



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 1st February 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sun Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that an investigation by the newspaper has found parents are bragging about paying anti-vaccine doctors and nurses to falsify Medicare records in order to fraudulently claim government payments and enroll their children in childcare. Health Minister Mark Butler said "I am shocked and appalled that any doctor or nurse would falsify vaccination records" and "If these reports are true, these doctors and nurses must be referred to AHPRA for investigation."
- **[The Sunday Telegraph](#)** (page 18) reports that NSW healthcare students can access up to \$12,000 in subsidies through the Tertiary Health Study Subsidies Program, supporting up to 4000 students this year in medical, nursing, dentistry, and allied health degrees. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park said the program is "strengthening the health workforce" alongside other initiatives such as safe staffing levels and accommodation support.
- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)** (page 19) reports that Queensland's Shadow Minister for Women, Shannon Fentiman, was refused a request to visit Toowoomba Hospital's maternity ward on Monday due to a failure to provide adequate notice. Ms. Fentiman has questioned the operations of the maternity ward, the subject of two independent investigations, while criticising Health Minister Tim Nicholls and Premier David Crisafulli for visiting Toowoomba last week without meeting any of the mothers who had reported traumatic experiences.

- **The Sunday Territorian** (page 12) reports that NT Health is calling for an additional \$20m in federal funding to fight high rates of syphilis in the territory. NT Health chief health officer Dr Paul Burgess said "Despite our best efforts in the incident management team, cases continue to climb" and "We do need additional resources to employ additional people, to have additional surface control measures".

MINISTER BUTLER

The deadly dangers of fake vaccine records

Sun Herald, General News, 01/02/2026, Kayla Olaya, Page 1

Catherine Hughes' baby Riley died from a vaccine-preventable disease before he was old enough to smile. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said vaccinations play a crucial role in protecting children and that misinformation and disinformation are factors helping fuel vaccine hesitancy and refusal.

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

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'Details' delay autism program, says PM

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 01/02/2026, Andrew Brown and John Kidman, Page 36

The delay of an early intervention program for children that is linked to National Disability Insurance Scheme costs isn't a mark of uncertainty, Anthony Albanese insists. [...] State leaders had previously said they were blindsided by NDIS Minister Mark Butler's announcement of the Thriving Kids scheme in 2025 during a speech at the National Press Club.

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

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Review order over WA funding snub

Sunday Times, General News, 01/02/2026, Hannah Cross, Page 20

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has ordered a review of all applications in a national medical research grant program after an open letter from WA researchers raised concerns over a perceived anti-WA bias. WA's Science, Innovation and Medical Research Minister Stephen Dawson was the lead signatory of the letter querying the State's "catastrophic results" in the 2025 National Health and Medical Research Council's Ideas Grant round.

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

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Let's get serious on research

Sunday Times, Editorials, 01/02/2026, Page 37

It's common knowledge within the medical research community that good research is good for everyone. [...] When Federal Health Minister Mark Butler ordered a review of all the applications in a national medical research grant program to get to the bottom of whether the scheme holds any anti-WA bias conscious or unconscious it was another sort of breakthrough.

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

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Nipah virus: Could Australia be forced into COVID-19 style lockdown again? Here's what the experts say

7news.com.au, Other, 31/01/2026, Max Corstorphine

It's far deadlier than COVID-19, so could Australia be plunged into another lockdown over a Nipah virus outbreak? [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Friday confirmed the Government was monitoring the situation "very, very closely".

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The government wants to track your medicines – here's why

Health Services Daily, Other, 30/01/2026

It does not mean that the information will be accessed (or understood) by others who are prescribing and dispensing medication to a patient. [...] Announcing the reforms, Health Minister Mark Butler referred to an Australian woman who died from an overdose after stockpiling her medicine.

[Read More](#)

Strain felt but still no pain help

Plains Producer, Other, 31/01/2026

Member for Grey Tom Venning MP has raised concerns over the lack of healthcare access for women of the Grey electorate following a government announcement. [...] "South Australian's were excited to have a health minister from their home state, yet SA continues to be at the bottom of Mark Butler's list — with regional SA even lower."

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More MND research to come from new clinical network

Starts at 60, Other, 31/01/2026, Matt Lennon

The Federal Government will spend more than \$40 million to establish a new clinical network aimed at giving sufferers of motor neurone disease (MND) access to more treatment trials. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the investment reflected both the severity of the disease and the impact of Neale Daniher's advocacy.

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Support for kids with autism delayed after pushback

The New England Times, Other, 31/01/2026

State and territory leaders have agreed to help rein in the costs of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, but a key early intervention program has been delayed by several months. [...] State leaders had previously said they were blindsided by NDIS Minister Mark Butler's announcement of the Thriving Kids scheme in 2025 during a speech at the National Press Club.

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ABC, Late Night ABC News, 30/01/2026, Michael Tetlow

Countries across Asia have increased health screening at airports to prevent the spread of Nipah virus from India. The Australian government says they are monitoring the situation closely, and Health Minister Mark Butler says they have no advice to change the protocols for sick travellers arriving in Australia.

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DEPARTMENT

TCHHS project pair aims to clear the air about smoking

Cape York Weekly, Other, 31/01/2026

Need to quit? Here are the faces at Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service (TCHHS) to help. [...] According to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, among First Nations people tobacco smoking is: the most preventable cause of ill health and early death responsible for about one in five deaths directly responsible for one-third of cancer and cardiovascular disease.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

'I remember what it's like to do it tough'

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 01/02/2026, Natasha Emeck, Page 12

Fresh off centre court at the Australian Open, Anthony Albanese was in Adelaide on Saturday telling the media he'll never forget what it's like to "do it tough" as struggling Aussies brace for a rate hike on Tuesday. [...] Premier Peter Malinauskas said the funding would boost capacity by unlocking more hospital beds, nurses and doctors but warned more still needed to be done to fix the backlog of elderly patients stuck in hospital while waiting for aged care places.

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

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"We had a ball": Why retirees are winning when it comes to making friends

The Senior, Other, 31/01/2026, Susannah Hardy

According to Real Relationships Report 2025 by Real Insurance, older Australians have the strongest and most stable relationships of all generations. Research reveals that those aged 70 and over have the highest number of close friends, with an average of six per person.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Support black holes

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 01/02/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 30

Regional and rural South Australians have less access to disability services, with their electorates ranked some of the worst in the country. Data gathered by Kismet which took into account utilisation, service gap times and supplier concentration, scored and ranked each federal electorate in Australia.

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Albany surf school finds a way to ignite NDIS participants' passion for sport

ABC Online, Other, 31/01/2026

Max Forster-Ross can't get enough of surfing. "It's just bloody awesome," he said. Mr Forster-Ross began participating in a unique surf program in Albany on Western Australia's south coast a year and a half ago. Bringing together both surfers who are participants in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and non-NDIS surfers, the inclusive school is a place where participants can hone their skills together and build community.

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PRIMARY CARE

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POPULATION HEALTH

Rise in children without a home

Sunday Times, General News, 01/02/2026, Bethany Hiatt, Page 13

Hundreds of school-aged children and young people are sleeping rough every night in WA, new figures reveal. As thousands of students return to class for the new school year, figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show 830 unaccompanied children and young people were being assisted by specialist homelessness services on any given day.

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Leader in dementia research shares four ways you can reduce your risk

SBS, Other, 31/01/2026

Professor Henry Brodaty has dedicated his life to dementia research and care. [...] More than 420,000 Australians were living with dementia in 2024, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and the disease was the leading cause of death in Australia in 2023.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

I'm a fighter

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 01/02/2026, Linda Silmalis, Page 1

Deputy Premier Prue Car will return to state parliament this week after fighting and beating cancer for the second time. In an exclusive interview with The Sunday Telegraph, the Education Minister told of the mental and physical toll of undergoing six months of chemotherapy and radiation including losing her hair and also gave a message of hope to those who receive a breast cancer diagnosis.

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Change of tack cancer advance

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 01/02/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 11

Years of dogged work is paying huge dividends in leukaemia research, with a change of drugs resulting in a 100 per cent survival rate among a test group. The collaboration of SA Health and Medical Research Institute and Adelaide University researchers swapped one of the most intensive chemotherapy rounds with a targeted immunotherapy drug for patients with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL).

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

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Window to the brain

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 01/02/2026, Page 18

Technology created at The University of Queensland could improve the odds of surviving brain cancer and change how we treat a range of neurological conditions. Researchers have opened a "window to the brain" with a new diagnostic device that can tell how deadly brain tumours respond to treatment from a simple blood test.

Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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Rethink on prostate cancer treatment

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 01/02/2026, Page 21

A prostate cancer treatment that aims to target the cancer without as many side effects has shown promise in a trial of 100 patients, according to Australian researchers. Treating the whole prostate can lead to long-term side effects, but this new technique aims to leave the unaffected areas of the prostate gland untouched while still treating the cancer.

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The blood test to help brain tumours

Sunday Times, General News, 01/02/2026, Page 25

A simple blood test could improve the lives of brain cancer patients and boost tragically low survival rates. Australian scientists have developed a diagnostic device that reads biological particles in a patient's bloodstream to analyse how brain tumours are responding to medical treatment.

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

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The early signs you're at risk of Parkinson's

Sunday Times, General News, 01/02/2026, Meeri Kim, Page 40

Many people think of a tremor as the quintessential warning sign of Parkinson's disease. But other symptoms — many not involving changes in movement — can appear much earlier than what's known as a resting tremor.

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The test changing how one of Australia's deadliest cancers is treated

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 31/01/2026, Courtney Kruk

A new diagnostic device that uses a blood test to understand messages in the brain could revolutionise the way one of Australia's deadliest cancers is treated, according to doctors from the University of Queensland. The device – called a Phenotype Analyzer Chip – reads how glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer, responds to treatment, potentially removing the need for invasive procedures and improving survival rates.

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Sunscreen SPF controversy: what you need to know

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 31/01/2026, Brett MacFarlane

Recent failures of popular sunscreens to meet their labelled Sun Protection Factor (SPF) claims have raised concerns about regulatory oversight and diminished consumer trust Australia faces one of the world's highest rates of skin cancer, making effective sun protection a public health priority.

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Blood test could bolster brain cancer survival rates

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 31/01/2026

A simple blood test could improve the lives of brain cancer patients and boost tragically low survival rates. Australian scientists have developed a diagnostic device that reads tiny biological particles in a patient's bloodstream to analyse how brain tumours are responding to medical treatment.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Hospital suicide exposes care gap

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 01/02/2026, Nicola McNamara, Page 8

An inquest examining a teenager's tragic suicide shortly after her admission to a Queensland mental health care ward has exposed gaps in policy concerning patient strip searches and communication failings between mental healthcare providers. Tiesha Marie Derbyshire was just 18 when she took her own life at the Ipswich Hospital Adult Mental Health Unit.

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

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Builders fear ruin amid hidden crisis

Toowoomba Chronicle, Real Estate, 31/01/2026, Page 8

Australia's construction sector is buckling under the strain of building the nation out of a housing crisis, with record insolvencies and rising mental health concerns for tradies. Industry groups have revealed growing instances of depression and anger while senior figures are comforting builders in tears who don't know how to push on.

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Terror attacks, fires and floods: Psychologist reveals why you're feeling burnt out before February has even begun

7news.com.au, Other, 31/01/2026, Aimee Edwards

After a long summer break that was meant to restore energy and optimism, many people say they have returned to work feeling worse. Australians are feeling burnt out, anxious and emotionally drained — and January is not even over.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Branded 'a risk' to bub

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 01/02/2026, Lauren Novak, Page 23

South Australia's first Aboriginal Children's Commissioner has revealed she was racially targeted when she tried to leave hospital with her newborn son, warning Aboriginal mothers are still experiencing such discrimination. In a new book, April Lawrie shares how she was told by a nurse at the Women's and Children's Hospital that she could not leave with her second child "because you're Aboriginal".

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Nicholls at 6s and 7s

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 01/02/2026, Jackie Sinnerton and Rachel Riley, Page 19

Health Minister Tim Nicholls has blocked a request from Labor to visit Toowoomba Hospital's beleaguered maternity ward because he was given less than seven working days' notice. Labor's spokesperson for women, Shannon Fentiman, wrote to Mr Nicholls on January 23 requesting to visit the ward on Monday, which is at the centre of two independent investigations.

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

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\$700m not a 'magic' fix for healths

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 01/02/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 1

The Australian Medical Association says an extra \$700m for Tasmania's hospitals will not "magically" resolve a stressed system where demand has "significantly outpaced investment". And Council on the Ageing Tasmania warns hospital bottlenecks will not be solved if older people cannot access adequate care.

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\$700m in hospital funding secured

Sunday Examiner, General News, 01/02/2026, Bailey Forbes, Page 4

The state government has successfully secured additional health funding from the federal government under a special provision, ending a months-long-stand-off. Tasmania will now receive an additional \$700 million for public hospitals over the next five years through a small state adjustment, which is intended to account for the economic disadvantages associated with its small population.

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Federal govt commits extra \$25bn for public health as states demand help to unclog stretched hospitals

Adelaide Now, Other, 31/01/2026, Mikaela Mulveney, Hayden Johnson and Isabella Pesch

The Premier will rattle the Commonwealth for more health funding despite striking an 11th-hour deal with the PM for a share of \$25bn for Queensland's under-pressure hospitals. Premier David Crisafulli

will rattle the Commonwealth for more health funding despite striking an 11th-hour deal with the Prime Minister for an extra \$5.

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Why Canberra's hospital cash injection might not be a cure-all

Canberra Times, Other, 31/01/2026

News that Canberra's hospitals are getting a funding boost from the federal government is a welcome reprieve from the usual catastrophic reports about our struggling health system. But large amounts of money are only part of the solution to the deep-seated problems that have long plagued our hospitals.

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ABC, Late Night ABC News, 30/01/2026, Michael Tetlow

PM Anthony Albanese has pledged an extra \$25b for hospital funding across Australia. This makes the total pool of Commonwealth funding to about \$220b over the next five years. PM Anthony Albanese calls it one of the most significant national reforms in living memory.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 31/01/2026, Fauziah Ibrahim and Johanna Nicholson

Queensland Premier David Crisafulli will pressure the Commonwealth for more health funding despite striking a landmark agreement with PM Anthony Albanese for an extra fund of \$5.7b for under-resourced hospitals.

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Channel 9, Today on Saturday, 31/01/2026, Alison Piotrowski and Tim Davies

Interview with Senior Emergency Physician Stephen Parnes, about PM Anthony Albanese and the states reaching a landmark agreement to allocate an extra \$25b for public hospitals. Parnes says the hospital sector needs an enormous amount of resources to function, and while it improves funding now, they still have to deal with a growing population.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Wealth injection for NSW students

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 01/02/2026, Will Paige, Page 18

Healthcare students across NSW are can get up to \$12,000 in government support for their studies, with one student saying the subsidies have eased financial pressure amid a cost of living crunch. Students enrolled in medical, nursing, dentistry and allied health degrees can apply for the NSW Government's Tertiary Health Study Subsidies Program, available for up to 4000 students across the state this year.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Nt seeks \$20m to turn the syphilis tide

Sunday Territorian, General News, 01/02/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 12

Nearly a year after a specialised team was jump-started to tackle a syphilis outbreak, NT Health says numbers remain high and an additional \$20m in federal funds might be needed to turn the tide. The outbreak of a sexually transmissible infection, syphilis, is sadly not a new problem in the Territory.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Weight jabs linked to pancreatitis

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 01/02/2026, Page 25

Weight-loss jabs can cause patients to develop a deadly pancreas illness, the UK's medical regulator has warned. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has updated its guidance on drugs known as GLP-1 receptor agonists, such as Wegovy, Ozempic and Mounjaro, to include the small risk of acute pancreatitis.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Our dirty dozen

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 01/02/2026, Lucy Arundell, Page 1

Insects and rodents in restaurants were among the reasons 12 Canberra businesses were shut down by food safety inspectors in the past six months. "Oftentimes, not always, there's an issue with pest

management," the health protection service said.

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The 'dangerous' outlawed health item in organic store fridges

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 31/01/2026, Dominique Tassell

A barefoot man walks down the aisle of a Market Organics store in Brisbane's inner north. He approaches a worker restocking the dairy section: "Do you have any Cleopatra's?" He's referring to Cleopatra's Bath Milk, a controversial unpasteurised "bath milk" that maintains niche desirability despite serious health warnings.

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Scientists develop game-changing solution to major problem with common food packaging: 'These sorts of options should be explored'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 01/02/2026

Experts from Australia's Flinders University are working on a dairy-based food packaging film that could utterly replace common, problematic plastics. It's part of what the team called a "race" to create safe biodegradable materials.

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