



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 19th November 2025

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) leads coverage reporting that a meeting with state and territory leaders will take place today to address hospital funding and the aged care crisis. This follows a new Grattan Institute report estimating \$1.2 billion is being wasted annually in hospitals due to avoidable inefficiencies, with a Health Department spokesman saying some of the recommendations are “being discussed in the context of the new NHRA”, however most are directed to the states and territories. *Also reported by: [The Courier Mail](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 2) reports that the Centre for Research Excellence in Cervical Cancer Control confirmed that national cervical cancer rates continue to fall, with survival rates improving and in 2021, there were no cases diagnosed in women under age 25. Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White said the government is determined to eliminate cervical cancer by 2035. *Also reported by: [The Daily Telegraph](#)*
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that faith leaders and organisations have urged NSW to allow faith-based aged care providers to refuse facilitating euthanasia, stating amendment to VAD laws will give patients and providers “freedom to choose”.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 7) reports that more than 300 schools in SA and other states have reported cases of kinetic sand containing asbestos, leading to closures, decontamination and calls for a federal inquiry. *Also reported by: [The Canberra Times](#), [The Hobart Mercury](#)*

- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 9) reports that Tasmanian scientists are leading an \$8.9 million national project that uses AI to improve the country's bioaerosol pollen monitoring network and prevent thunderstorm asthma amid changing climate.
- **The Northern Territory News** (page 8) reports that a recent survey of defence families in Darwin showed many are planning move before or when they get pregnant due to limited care options and negative experiences.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (online) reports that health experts have called for a national response after Maternal Immunisation in Australia data showed that vaccination rates are falling, with pregnant women and newborns at risk as cases of whooping cough and measles rise.
- **National Indigenous Times** (online) reports that SNAICC chief executive Catherine Liddle said the Thriving Kids reforms could be a "generational change" for Indigenous children who are often disproportionately represented in vulnerability and disability statistics.

MINISTER BUTLER

States, territories unite for hospital funding battle

The Australian, General News, 19/11/2025, Penny Timms, Page 1

State and territory leaders will hold urgent discussions on Wednesday to form a "united front" in their fight with the federal government over public hospital funding. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler referred questions to his department.

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

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The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus key consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 18/11/2025, Melissa Sweet

A comprehensive wrap of reaction to the Productivity Commission's damning indictment of Australian governments' mental health and suicide prevention efforts features in this week's column, together with calls for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to be empowered to develop their own suicide prevention solutions "that recognise the needs of community members and support their culture and strengths". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said "the report highlights the need for further work to realise the goals of the National Agreement and to better meet the needs of individuals, families and communities experiencing mental health challenges".

[Read More](#)

Bedford finds a buyer

Freedom2Live, Other, 18/11/2025

Not for profit disability service provider The Disability Trust has emerged as the buyer for Bedford. [...] Minister for Disability Mark Butler said the news of a buyer was "wonderful news".

[Read More](#)

New mobile truck health clinics hit the road in rural WA

Owner Driver, Other, 18/11/2025, Sean Mortell

The first of five new state-of-the-art truck mobile health clinics have hit the road, bound for Western Australia as part of a national expansion plan. [...] Federal minister for health and ageing Mark Butler says the National Lung Cancer Screening Program would be the latest addition to Australia's world-leading cancer screening efforts.

[Read More](#)

SA Health ranked in nation's biggest govt Facebook ad spenders

WEB InDaily SA, Other, 18/11/2025

SA Health spent about \$40,000 on Meta advertising in the period October 16 to November 14, according to Meta's advertising spend tracker. [...] Federal MPs Matt Burnell – member for SA's

Northern Suburbs electorate of Spence – and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler also made the top ten SA spenders on Meta.

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Australians suffering 'irreversible complications' waiting years to see medical specialists

Your Life Choices, Other, 18/11/2025

Some Australians are waiting more than six years to see specialists such as neurologists, prompting doctors to warn that people are suffering “irreversible complications” and risking death while languishing on public waiting lists. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler called on them to provide that information.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Concerns for new NDIS tool to be rolled in 2026

Alive 90.5 FM, Other, 18/11/2025

The disability community have voiced their concerns regarding a new support needs assessment tool to be rolled out mid 2026 under the NDIS. The tool is called the Instrument for Classification and Assessment of Support Needs, aimed to give participants more choice over how their assessment takes place and will ensure a more consistent experience across the country, according to NDIS Minister, Jenny McAllister.

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Violent Victorian teen crims treated to Gold Coast holidays

hottomato.com.au, Other, 18/11/2025

Violent teen criminals from Victoria have been treated to taxpayer-funded holidays to the Gold Coast as part of their so-called rehabilitation. [...] "The government and the NDIS remain focused on shutting down unscrupulous behaviour in the National Disability Insurance Scheme," NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said.

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MINISTER RAE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Indigenous psychology trailblazer Professor Pat Dudgeon honoured at Australian Mental Health Prize

National Indigenous Times, Other, 19/11/2025, Giovanni Torre

Professor Pat Dudgeon has been honoured at the Australian Mental Health Prize. [...] Presenting the 2025 awards, the Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, said the milestone was a chance to celebrate both the legacy of the Prize and the leadership of this year's winners.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Australia on track to become first country in the world to eliminate cervical cancer

Herald Sun, Other, 19/11/2025, Jackie Sinnerton

Australia is on track to become the first country to eliminate cervical cancer by 2035, a new report shows. [...] "Australia is leading the world in cervical cancer elimination, but we must maintain momentum to make this goal a reality," Assistant Health minister Rebecca White said.

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

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Forum to support men's health

Frankston Times, General News, 18/11/2025, Page 7

Men's health and wellbeing was the focus of a forum at Frankston Football Club last week. Dunkley MP Jodie Belyea hosted the event last Wednesday, in partnership with fellow MP Dan Repacholi and Man Cave.

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

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Dan Repacholi's big shave adds \$100,000 to charities' coffers

Newcastle Weekly, General News, 01/11/2025, Page 9

Dan Repacholi's children have never seen the Hunter MP without his impressive trademark beard. So, they were in for a shock ironically on Halloween when the towering politician, with the Ned Kelly look, underwent a dramatic makeover on national television to launch Movember.

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DEPARTMENT

'So versatile': why magic sand has been a classroom staple

Canberra Times, General News, 19/11/2025, Sally Pryor, Page 5

A big pile of brightly coloured sand. Pity the company behind Kinetic Sand, the original creators of the sticky substance. It's the best-known version, and, even on the federal health department's website, has been repeatedly invoked to describe the contaminated product in question.

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

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Federal agency's 'competitive' IT panel awards \$200 million in single-sourced contracts

Canberra Times, Other, 18/11/2025, Ray Athwal

Nearly \$200 million in federal government contracts were awarded to a single supplier under the new Digital Marketplace Panel 2. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing accounted for about 18 per cent of those contracts, the most frequent user of single supplier invitations, followed by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the Bureau of Meteorology.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Armidale Express \(Online\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Online\)](#), [Braidwood Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Feds told to act on aged care

Courier Mail, General News, 19/11/2025, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 5

State and territory leaders will hold emergency crisis talks to demand the federal government act on Australia's spiralling aged care crisis. A Council for the Australian Federation meeting will take place on Wednesday morning and will mount pressure on the federal government to hold an emergency national cabinet.

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

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Dire warning that aged-care costs are a ticking 'time bomb'

Central Western Daily, General News, 19/11/2025, Adrian Black, Page 7

Australians face burgeoning costs to cover the needs of caring for the elderly unless the nation significantly boosts investment in the sector, the chair of a major aged-care company says. "I believe we're fast heading into a community crisis unlike anything Australia has seen before," Regis Healthcare chair Graham Hodge told shareholders at the company's annual meeting yesterday.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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A population that ages well eases the strain on the health budget

The Australian, Other, 18/11/2025, Andy Hill

We are at a critical moment in our nation's health story. Almost five million Australians are aged 65 years or over and two-thirds of the population are living with at least one chronic disease – which is only exacerbated as we age.

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Use more super and savings to fund aged care, business says

The Australian, Other, 18/11/2025, Stephen Lunn

Better-off older Australians will need to reach deeper into their super or savings to fund their aged care, business says. And government should work with industry to develop new funding options to facilitate this, in order to make aged-care funding more sustainable as the nation's population ages, according to the Business Council of Australia.

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Researchers discuss frailty, home care for reduced hospitalisations

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 18/11/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Home care can reduce demand on the broader health system, researcher Elizabeth Robinson tells AAG Conference delegates, while ACH Group head of health Barbara Tainsh discusses frailty. The number of older adults impacted by frailty is expected to grow, but the onset of frailty often goes unnoticed as there are inconsistencies in screening processes.

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Dr Spector celebrates CST's growth in Australia

It is 'fantastic' to see research and training being done on implementing cognitive stimulation therapy in Australia, says Dr Aimee Spector, who developed it as part of her PhD research. The research team behind Cognitive Stimulation Therapy "didn't really come up with anything that unique," Professor Aimee Spector has told delegates of the 2025 Australian Association of Gerontology in Alice Springs on Wednesday.

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Drone project hopes to transform remote care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 18/11/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The Wildu Aero drone enables reliable and rapid delivery of medication and food, which Anna Klis tells AAA will improve the outcomes of older people in rural and remote areas. A strategic partnership between ASAC Consultancy and Sydney University in collaboration with Curtin University, geospatial consultancy organisation Winyama, and consultants Paul Sadler and Professor Kathy Eager will see trials of a medical drone project begin next year.

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Queensland nurse says RAD changes causing delays

Nursing Review, Other, 18/11/2025

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.

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ABS confirms dementia as leading cause of death

Nursing Review, Other, 18/11/2025

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, which accounted for 9.4 per cent of all deaths nationwide.

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'We need to act now on brain health'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 18/11/2025

A GP with a special interest in dementia says it is time for brain health to be monitored as routinely as heart health, as the disease's toll is driven upwards by an ageing Australian population and modifiable risk factors. Dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, has overtaken ischaemic heart disease as the nation's leading cause of death, according to data released this week by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

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Plan T: Transformation - co-located villages can solve hospital 'bed crisis' in 16 weeks

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/11/2025, Chris Baynes

Is it time for village operators to step up? With hospitals now holding 2,000 older Australians getting sicker, waiting for an aged care bed, why can't they transit to a co-located village while waiting for a RAC bed?

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New research reveals dementia warning long before diagnosis

Your Life Choices, Other, 18/11/2025, Lexanne Garcia

Could something that happened to you as a child really shape your risk of dementia decades later? According to a major new study, the answer is a resounding yes—and the culprit may be far more

common than you think.

[Read More](#)

Australia's deadliest disease has changed—are you prepared?

Your Life Choices, Other, 18/11/2025, Lexanne Garcia

For decades, heart disease has been the health villain lurking in the shadows of Australian life, claiming more lives than any other condition. But now, a new and sobering reality has emerged: dementia has overtaken heart disease as the leading cause of death in Australia.

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ABC, ABC News, 18/11/2025, Greg Jennett and Jeremy Fernandez

PM Anthony Albanese has written to the states and territories, telling them to control their public hospital spending growth if they want the Commonwealth to pick up a greater share of costs. Meantime, the states called on the Commonwealth to lift its funding share to 42.5% by the end of the decade, as agreed to two years ago. WA Premier Roger Cook, Tasmanian Health Minister Bridget Archer, and SA Health Minister Chris Picton comment on the issue.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 18/11/2025, Michael Thomson

An emergency meeting of National Cabinet has been called, with states and territories preparing joint demands including hospital funding and extra aged care beds. This comes as more than 3,700 patients currently in hospital beds are waiting for aged care or NDIS placements.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 18/11/2025, Brenton Ragless

Health and disability support workers will receive pay rises of up to 44% over three years, following an enterprise agreement with SA Government. The deal brings wages in line with award rates at the federal level and we'll see Sunday penalty rates of up to 200%. SA Premier Peter Malinauskas says health and disability support are critical functions that deserve recognition, not just through words but through decent wages and conditions.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Sunshine Coast, Mornings, 18/11/2025, Sarah Howells

Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls says there are around 1000 patients in the state who are in need of care, despite not needing to stay in hospitals. He notes 837 of them are elderly who are predominantly waiting for aged care homes, while around 250 younger patients have been waiting for NDIS package.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 18/11/2025, Spence Denny

Interview with Associate Professor Michael Woodward, Honorary Medical Advisor at Dementia Australia and Head of Dementia Research at Austin Hospital in Melbourne. Woodward comments on the issue of dementia becoming Australia's leading cause of death. He says Australians are getting older, and age is one of the risk factors for dementia. He adds Australia is getting better at managing heart disease.

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

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 18/11/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with South Australian Health Minister Chris Picton, about PM Anthony Albanese calling for states and territories to cut back on hospital costs. Picton says if the Federal Government thinks that

states and public hospitals can just reduce the number of people coming to hospitals, then they haven't been paying attention to the ageing population as well as growing rates of chronic disease.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Bedford creditors out in cold

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 19/11/2025, Natasha Emeck, Page 7

Almost 30 corporate jobs have been wiped out at South Australian disability provider Bedford as administrators move in, while small suppliers owed tens of thousands fear they will never be paid. McGrathNicol newly appointed as Bedford's voluntary administrators immediately axed 29 corporate roles in a brutal clean-out on Monday.

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Village-born service triumphs

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 19/11/2025, Page 3

Townsville's own i'ara Specialist Support Services has been crowned Australia's outstanding support co-ordination provider at the prestigious 2025 Australian Disability Service Awards. This significant national honour celebrates a regionally founded, community-led organisation that began as a small home-based service right here in North Queensland.

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Rhianna Mitchell: I thought I knew how bad Perth's paediatrician shortage was - then I spoke to other families

West Australian, Other, 18/11/2025

Advocating for a neurodivergent child can at times feel like a full time job, one with incredibly high stakes. It involves appointments, forms, assessments, school meetings, therapy sessions, tears, money and phone calls as you seek to understand and support your unique little person.

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

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Drive, 18/11/2025, Nikolai Beilharz

Interview with Maurice Corcoran, disability advocate and social worker. Corcoran comments on PM Anthony Albanese's call for states and territories to reduce costs in hospitals. He says it is a perfect opportunity for SA Health Minister Chris Picton to say they can cut back costs if the Commonwealth can take responsibility for the people waiting for aged care and the NDIS patients who are in hospital beds as well.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Drive, 18/11/2025, Georgia Stynes

Interview with ACT Minister for Health Rachel Stephen-Smith. Stephen-Smith recalls the states and territories' agreement with the Commonwealth to jointly boost funding cap for NDIS contributions as well as reach a National Health Funding Agreement by 2030 and 2035. She notes the Commonwealth indicated that there would still be caps on their funding under the National Health Reform Agreement. Stephen-Smith says PM Anthony Albanese then wrote to them saying that they will reach the 42.5% agreement if the states constrain growth in the hospital system.

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Superbugs threatening

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 19/11/2025, Page 7

Australia risks a return to the medical dark ages if resistance to antimicrobials, including antibiotics, antivirals, and antifungals, is not addressed. "Antimicrobial resistance is not a distant threat it is a present-day emergency," Australian Medical Association president Danielle McMullen said.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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Dental 'drovers' head north

Cairns Post, General News, 19/11/2025, Samuel Davis, Page 10

A quest to conquer cavities in all corners of Cape York has started with three new dental "drovers" sent north to service remote communities throughout the region. But Queensland's peak body for doctors has warned it's not enough, renewing its calls for the state government to fluoridate water supplies across Queensland.

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'Extremely problematic': Pharmacy ads raise concern

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 18/11/2025

The RACGP has slammed a new Victorian Government pharmacy campaign, which encourages patients to 'get it at the chemist without a visit to the GP'. An evaluation of Victorian pharmacy prescribing shows 87% of patients surveyed would have used a GP if its pilot program was not available.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Asbestos sand in 300 schools

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 19/11/2025, Sam Lowe, Page 7

An elite Adelaide private college is among more than 300 South Australian schools which have now reported asbestos-contaminated sand as Education Minister Blair Boyer called for an "urgent inquiry" by the federal government into how the products entered the country. The brightly coloured "kinetic sand", which the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) identified may contain asbestos, was only reported in about 139 school sites as of Monday afternoon.

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

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The late sift

Canberra Times, General News, 19/11/2025, Nieve Walton, Page 1

Clearing coloured sand from closed public schools could take the rest of the week as licensed asbestos removalists are "working around the clock" to clean. Some brands of coloured sand products have been recalled after chrysotile asbestos was found, the same sand has been used in ACT schools. In the ACT, a licensed assessor needs to remove and check for asbestos in workplaces, whereas other states require a "competent person".

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Sand storm

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/11/2025, Bridget Clarke & Molly Appleton, Page 1

More than 40 public schools across Tasmania will close or partially close from Wednesday as they work to clean the schools of coloured sand potentially containing traces of asbestos. State Education Minister Jo Palmer fronted the media late Tuesday afternoon to confirm the school closures, which she

said came after an urgent audit of all government schools, child and family learning centres and libraries to determine the use of the sand throughout the sites.

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NT maternity choices drive families away

Northern Territory News, General News, 19/11/2025, Lottie Hood, Page 8

Defence families are making plans to leave or delay starting a family in Darwin due to changes to maternity services, according to a recent survey. In a probe sent to ADF families in the Top End distributed by organisers of the maternity forum Our Birth, Our Voice, responses show Darwin is becoming an unattractive posting for young couples and families.

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

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Two in five suffer trauma by age of 18

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 19/11/2025, Page 7

Two in five Australians - about 8.25 million people - experience at least one traumatic event before the age of 18. The University of Sydney research, analysing Australian Bureau of Statistics data from 15,893 Australians aged 16-85, found that 42 per cent experience a traumatic event before turning 18, and it affects their health decades later.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

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Inside The Hood Contender, Australia's controversial amateur fighting competition trying to save men's lives

ABC Online, Other, 18/11/2025

Some men consider being punched in the face "a form of therapy", according to Caleb Valeri, founder of amateur fighting competition The Hood Contender. [...] For men the rates are three times higher, according to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

[Read More](#)

The killer hiding in your kids' Xmas present - as Choice finds most toys bought online fail lethal safety test

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 19/11/2025, Sarah Brookes

Christmas is just five weeks away and parents are being warned to be wary of battery-operated toys they buy online after a new investigation showed many fail safety standards. Consumer group Choice tested five major online stores, Shein, AliExpress, eBay, Amazon and Kogan, and found 70 per cent failed to meet mandatory button battery safety standards.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 18/11/2025, Mark Gibson

The Federal Government will the Drinking Drink Mindfully Safety Campaign, aimed at school leavers travelling overseas. The campaign comes a year after teenagers Holly Bowles and Bianca Jones died from methanol poisoning while holidaying in Laos.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Backlash over assisted dying

Religious leaders have warned NSW Labor will lose its multicultural voter bases in western Sydney if MPs vote against an amendment to change voluntary assisted dying laws in state parliament. More than 40 faith leaders and organisations have signed a joint statement calling for NSW to give faith-based aged care facilities the right to refuse euthanasia in their homes following a renewed effort by the Liberals to introduce the reform.

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Brain injury outs Storm star for 2026

The Australian, Sport, 19/11/2025, David Riccio, Page 24

Melbourne Storm will apply to the NRL for salary cap dispensation after losing star backrower Eliesa Katoa for the entire 2026 season. In a blow to the career of the reigning Dally M backrower of the year, Katoa has been forced to step away from the game after suffering a major brain injury following three separate head knocks while playing for Tonga this month.

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

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Cervical cancer to be wiped out in Australia by 2035: report

Herald Sun, General News, 19/11/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 2

A new report shows Australia is on track to become the first country to eliminate cervical cancer by 2035. The report from the Centre for Research Excellence in Cervical Cancer Control confirms rates of cervical cancer among Australian women continue to fall.

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

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Battle for a test that could save thousands

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 19/11/2025, Jessica Adamson, Page 19

When Madelyn Duckmanton was a teenager in the 1960s, her mother Margaret, was diagnosed with cervical cancer. The 34-year-old was referred to the Royal Adelaide Hospital where a cervical screening was among a series of tests done.

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

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Pawfect with patients

Courier Mail, General News, 19/11/2025, Elodie Jakes, Page 15

The Children's Hospital Foundation made a nine-year-old cancer survivor's dream come true, relaunching a beloved program in the most adorable way. The foundation has brought back Paw Play to Queensland's Children Hospital, Australia's only in-hospital program bringing dogs to the bedside of children facing their toughest battle.

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Fight against storm asthma

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/11/2025, Duncan Abey, Page 9

Tasmanian scientists are leading the national fight against life-threatening pollen storms, in a \$8.9m research project using artificial intelligence to improve monitoring in a changing climate and help prevent thunderstorm asthma. Led by Menzies Institute for Medical Research environmental epidemiologist, Professor Fay Johnston, the work to expand Australia's bioaerosol monitoring network aims to prevent significant health emergencies across the country.

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

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Dopey pricks

West Australian, General News, 19/11/2025, Charlton Hart, Page 1

A primary school in Perth's south is at the centre of a terrifying health scare after several children were pricked with the same needle in a botched blood-sugar testing exercise. Students at Byford John Calvin School have been advised to get tested for bloodborne diseases after the presentation to mark World Diabetes Day.

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Storm star ruled out of 2026 season

Central Western Daily, General News, 19/11/2025, Page 19

Injured Melbourne player Eliesa Katoa has been ruled out of the 2026 NRL season after further testing following brain surgery earlier this month. The Storm second-rower suffered three head knocks in the space of 90 minutes while playing for Tonga against New Zealand in the Pacific Cup in Auckland.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#)

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'They need their mum'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 19/11/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

When Kash Thorp found out she had the BRCA2 gene mutation, she quickly decided what to do, despite having no signs or symptoms of breast cancer. "I just thought they're coming off," said Ms Thorp, 33, of Wangi Wangi.

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Is a cure for asthma in the pipeline?

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/11/2025

A new Medical Journal of Australia supplement sets out the first evidence-based roadmap for curing asthma, with AI, epigenetics and next-generation molecular biology converging to go beyond putting asthma in remission and make disease reversal plausible. The work provides the foundation for the upcoming CURE Asthma Symposium on 20-21 Nov in Melbourne, where Australia's leading respiratory scientists, clinicians and data experts will map a national effort to shift asthma research from treatment to cure.

[Read More](#)

Know your risk: new tool assesses cancer likelihood from common item

The Senior, Other, 18/11/2025, Lisa Edser

A new calculator has been launched to help people work out their risk to cancers caused by alcohol, giving them the option to make healthier choices. Login or signup to continue reading The Australian-first tool by NSW's Minns Labor Government is hoped to bring more awareness to alcohol related cancers such as bowel, liver, mouth, throat, neck and female breast cancer and the risk of developing them.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 18/11/2025, Lucy Breaden & Kylie Baxter

Tasmanian researcher Fay Johnston says a new federal grant will help protect those with asthma and allergies from pollen exposure. The Menzies Institute for Medical Research has received an \$8.9m federal grant to expand and upgrade Australia's bioaerosol monitoring network.

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

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 18/11/2025, Leith Forrest

Panel discussion with Claire Gardner, Heart Foundation General Manager SA, and Greg Page, former Yellow Wiggle. Gardner discusses the launch of the second phase of the AED legislation. She notes the public transport network is mandated to have AEDs.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Workplace mental health a concern

Retail World, General News, 01/11/2025, Page 53

Recent findings reveal an alarming increase in mental health impacts among Australian workers. With last month marking both National Safe Work Month and Mental Health Awareness Month, Australia's peak workplace health and safety body has warned that psychological injuries are among the fastest-growing workplace harms.

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

Zero2hero visits the Kimberley to deliver mental health education

West Australian, Other, 18/11/2025, Phoebe Solon

Representatives from zero2hero, a WA-based youth mental health charity, visited Broome Primary School and Looma Remote Community School earlier this month to deliver vital preventative mental health education. Over the course of the visit the team worked with 120 students in Years 5 to 9, providing workshops focused on leadership, resilience and a foundational understanding of mental health.

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

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IMMUNISATION

Experts alarmed as maternal vaccination rates slip

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/11/2025, Lauren Robinson

Leading health experts across Australia are calling for a national response to an alarming trend emerging among expectant mothers and their babies. New data show that maternal immunisation rates have been slipping, leaving more pregnant women and infants unprotected.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Private ED to offer state-of-the-art care

Canberra Times, General News, 19/11/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

Canberra's first ever private emergency department is under construction and founders hope to provide paying patients no wait times and fast access to state-of the art imaging. The city-based Summit Healthcare Hub will be home to several services, including a 17-bed purpose-built emergency department staffed by senior doctors.

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

EY relaunches Experteeth Dental partner search; targets \$120m valuation

Australian Financial Review, Other, 18/11/2025, Sarah Thompson, Kanika Sood & Emma Rapaport

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Monash tops more research fields than other institutions

The Australian, General News, 19/11/2025, Tim Dodd, Page 6

Monash University stands at the top of more fields of research than any other Australian university, according to The Australian's latest analysis of university research performance. The top 250 list in the 2026 Research magazine in today's Australian reveals that Monash is Australia's leading research institution in 51 of the 250 research fields examined, well ahead of the other "big five" universities.

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CSIRO to slash hundreds of jobs

Age, General News, 19/11/2025, Liam Mannix, Page 3

Australia's leading scientific research organisation has told staff it will slash hundreds of research jobs, in a major blow to publicly funded science. The CSIRO told staff yesterday that between 300 and 350 research jobs would be axed.

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CSIRO to slash 350 jobs

Canberra Times, General News, 19/11/2025, Eleanor Campbell, Page 1

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) will axe up to 350 research jobs from next year, with ACT jobs at risk, with staff to find out about the future of their employment by the end of the week. CSIRO chief executive Doug Hilton confirmed between 300 to 350 roles will be cut at an all-staff and union meeting on Tuesday, after additional job cuts were flagged in the May budget.

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

James Broatch hopes to develop targeted exercises for brain health

The Australian, Other, 18/11/2025, Carmel Sparke

Researcher James Broatch was on a sports science path until his mother received a devastating diagnosis that inspired him to switch focus to brain health. Now a senior research fellow at the Institute for Health and Sport at Victoria University, Broatch investigates how physical activity might help prevent or slow dementia.

[Read More](#)

Congratulations to Australia's finest researchers

The Australian, Other, 18/11/2025, Jason Clare

Australian universities punch above their weight in research. Australia is only 0.3 per cent of the world's population, but we do 3 per cent of the world's research – and that includes Nobel-level research. In October, Australian Professor Richard Robson was awarded the 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry alongside two other scientists.

[Read More](#)

'Man flu' is real says experts who explain why men suffer more

Adelaide Now, Other, 18/11/2025, Eleanor Wicklund

We've all heard the jokes – a man catches a cold and suddenly it's "the worst flu in history". You might even have seen it yourself – a partner dramatically coughing and sniffling as if they've caught the plague, when really it's just a minor respiratory infection.

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

Second patient joins world-first Tryptamine psilocin trial targeting binge eating disorder

The Courier Mail, Other, 18/11/2025

Tryptamine Therapeutics has enrolled a second patient in its world-first clinical trial investigating its IV-infused psilocin therapy TRP-8803 for binge eating disorder (BED), as a leading national advocacy organisation steps in to support recruitment. The trial of Tryptamine Therapeutics' (ASX:TYP) TRP-8803 in BED is being conducted in collaboration with Swinburne University.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'Healthy ways' campaign for First Nations communities

Retail World, General News, 01/11/2025, Page 10

Not-for-profit remote store operator Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ) has launched a new health and wellbeing campaign across its network of remote stores in North Queensland, described as celebrating the strength, wisdom, and traditions that have supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities for generations. The 'Healthy Ways Old Ways are Our Future Ways' campaign officially launched last month in collaboration with Health and Wellbeing Queensland to coincide with National Nutrition Week 2025, a nationwide celebration of healthy eating led by Nutrition Australia.

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

Thriving Kids reforms a possible 'Medicare Moment' for Indigenous children, SNAICC says

National Indigenous Times, Other, 18/11/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Australia's 'Thriving Kids' reforms have the potential to be this generation's Medicare moment, according to the head of the peak body for Indigenous children. The Independent Review into the National Disability Insurance Scheme recommended creating a new system of supports for children outside the NDIS.

[Read More](#)

Worsening suicide crisis requires urgent action nationwide, say Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak groups

National Indigenous Times, Other, 18/11/2025, Giovanni Torre

Three leading Indigenous health organisations have urged federal, state and territory governments to accelerate their investment in community-led suicide prevention initiatives in the face of another increase in suicides of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

'Advocate for patients'

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

Queensland Ambulance Service has sent out an educational video to their staff encouraging paramedics to advocate for patients stuck on a ramp at hospital. The video, seen by The Courier-Mail, tells paramedics of the importance of advocating for patients stuck in ramping and urging them to communicate with hospitals about the severity of the patients' conditions.

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Hospitals run via a false economy

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 19/11/2025, Elizabeth Baldwin, Page 19

Every year, NSW's public hospitals are trapped on a financial rollercoaster. For most of the past 10 years, the state has budgeted for real spending to fall even though that's happened only once, straight after COVID-19.

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

Future-proofing health will take radical surgery

Courier Mail, General News, 19/11/2025, Elizabeth Baldwin, Page 23

Queensland's public hospitals are under strain. Waiting times for elective surgery blew out during Covid-19 and still aren't back to where they were before. In 2019, almost every Queenslander who needed elective surgery got it. Now 6 per cent of Queenslanders wait longer than is clinically recommended.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#)

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Rural health put on the agenda

Daily Advertiser, General News, 19/11/2025, John Hall, Page 1

Wagga MP Joe McGirr has called on the state's health minister to redirect the millions of dollars spent on fly-in healthcare professionals towards creating a locally grown and community-connected workforce. Dr McGirr has penned an open letter to Ryan Park, calling for "simple, commonsense reforms that put people first and redirect funds to be more effective".

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

Hospital death court fight

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 19/11/2025, Olivia Conder, Page 1

The family of a Geelong woman who died after her blood vessel was allegedly perforated by a catheter is suing Barwon Health for medical negligence. Jennifer Buchanan's husband and daughters have launched legal action against the hospital, saying they have been left with an "immense emotional toll".

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

Public hospitals wasting \$1.2b a year and hindered by 'bogus budgets', Grattan Institute says

ABC Online, Other, 18/11/2025, Paige Cockburn & Stephanie Dalzell

Public hospitals are wasting \$1.2 billion a year on avoidable costs such as unnecessary procedures, according to a new report which has landed amid a funding stoush between the states and Commonwealth. The Grattan Institute report warned Australia's approach to funding hospitals was "broken" and unrealistic state budgets put hospitals on a yearly "rollercoaster" of blowouts and bail outs.

[Read More](#)

'Chronic' understaffing leaves Canberra's ambulance service on a 'knife's edge'

ABC Online, Other, 18/11/2025

An overhaul of the ACT Ambulance Service's roster system, which has resulted in the temporary closure of some stations, went ahead despite government officials being warned of the risks two years ago. An internal review has revealed that the service needs 83 additional ambulance officers to meet demand.

[Read More](#)

Darling Downs hospital beds crisis leaves 160 vulnerable patients stranded

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 18/11/2025, Tom Gillespie

As many as 160 elderly patients and people with disabilities are being left stranded in hospital beds across the Darling Downs, in a situation costing taxpayers nearly \$130m a year. New figures released by the state government have revealed how the backlog of long-stay patients in public health facilities is hitting hard in Toowoomba.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 18/11/2025, Ross Solly

An internal review of the ACT Ambulance Service has found just 4% of overnight shifts are staffed to minimum requirements and response times for priority one call-outs have lengthened by around a minute in the past 12 months. The review estimates 83 new ambulance officers are needed in the ACT.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 18/11/2025, Lucy Breaden & Kylie Baxter

Interview with Tasmanian Minister for Health, Mental Health and Well-being, Bridget Archer, about the National Health Reform Agreement. Archer recalls the letter written by PM Anthony Albanese to states and territories, saying he linked the negotiation on funding agreement on the states driving down demand [for healthcare]. She calls on the Federal Government to work with the states around the reforms and reforming systems.

Continuing interview on: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#)

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 18/11/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Demi Pnevmatikos, United Workers Union National Public Sector Director. Pnevmatikos says thousands of workers have supported the pay deal from the SA Government, which will see significant improvements to the wages of the lowest paid workers in the government. She notes most workers will receive up to 44% increase, saying it reflects the important work that they do, such as supporting some of the most vulnerable people living with disabilities in the state and caring for the elderly in regional aged care facilities.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Life Matters, 18/11/2025, Hilary Harper & Beverley Wang

The states and territories are urging the Federal Government to honour a public hospital funding deal. Under the 2023 agreement, the Commonwealth is set to increase its share of funding to 42.5% by 2030 and 45% by 2035.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Cash boost for lowest-paid

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 19/11/2025, Darren Chaitman, Page 9

An enterprise agreement reached on Monday will deliver pay increases of more than \$15,000 over three years for some of the state's lowest-paid public-sector workers. [...] Of about 6800 workers covered by the agreement, 61 per cent cast a vote, which the government said was a historic high. The

deal covers aged care, disability services, early-childhood education, hospital orderlies, catering, sterilisation technicians and security.

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'It hasn't quite sunk in yet'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 19/11/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 1

Dr Jessica Horton's mother and younger sister were proudly "bawling their eyes out" over the phone after she was named junior doctor of the year, beating competition from across Australia and New Zealand. In only her second year out of medical school, the 28-year-old junior doctor was not expecting to take home the Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Education Council's (CPMEC) Prevocation Doctor of the Year award.

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Search and rescue doctor recognised in Tasmania's Australian of the Year awards

Canberra Times, Other, 18/11/2025, Anna Houlahan

Emergency doctor and rescuer Dr Jorian Kippax has been announced as the 2026 Australian of the Year for Tasmania. He was honoured alongside school nutrition pioneer Julie Dunbabin, life skills educator Alyssia Kennedy and social entrepreneur Emily Briffa at a ceremony in Hobart on November 18.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Awards honour outstanding work in general practice

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 18/11/2025

A cohort of inspiring individuals and practice teams were honoured at the RACGP Awards ceremony at GP25 over the weekend. Nineteen GPs, registrars, supervisors, researchers and practice teams from across Australia were celebrated at the GP25 Awards ceremony.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Slow AI uptake and outdated funding hold back health system: business

The Australian, Other, 18/11/2025, Jared Lynch

As Australia's health system buckles under the increasing burden of chronic disease, industry leaders are pointing to a structural failure that is blocking the use of artificial intelligence and other high-efficiency technology. While advanced digital tools are being used overseas to dramatically scale up service delivery across health services, Australia's fragmented, silo-driven funding model is creating a powerful headwind against innovation, according to a high-level Business Council of Australia panel.

[Read More](#)

Telehealth regulations hinder care delivery: ACN

Nursing Review, Other, 18/11/2025, Stefanie Schultz

New telehealth regulations, introduced at the start of the month, will restrict nurse practitioners' (NP)

ability to deliver care, a peak body claims. As of November 1, patients of independent nurse practitioners are now required to attend at least one face-to-face appointment within the prior 12 months to be eligible to claim the Medicare rebate on a telehealth appointment.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Brighton doctor investigated for 'false hope' cancer treatments

Age, General News, 19/11/2025, Henrietta Cook, Page 7

The national health watchdog has investigated a popular Brighton doctor over the cost of his alternative cancer treatments, which include mistletoe injections and can set patients back as much as \$90,000. However, more than 30 of Dr Peter Eng's patients, including a former chief executive, retired Supreme Court judge and other well-known Melbourne identities, have leapt to his defence and accused the regulator of staging a witch-hunt.

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

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John George Mateljan: Geraldton doctor accused of indecent assault to face seven-day District Court trial

West Australian, Other, 18/11/2025, Josephine Hingst

A Geraldton doctor accused of indecently assaulting three women over an 11-year period will stand trial in mid-2026 after dates were set during his latest appearance in Geraldton Magistrates Court. John George Mateljan, 73, is charged with three counts of unlawful and indecent assault over alleged incidents said to have occurred between 2013 and 2024 at two Mid West medical facilities.

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

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Fears over measles cases rise

Courier Mail, General News, 19/11/2025, Emma Kirk, Page 7

More than 30 cases of measles have been detected in Queensland this year, putting health authorities on high alert. The latest case was confirmed by the Darling Downs Public Health Unit, which advised that an infected person visited a number of locations around Toowoomba earlier this month.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

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'Responsible way to go forward'

Ballarat Courier, General News, 19/11/2025, Michelle Smith, Page 3

Ballarat health organisations have welcomed a decision to run a pill testing trial at next month's Spilt Milk music festival at Victoria Park. More than 40,000 people are expected at Spilt Milk on December 6, with the event announced to be one of the next tranche of sites for the state's pill testing trial.

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

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'I'm watching her deteriorate': the drug that costs an astronomical amount

Newcastle Herald, Other, 18/11/2025, Damon Cronshaw

Dominique Roth lives with a rare disease, but the drug she needs to stop it progressing costs about \$500,000 a year. [...] A spokesperson for the federal Department of Health said "Ctexli is not currently listed on the PBS because it has not been registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)".

[Read More](#)

Confidence in sunscreen SPF claims takes a hit after months of recalls

9News, Other, 18/11/2025, Maddison Leach

Almost 40 per cent of Australians are no longer confident in sunscreen SPF claims in the wake of multiple sunscreen recalls, according to a nine.com.au reader poll. [...] A full list of the products affected by SPF claim concerns can be found on the TGA website here.

[Read More](#)

Houston, we have a bit of a problem': TGA adviser flags systemic issues across sector

Cannabiz, Other, 18/11/2025, Adam Sheldon

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) chief medical adviser Professor Robyn Langham has delivered a blunt assessment of the industry, warning of the "abuse" of access pathways and escalating safety concerns linked to high-THC products. The comments – delivered as the regulator finalised the first stage of its review into unapproved medicinal cannabis products – came during a University of Melbourne webinar titled Medicinal Cannabis and Regulatory Challenges.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Ingham court: Bernard Clancy avoids jail for cannabis plant bust

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/11/2025, Cameron Bates

A disability pensioner busted with 72 cannabis plants and more than five kilograms of dried marijuana smiled and flashed a peace sign as he walked from a North Queensland courthouse. Bernard Vincent Francis Clancy, 58, pleaded guilty in the Ingham Magistrates Court to producing dangerous drugs, possessing drugs in excess of schedule three, possessing an illegal and loaded .22 bolt action rimfire rifle, and counts each of possessing small qualities of LSD and MDMA.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

Filipino import push 'just bananas'

The Australian, General News, 19/11/2025, Marcus de Blonk Smith, Page 6

Queensland Primary Industries Minister Tony Perrett has written to the federal government to "highlight the serious biosecurity" risks if it were to allow imports of fresh Filipino bananas, saying the move would be "devastating" to the country's \$550m banana industry. The federal government in October launched an independent review to consider whether it was safe to allow imports of Filipino Cavendish bananas.

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

AICIS

Time to stand against fast fashion

Australian Financial Review, General News, 19/11/2025, Renuka Kimber, Page 30

By design, Australia's fashion industry has long balanced creativity with a sense of cultural responsibility.

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

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Inquiry into microplastics effect on women's health

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/11/2025, Jessica Wang, Page 10

The Coalition will probe the effects of microplastics, toxins and forever chemicals on health, with a focus on fertility, with growing scientific evidence showing a correlation between the chemicals and poorer health outcomes. Coalition health spokeswoman Anne Ruston has also vowed to make the "supporting the health and wellbeing of women and families" a key priority of the coalition as it looks to win back female voters.

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

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Plastics, fertility fears probe

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/11/2025, Jessica Wang, Page 9

The Coalition will probe the effects of microplastics, toxins and forever chemicals on health, with a focus on fertility, with growing scientific evidence showing a correlation between the chemicals and poorer health outcomes. Coalition health spokeswoman Anne Ruston has also vowed to make "supporting the health and wellbeing of women and families" a key priority of the coalition as it looks to win back female voters.

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