while incredibly rewarding, can also be very tiring and may lead to carer fatigue. Carers need time to look after themselves and their own needs.

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## Waiting for ages in shock care fail

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 17/11/2025, Taylah Fellows, Page 11

A frustrated Queensland nurse has issued an extraordinary plea to federal ministers, warning she fears "another person will die" waiting for aged-care as hundreds of medically fit Queenslanders remain trapped in hospital beds. The Brisbane-based clinician - a registered nurse with 30 years' experience who conducts aged care placements - said she had reached breaking point after spending weeks trying to place vulnerable older people into residential aged-care facilities (RACs), only to be rejected repeatedly.

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

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## Elderly Territorians living in hospitals for SIX months with nowhere else to go

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/11/2025, Lottie Hood

Eighty elderly Territorians are trapped in hospital beds for over half a year due to a critical shortage of aged care spaces occupying a tenth of the NT's hospital bed stock. [...] The number of long-stay older patients in Territory hospitals has doubled in the past five years with more than 80 patients occupying beds on any given day.

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

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## 2GB, Healthy Living, 16/11/2025, Dr Ross Walker & Ned Green

Interview with Craig Gear, CEO, Older Persons Advocacy Network. Gear points out that the good thing about the new Aged Care Act is that it's actually focused on the individuals, particularly the older person, who will greatly benefit from it. He adds that the new Aged Care Act also strengthened quality standards, and they saw out of the Royal Commission some real issues around the quality of services.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Food, drugs used to bribe NDIS clients

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/11/2025, Grant McArthur, Page 6

Disability workers have been caught bribing vulnerable clients with fast food, illegal drugs, cash, laptops and other incentives to coerce them into signing over their National Disability Insurance Service packages. Inspectors charged with monitoring Victoria's residential accommodation services have also uncovered an NDIS support worker trying to siphon funds from a patient's bank account among a series of cases they claim demonstrate "unchecked opportunism" and a lack of oversight or reporting in the system.

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

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## GenU posts \$18.5m surplus

The acquisition of an interstate disability service provider has helped boost the bottom line of genU, but the Geelong-based organisation is still fighting for long-term financial stability. In its 2024-25 annual report, genU recorded a comprehensive surplus of \$18.5m, driven by last year's acquisition of a Western Australian organisation.

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## **NDIS funding uncertainty means Queensland couple 'may never be able to retire' as they care for their daughter**

ABC Online, Other, 16/11/2025, Lucy Loram

While most couples in their 60s are planning for retirement, Louise and Darren Catton have been preparing for the day they can no longer care for their 22-year-old daughter, Mary. [...] But Ms Catton said their plans were up-ended earlier this year when they received notice that Mary's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) care plan would be cut dramatically.

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## **PRIMARY CARE**

### **Derby devastation**

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 17/11/2025, Breanna Chillingworth, Page 1

Thirteen people remain in hospital or are recovering from various injuries after Saturday night's "freak accident" where a demolition derby car slammed into a crowd at Walcha. Off-duty nurses and locals are being praised for rushing to help the injured who were thrown or fell from the mobile grandstand when the car struck it about 6.15pm at the Walcha Showgrounds on November 15.

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## **POPULATION HEALTH**

### **Elite schools crack down on fat bikes over safety fears**

Australian Financial Review, Other, 16/11/2025, Isabella Freeland

Several private boys schools including Sydney's Cranbrook and Riverview have banned or restricted the riding of 'fat bikes' on their campuses, because of concerns over safety.

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### **Vaping may be slowing Australia's tobacco control progress**

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 17/11/2025, Mike Daube

Australia has long been recognised as a world leader in tobacco control. A suite of evidence-based tobacco control measures over recent decades has resulted in substantial reductions in the proportion of adults who report smoking daily and concomitant increases in the proportion of those who report having never smoked.

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### **The reason why some Queensland women are opting for unassisted births**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 16/11/2025, Courtney Kruk

Olivia Ruby was 21 years old when she gave birth to her first child at Brisbane's Mater Hospital. It was not the birthing experience the young mother had envisaged: she'd been in prodromal labour, a false type of labour that involves real and strong contractions, for a month before the baby began to arrive at 41 weeks.

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### Four cancer symptoms you shouldn't ignore

Australian Financial Review, General News, 17/11/2025, Mikkael A Sekeres, Page 32

As an oncologist, I see patients who report both common and rare symptoms. The symptoms most commonly linked to a cancer diagnosis, not surprisingly, reflect the incidence rates of the world's most prevalent cancers.

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### Challenge ignites faith-based VAD row

The Australian, General News, 17/11/2025, Elizabeth Pike, Page 3

The nation's euthanasia laws are facing the prospect of a constitutional crisis, with a plan to allow religious aged care homes to reject voluntary assisted dying on their premises facing a challenge from one of Australia's most prominent lawyers. The Liberals have made a fresh bid to change Voluntary Assisted Dying laws in NSW that would give faith-based aged-care providers the right to choose whether patients can access euthanasia in their facilities, in line with Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia.

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

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### My time to die

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2025, Cydonee Mardon, Page 1

At just 25 years of age, Annaliese Holland has endured a lifetime's worth of surgeries, setbacks and profound agony. Now the brave and inspirational young Adelaide woman has been approved for Voluntary Assisted Dying and tells what she wants to achieve in the time she has left.

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### Complacency killing women

Herald Sun, General News, 17/11/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 6

More than 250 Australian women are dying each year from cervical cancer despite a national screening program and the launch of the world's first HPV vaccination program in 2007 and doctors are blaming complacency. While Australia is leading the world in the fight against cervical cancer, doctors are warning that women are being too laid back with screening.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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### Sunsmart ignorance a frightening trend

West Australian, Editorials, 17/11/2025, Page 2

Slip on a shirt, slop on sunscreen and slap on a hat. This catchy tune remains a life mantra to a certain generation of Australians but somehow, the serious health message underpinning it appears to have lost its cut-through.

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

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### Generations lose sunsafe message

West Australian, General News, 17/11/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 3

Cancer Council Australia has turned to a 1980s mascot to push the slip, slop, slap, seek and slide message to younger Australians, as new research confirms Gen Z and millennials are the two worst generations for sun safety. The YouGov findings revealed that all Australians aren't exhibiting sun safety as well as they should, raising concerns about the growing risk of preventable skin cancers.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#),

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## Screen link to dementia in young

Cairns Post, General News, 17/11/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 5

Excessive screen use is being blamed for a shocking spike in the number of young people being diagnosed with dementia the youngest known case globally is just 19. Australia's internationally recognised professor of cognitive neuroscience Mark Williams describes as "staggering" the rise in cases of dementia in people "in their 20s and 30s".

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

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## Prevention is productivity: now's the time to act on health

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 17/11/2025, Justine Cain, Page 18

Last week marked an important moment for public health in Australia. The new laws that were passed to create an independent Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC), brought us in line with other developed countries. [...] What more could also be done about the equally serious chronic conditions impacting millions of Australians?

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## 'Not anxiety, mate'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 17/11/2025, Kate Stephenson, Page 4

Sitting in his doctor's exam room, Toowoomba man Nathan Bell thought he was having a panic attack the truth was far more sinister. The devoted husband and father of two was quickly diagnosed with brain cancer; the aggressive high-grade glioma causing the seizures he had mistaken as anxiety.

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## New leading cause of death revealed

Adelaide Now, Other, 16/11/2025, Eleanor Wicklund

Dementia has surpassed heart disease as the leading cause of death throughout Australia, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). In 2024, over 17,500 deaths were from dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, accounting for 9.4 per cent of all deaths nationwide.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#),

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## New Tasmanian study reveals powerful link between poverty and stroke risk

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/11/2025, Sue Bailey

A new Tasmanian study has found people living in lower socio-economic areas are significantly more likely to experience stroke than people living in more affluent areas. The research, by the University of Tasmania's Menzies Institute for Medical Research, analysed Tasmanian hospital and death records from 2007 to 2020, identifying nearly 5000 first-ever stroke cases between 2015 and 2020.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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## Defining "cure" for the asthmas

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 17/11/2025, Dennis Thomas, Vanessa M McDonald, Peter G Gibson & Richard Y Kim

Current asthma treatments focus on controlling symptoms and preventing exacerbations, often requiring people to use high dose inhaled and oral corticosteroids, which can have serious and irreversible side effects. Recently, remission as a goal has received some attention, but a cure for asthma is yet to be found, despite intensive research.



## Homelessness and cancer care: a missing priority in the Australian Cancer Plan

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 17/11/2025, Amy Stearn, Jennifer A Baldock, Julia N Morris, Joanne Flavel & Fran Baum

The 2023 Australian Cancer Plan (ACP) is a ten-year national strategy that aims to achieve equity in cancer outcomes for all Australians. The ACP identifies ten priority groups requiring targeted action, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disability, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

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## Workers who install artificial stone benchtops at high risk of developing asthma

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 17/11/2025, Nance Haxton

Workers who install artificial stone benchtops are at a higher risk of developing asthma, new research from Monash University has found. One in five of those engineered stone workers reported having asthma, which is twice the rate of people in the general population.

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## Australian Asthma Handbook: treatments are changing for adults and adolescents

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 17/11/2025, Brett Montgomery & Debbie Rigby

Asthma control is an enduring challenge in Australia, where asthma claims the lives of over 400 people each year. These victims are the tragic tip of an iceberg of poor asthma control.

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## Otis Hope Carey joins forces with We Are Feel Good for National Skin Cancer Action Week

National Indigenous Times, Other, 17/11/2025, Phoebe Blogg

Set to go live for National Skin Cancer Action Week, starting Monday, We Are Feel Good Inc. and acclaimed Indigenous artist Otis Hope Carey have captured a Striking Beach Art Installation on film. The creative process has been captured and documented, allowing audiences across Australia to experience the evolution of the installation while engaging with the broader story: one that intertwines Aboriginal art and cultural awareness, and the urgent message of sun safety.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Homegrown tech targets mental health crisis

Australian Financial Review, Features, 17/11/2025, Alexandra Cain, Page 11

Pandemic pressures, personal experience and a background as a software engineer led Ben Southall to set up Talked, a software platform through which Australians can easily book an online appointment with a psychologist.

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### Child abuse hotline wait blows out

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2025, Sam Lowe, Page 1

South Australians trying to urgently report cases of child abuse or neglect are being kept waiting on hold for an average of nearly 15 minutes. State government data shows calls to the Child Abuse Report Line have soared 20 per cent in five years and the average time callers were kept on hold blew out by an extra three minutes and 17 seconds last financial year.

## Sorry, ladies, but International Men's Day matters, too

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2025, Tom Bowden, Page 13

Who else is looking forward to International Men's Day this week? [...] According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2419 Aussie men died by suicide in 2023.

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## Game plan for app ban

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/11/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 16

As the clock winds down to Australia's world-leading social media ban for under-16s, families are dusting off time-honoured favourite board games, cards and toys. [...] Australian Psychological Society CEO Zena Burgess warned that the sudden disconnection from social media "without providing meaningful alternatives" could trigger feelings of isolation in some kids.

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

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## How you can help those who are struggling

Burnie Advocate, General News, 17/11/2025, Lauren Richardson, Page 2

Men, particularly those in remote areas or who work as technicians or in a trade, are more likely to die by suicide than any other group. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released the 2024 statistics on suicide deaths, using causes of death registrations and coronial information, with the persons industry being noted for the first time.

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## How cuddles with Daisy the therapy dog can help students

Burnie Advocate, General News, 17/11/2025, Tess Kelly, Page 3

Daisy is a dog who loves her job. The two-and-a-half-year-old labrador volunteers with her owner, Janine Griffin, as a therapy dog at Penguin District School. [...] Trainer Molly Townsend said the program is self-paced and designed for caregivers who want to create a calm, confident companion that can offer support and connection in different settings.

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## Dangers of self-diagnosing mental health

Ballarat Courier, General News, 17/11/2025, Katelyn Catanzariti, Page 10

Australians are increasingly diagnosing themselves with complex mental health conditions after scrolling through social media or chatting with artificial intelligence in a shift experts say risks misdiagnosis, delayed treatment and worsening symptoms. Clinical psychologist Professor Jill Newby from UNSW Sydney says the rise in people diagnosing themselves with conditions such as ADHD or OCD after seeing relatable online content is becoming a serious concern.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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## 'We are losing seven blokes a day'

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 17/11/2025, Agron Latifi, Page 26

"It's incredibly sad. We've had three in our community in the last two weeks," said a visibly shaken Healthier Illawarra Men's (HIM) chair Mark Sleight, in response to a question about the Illawarra's suicide rate. Mr Sleight spoke to the media on Friday before joining some 550 people at HIM's International Men's Day Lunch at the University of Wollongong.

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## 'Kids are considering suicide': The terrifying new trend in Aussie schools

NEWS.com.au, Other, 16/11/2025, Sarah Keoghan

After learning about "Nudify" apps, Jenny Branch-Allen quickly knew they would be a problem for Aussie parents. [...] The President of the Australian Parents Council later realised just how "horrifying" the impact was when parents started coming to her, saying their kids were considering suicide after becoming victims of them in the classroom.

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

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## IMMUNISATION

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### What Calvary's 'major failure' means

Launceston Examiner, General News, 17/11/2025, Craig Thomson, Page 2

The Chief Health Officer of Tasmania's largest private health insurer, St Lukes says while he welcomes Calvary Health Care's \$14 million investment in two new modular operating theatres, the commitment only provides an interim solution for Northern Tasmanians. [...] However, he stressed that given Calvary's monopoly on overnight private acute care in Launceston, the provider has an obligation to meet the community's needs, particularly as a critical backup to the Launceston General Hospital.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Chance find to help with healthy babies

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/11/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 5

A South Australian breakthrough aiding pregnant women and their babies which came about by accident is set to go global. Research by the SA Health and Medical Research Institute into omega-3 fatty acids found in fish oil as a way to prevent preterm birth by up to 42 per cent has reached a new milestone.

Also reported by: [Medical Journal of Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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### Pain gap demands real cash

Herald Sun, General News, 17/11/2025, Elizabeth Hartland, Page 23

There was a lot to celebrate last week in the report of the Victorian government's inquiry into women's pain, titled Bridging the Gender Pain Gap, but as well as representing a big step forward in women's health, it also showed how much further we have to go. [...] This report has the potential to shift priorities, and it is significant that the No.1 recommendation is for more research into women's health conditions.

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### Solving health problems may be an educated guess by digital twins

The Mercury, Other, 16/11/2025, Robyn Riley

An artificial intelligence tool that can predict a patient's health has been created by Victorian researchers, introducing a novel approach to personalised medicine. Called DT-GPT, it creates a

“digital twin” to make educated guesses about how a patient may respond to a drug or therapy, even the progress of their disease.

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## Omega-3 supplements could put pregnancy at risk without proper testing

7news.com.au, Other, 16/11/2025, Casey Treloar

Expectant mothers are being warned that taking omega-3 supplements without proper testing could put their pregnancy at risk, according to Australian health experts. The warning comes as researchers reveal that unless women have been diagnosed with an omega-3 deficiency, supplementation could actually increase the likelihood of preterm birth.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Business writes script to get health on its feet

The Australian, General News, 17/11/2025, Stephen Lunn, Page 1

Boosting preventive health spending to 5 per cent of all health expenditure by 2030, tripling research and development investment, and putting patients in control of their healthcare choices sit at the heart of a new business-led push for national health reform. The health blueprint proposed by the Business Council of Australia also calls for an end to the inefficient silos that have historically plagued the health system, often as a result of state-federal demarcations, and urges change to help harness innovation and technology, including AI, to drive productivity gains.

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### Ground zero for trapped Aussies

Courier Mail, General News, 17/11/2025, Taylah Fellows, Ellen Ransley & Rose Innes, Page 1

Queensland has become "ground zero" for the hospital exit-block crisis that the medical peak body first warned about almost three years ago, with Premier David Crisafulli pleading for the federal government to find a solution. After the launch of our Sick of Waiting campaign, Mr Crisafulli (right) said the crisis had been allowed to snowball.

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

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### Discharge delays

Herald Sun, Editorials, 17/11/2025, Page 22

For any Victorian patient or their family who has experienced delays due to hospital ramping or access to a ward, that frustration will be added to by knowing hundreds of beds should at any time be available if other aspects of the health support system were working as they should. [...] The discharge bottleneck is not caused by patients or public hospitals themselves, but by critical shortages in aged care homes and NDIS-funded housing placements.

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### Six-day ordeal in ED for patient

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/11/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 5

A Hobart woman has told of her fears she was dying during a six-day stint in emergency at the Royal

Hobart Hospital, describing her experience as "essentially a horror film". She says she had told the hospital she had reactions to pain relief medications and irritable bowel syndrome but was left with a bleeding rectum and no IV fluids. [...] A Department of Health spokesman said patient safety at the RHH was at "the centre of everything we do".

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## Premier claims health renege

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/11/2025, Genevieve Holding, Page 7

The federal government has said it will continue negotiations over a 2023 national health funding deal after Premier Jeremy Rockliff accused it of "reneging" on its funding promise. At a joint press conference with Australian Medical Association Tasmania branch president Dr Michael Lumsden-Steel, Premier Jeremy Rockliff joined calls with other premiers and first ministers of states for 45 per cent of federal government funding for our healthcare system.

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## Youth in crisis as only free beds at hospital

West Australian, General News, 17/11/2025, Kim Macdonald, Page 14

Some homeless youths are kept in mental health wards and hospitals because they have nowhere else to go, prompting calls for extra funding for crisis accommodation. [...] New data shows an astonishing 69 teens and young adults aged under 25 in Perth are competing for just one crisis bed in the Perth metropolitan area every night.

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

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## Unfolding hospital crisis reaches emergency status

Ballarat Courier, General News, 17/11/2025, Allanah Sciberras, Page 11

A lack of funding and workforce shortages are adding immense pressure on public hospitals, leading to record numbers of mental health presentations in emergency departments. Patients requiring urgent mental health care are spending an average of seven hours waiting in public emergency departments, according to the Australian Medical Association's annual report.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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## More than 90 patients stuck in Tasmanian hospitals waiting for aged care or NDIS support

ABC Online, Other, 16/11/2025, Mackenzie Heard

More than 90 Tasmanians are unable to leave hospitals across the state because they cannot access aged care or NDIS support, the state government says. As of September 2025, 73 aged care patients were medically cleared to leave Tasmanian hospitals, but unable to because there were no aged care places available.

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## State's bid for more cash in public hospital crisis fix

Canberra Times, Other, 16/11/2025, Alex Mitchell

Pressure continues to mount for federal government intervention on the under-fire health network, with one state claiming it has reneged on a pledge to boost funding. Tasmania's premier said people were becoming increasingly stranded in the state's hospital system waiting for aged care places or access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, blaming a lack of federal cash for the crisis.

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

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## Tasmania's hospital crisis: Hidden cost draining health system revealed

Adelaide Now, Other, 16/11/2025, Sue Bailey

There are 96 Tasmanians stranded in the state's hospitals – or the equivalent of three wards. They are

medically fit for discharge but are waiting to access federally funded aged care and NDIS support.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Thousands of Aussies languishing in public hospital beds amid nationwide aged care shortage

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 16/11/2025, Taylah Fellows

Thousands of Australians are languishing in public hospitals for up to a year despite being medically fit for discharge due to a nationwide aged-care and disability placement bed shortage. [...] New figures reveal 3,704 long-stay patients are currently stranded in state-run hospitals while waiting for aged-care beds or NDIS-supported accommodation, a crisis now draining more than \$2.34bn a year from state health budgets.

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## Blake should have gone home in July but NDIS bungles mean he's still in hospital

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 16/11/2025, Linda Silmalis

Kim D'Ombra is desperately hoping her son Blake will be home for Christmas. [...] In NSW, the latest figures to November 12 this year show Blake is one of 1166 patients in a hospital bed ready for discharge but waiting for either a NDIS placement or aged care bed – up from 700 last year.

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## The worrying state of NT aged care bed shortage revealed

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 16/11/2025, Lottie Hood

Thousands of Australians are languishing in public hospitals for up to a year despite being medically fit for discharge due to a nationwide aged-care and disability placement bed shortage. [...] Long-term aged care patients are being left to languish in Territorian hospitals beds for more than six months every year due to lack of bed spaces in residential homes.

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

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Today on Sunday, 16/11/2025, Alison Piotrowski & Clint Stanaway

Hospital care across the country is being hampered by medically fit patients who are effectively blocking access to thousands of public beds. News Corp revealed that more than 3,700 long-stay patients are currently in hospitals across Australia, primarily waiting for entry into aged care beds or NDIS-supported accommodation.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Training to help healthcare workers fight sexual violence

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/11/2025, Alison Foletta, Page 4

Healthcare workers are vital in stopping sexual violence, because as frontline workers they come across vulnerable people every day. To tackle this, healthcare workers are being trained in recognising and responding to reports of sexual violence.

## Nicholls won't look into doctor suspension process

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 17/11/2025, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 12

Health Minister Tim Nicholls has refused to review Queensland Health's suspension process for doctors with decades of experience who say they are being "unfairly" stood down on full pay for months. It comes as The Saturday Courier-Mail revealed taxpayers are paying full salaries to 91 clinicians suspended on full pay with some earning up to \$500,000 a year at the same time Mr Nicholls is "pulling every lever" to hire 46,000 more workers by 2032.

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## Specialists' fees and out-of-pocket costs: a challenge of our time

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 17/11/2025, Brendan Murphy

Medical practitioners consistently feature in the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) list of the top ten highest taxable incomes in Australia ( Box 1 ). In the 2021–22 data, five of the top six average taxable income groups were medical practitioners, with incomes ranging from \$255 000 to \$460 000, noting that these are incomes after the deduction of costs related to the earning of the income.

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## The World Medical Association and the ageing physician

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 17/11/2025, Steve Robson

As our population ages, so too do our doctors. But ageing physicians should still play an active and leading role in our health care workforce. [...] With this transformative trend in mind, the WMA made some changes to its statement on ageing.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### 'Unlock Medicare data to save lives'

The Australian, General News, 17/11/2025, Jared Lynch, Page 8

Unlocking an "Aladdin's cave" of Medicare data is the key to saving Australia's celebrated health system and changing millions of lives, according to a high-level Business Council of Australia panel. According to a new BCA report, the most significant opportunity to improve and save lives and make the system financially viable is releasing the mountains of patient data sitting in government records.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Lotus-driving Double Bay chiropractor-to-the-stars breaks his silence on charge of choking ex-girlfriend - as we reveal his chequered past

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 17/11/2025, Stephen Gibbs

A Lotus-driving doctor who runs a practice in Sydney 's eastern suburbs and lives in a harbourside apartment has been charged with choking and assaulting his former girlfriend. [...] He is still listed with

the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency as eligible to practise, and was working at his Double Bay clinic last Wednesday.

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## **Channel 9, 60 Minutes, 16/11/2025, Tara Brown**

Interview with Amy Croxford, a patient of Dr Dimitroulis, discussing her adverse reactions to surgeries. After experiencing problems with her implant, Dimitroulis agreed to remove the device, followed by disparaging comments she believes were as a result of his realising he was "in a lot of trouble." The broadcast discusses another patient, Bree, who was told to "fatten up" so she wouldn't notice discrepancies in the size of her facial implants, which Bree felt was "not addressing the problem."

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## **Channel 9, 60 Minutes, 16/11/2025, Tara Brown**

An oral and maxillofacial surgeon, Dr. George Dimitroulis, is accused by multiple patients, including Bree, Amy, and Chloe, of causing horrific damage through temporomandibular joint (TMJ) replacement surgery using his own 3D-printed implant, Maxonic. Brie says Dr Dimitroulis failed to tell her the implant had only been approved for use by the Therapeutic Goods Administration or the TGA, for two and a half years. Patients allege that the surgeon failed to disclose his financial stake in the device, which had a limited approval history, and that they suffered debilitating complications including loose or broken screws, leading to chronic pain and further surgeries.

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## **INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC**

### **Outbreak of highly infectious disease widens after rapper's Aussie concert**

9News, Other, 16/11/2025, Yashee Sharma

Queensland's measles outbreak has widened after health authorities confirmed a fourth infected person had attended the Jelly Roll concert. Metro South Public Health Unit said the person did not know they were infected when they saw the American rapper perform at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre on October 24.

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### **New case identified in Jelly Roll measles cluster**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 16/11/2025, Julius Dennis & Catherine Strohfeldt

A fourth person had been added to a measles cluster emerging from an October concert at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre. [...] Queensland Health released an initial public health alert on Wednesday night warning people who attended the October concert to watch for symptoms for up to three weeks.

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## **THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION**

### **Weighted vest fitness fad comes with expert warning**

7news.com.au, Other, 16/11/2025

A new fitness trend promising to supercharge fat loss and swap excess kilos for muscle is raising concerns among health experts who warn the weighted vests may not be suitable for everyone. The weighted vest, used for years by the military, has now gone mainstream and become so common it's turned into an online punchline.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

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## AICIS

### Heavy metals

Western Advocate, General News, 17/11/2025, Eliza Spencer, Page 1

IF YOU'VE been putting off cleaning the sludge from the bottom of the water tank, there's one more compelling reason to tick it off the to-do list. Heavy metals, including lead, arsenic and cadmium, were found in samples taken from the bottom of water tanks across Central and North West NSW, in a new study published by Western Sydney University researchers. [...] Of those 137 samples, 90 per cent exceeded safe lead guidelines of 0.005 milligrams of lead per litre of water recommended in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG.)

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#).

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### More children's sand products from Kmart and Target recalled over asbestos contamination fears

7news.com.au, Other, 16/11/2025, Molly Magennis & Bryce Luff

More sand products have been added to the list of recalled items due to asbestos contamination fears. [...] Four more products sold at Kmart and Target have now been recalled by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

[Read More](#)

### More than 100 SA schools report finding asbestos-contaminated decorative sand

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 16/11/2025, Agnes Gichuhi & Paul Starick

About 130 South Australian schools have reported the presence of asbestos-contaminated coloured play sand on their grounds, with specialist cleaners set to clear affected sites on Monday. The schools and early learning centres responded to an urgent hazard alert issued by the Education Department on Friday, after it was revealed that several children's sand products had been recalled over concerns they may contain asbestos.

[Read More](#)

### Researchers make breakthrough in fight against hidden hazard in water supply: 'These results are key'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 16/11/2025, Brent Wiggins

Scientists discovered new helpful agents to battle forever chemicals: wetland plants and fungi. Nature's own systems are being harnessed to remove the toxic pollutants. [...] The symbiotic relationship can remediate PFAS and "treat contaminated wastewater," per the report.

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