



# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 9th December 2025

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 2\)](#)** reports that the national auditor has criticised a CSL \$1bn cellbased vaccine factory in Melbourne as having no clear "value for money conclusion", the claim coming after last week's opening attended by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that not-for-profits are warning that hundreds of group homes, housing almost 2,000 of Victoria's most vulnerable disabled people, are at risk of closing when a state government funding package finishes at the end of the month.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 13\)](#)**, reports that new research by Murdoch Children's Research Institute and Melbourne University found that an AI 3D dental scanner can detect early signs of tooth decay in children, with researchers saying the technology could provide a more comprehensive dental assessment and avoid the need for fillings.
- **[The Australian \(page 6\)](#)** reports that former Family Circuit Court judge Stuart Lindsay criticised the Victorian Justice Department for dismissing a complaint alleging the Royal Children's Hospital breached its model litigant obligations in a case involving puberty blockers for a 12-year-old, saying the hospital did not properly inform the judge about exercising the *parens patriae* jurisdiction.
- **[Toowoomba Chronicle \(page 9\)](#)** reports that the Maternity Consumer Network has called for a top-level Part 9 investigation into Toowoomba Hospital's maternity unit after disturbing claims

about injuries and deaths amongst patients.

- **The Hobart Mercury** ([page 6](#)) reports that public health workers in Tasmania are continuing to escalate industrial action amid stalled wage negotiations, as educators prepare for their second major walkout in two months this Friday.
- **Toowoomba Chronicle** ([page 28](#)) reports that warnings to take extra care this summer have been issued after mosquito-borne viruses were detected in both Victoria and NSW over the past week, including the detection of Japanese encephalitis in a mosquito trap in Horsham, Victoria.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### **CSL deal 'lacked value for money'**

The Australian, General News, 09/12/2025, James Dowling, Page 2

The national auditor has criticised a vaccine deal between CSL spin-off Seqirus and the federal government, saying a facility launched last week had no clear "value for money conclusion". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler attended last week's opening in Melbourne of the CSL \$1bn cellbased vaccine factory, which provides seasonal and pandemic vaccines, as well as anti-venoms, under an arrangement with the federal government.

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

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### **Blitz stabs out \$15m of illicit smokes**

The Australian, General News, 09/12/2025, Marcus De Blonk Smith and Joseph Humphreys, Page 7

The shut down of almost 150 vape and tobacco stores across Queensland is "just the first step" in the Crisafulli government's crackdown on the illegal tobacco trade, Health Minister Tim Nicholls says. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler earlier this year announced an extra \$156.7m in funding in a bid to curb the "relentless" illicit tobacco trade.

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

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### **Autism's exploiters costing a lot for little**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/12/2025, Tim Blair, Page 13

Autism is real, at least so far as non-medical expert me is aware. [...] Disability and NDIS Minister Mark Butler wants to set up a separate autism treatment scheme, indicating only that current NDIS spending on autism is poorly targeted.

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### **Vaccine plant now open**

Brimbank & North West Star Weekly, General News, 09/12/2025, Page 4

The Southern Hemisphere's first cellbased vaccine manufacturing facility has opened in Tullamarine. [...] Health, Disability and Ageing Minister Mark Butler and Economic Growth and Jobs Minister Danny Pearson officially launched the new manufacturing plant on Tuesday 2 December.

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### **Urgent care here**

Mount Evelyn Mail, General News, 09/12/2025, Mikayla van Loon, Page 1

Lilydale has been officially selected as the location for the Yarra Ranges' sole Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC), with local provider Access Health and Community confirmed to operate the essential new facility. [...] Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler emphasised the Lilydale clinic's role in reducing pressure on the hospital system.

Also reported by: [Ranges Trader Mail \(Melbourne\)](#), [Mountain Views Mail - Healesville \(Melbourne\)](#), [Ranges Trader Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ferntree Gully Mail \(Online\)](#)

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## **NDIS failing thousands with psychosocial disability: Grattan**

Australian Financial Review, Other, 08/12/2025, Hannah Tattersall

Thousands of Australians with high levels of functional impairment due to mental health challenges are being neglected by the government and are likely to end up on the National Disability Insurance Scheme if support is not allocated, according to a [...]

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## **18 tablets a day, countless tears and a mum's fight that won't stop until it's fixed**

Canberra Times, Other, 08/12/2025, Megan Doherty

Kambah mum Sarah Fletcher sobbed in the gallery at Senate estimates this week as health bureaucrats were peppered with questions about why potentially life-changing medicine was not being made readily available to children with Crohn's disease. She is still searching for the answers. [...] "It is a uniquely Australian barrier that places our children at risk of preventable, lifelong harm," she said, in a letter to Health Minister Mark Butler.

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

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## **Australia's leading paediatric nutritionist calls on authorities to take legal action against multinationals**

NEWS.com.au, Other, 08/12/2025, Paige Fryer

Australia faces a "tobacco moment" as experts call for legal action against some of the nation's most popular treats. [...] A recent petition addressed to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, calling for a full algorithm review of the HSR as the Government prepares to make the system mandatory in 2026, garnered more than 14,500 signatures.

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

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## **Year in review: The last 12 months has been big for dementia**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 08/12/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Dementia has surpassed heart disease to become the leading cause of death in Australia, a statistic confirmed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). [...] Minister for Health Mark Butler said "dementia is a national health priority for our government and the National Dementia Action Plan reflects this."

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## **Hundreds sign up for bulk billing incentives**

Medical Forum, Other, 08/12/2025

More than one hundred GP clinics in WA have signed up to the federal government's Bulk Billing Incentive Program since it launched in November. Nationally, figures suggest almost 3000 clinics have signed up for the incentives which would see them take home a 12.5% incentive payment, split between the practice and individual GPs. [...] Bulk billing was also a hot topic at the 2025 RACGP annual conference (GP25) where Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was grilled on how he expected the program to work.

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## **Tracker - 8 December 2025**

NHMRC, Other, 08/12/2025

Welcome to Tracker, the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) fortnightly newsletter with the latest information on major activities and funding opportunities. On 5 December 2025, the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP announced the funding outcomes for the Targeted Call for Research (TCR): Addressing the Needs of People with High Healthcare Service Utilisation 2024 grant opportunity.

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## Stephen Duckett to chair cohealth inquiry

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 08/12/2025

A three-person panel, led by the high-profile health economist, will review the community organisation's service model and viability. The findings of an independent review into the service model of cohealth will be handed down in February. [...] Last month, Federal Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler announced funding of up to \$1.5 million to avert the closures of the cohealth clinics in Fitzroy, Collingwood and Kensington, with all three now open until 31 July 2026.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Sunrise, 08/12/2025, Natalie Barr and David Woiwod

The peak doctor's body has called for an immediate injection of nearly \$35 billion to fix Australia's rapidly declining healthcare system. The Australian Medical Association says hospital spending needs to be fast-tracked over the next five years to deal with inflated elective surgery and ER wait times, plus an ageing population. Health Minister Mark Butler will meet with his state and territory counterparts on Friday.

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## Channel 7, Sunrise 5AM News, 08/12/2025, Edwina Bartholomew

The South Australian Liberals are set to welcome their fourth leader this parliamentary term, with Barossa MP Ashton Hearn to be signed into the top job this morning. She takes the position unopposed after Vincent Tarzia quit, citing family reasons. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler will meet with his state and territory counterparts on Friday.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

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## MINISTER RAE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### New children's mental health service in the south

WEB FleurieuNews.com.au, Other, 08/12/2025

Children in the southern suburbs of Adelaide and on the Fleurieu Peninsula now have access to early intervention and mental health support through a new Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub. The Kids Hub located at the Marion GP Plus Health Care Centre was officially opened last week by Emma McBride MP, federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Chris Picton, SA Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

## New residential parenting unit aims to fill care gap for struggling new mothers

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/12/2025, David Killick

Construction is underway on a new Intensive Residential Parenting Unit at New Town to provide much-needed help for new mums. Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing Bridget Archer and Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White visited the site on Monday.

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

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## Program aims to help health workers support family violence victims

Tasmanian Examiner, Other, 08/12/2025, Annika Rhoades

A Launceston GP said doctors are often one of the first points of call for people to disclose if they're experiencing family or sexual violence, with about five women seeing a doctor every week for these reasons. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Women Rebecca White was joined by federal member for Bass Jess Teesdale to officially announce the grant.

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## Construction begins on new mother and baby unit in Hobart

WEB Pulse Tasmania, Other, 08/12/2025

Tasmanian contractor Fairbrother is restoring the heritage-listed Parsonage building, which dates back to the 1830s. Major construction works, including a new rear extension, are expected to take about nine months. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Health Rebecca White said the investment would ensure families don't face early parenting challenges alone.

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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## DEPARTMENT

### Building sells for \$305m after controversial name change

Canberra Times, General News, 09/12/2025, Georgina Sebar, Page 5

The Yaradhang building - formerly known as Sirius - has sold for a reported \$305 million. The building, which was purpose-built for the Department of Health and Aged Care in 2010, was first listed for sale in November last year, just three months after it was controversially renamed.

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### MI Care reports misuse of money amid Magnetic Island service closure

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/12/2025, Daniel Shirke

An aged care provider has said it is closing after locating possible misuse of public funds on its books, claiming a damning audit revealed 78 per-cent non-compliance with regulations. [...] "We also discovered that some of our clients had been receiving services and purchases specifically excluded in our funding contracts, leading to a report being lodged with the fraud department of DHDA (Department of Health, Disability and Ageing) outlining significant misuse of public funds over many years," the letter reads.

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

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## 2025 highlights: Reshaping the sector

Aged Care Insite, Other, 08/12/2025, Stefanie Schultz

The last 12 months has marked a period of profound change and ongoing scrutiny for Australia's aged care sector. [...] The year began with significant announcements aimed at strengthening the sector, with the Department of Health and Aged Care releasing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Framework , a 10-year plan designed to improve aged care for First Nations communities.

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## Tech in palliative care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 08/12/2025, Priyanka Vandersman

The first of November marked an important turning point for aged care in Australia. With the introduction of the new Aged Care Act, the strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards, and the commencement of the Support at Home program, the sector has stepped into a new era. [...] The ELDAC project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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## SSSI issued for simvastatin

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/12/2025

Shortage of Zimstat (simvastatin) 5 mg prompts Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, to issue SSSI. Pharmacists are being authorised to dispense substitutable alternatives to Alphapharm's Zimstat 5 mg tablet blister pack, following the announcement that the product is in shortage.

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## Catholic Health Australia – submission on the Pricing Framework for Australian Private Hospital Services

Catholic Health Australia, Other, 08/12/2025

Catholic Health Australia (CHA) strongly supports the Department of Health and Aged Care's (the Department's) objective to create a transparent, nationally consistent approach to pricing private hospital services through a Private National Efficient Price (PNEP). The Draft Pricing Framework for Private Hospital Services (the framework) represents an important and long-overdue step toward modernising private hospital funding, improving contracting transparency, and enhancing system-wide efficiency.

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## Advocacy peaks say SaH not delivering on its promises

Community Care Review, Other, 08/12/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Open and Cota Australia have both expressed concern that the implementation of the new Aged Care Act has failed to ensure older people are no worse off. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing shared during Senate Estimates that there are still approximately 220,000 people waiting for aged care support, 113,150 of whom are awaiting an assessment, and 107,281 are waiting for a package to be allocated.

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## 50 Medicare Mental Health Centres now providing free mental health support across Australia

HealthTimes, Other, 08/12/2025

With the recent opening of a new Medicare Mental Health Centre in Campbelltown (New South Wales), there are now 50 Centres operating across Australia — providing more people with access to free, walk-in mental health support and care. Medicare Mental Health Centres provide access to free and confidential mental health information, services, and supports.

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## Out of touch policy to out of pocket fees- shock as aged care cost gaps

## widen for senior australians with impacts on provider monthly cashflows

Hello Leaders Australia, Other, 08/12/2025, Amy Henderson

Just over a month into the new aged care changes and the cracks continue to widen. The multi-pronged fault lines of inflating waitlists for Support at Home packages and copayment fees has seniors and families reeling. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing publicly states that full funding becomes active around the 10 week mark after approval on average.

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## Aged care providers accused of scraping My Aged Care data for sales leads

HelloCare, Other, 08/12/2025, Jakob Neeland

Recent revelations have uncovered a disturbing practice in which unscrupulous aged care providers are allegedly scraping private data from the My Aged Care website, leading to a barrage of unsolicited sales calls. This breach of trust, highlighted in Senate Estimates, raises serious questions about the security of sensitive information in Australia's aged care sector. The issue came to public attention last week, when Greens Senator Penny Allman-Payne questioned officials from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing during a Senate hearing.

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## PD breaking news – PSA announces new leadership team

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/12/2025

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National Board has elected Professor Mark Naunton as President Elect at its December 2025 board meeting. Professor Naunton replaces Associate Professor Fei Sim, who has served as National President since July 2022. [...] The Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing have released a national plan to help the allied health workforce share key health information between themselves, their patients and multidisciplinary care partners, enabling more connected care.

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## The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's President's Message - November 2025

WEB Australasian Pharmacy, Other, 08/12/2025, Trent Twomey

Some terrific events to celebrate and take note of in this issue, including World Pharmacists Day, the new National Pharmacy Awards, and the Australasian College of Pharmacy being acquired by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. Firstly, I am honoured to say I've most recently been elected to lead the World Pharmacy Council. [...] The PGA continues to work closely with the Department of Health and Aged Care on the review of Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) programs.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Treasurer flags tough budget calls

Australian Financial Review, General News, 09/12/2025, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

Treasurer Jim Chalmers says the scrapping of power bill discounts is one of several difficult decisions he will unveil in next week's mid-year budget update, as the government grapples with a yawning [...]

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### Luxury retirement tower

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/12/2025, Giuseppe Tauriello, Page 18

Aged-care provider ACH Group has unveiled plans to invest \$190m in two new major developments, including a luxury tower at Rose Park that would rise to become the tallest building on Fullarton Rd. Designs for the \$120m highrise complex, proposed for the corner of Fullarton Rd and Hewitt Ave,

include 72 retirement-living apartments over 12 levels, with a restaurant, private dining room, cinema, library and rooftop terrace.

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## Just what the doctor banked on

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/12/2025, Page 36

Medical-based investments are emerging as a leading segment of the South Australian property market, according to research from Cushman & Wakefield, as they attract an influx of interstate investment. Considered as a safe haven investment within the broader commercial property market, the medical segment includes allied health facilities, medical centres and specialist clinics.

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## It's within the rules, but Wells' travel fails entitlement test

West Australian, General News, 09/12/2025, Katina Curtis, Page 13

The pub test is by now well-ingrained in Australian vernacular as the political equivalent of fashion's "would they wear it in Wagga Wagga?" As the drip feed of revelations about Communications and Sports Minister Anika Wells' use of travel entitlements grows, the Coalition is trying a new one on: the kitchen table test.

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## Wait over as community hub reopens in right spot

Daily Advertiser, General News, 09/12/2025, John Hall, Page 2

The Kooriingal Community Centre is back almost a year after its doors were closed with Corella Health taking over the suburban asset. The First Nations aged care and NDIS business operated out of the facility prior to its 2024 closure and directors Lani Harris, Maxine Little and Maddi Brennan were on hand to relaunch the centre with an open day on Friday.

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## Man accused of raping elderly woman in NSW aged care home gives evidence at his trial

ABC Online, Other, 08/12/2025, Claire Simmonds

A man accused of sexually assaulting an aged care resident has given evidence at his judge-alone trial in New South Wales. Hayden Carl Skinner was charged on January 4 last year for the alleged assault against the 76-year-old woman, who has since died and cannot be named for legal reasons, at a Coffs Harbour aged care home in the early hours of New Year's Day.

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## Exploitation fears over SA government aged care changes

ABC Online, Other, 08/12/2025, Thomas Kelsall

The state government has been accused of jeopardising the rights of older people as it tries to speed up the movement of hospital patients into aged care. The accusations centre on a bill which quietly passed parliament last month expanding the powers of substitute decision-makers and guardians to move hospital patients into specialised dementia facilities.

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## Battle of sexes strong in bone strengthening medication study

Australian Seniors News, Other, 08/12/2025

A new international study has investigated the risks of a second hip fracture, subsequent fractures, and death in men and women prescribed two different classes of bone strengthening medications. Researchers conducted a series of parallel population-based cohort studies in Australia, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the United Kingdom, with the studies comparing treatment outcomes in people prescribed 'bisphosphonates' and 'denosumab' following their first hip fracture.

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## Former Aged Care Minister Anika Wells' travel spree leaves taxpayers

## fuming

HelloCare, Other, 08/12/2025, Jakob Neeland

During her tenure as federal aged care minister from June 2022 to May of this year, Anika Wells was often nowhere to be found, leaving members of the aged care sector frustrated and bemused at her consistent unavailability. However, revelations over the last few days of her lavish taxpayer-funded travel expenses over the last three years may offer some explanation for her chronic absence.

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## Allegations of modern-day slavery rock Australia's aged care sector

HelloCare, Other, 08/12/2025, Jakob Neeland

Australia's aged care sector is facing renewed scrutiny following disturbing allegations that some migrant workers have been subjected to conditions likened to modern-day slavery. The claims, raised through a national survey of frontline aged care staff, suggest that exploitation is occurring behind closed doors in facilities entrusted with caring for older Australians.

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## Act now on POCT Standard consult

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/12/2025

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is seeking feedback on the draft Point of Care Testing (POCT) Standard, with feedback to close on 12 Dec 2025. Developed following extensive consultation with key stakeholders, the standard aims to support health and aged care service providers that deliver POCT by enhancing patient safety, ensuring quality assurance, promoting consistent practices across care settings, and maintaining a relevant framework as new technologies emerge.

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## Aspen Medical pioneering digital solutions to address Australia's healthcare challenges

The Mandarin, Other, 08/12/2025

Leading the shift to modern care, Aspen Medical is applying its capability for effective delivery outside of hospital walls to strategically address this immense pressure with scaled, innovative digital solutions. Australia's healthcare system is facing unprecedented strain.

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## Ryman Healthcare offloads another Victorian village site

The Weekly Source, Other, 08/12/2025, Lauren Broomham

Ryman Healthcare had approval for a \$317 million continuum-of-care village, including 104 independent apartments, 27 assisted living suites and a 60-bed aged care centre. The NZ-based operator has sold another Victorian development site as it continues to reduce its Australian land bank and pay down debt.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 08/12/2025, Georgie Gardner

Aged care advocates urge the Federal Government to continue funding for respite cottages, such as HammondCare's Gymea Bay Cottage, beyond 2027. Advocates say respite cottages provide a supportive, home-like atmosphere for elderly people with dementia. In a statement, a spokesperson for Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae says they will consult with older Australians and providers to ensure essential care and respite remain accessible.

Report continues on: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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## **Treasurer vows fiscal restraint**

The Australian, General News, 09/12/2025, Matthew Cranston, Page 1

Jim Chalmers has promised more difficult decisions on spending cuts in his mid-year budget update next week after refusing to extend billions of dollars worth of electricity rebates in an attempt to rein in government spending and ballooning deficits. The rebates cost the government \$6.8bn over three rounds, and were designed to artificially reduce headline inflation, but economists and the country's official statistician estimate that electricity prices would rise by 26 per cent without rebates, adding to a more than 37 per cent increase already following the completion of state rebates.

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## **Don't buy Jim's responsible act. He's lost control**

West Australian, General News, 09/12/2025, Aaron Patrick, Page 4

Jim Chalmers deployed his favourite rhetorical toolalliteration to convince Australians they are privileged to live under the protection of a world-leading financial manager. Revealing that the Government decided not to renew electricity rebates that have already cost \$7 billion, Chalmers, above, was full of praise for his Government's self-restraint.

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## **Mental health gap widening**

West Australian, General News, 09/12/2025, Reilly Polaschek, Page 34

Australia is spending more than ever on help for people with mental health challenges, and yet more than 130,000 adults with significant psychosocial disability currently receive no support. Without the right help, people with psychosocial disabilityfunctional impairments resulting from serious mental health challenges are more likely to experience social isolation, poverty, homelessness, and discrimination.

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## **Spreading kindness**

Shepparton News, General News, 09/12/2025, Kelly Lucas-Carmody, Page 16

This Christmas, Empowered Voices is turning giving into a powerful gift. Their Tatura-based NDIS support service is inviting the Greater Shepparton community to help make the festive season brighter for those who need it most.

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## **Access to support should be determined by people's needs, not their postcode**

Canberra Times, Other, 08/12/2025, Mia Jessurun

More than 130,000 Australians with significant need for psychosocial supports currently receive no such services. Most people who do get psychosocial support receive it through the NDIS.

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## **Program: Proposals for psychosocial disability**

ABC Online, Other, 08/12/2025, Annie Guest

As efforts continue to reform the NDIS, a new report has laid bare one stark failure. The Grattan Institute has found the NDIS spent \$6 billion last year on people with psychosocial disability but there was no help for 130,000 adults with the greatest need.

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## **Group homes at risk of closing**

ABC Online, Other, 08/12/2025, Tara Whitchurch

Hundreds of group homes - that care for almost 2,000 of Victoria's most vulnerable disabled people - are at risk of closing when a state government funding package dries up at the end of the month. The not-for-profit organisations running the homes say the National Disability Insurance Scheme funding they receive from the commonwealth government is not enough for them to keep the houses open.

## Future uncertain for hundreds of vulnerable people amid group home closure fears

ABC Online, Other, 08/12/2025, Jessica Longbottom

As Val and Ralph La Terra reached their twilight years, they thought they could rest easy knowing their daughter was in the best possible hands. Connie, 51, has lived in her group home in Melbourne's northern suburbs for 20 years.

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## Most people with disabling mental health conditions can't access the NDIS. Here's a better way to provide support

The Conversation, Other, 08/12/2025

The pathway to reforming the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is littered with obstacles. Among the biggest challenges is the federal and state governments agreeing on responsibility and funding for "foundational supports".

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## Report finds many Australians with psychosocial disabilities falling through support gap

The Guardian, Other, 08/12/2025, Sarah Basford Canales

More than 130,000 Australians with psychosocial disabilities are slipping through a support gap, receiving neither NDIS or health system care, a new report by the Grattan Institute has found. The report, released Sunday night, said the NDIS provided nearly \$6bn to support about 66,000 people with psychosocial disabilities last year but more than 130,000 received nothing from either the disability insurance scheme or mental health system.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### A new voice

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/12/2025, Paul Starick, Page 1

New Liberal leader Ashton Hurn has pledged to axe the Voice to Parliament, cut state debt and place affordable power prices over net zero emissions. Ms Hurn yesterday replaced Vincent Tarzia as it emerged Liberals were asked to sign a letter urging him to quit. Reports, p6-7

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### Training to help victims of DV

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/12/2025, Alison Foletta, Page 5

A general practice doctor can see up to five patients a week who are experiencing domestic violence, and with a new pilot training program, GPs along with other health care workers will be given the tools to give victim-survivors a safe space to open up. The training program is part of 11 initiatives across Australia, with a grant awarded to Primary Health Tasmania with Safer Families Centre for the Tasmanian program.

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### Report card released for Murray health network

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 09/12/2025, Lochlann Heley, Page 7

Murray Primary Health Network recently released its annual report highlighting the organisation's year of achievements in Mildura and throughout the wider Murray region. The annual report looks at issues like the the PHN's progress on improving the health outcomes in the Murray region and CEO Matt Jones said the past year has been encouraging.

## **Nurse practitioners make Seymour Health 'so much stronger'**

Shepparton News Online, Other, 08/12/2025, Billie Davern

The nurse practitioners who are, collaboratively, leading the way at Seymour Health, have been celebrated with a dedicated week, spotlighting the "excellent job" they do servicing the community. Four nurse practitioners work alongside the team of general practitioners at Seymour Health, along with a number of nurses still completing their training to take that next step.

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## **Channel 7, Sunrise, 08/12/2025, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington**

Interview with Dr Danielle McMullen, AMA President, about the Australian Medical Association sounding the alarm over the growing hospital log jam. McMullen says it's not a surprise that hospitals are stretched beyond breaking point, and anyone who needed planned surgery or an emergency presentation knows that they've probably been waiting too long.

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## **2CC, Breakfast, 08/12/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo**

News The Australian Medical Association fears a growing number of fake doctor profiles posted on social media pages are creating mistrust certified professionals.

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## **4BC, Breakfast, 08/12/2025, Luke Bradnam**

Doctors are pushing for increased funding in public hospitals, warning that without it, patients could die. The Australian Medical Association (AMA) wants the federal government to invest almost \$35 billion over five years in the next hospital funding agreement. AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen says reform will play a key role in keeping Australians healthy.

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## **POPULATION HEALTH**

### **ABC takes up transgender cause**

The Australian, Editorials, 09/12/2025, Page 10

If the national broadcaster were serious about providing its owners, Australian taxpayers, with high-quality, independent and impartial news coverage, it would put the blowtorch to organisations such as ACON. ACON, the former NSW AIDS Council now run as an LGBTQ+ advocacy group, drives its radical agenda through a workplace benchmarking scheme.

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### **Trans guidelines deny women a sporting chance**

The Australian, General News, 09/12/2025, Stassja Frei, Page 11

Female athletes around the world will be breathing a sigh of relief after recent news that the International Olympic Committee looks set to ban males from competing in women's events. Males who identify as transgender, along with males who have intersex conditions, will still be welcome in the men's categories if they can make the cut.

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### **Going up in smoke**

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 09/12/2025, Michael Nolan, Page 1

Dozens of vape stores across the Darling Downs have closed in the two weeks since the Queensland government passed tough new laws targeting the retailers' landlords. Officers from the Darling Downs

Public Health Unit have issued 90 interim closure notices to 10 stores that they believe are selling illegal tobacco and nicotine vapes.

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

## Sleep more for exercise boost

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 09/12/2025, Page 4

Getting enough shut-eye and staying active are two of the most important things we can do for our health but many people are struggling to achieve either goal. Fewer than 13 per cent consistently meet recommended sleep and physical activity targets, a Flinders University study found.

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

## Queensland's vape blitz pushes illegal sellers online and onto the streets

7news.com.au, Other, 08/12/2025

Queensland's biggest-ever vape crackdown has forced illegal sellers to get creative, offering vapes online and from the boot of cars. Despite new laws making vape sales outside pharmacies illegal, 7NEWS undercover reporters were led to online sellers by classic paper ads on lamp posts — now paired with modern QR codes — offering express delivery and bulk discounts.

[Read More](#)

## Australia's unhealthiest regions revealed in new research naming top danger zones

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 08/12/2025, Lydia Kellner

You've scrutinised the school zones, crunched the capital growth figures, and fallen in love with the kitchen, but there's a hidden factor in your property search that could be far more critical: your health. Health comparison experts at iSelect have pulled back the curtain on the nation's health hotspots and hazards, meticulously analysing 21 factors across housing, climate, population health, and healthcare access.

[Read More](#)

## Illicit tobacco crackdown: NSW Health closes nine western shops

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 08/12/2025, Rachel Chamberlain

A Bathurst tobacconist has been forced to close for 90 days, with NSW Health suspecting it has been, or is likely to, sell illicit tobacco. The business, known as Smoke Shop, Bathurst Tobacconist and Supermarket, at 57 Keppel Street, is the subject of an official closure order from NSW Health, with the notice appearing on the premises on December 3, 2025.

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

[Read More](#)

## Aussie woman placed in coma after travelling to Vietnam for common cosmetic surgery procedure

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 08/12/2025, Kylie Stevens

A young Aussie woman remains in intensive care after what was supposed to be a safe cosmetic procedure turned her family holiday into a nightmare. West Australian mother of three Chloe Mowday, 31, had been holidaying in Vietnam with her husband Josh and their five-year-old son after travelling to Bali, Hong Kong, and Singapore

[Read More](#)

## Blow for preventative health

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/12/2025

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) has launched a campaign to save VicHealth after the Victorian Government announced it will effectively shut down the world's first health promotion foundation and place its preventative health functions within the Health Department. Closing VicHealth will prove a disaster for the health of the people of Victoria and must be reversed, the country's peak body for public health said, claiming it "almost guarantees that prevention efforts will all but disappear".

## **3AW, Drive, 08/12/2025, Jacqui Felgate**

Interview with Melbourne Centre for Behaviour Change at the University of Melbourne director Michelle Jongenelis, explaining why cutting down tobacco excise is not the solution to the growing black market for illicit cigarettes and vapes. Jongenelis argues that the low prices of both legal and illegal cigarettes will only increase consumption. She states the need for a combination of strong law enforcement and cessation support programs.

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## **ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 08/12/2025, Steve Austin**

Interview with Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls, discussing Operation Major—a statewide crackdown on illegal tobacco and vape retailers that has seen 148 retailers shut down over the past three months. Nicholls says the task force has conducted Australia's largest tobacco seizures to date, with over 11.8 million cigarettes, 1.7 tonnes of loose tobacco, 87,000 vapes, and large quantities of nicotine products confiscated. Nicholls says many stores act as fronts for organised crime and that tougher new laws now extend to landlords who knowingly allowed illegal sales.

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## **ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 08/12/2025, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter**

Interview with Pharmacy Guild of Australia Tasmania president Joe O'Malley, discussing a new initiative that allows pharmacies in the state to prescribe hormonal contraception pills to women. O'Malley says GPs in the state have been supportive of the measure, provided pharmacists are properly trained and patient information is shared to avoid fragmented care.

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

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## **CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING**

### **Over 50? Keep your eye on study's findings**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/12/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 5

A large international study led by Australian researchers has found a new genetic risk for developing a severe form of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the leading cause of vision loss in people over 50. The team says the discovery offers the potential for improved diagnosis and more targeted treatments for those with the eye disease.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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### **Morning boost for cancer treatment**

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 09/12/2025, Page 7

Receiving treatment earlier in the day could help people battling cancer live longer, a new study suggests. Patients with extensive-stage small cell lung cancer who received immunochemotherapy before 3pm got the most benefits from treatment, Chinese researchers found in a study published in peer-reviewed journal CANCER.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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### **Helping to plug the leak**

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 09/12/2025, Katrina Lovell, Page 1

Dennington's Murray Perrett has become the first in the region to undergo a new life-saving heart

procedure. When Mr Perrett was diagnosed with a leaky valve, he was deemed a high-risk surgical patient which meant he was unable to undergo the traditional open-heart surgery.

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## **Life without boobs: Meet the women staying flat after breast cancer**

ABC Online, Other, 09/12/2025

We're told boobs are sexy! Bouncy!

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## **'It's a disgrace': cancer patients face travel as Border trials put on hold**

The Border Mail, Other, 08/12/2025, Jodie Bruton

A Border woman, 70, will now have to travel to Melbourne regularly to continue the cancer trial she began in Albury a year ago as Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre transitions to a public service. Login or signup to continue reading The woman, who did not wish to be named, will need to undergo the trial at a city hospital from January 23, when Albury Wodonga Health takes over the management of the cancer centre.

[Read More](#)

## **Olympian Cate Campbell slams 'very dangerous' TikTok sunbaking trend**

The Courier Mail, Other, 08/12/2025, Jonathon Moran and Briana Domjen

Olympic champion Cate Campbell has slammed dangerous TikTok tanning trends as she uses her melanoma survival story to promote sun safety awareness. While Cate Campbell is using her profile to call for sun safety, the Olympic great is simultaneously watching social media users post harmful content about how to get a tan.

[Read More](#)

## **Fish oil halves major CV events in dialysis**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/12/2025

A daily fish oil supplement has been shown to significantly reduce serious cardiovascular events in people receiving dialysis for kidney failure, according to a new international study co-led by Monash Health. Over 1,200 participants across 26 dialysis sites in Australia and Canada received four grams per day of fish oil, containing the natural active ingredients EPA and DHA, or a placebo.

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## **4BC, Afternoons, 08/12/2025, Sofia Formica**

Interview with Monash University adjunct professor Kevan Polkinghorne, discussing a major international study showing that high-dose fish oil supplements significantly reduce cardiac events by about 40% in patients on dialysis. Polkinghorne explains that the findings apply only to dialysis patients, whose physiology differs greatly from the general population, and noted that the supplement was safe and well-tolerated, with no major side effects. While fish oil isn't a "wonder drug" yet, Polkinghorne says the significant, consistent evidence is promising.

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## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

### **'Abandoned' farmers urged to share story in huge mental health probe**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/12/2025, Brendan Gullifer

Peak farm bodies have launched a major national investigation into the mental health of our farmers, warning that pressure in the bush continues to rise despite previous alarm bells. Now they want your input.

[Read More](#)

## **Townsville suicide rates reveal a heartbreaking trend for men with diagnosed mental illness**

The Courier Mail, Other, 08/12/2025, Daneka Hill

Townsville continues to dominate regional suicide rates – but the fatal factors driving this heartbreaking statistic might not be what you think. New data gathering methods have brought to light a previously unappreciated risk factor, and have also continued to build evidence around obvious patterns.

*Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#)*

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## **ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 08/12/2025, Rory McLaren**

Interview with Grattan Institute disability program associate Reilly Polaschek, discussing a new report that reveals over 130,000 Australians miss out on essential psychosocial support. Polaschek says many people with psychosocial disability still fall into the cracks despite record spending because these supports remain inconsistent and under-resourced. She proposes redirecting a modest portion of NDIS expenditure to a new, nationwide program that would deliver evidence-based services by 2031.

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## **FIVEAA, Mornings, 08/12/2025, Graeme Goodings**

Interview with Monash University's Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health and School of Psychological Sciences psychologist Dr Marie Yap, discussing the role of parents in the under-16 social media ban. Dr Yap says that while she believes the social media ban will deliver mental health benefits, she says nothing can replace the guidance and support that only parents can give. She urges parents to promote an open and supportive culture where they will be encouraged to tell them about their online activities.

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## **IMMUNISATION**

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## **HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES**

No relevant coverage

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## **HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH**

### **Milk grown in a lab is coming**

The Australian, Technology, 09/12/2025, Jared Lynch, Page 20

An Australian biotech firm says it has successfully used precision fermentation to reproduce the most vital proteins in human breast milk, setting the stage to revolutionise the \$90bn global infant formula market. Serial entrepreneur Jan Pacas who founded pet care marketplace Mad Paws and HR software company Flare before establishing biotech All G says the breakthrough will dramatically close the nutritional gap for babies not breastfed.

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### **AI fills dental care hole**

Cutting-edge technology powered by AI can accurately spot the early signs of tooth decay in children, new Melbourne research shows, paving the way for easier dental care. The small handheld scanner that can quickly build an accurate 3D model of a child's teeth, is expected to particularly help kids who fight dental check-ups or live rurally.

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

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## Oral care critical for kids

Herald Sun, General News, 09/12/2025, Mihiri Silva, Page 21

Tooth decay can start as soon as a child's first teeth appear. Without early prevention, the decay can quickly damage the nerves of baby teeth and lead to serious infections.

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## 'Now is the right time for new leadership'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/12/2025

Outgoing PSA national president, Associate Professor Fei Sim, with her successor, Professor Mark Naunton New president named to lead the PSA in 2026, as Sim steps down Canberra-based Professor Mark Naunton will take the reins as national president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) in January 2026.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### A decade of achievement: Aboriginal health education program producing the next generation of leaders

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/12/2025, Jarred Cross

In the past decade, a TAFE NSW Aboriginal health training program has seen close to 200 graduates. More than 50 per cent have moved into senior roles at Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations.

[Read More](#)

### Boorloo students celebrate Young Doctors graduation and growing cultural leadership

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/12/2025, Joseph Guenzler

A group of young leaders from Ashburton Drive Primary School marked their graduation last week from Malpa's Young Doctors for Life program. The ceremony recognised 12 students who spent the term learning about health, leadership, and cultural knowledge.

[Read More](#)

### Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory welcomes new CEO

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/12/2025, Nicole Brown

Dr Donna Ah Chee has been appointed chief executive officer of the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT), marking a significant moment for Aboriginal community-controlled health leadership in the Northern Territory. A nationally respected advocate and one of Australia's most experienced Aboriginal health executives, Dr Ah Chee brings decades of knowledge, strategic insight and community driven leadership to the role.

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## 'Astonishing': ex-judge slams hospital puberty blocker case

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 09/12/2025, Rachel Baxendale, Page 6

The Royal Children's Hospital has been accused of breaching its obligations as a model litigant in a case concerning the prescription of puberty blockers to a 12-year-old. But the complaints raised by a former senior federal government lawyer in a letter to Victorian Attorney-General Sonya Kilkenny regarding the hospital's conduct in a 2024 Supreme Court case known as Re CD were immediately dismissed by the Victorian government.

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

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## Lib leader takes the fight to Malinauskas

The Australian, General News, 09/12/2025, David Penberthy, Page 7

Ashton Hurn is promising a hardfought contest at the looming South Australian election, with the newly installed Liberal Party leader saying she does not believe Labor Premier Peter Malinauskas is unbeatable. The SA Liberals will also campaign on a clear-cut promise to repeal the Indigenous voice to parliament, putting an end to the confusion that marred the party last week in the dying days of Vincent Tarzia's leadership.

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## Newborn's ear cut in maternity unit horrors

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 09/12/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 9

A newborn's ear cut during birth and a mother's bladder slashed during a C-section are among a series of shocking claims from inside a Toowoomba hospital. The devastating allegations from patients at Toowoomba Hospital's maternity unit have led the country's leading maternity consumer group to call for a probe amid concerns the "dangerous" services could lead to child deaths.

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Statewide Mornings, 08/12/2025, Rory McLaren

Interview with Crikey political editor Bernard Keane, predicting that the ongoing clash between federal and state governments on public hospital funding will not be resolved anytime soon. Keane explains how Australia's health system is intertwined with the aged care sector, where shortcomings trigger other problems like ambulance ramping and bed blocking. He says any meaningful reform is slow due to Australia's heavy reliance on migrant healthcare and aged care workers.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Channel 9, Nine News, 08/12/2025, Michael Thomson

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Australian Medical Association raised concerns over the rising popularity of free births. RANZCOG WA counsellor Dr Anna Clare says newborn babies are more vulnerable to risks than birthing mothers. However, advocates like Perth Birth Link founder Amy O'Meagher say more women choose free birthing due to the costs due to fear of the medical system, traumatic past experiences, or the high cost and limited availability of publicly funded home-birth programs.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

## Doctor pleads in court

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/12/2025, Duncan Abey, Page 7

A Tasmanian gynaecologist and obstetrician charged with assaulting two former patients has pleaded not guilty in the Hobart Magistrates Court. Dr Brett Anthony Daniels, 58, has been charged with one count of indecent assault, and one count of assault with indecent intent, relating to incidents understood to have occurred in Hobart in 2022 and 2025.

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

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## Strikes as talks stall

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/12/2025, bridget clarke, Page 6

Industrial action across Tasmania's public sector has continued, with health workers staging fresh stop-work actions and the education union preparing for another walkout later this week over stalled wage negotiations with the state government. Workers at the Roy Fagan Centre in Lenah Valley were the latest to strike on Monday, holding a one-hour stop-work action at 11.30am.

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## Patient safety cited as doctors take ACT govt to Fair Work

Canberra Times, General News, 09/12/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 5

Doctors taking the ACT government to Fair Work claim three Canberra Health Services managers are a risk to patient safety and have engaged in misconduct, their lawyer says. John Wilson from BAL Lawyers represents Ren Tan, Laila Khan, Kris Nowakowski, Muntaser Musameh, Nikhil Pal, Moyazur Rahman, Mohammad Paymand, Sam Mirzaee, Sam Kashkavji and Ahmed Khan.

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## Four breach notices issued: NRL finds doctors, trainer at fault

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 09/12/2025, David Riccio, Page 39

The North Queensland Cowboys have become embroiled in the biggest scandal to rock the NRL this off-season. The Cowboys assistant physiotherapist for 2026 Johnathan Crawley is among three Tongan medical officials facing a proposed two-year ban from all officially sanctioned NRL competitions following the career altering injury to Eliesa Katoa.

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## Health regulator accused of failing to support patients amid complaints over doctors' conduct

ABC Online, Other, 08/12/2025

A woman who complained that a doctor did not wear gloves while conducting a pap smear has criticised Australia's health regulator for taking "no further action" against the practitioner. A south-east Queensland doctor supported Jackie Drake\* through some of her darkest moments.

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## Federation University launches new medical degree to train GPs

Ballarat Courier, Other, 08/12/2025, Michelle Smith

An innovative new medicine degree at Federation University is aiming to help reverse the shortage of general practitioners in rural and regional areas. The graduate-entry Doctor of Medicine program will embed students in GP clinics around Australia for three years of their four-year degree, and in hospitals for their final year.

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## PSA's new president wants to transform the profession

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 08/12/2025, Chloe Hava

Professor Mark Naunton MPS, Chair of the Faculty of Health and Professor of Pharmacy at the University of Canberra, was unanimously elected by the PSA Board to serve as the next president from

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### **PBS safe, government vows after US-UK medicines deal to increase spending revealed**

9News, Other, 08/12/2025, Adam Vidler

The federal government has vowed the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is not up for negotiation after it was revealed the UK agreed to a huge spending increase on US medicines in exchange for the removal of tariffs. Under the US-UK agreement, the UK will be granted zero per cent tariffs on pharmaceutical exports to the US, and will boost its spending on US medicines by 25 per cent.

[Read More](#)

### **FIP call to action as pharmacy evolves**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 08/12/2025, Megan Haggan

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has launched a new Strategic Plan 2025-2030 which it plans to use to guide the global pharmacy profession into the future.

[Read More](#)

### **Channel 7, Seven News, 08/12/2025, Peter Mitchell**

A new proposal to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee could list the advanced cancer drug Keytruda under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. The initiative could help at least 5000 Australians suffering from rare forms of cancer.

*Report continues on: [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#).*

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### **Basic economics is being ignored**

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 09/12/2025, Crispin Hull, Page 17

Health and housing are slow-ticking time bombs. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese cannot forever rely on a presumption that Medicare will always be better under Labor.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### **2CC, Canberra Live, 08/12/2025, Leon Delaney**

Interview with 'How to Avoid the Medical Bill Rip Off' author Dr Margaret Faux, explaining how systemic issues and widespread fraud within Medicare cause Australians to shell out more money for medical costs. Dr Faux argues that increasing Medicare rebates does not reduce patient expenses because many doctors do not pass on the savings. She claims that Medicare's rebate system has never been properly indexed to costs, and attempts to fairly redistribute funding were blocked by specialist lobby groups.

*Interview continues on: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#)*

## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Mozzie disease threat

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 09/12/2025, Page 28

Aussies have been warned to take extra care this summer after mosquito-borne viruses were detected in both Victoria and NSW over the past week. Health experts issued an alert to residents in Victoria after Japanese encephalitis was detected in a mosquito trap in Horsham.

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### Warning to take bite out of mozzie breeding sites

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 09/12/2025, Jordan Lamont, Page 4

This summer, Townsville Public Health Unit director Dr Steven Donohue wants North Queenslanders to add "tip out mozzie breeding sites" to their list of daily household chores. This warning comes after there were 16 confirmed cases of the potentially lethal mosquito-borne disease dengue fever in Townsville during last year's wet season.

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

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### Deadly mosquito diseases detected

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 09/12/2025, Lachlan Gould, Page 4

Staff from New South Wales Health have issued a warning leading into the summer months on the need for people to protect themselves from mosquitoes after the detection of two mosquito-born viruses in south-eastern Australia. Japanese encephalitis, or JE, was recently detected in the western Victorian town of Horsham, while at Cowra in New South Wales a case of Kunjin virus was found in sentinel flock of chickens.

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### State Government takes off the gloves and rolls up its sleeves to fight the bite in the South West

West Australian, Other, 08/12/2025

The State Government is taking off its gloves and rolling up its sleeves in the fight against one of Australia's most dangerous pests — the mosquito. WA Health is expanding its repellent dispenser initiative to additional high-risk areas in the South West after the success of a trial in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne regions over the past five months.

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

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### More than 30 zinc sunscreen brands using formula that failed preliminary SPF testing

ABC Online, Other, 08/12/2025

When Craig Jones decided to test his company's zinc sunscreen last year, he never imagined he'd end up throwing out more than one and half tonnes of it. The founder of skin care company MooGoo, says he'd had a couple of customer complaints and had been worried about a shipment of zinc oxide that looked different to usual. [...] Jones found a new zinc supplier and he also got in touch with the TGA,

asking them to look into sunscreens made using Advance ZincTek's zinc, with some preliminary test results attached.

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## Simvastatin 5mg shortage alert

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/12/2025

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised that Zimstat (simvastatin, Alphapharm) 5mg tablets will be in shortage until 23 Jan 2026. Other brands and strengths of simvastatin are available, but Zimstat 5mg is currently the only tablet of that strength supplied in Australia.

[Read More](#)

## ABC, 7:30, 08/12/2025, Sarah Ferguson

An ABC investigation reveals that over 30 sunscreen products sold in Australia may only have half of the SPF 50 protection that they claim. MooGoo founder Craig Jones tested sunscreen products from VeganicSKN, which produces zinc sunscreens for over 140 brands, and found low efficacy results. VeganicSKN, which sources its zinc from Advance ZincTek, disputed the results. The Therapeutic Goods Administration is reviewing the data, while MooGoo has disposed of nearly \$400,000 worth of sunscreen and switched suppliers.

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 08/12/2025, Spence Denny

Interview with GP Dr Terri-Lynne South, welcoming the Therapeutic Goods Administration's decision to issue guidelines on the use of GLP-1 weight loss drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy due to links to suicidal thoughts. Dr Lynne-South explains the correlation between obesity and mental health, arguing that people with mental health issues tend to become overweight. She stresses the need to consult a doctor first before using those drugs.

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

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Aurora Names Seasoned Global CPG Executive to Lead Australia and New Zealand

Ballarat Courier, Other, 08/12/2025

Canadian-based leading global medical cannabis company, announces Kerry Miller, a 35-year consumer packaged goods executive, as Managing Director for Australia and New Zealand, effective January 15, 2026. Kerry will be instrumental in driving growth in these key markets, drawing on decades of global experience in fast moving, regulated industries.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#)

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