



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 23rd November 2025

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) | [Interim Australian CDC](#)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [The Sunday Telegraph \(page 1\)](#) reports that state and territory leaders issued a joint letter urging the Federal Government to honour a 2023 agreement by increasing hospital, aged care, and National Disability Insurance Scheme funding, arguing that inadequate Commonwealth support is contributing to discharge delays. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and federal ministers maintain that funding is already rising and negotiations are ongoing, noting expanded investments in Medicare and aged care reforms.
- [The Sunday Age \(page 12\)](#) reports that Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas has announced the Mernda Community Hospital will open next week.
- [The Sunday Herald Sun \(page 5\)](#) reports that police and ambulance unions have expressed concerns as assault rates against Victorian police and emergency services workers rise to almost 10 a week.

MINISTER BUTLER

Time to cough up, Canberra

Australia's premiers have issued a rare joint letter to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese warning that thousands of vulnerable patients will remain stranded in hospital beds unless the federal government honours a 2023 deal and lifts support for aged care and NDIS services. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler tried to lower the political temperature, saying negotiations remained "really constructive".

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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New Zealand calls for caution on puberty blockers

The Catholic Weekly, Other, 22/11/2025, Michael Cook

Pressure is growing on Australia now that New Zealand has banned new prescriptions for puberty blockers. [...] Here in Australia an interim report on the highly controversial treatments involved in "gender-affirming" medicine, commissioned by federal health minister Mark Butler in January, is expected in the middle of next year.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

Squiz Today, Podcast, 22/11/2025, Kate Watson and Claire Kimball

Watson and Kimball report that states and territories are resisting the federal government's push for co-funding the new Thriving Kids program, aimed at children with autism who will no longer qualify for the NDIS. They say that tensions rose when state and territory ministers asked Federal Minister Jenny McAllister and her staff to leave a recent meeting so they could regroup, criticising the federal approach as ineffective. They add that the states have stated that they will not sign any agreement on the new disability program until hospital funding is resolved, which is expected by the end of this year.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Why teen boys are struggling and what can be done

New research reveals teenage boys and young men are lacking positive male role models, with mental health an issue. [...] The Man Cave, alongside Labor MP Dan Repacholi and Independent senator David Pocock, presented this research in Canberra on Wednesday and launched the Parliamentary Friends of Healthy Masculinities group.

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

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Prostate cancer not 'old man's disease'

Lithgow Mercury, General News, 22/11/2025, Megan Doherty, Page 10

Tim Weale and Will McDonald are both in their 40s, both with loving partners and young children. [...] The federal government's Special Envoy for Men's Health, Hunter MP Dan Repacholi, reminded Australian men to get a check-up from their GP and assured them that the prostate cancer test no longer had to be a digital rectal exam, but instead a simple blood test.

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[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Woman's miscarriage and stillbirth prompt 900km walk to raise awareness and money for cuddle cots

ABC Online, Other, 22/11/2025, Nicola Ceccato

Sasha Barton was 16 weeks pregnant in July 2025, when she was told her unborn son Jack had a chromosomal condition that wasn't compatible with life. [...] According to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, stillbirths affect six families every day and for one in three stillbirths, the cause is unknown.

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Treasurer blocks US takeover of Aussie pharma company

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 22/11/2025, Jacob Shteyman

A big-money bid for an Australian medicine maker has been scuppered by Treasurer Jim Chalmers after the Foreign Investment Review Board found the deal was not in the national interest. [...] "This advice incorporated views from the Department of Health and Aged Care, the Therapeutic Goods Administration and the South Australian Government."

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Leaders unite on aged care

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 23/11/2025, Page 60

Getting eight state and territory leaders from different political persuasions to agree on anything is near impossible. But in a sign of just how serious the aged-care crisis is in this country, that is exactly what has happened.

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The shocking reason why an 88-year-old had to sell her home and move 100km away to get basic care

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/11/2025, Zak Wheeler

An elderly woman who broke her neck and three other bones had to permanently move 100km from her family and friends to receive the care she desperately needed. Draginia Johnstone's 88-year-old mother spent 35 days in a Gladstone hospital, north of Brisbane, after she fell earlier this year.

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Why is the government using AI to help create NDIS plans?

ABC Online, Other, 22/11/2025, Rae Johnston

Roblox has been one of the worst culprits for child safety in the games world, and they've come up with something to supposedly keep our kids safe. 'Age-gating' is designed to keep people of different ages in different parts of the online game, but how accurate is this age verification?

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City's only wheelchair taxi missing in action leaving customers in limbo

ABC Online, Other, 22/11/2025, Oliver Brown, Patrick Reincke and Aimee Volkofsky

When Kathryn Eckhert wants to travel anywhere beyond her front door, she must rely on either her husband, Tony Eckhert, or a third-party taxi service. But for the past eight months, whenever the couple books the one wheelchair taxi in town, it never shows up.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

A northern suburbs hospital is opening, but others still await

Sunday Age, General News, 23/11/2025, Broede Carmody, Page 12

A seven-year promise to build small hospitals across Greater Melbourne is one step closer to being fulfilled, but questions remain for residents in Pakenham and Point Cook. The long-promised Mernda Community Hospital, on Melbourne's northern fringe, will open its doors to the public next week, Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas announced yesterday.

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

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Baby come back

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 23/11/2025, Linda Silmalis and Jake McCallum, Page 1

New Liberal leader Kellie Sloane wants to address the "baby recession" in NSW and believes reinstating the IVF rebate and helping ease cost of living pressures on couples to be the key. The Vaucluse MP who has three teenage boys has declared helping families to be among her priorities, including addressing child care shortages.

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Heartbreaking maternity crisis

Sunday Territorian, General News, 23/11/2025, Lottie Hood, Page 7

A mum lying in a hospital bed in shock listening to the cries of newborns on the Royal Darwin Hospital maternity ward having just lost their child. Another family finding out their baby has no heartbeat after asking for help four times.

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How a dangerous 'normal birth' philosophy could put Australian babies at risk

The Australian, Other, 22/11/2025, Steve Robson

The British government has called for an overhaul of midwifery training in the UK after a string of shocking scandals in maternity care. The heart of the issue is "normal birth", and whether encouraging

pregnant women to avoid caesarean sections is putting babies at risk. Should pregnant Australian women be worried? Australia's system of maternity care has a great deal in common with the British National Health Service. Could ideology be putting expectant mothers – and their babies – in harm's way in Australia's birth centres and hospitals?

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 22/11/2025, Fauziah Ibrahim and Johanna Nicholson

Four specialists from Sydney Children's Hospital are in Port Moresby to determine whether conjoined twins Tom and Sarwong, who share vital organs, can be transferred overseas for separation surgery. The Port Moresby General Hospital, which initially treated the infants, declined to refer them abroad due to the high medical risks, but specialists at the Paradise Private Hospital, where the conjoined twins are currently being treated, say they are in talks with three countries about potential treatment options. Meanwhile, the hospital's spokesperson warns that the assessment does not guarantee a medevac, as PNG's under-resourced healthcare system is still unable to perform the surgery.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Weight-loss drugs 'hurt eyes'

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 23/11/2025, Page 19

Four people in Denmark who developed serious eye conditions after using popular weight-loss and diabetes drugs Wegovy and Ozempic are entitled to compensation, an independent body has ruled. More than 40 people had sought reimbursement after they said they had developed a serious eye condition as a result of using one of the drugs, both made by Novo Nordisk, according to the Danish Patient Compensation association.

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

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UQ team solves human genetics mystery

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 23/11/2025, Brendan O'Malley, Page 23

Genome sequencing has been used to determine how much genes influence human characteristics including height, weight and susceptibility to diseases like type 2 diabetes. Co-led by researchers at the University of Queensland and collaborators at genomic tech company Illumina, the study is the largest of its kind and used the DNA sequences of 347,630 people of European descent from the UK Biobank to quantify how much trait differences can be explained by genetic factors, known as heritability.

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Behind the testimonials selling leg-lengthening surgery

ABC Online, Other, 22/11/2025, Emilia Terzon and Maddison Connaughton

It is an online world that few would find unless they were looking for it. Across social media and encrypted chats lies a community that wants a procedure it fears is heavily stigmatised in the real world — limb-lengthening surgery.

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We need to normalise posting HPV self-collection kits to women

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/11/2025, Zoe Clarkin

As a primary care nurse practitioner with my own practice in outer Western Sydney, I treat a number of patients living in regional and remote communities. The women who visit me — mostly young professionals, mums and grandmothers — are often juggling work, childcare and caring for ageing parents.

Bird Rock Cafe's 'insane' past detailed in former owner's new book

The Courier Mail, Other, 22/11/2025

Suzie Browne was alone, three bottles of red wine deep, babysitting her 14-month-old grandson when she realised she needed to stop drinking for good. [...] According to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data, rates of recent alcohol consumption among young women aged 14-17-years-old were only increasing, up from 28 per cent in 2019 to 35 per cent in 2023.

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

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mental health help is a short step away for new mums

Sun Herald, General News, 23/11/2025, Wendy Tuohy, Page 8

The urge to drive her car into a tree "really gently, not enough to hurt the baby" seemed sensible at the time to new mother Ellen Kimball, who was seriously sleepdeprived. "We live in a mountainous area, and I thought it was completely logical ... I might get to go to hospital and get to have a rest." Kimball became consumed with the idea, and this frightened her enough to stop driving.

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

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Rising rates of eating disorders in younger Australians

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 23/11/2025, Page 15

An estimated 1.1 million Australians or 4.5 per cent of the population are currently living with an eating disorder. 10.5 per cent will experience an eating disorder at some point in their lifetime.

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Calls for help on the rise

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 23/11/2025, Page 16

More new and expecting Australian parents are in crisis. Sixteen per cent of callers to the Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Australia (PANDA) national helpline in 2024-25 reported suicidal thoughts, and 10 per cent experienced urges to self-harm.

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Praise for bravery of Mary

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 23/11/2025, Karlie Rutherford, Page 26

A former Matilda has labelled Mary Fowler a "trailblazer", while mental health experts have commended her after the 22-year-old bravely shared the depths of her mental ill health. In an exclusive interview with Stellar, Fowler revealed she almost took her own life one night as she struggled with loneliness, growing up too fast and the pressure to perform.

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

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If everything is traumatic, is anything traumatic? The power of labels

We've come a long way in how we talk about mental health. But while diagnoses like depression and anxiety can empower people to seek help and support — they also influence how we see ourselves and how others might see us, too.

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Ignored, unaware: mums highlight mental health battles

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/11/2025

When Katrina Weynberg began experiencing severe mental health issues after prematurely giving birth to twin boys, her symptoms were initially brushed under the carpet. "No one took it seriously until my husband said there is something seriously wrong with my wife," she said.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#)

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'I thought my 14-year-old was struggling with his ADHD medication. Then I found the videos on his phone.'

Mamamia, Other, 22/11/2025, Nicole Madigan

When Sophie's* 14-year-old son said he was done with his ADHD medication, she thought it was about side effects. He told her it made him feel sick and "too skinny."

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[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

Cop that jab blow

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 23/11/2025, Andreas Nicola, Page 26

A Queensland Police Service employee sacked for refusing to have a Covid-19 vaccination has lost her bid to challenge her unfair dismissal despite six sworn police officers who launched similar applications getting their jobs back. Frontline and Digital Division Command and Control Centre employee Sarah Smith was dismissed in 2023 after refusing to comply with the vaccine mandate directives by the QPS.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Police, ambo bashings soar

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 23/11/2025, Mark Buttler and Olivia Jenkins, Page 5

Victorian police and emergency services workers are being assaulted at a rate of almost 10 a week. Unions for both police and ambulance officers have expressed dismay at the sentences courts mete out for attacks on their members, which rose by 18.9 per cent in the latest crime statistics release.

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More internal backlash as RACP prepares for second vote on president-elect's fate

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/11/2025, Jamie Thanno

Dr Sharmila Chandran says the names of the requisitioners who called for the second vote should be made available. The names of the physicians behind the second attempt to oust the next president of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians will remain a secret, it seems.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Schoolies alerted to insidious bug threat

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 23/11/2025, Andrew Hedgman, Page 7

As tens of thousands of teenagers gear up for Schoolies celebrations, health experts are urging revellers to stay alert for signs of a potentially fatal infection that can kill in hours. More than 100 cases of the fast-moving bacterial infection meningococcal disease have been recorded this year, with teens between 15 and 19 at highest risk.

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WA school leavers warned of sexually transmitted infection increase as celebrations begin

ABC Online, Other, 22/11/2025, Mya Kordic and Pip Waller

Health authorities are warning WA school leavers to be aware of an increase in sexually transmitted infections as they embark on end-of-school celebrations, with a surge in chlamydia predominantly affecting teenagers in the state. The Department of Health said the celebrations could lead to increased risk-taking, such as unprotected sex and alcohol or drug use.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Birth of a new way to be a mum

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 23/11/2025, Ashleigh Gleeson, Page 27

The first woman in Australia to fall pregnant using eggs grown in a stem cell culture that aims to mimic healthy ovaries says she hopes it will help more people battling infertility one day avoid the huge physical toll of IVF. [...] Another form of IVM, called the CAPA method, has TGA approval and is offered by City Fertility Sydney.

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The next weight-loss drug is here – but it's fake and untested

The Australian, Other, 22/11/2025, Hannah Crowe

Even before Eli Lilly's retatrutide jab passes clinical trials, Chinese rip-offs are being sold to teenagers with no checks. While British teens talk about being targeted, Australia's regulator has warned about buying such products online.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Recall notice issued for deli meat products over listeria contamination risk

ABC Online, Other, 22/11/2025

Multiple deli meat products sold in two Australian states have been recalled over fears of possible listeria contamination. [...] Food Standards Australia and New Zealand say the products have been recalled for Microbial (Listeria monocytogenes) contamination.

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Are those prawns really 100 per cent Australian? The mission to fight food fraud

ABC Online, Other, 22/11/2025, Emily Jane Smith

Those Christmas prawns bathing in the supermarket ice-baths are exactly what you expect: plump, red and labelled 100 per cent Australian. It looks right, smells fishy and carries that trusted label.

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2GB, Weekends, 22/11/2025, Luke Grant

Grant reports that Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has confirmed the recall of several one-kilogramme sliced deli meats produced by Gotzinger Smallgoods due to the presence of Listeria. He says that the affected silverside, roast beef, and ham products were sold in retail outlets and butcher shops throughout NSW and Queensland, including major retailers such as Woolworths, Coles, Costco, IGAs, and Harris Farm Market. He adds that customers should return the products to the place of purchase for a full refund.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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