



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 10th January 2026

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Saturday Paper](#) (page 1) reports that 29.5 per cent of NDIS participants reassessed since the introduction of discrete funding periods last May had their packages cut, by an average 22.5 per cent.
- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 3) reports that Perth Children's Hospital gender clinic's model of care allows it to refer interested under-18s for consultation on mastectomy.
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 9) reports that University of Queensland researchers have begun clinical trials of an anti-clotting agent developed from funnel-web spider venom. *Also reported by: Daily Mail Australia, Pharmacy Daily*
- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 10) reports that a landmark Australian-US-developed early detection blood test for pancreatic cancer is about to be released on the private market in Australia.
- [7NEWS](#) (online) reports that Minister for Health Mark Butler said he is committed to getting weight-loss drugs like Ozempic listed on the PBS, following PBAC's recommendation to list Wegovy for cardiovascular issues in some obese patients. *Also reported by: The Nightly, Channel 7 Sunrise*

Exclusive: One third of reassessed NDIS plans see cuts to funding

The Saturday Paper, General News, 10/01/2026, Rick Morton, Page 1

Almost a third of participants in the National Disability Insurance Scheme whose plans have been reassessed since May last year have had their total support packages cut, by an average of 22.5 per cent. [...] Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler wants this figure to come down to 5 or 6 per cent at least. [...] A Department of Health, Disability and Ageing spokesperson said consultation on the new framework plan rules enabled by the legislation will open later this month.

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

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Overhaul NDIS of 'terrifies parents'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 10/01/2026, Darcy Fitzgerald, Page 26

Labor's massive National Disability Insurance Scheme overhaul, Thriving Kids, faces a possible legal roadblock as a disability advocacy group threatens UN intervention. The Australian Neurodivergent Parents Association put the government on notice claiming the \$2bn plan was potentially illegal. [...] ANPA president Sarah Langston penned the legal threat to Health Minister Mark Butler and Disability Minister Jenny McAllister on Thursday.

Also reported by: [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#)

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Health Minister 'committed' to listing weight-loss drugs on PBS

7news.com.au, Other, 09/01/2026, Aimee Edwards

Australian doctors are pushing to add weight-loss drugs to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) in a move that could cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year but would provide relief to millions of Australians struggling with obesity. Health Minister Mark Butler told Sunrise on Friday he'd received recommendations from PBS experts just before Christmas to list Wegovy - a weight-loss drug which is developed by the same company as Ozempic - on the scheme for people with a BMI of 35 and established cardiovascular disease.

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

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 09/01/2026, Edwina Bartholomew and David Woiwod

Panel discussion with Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler and Liberal Senator Jane Hume on federal politics. Bartholomew says there is a new push from doctors for weight loss drugs to be added to the PBS for obesity treatment. Butler says that just before Christmas, he received recommendations from the experts that oversee the PBS that we should look at a PBS listing for Wegovy in particular for people with a certain level of obesity and established cardiovascular disease. He says he will be working with the company that makes it to negotiate a price that works for taxpayers.

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New treatment listed on PBS, offering twice-yearly dosing for Australians with relapsing MS

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 09/01/2026

The therapy is a monoclonal antibody that offers the convenience of twice-yearly intravenous infusions after an initial loading dose. Health Minister Mark Butler recently announced the listing from 1 January 2026.

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Hospital emergency room patients walking out untreated after hours stuck in waiting room

Patients stuck for hours in a Mid-North Coast hospital's overflowing emergency waiting room are giving up and leaving untreated as struggling staff encouraged them to complain with governments blaming each other. [...] A spokeswoman for Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Commonwealth had increased NSW hospital funding by 11 per cent in this financial year as part of "significant commitments to improve access to care and reduce pressures on public hospitals".

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How red tape could shut down this beloved family-run Box Hill pharmacy

East Leader, Other, 09/01/2026, Erin Constable

A beloved Box Hill pharmacist has been fighting red-tape to reopen her family-run pharmacy so she can return treating the patients she has been helping for close to a decade. [...] Mrs Jacoub now must wait until April for a final decision from Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who has the discretion to overrule a rejected application in unique circumstances.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 09/01/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

South Australia's latest Urgent Care Clinic is set to open its doors in Whyalla in coming weeks. Doctors report a surge in demand over the Christmas and New Year period. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he wants to see more Urgent Care Clinics over time.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Overhaul NDIS of 'terrifies parents'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 10/01/2026, Darcy Fitzgerald, Page 26

Labor's massive National Disability Insurance Scheme overhaul, Thriving Kids, faces a possible legal roadblock as a disability advocacy group threatens UN intervention. The Australian Neurodivergent Parents Association put the government on notice claiming the \$2bn plan was potentially illegal. [...] ANPA president Sarah Langston penned the legal threat to Health Minister Mark Butler and Disability Minister Jenny McAllister on Thursday.

Also reported by: [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#)

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MINISTER RAE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Exclusive: One third of reassessed NDIS plans see cuts to funding

The Saturday Paper, General News, 10/01/2026, Rick Morton, Page 1

Almost a third of participants in the National Disability Insurance Scheme whose plans have been reassessed since May last year have had their total support packages cut, by an average of 22.5 per cent. [...] Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler wants this figure to come down to 5 or 6 per cent at least. [...] A Department of Health, Disability and Ageing spokesperson said consultation on the new framework plan rules enabled by the legislation will open later this month.

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

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Lack of low-cost housing for seniors

Launceston Examiner, General News, 10/01/2026, Sean Ford, Page 2

More older Tasmanians - especially women - are becoming homeless, and Peter Nalder believes a lack of low-cost housing suitable for seniors is one of the causes. "There's still a lot of seniors that are renting," the National Seniors North-West branch president said.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#)

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Early experiences of Support at Home fall short

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 09/01/2026, Patricia Sparrow

The move to the new Support at Home system on 1 November was designed to deliver a rights-based and transparent aged care environment. While the new Act provides a foundation for this to occur, and any new system takes time to bed down, the implementation to date has fallen short.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Family turns grief into a legacy of care

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 10/01/2026, Emma Downey, Page 2

Finding the right support services for people with disabilities is essential to foster independence, ensure safety and promote inclusion by breaking down social barriers. For Tahlia Ward and her husband Addam Lewis finding the right disability support service has been personal.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 09/01/2026, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Member for Franklin Julie Collins on the new Urgent Care Clinic at Kingston. Baxter says it has been announced that the new operator of the urgent care clinic is the Ochre Health Medical Centre. Collins says there are currently 117 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics in operation as of the 5th of January across Australia.

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POPULATION HEALTH

To freeze or not to freeze?

Weekend Australian, General News, 10/01/2026, Steve Robson, Page 30

This year's Australian Open women's tennis line-up will be missing American Danielle Collins because she is recovering from an egg-freezing procedure. Aged 32, Collins has made a choice aiming to balance her tennis career and other life aspirations with the desire for motherhood.

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Climate change: it's bad for your health

Canberra Times, General News, 10/01/2026, Dr Arnagretta Hunter, Page 43

We are in the midst of another Australian heatwave. This is likely to mean increased emergency room presentations in the coming days and a spike in mortality in the coming weeks. The impact of extreme heat is particularly relevant for cardiologists like myself, but also across the hospital – from general medicine and surgery to orthopaedics.

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

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Surge in heat-related illness as temperatures continue to soar across south-east

ABC Online, Other, 09/01/2026, Caitlyn Gribbin, Mary Lloyd and Melanie Vujkovic

Emergency departments, medical centres and first responders are grappling with a surge in heat-related illness across Australia's south-east as temperatures soar to near record levels. The risk intensified in parts of Victoria where tens of thousands of homes lost power during catastrophic bushfire conditions.

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Why not to have cold shower on hot day

NEWS.com.au, Other, 09/01/2026, Cassidy Pearce

Experts have confirmed that a common solution to beat the heat could actually be doing more harm than good. With temperatures already soaring across the country this week, you wouldn't blame Aussies for being willing to try just about anything to cool down.

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AI pilot aims to free up hospital beds this winter

Medical Forum, Other, 09/01/2026

Artificial intelligence is being enlisted to help streamline workflows and improve bed availability as the state government looks to avoid another tense winter in public hospitals. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data show on average, 90% of patients who visited an ED in WA were seen within 229 minutes.

The burden of arthritis is set to worsen in WA

Medical Forum, Other, 09/01/2026

The number of people living with arthritis and other musculoskeletal conditions in WA is set to rise 41% by 2045, new modelling shows. [...] A report from Monash University, in collaboration with Curtin University, Arthritis & Osteoporosis WA and HelloJP consulting using ABS and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data forecasts a dramatic rise in diagnosed cases and the cost of managing chronic musculoskeletal conditions in the state.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

'Dangerous' viral sunburn peel prompts warning

NEWS.com.au, Other, 09/01/2026, Lauren Robinson

The shocking aftermath of an Aussie beach nap has sparked debate online, prompting urgent safety reminders from experts. The TikTok user, Cameron, posted the footage showing the results of lying in the sun and having a snooze.

Similar coverage: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#)

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Cancer Council WA urges people over the age of 40 to get new or unusual symptoms checked

West Australian, Other, 09/01/2026, Amy Towers

Cancer Council WA is urging people over 40 in the Great Southern to get any new or unusual symptoms checked, warning delays in treatment can reduce survival rates. Cancer Council Great Southern regional cancer prevention co-ordinator Bruce Beamish said the best New Year's resolution you can make is looking after yourself.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Teen girls in gender op furore

Weekend Australian, General News, 10/01/2026, Bernard Lane, Page 3

The gender clinic at the Perth Children's Hospital enables double mastectomies for its teenage female patients who identify as boys, according to an internal document the West Australian Cook Labor government tried to keep secret. The four-year-old model of care document abruptly tabled in state parliament in November after months of refusals to disclose it reveals that the gender clinic will connect interested under-18 patients with private surgeons for "top surgery", or mastectomy, while stressing the "personal responsibility" of the girl and her family for the choice.

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

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Sharing nude pictures of kids has damaging results

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 10/01/2026, Mary Papadakis, Page 51

Young people who have sexually explicit images of themselves shared without their consent are 1½ times more likely to attempt suicide and twice as likely to self-harm. New Australian research, which comes amid growing anger over Elon Musk's sexualised deep fake AI tool Grok, shows those aged under 18 who have had images of themselves shared without consent in childhood are 1½ times more likely to develop depression and twice as likely to smoke.

Longer breastfeeding may aid depression

Weekend Post, General News, 10/01/2026, Page 13

Breastfeeding for more than 12 months could lower depression and anxiety risks for up to 10 years after pregnancy, a new study has revealed. The small observation study by BMJ Group followed 168 second time mothers for 10 years after giving birth and asked them to complete detailed questionnaires about mental health and breastfeeding habits.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

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Corio Cricket Club introduces mental health matches to break barriers, stigma

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 09/01/2026, Dan Batten

Corio Cricket Club will launch a mental health initiative this weekend which their president hopes will break down barriers and continue to change the perception of the club and the Corio community. The Devils' senior men's and women's teams will participate in mental health matches on Saturday and Sunday at Shell Reserve, raising funds for Beyond Blue.

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FIVEAA, Breakfast, 09/01/2026, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Flinders University researcher Madeleine Rhodes about her finding that 75% of new Australian mothers have body image issues, which can trigger eating disorders. Rhodes says they found that the emphasis placed on body image within family relationships, within partnerships, and friend groups more generally can be an important factor.

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IMMUNISATION

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Every time, you help save a life

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/01/2026, Madeline Crittenden, Page 32

Harry Buckland made it home just in time for Christmas with his family after a long year of chemotherapy, surgeries and medicines – but there was one gift he repeatedly received in 2025 that kept a smile on his little face. His mum Rebecca has lost count of the number of bags of blood her son needed in the past year, as he battled stage four high-risk neuroblastoma.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Funnel vision: spider venom drug trials

Canberra Times, General News, 10/01/2026, Aaron Bunch, Page 9

Australian funnel-web spider venom has been used to create a drug that could save millions of lives by protecting patients' hearts and brains during heart attacks and strokes. University of Queensland

researchers have started clinical trials to assess the safety, tolerability and dosage of IB409, a novel drug developed from a molecule in the venom.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), Similar coverage: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

From heartbreak to hope

Central Western Daily, General News, 10/01/2026, Jac Marshall, Page 1

For a midwife, there is no place more sacred than the maternity ward - a place of new beginnings and hard-won joys. But for the family of Torie Finnane, the hospital where she dedicated her life became the site of an unthinkable tragedy that, five years on, is fuelling a revolution in regional healthcare.

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Hospital visitors have paid 80 per cent more for parking

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 10/01/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 7

Revenue from hospital parking fees in Wollongong jumped by 80 per cent in a year, financial records show. The Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District's (ISLHD) annual financial statement for 2024-25 showed drivers paid a total of \$3.48 million in parking fees, up from \$1.935 million the previous year.

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Widow's anguish

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 10/01/2026, Daneka Hill, Page 5

Mary O'Keefe's husband was dragged from his hospital bed and had his head fatally smashed against the floor – at least, that's what she was told. Four years on, she's still searching for answers. The incident occurred on Medical Ward 5, which specialises in dementia patients.

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Medical mistakes led to grandmother Christine Guyula's death, Northern Territory coroner finds

7news.com.au, Other, 09/01/2026, Lloyd Jones

A "catastrophic" series of errors by medical staff during and after a surgical procedure led to a 48-year-old grandmother's death, a coroner has found. The "chain of tragedy" that resulted in Christine Guyula's death at Royal Darwin Hospital on March 17, 2022 has prompted a coroner to recommend changes to anaesthesia rules.

Similar coverage: [SBS \(Online\)](#)

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'Pain never ends': family's hopes seven years on

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 09/01/2026, Adelaide Lang

A woman with an extremely rare condition who died in hospital after being admitted for weight loss surgery will never be forgotten, her family have vowed as they push for change. Brooke Tiddy was admitted to St George Private Hospital in Sydney on September 18, 2018 for elective bariatric surgery recommended by her doctor, who assessed her as "super super obese".

Kalgoorlie hospital put patient with broken back on two-week waitlist rather than referring to local Indigenous-owned health service

National Indigenous Times, Other, 09/01/2026, Giovanni Torre

Concerns have been raised over Kalgoorlie Health Campus's apparent resistance to referring patients to other services which can provide urgent scans on short notice, despite those services being covered by Medicare. The Health Campus, Kalgoorlie's public hospital, serves Western Australia's Goldfields region.

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Investigation call after cancer patient dies following 530km drive for treatment

Fraser Coast Chronicle, Other, 09/01/2026, Carlie Walker

The state Opposition spokesman for health has called for an independent investigation after a cancer patient who waited in Gladstone Hospital for almost two weeks to be transferred to Brisbane later died, prompting concerns about possible delays in his treatment. William Spiteri died less than five weeks after receiving the diagnosis of non-Hodgkin Lymphoma at Gladstone Hospital in November.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

New docs on the block at ERH

Shepparton News Online, Other, 09/01/2026, Ryan Bellingham

Five fresh interns have started doing the rounds at Echuca Regional Health as part of its annual intake of junior doctors. Still in their first week on Thursday, January 8, the recent medical school graduates said they were already drawn to the welcoming culture of both the hospital and the town.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

PBS listing for new MS drug

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/01/2026

Neuraxpharm Australia has announced the PBS listing of Briumvi (ublituximab) for the treatment of adult patients with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (RMS) with active disease defined by clinical or imaging features. Briumvi is an anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody that selectively targets CD-20-expressing B-cells, which play a role in the underlying disease process in multiple sclerosis.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

VCAT rules Winter Valley doctor can keep practising

Ballarat Courier, General News, 10/01/2026, Alex Dalziel, Page 4

A doctor accused of inappropriately touching a female patient's genitals will be allowed to return to work at a Ballarat clinic, but not allowed to see female patients, VCAT has ruled. Dr Dileepa Jayaweera, who worked as a general practitioner at Winter Valley's Carn-Brae Medical Clinic, took the Medical Board of Australia to VCAT last year after conditions were put on his registration following allegations of sexual misconduct.

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'We will leave no stone unturned'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/01/2026, Kate Cowling

A nurse who reportedly injected botox without a doctor's consultation or script has discovered her fate, in a case Ahpra says should serve as a warning.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Health professionals should be wearing respirator-grade masks, WHO is advised

The Guardian, Other, 09/01/2026, Kat Lay

Surgical face masks provide inadequate protection against flu-like illnesses including Covid, and should be replaced by respirator-level masks – worn every time doctors and nurses are face to face with a patient, according to a group of experts urging changes to World Health Organization guidelines. There is "no rational justification remaining for prioritising or using" the surgical masks that are ubiquitous in hospitals and clinics globally, given their "inadequate protection against airborne pathogens", they said in a letter to WHO chief Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

World-first pancreatic cancer test a life-saver

Weekend Australian, General News, 10/01/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 10

The world's first early-detection blood test for pancreatic cancer is set to be launched in Australia, and is predicted to lift survival rates for the deadly disease. The test detects the presence of cancer-driving proteins in the bloodstream triggered by DNA changes, which can be identified years before pancreatic cancer shows symptoms.

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

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TGA green lights Yeytuo registration

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/01/2026, Jarrod McMaugh

Yeytuo (lenacapavir) is being added to the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PreP) to reduce the risk of sexually acquired HIV-1 in individuals aged 16 years and older weighing at least 35 kg. The approval of the twice year PreP drug by the Therapeutic Goods

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Research reveals surprising reality of life after weight-loss drugs

The New Daily, Other, 09/01/2026

Stars like Oprah Winfrey have been celebrating their success with weight-loss drugs, but stopping the medication could lead to the kilos quickly piling back, researchers warn. New science published in The British Medical Journal (BMJ) shows that people on drugs like Wegovy regained weight four times faster than those on diet and exercise programs.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

Preservatives health-risk link

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/01/2026, Page 22

Eating some common food preservatives is linked to a slightly higher risk of eventually developing cancer and diabetes, according to two French studies published on Thursday. However, outside experts emphasised these kinds of observational studies could not demonstrate a direct cause-and-effect relationship.

Also reported by: [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#). Similar coverage: [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Explosive loophole forces urgent recall of popular brew

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 10/01/2026, Eloise Budimlich, Page 32

A popular beer is being recalled over fears its container could explode and cause serious injury. Loophole Brewing's party keg of Pacific Ale has a secondary fermentation problem, which can involve over-carbonation, leading to the risk of explosion. Food Standards Australia New Zealand put out a recall notice on January 8, warning purchasers of the risk.

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Contaminated S4 infant formula recalled

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/01/2026, Jarrod McMaugh

Pharmacists are being encouraged to contact customers using Nestle Alfamino Infant Formula (0-12 months) to advise them of contamination concerns. In a statement issued on Wednesday (7 January 2026), Nestle said the recall was "a precautionary measure due to the potential presence of cereulide", which may cause gastrointestinal illness if consumed.

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AICIS

PFAS spread in West Dapto creek

West Dapto residents along Mullet Creek have been warned to minimise their exposure to PFAS chemicals that have contaminated the creek from a garbage tip at Huntley. The landowners, between Huntley and Avondale, were contacted by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) after testing showed elevated levels of toxic chemicals.

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