



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 14th January 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (online) reports Australians are closer to accessing subsidised Wegovy after the PBAC recommended it for limited high-risk groups, with Health Minister Mark Butler telling ABC Radio the government will now discuss price arrangements before listing it on the PBS. *Also reported by: Pharmacy Daily (None), Pharmacy Daily (Online), The Australian Women's Weekly (Online), Your Life Choices (Online)*
- The [West Australian](#) (page 1) reports the cost of WA Government-ordered audit into WA hospital maintenance has exceeded \$400,000 after an undisclosed consulting firm was engaged to assist the review, with the report completed and expected to be released soon.
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 1) reports the Australian Medical Association has warned Tasmania's ambulance ramping cannot be fixed by blunt time targets alone, saying deeper underinvestment is clogging hospitals despite the state government defending its 60-minute offload policy.
- The [Daily Mail](#) (online) reports Vyvanse has overtaken Ozempic as Australia's fastest-growing prescription drug, with Federal Health Department data showing about 2.2 million PBS scripts last year, prompting warnings from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and the New Zealand College of Psychiatrists about misdiagnosis, overprescribing and patient safety.

- The **Canberra Times** (page 5) reports a 2024 review found Canberra Hospital trainee doctors were unsupervised after hours and asked to perform procedures they were not credentialled for, but preliminary feedback indicates the obstetrics and gynaecology unit has been granted three years' accreditation after addressing multiple unmet standards.
- **ABC News** (online) reports targeted online advertising is promoting intimate hygiene products by exploiting consumer insecurities, while the Therapeutic Goods Administration says it removed more than 13,700 unlawful therapeutic goods advertisements in 2024-25 and continues to monitor digital platforms.
- The **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 8) reports NSW's health system is being strained by an ageing population and delayed discharges, prompting a shift towards more care at home, expanded roles for GPs, nurses and pharmacists and the rollout of a statewide Single Digital Patient Record.
- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 9) reports NSW Health has issued a mosquito warning after a probable case of Japanese encephalitis in a man in his 60s linked to the Riverina, with virus activity also detected in sentinel chickens and officials urging vaccination and bite prevention.
- The **Herald Sun** (page 12) reports Perth researchers have developed a non-invasive, cost-effective blood test that could significantly reduce the six-to-eight-year delay in diagnosing endometriosis, replacing reliance on invasive laparoscopic surgery. *Also reported by: NEWS.com.au (Online).*
- The **West Australian** (online) reports a new Labor MP has downplayed calls for a Yanchep hospital, while Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White said negotiations on Commonwealth hospital funding with states and territories are continuing.
- The **New Daily** reports the Australian Centre for Disease Control has identified a fast-spreading influenza A subclade known as "Super-K" as driving unusually high summer flu cases, though current data does not indicate increased severity.

MINISTER BUTLER

Urgent Care Clinic in Kingston is Ochre

Kingborough Chronicle, General News, 13/01/2026, Page 1

Ochre Health has been chosen to operate the new Kingston Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, after a competitive tender process. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was continuing to deliver on its promise to expand access to urgent care in Tasmania.

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

Urgent Care Clinic opens

The Sorell Times, General News, 01/01/2026, Page 5

Tasmania's latest Medicare Urgent Care Clinic has opened at Sorell, making it the sixth location in the state. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Sorell Medicare Urgent Care Clinic was a gamechanger for the region.

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

Weight loss injection set for PBS listing: What we know

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/01/2026, Hayley Goddard

Australians are one step closer to being able to access the semaglutide medication Wegovy at much cheaper rate after they were recommended to be added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said he was "committed" to following all of the PBAC's latest recommendations of medications to be added to the PBS.

Also reported by: Herald Sun (Online), Pharmacy Daily (None), Pharmacy Daily (Online), The Australian Women's Weekly (Online), Your Life Choices (Online).

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Bulk billing bound to bounce up: Butler

The Medical Republic, Other, 13/01/2026, Holly Payne

This time last year, the health minister was dragging Cleanbill's methodology. Now, he says its findings stack up. Health Minister Mark Butler has all but confirmed the broad findings of GP fee aggregator Cleanbill's latest report, which indicates that the number of bulk billing clinics nationwide has doubled over the past 12 months.

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How recent Medicare changes could make it 'twice as easy' to find a bulk-billing GP in Australia

Your Life Choices, Other, 13/01/2026, Don Turrobia

If you've ever found yourself clutching your Medicare card and bracing for a hefty out-of-pocket bill at the GP, you're not alone. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has cautioned that the Cleanbill data may not be fully reliable, pointing out that clinics that didn't answer the survey weren't included in the analysis.

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Channel 7, Sunrise 5AM News, 13/01/2026, Teegan Dolling

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has hailed a 'rebound' in Medicare accessibility, as new data shows 1,200 previously mixed-billing GP clinics have switched to a fully bulk-billed model. The transition, fuelled by the \$7.9 billion expansion of bulk-billing incentives and a new 12.5% practice loading, has doubled the national proportion of 100% bulk-billing clinics to over 40%.

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Channel 9, Today , 13/01/2026, Jayne Azzopardi & Joel Dry

Panel discussion with Mark Butler, Federal Minister for Health and Paul Sakkal, chief political correspondent, The Age and SMH, about the bulk billing debate regarding out-of-pocket costs that Australians are paying. Butler points out that gap fees have been rising for years now, which is why the bulk-billing reform has been a focus of the government.

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The Quicky, Podcast, 12/01/2026

Australians could soon get cheaper access to the weight loss drug Wegovy, with the Federal Government set to add the medication to the PBS. Health Minister Mark Butler says it will be available for patients with established cardiovascular disease, including those with severe obesity who have had a heart attack or stroke. The price is expected to be significantly reduced, though Butler warns that it will come at a high cost to taxpayers as negotiations with drugmaker Novo Nordisk continue.

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ABC North and West SA, SA Regional Drive, 13/01/2026, Narelle Graham

Interview with AMA SA President Dr. Peter Subramaniam about GP access and healthcare costs, in which Health Minister Mark Butler has said the Cleanbill report data used by Senator Anne Ruston, which claims that healthcare under Labor costs more, is more complex than it appears. Subramaniam discusses the value of GP visits, mixed billing in regional areas, and the financial pressures on practices seeing complex patients. He notes that fully bulk-billing practices are often already close to 100% bulk billing.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 13/01/2026, Rory McLaren

Interview with Private Healthcare Australia director of policy and research Ben Harris about the Federal Government's proposed Private National Efficient Price for private hospitals. Harris says insurers support the idea in principle but warns that the current proposal could increase costs and push up premiums. He notes that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has said the proposals are not yet

government policy, and says the sector will keep working with the government to ensure reforms improve efficiency.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 13/01/2026, Jade Macmillan

Pre-recorded interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, about the weight-loss drug Wegovy being registered in the PBS. Butler points out that they are committed to listing all the drugs that are being recommended by the experts who oversee the PBS. He discusses who will be eligible to receive the weight-loss drug through the PBS.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

Funding secured for Ardrossan Seaview

Yorke Peninsula Country Times - Kadina, General News, 13/01/2026, Page 7

Residential care provider Walara has secured Federal Government funding to modernise the Ardrossan Seaview aged care facility. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said the government was making sure every older Australian can get the world-class care they deserve wherever they live.

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What will aged care reforms cost?

Broken Hill Times, Other, 13/01/2026, Emily McInerney

The new Aged Care Act was introduced in November 2025, but local representatives have concerns about what it could mean for Broken Hill's elderly. [...] In November 2025, Broken Hill City Council sent correspondence to the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae, and the Federal Member for Parkes, Jamie Chaffey, strongly opposing the increases to in-home aged care services fees to clients and explaining the impact that these increases will have on the elderly citizens in Broken Hill.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Urgent Care Clinic opens

The Sorell Times, General News, 01/01/2026, Page 5

Tasmania's latest Medicare Urgent Care Clinic has opened at Sorell, making it the sixth location in the state. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Sorell Medicare Urgent Care Clinic was a gamechanger for the region.

Moore MP Tom French confident constituents are happy with situation as Yanchep hospital plans stall

West Australian, Other, 13/01/2026, Oliver Lane

A local Labor MP has talked down the need for a new hospital in Perth's growing northern suburbs, insisting that residents haven't asked him for one. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White also deferred questions on population pressures impacting Perth hospitals.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Why an ADHD drug is outpacing Ozempic as the fastest-growing script in Australia - as experts sound the alarm over troubling 'system failure'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/01/2026, Sarah Brookes

Vyvanse has overtaken Ozempic as Australia's fastest-growing prescription medication, with almost 2.2million subsidised scripts for the ADHD stimulant issued in the past year, according to new Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme data. [...] Figures released by the federal Health Department show Vyvanse scripts increased by about 653,000 last year alone, costing the Commonwealth \$167million.

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Lifestyle and amenities in 2026: What downsizers now expect

Downsizing, Other, 13/01/2026

Lifestyle is no longer an upgrade — it's the baseline In 2026, lifestyle has become one of the strongest drivers of downsizing decisions. [...] Positive ageing is ageing well | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing Early planners are redefining expectations

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AI use for progress notes is causing serious privacy and clinical risks in aged care

HelloCare, Other, 13/01/2026, Jakob Neeland

As Australia's aged care sector struggles with workforce shortages and a rapidly ageing population, staff have inevitably been turning to artificial intelligence (A.I.) tools such as ChatGPT to help complete progress notes and clinical documentation. [...] In the past year, multiple aged care providers have reportedly been scrutinised by the Department of Health and Aged Care after staff entered sensitive resident information into public AI platforms, triggering breaches of the Privacy Act 1988.

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Shingles: not just a concern for the elderly

Retail Pharmacy Assistants, Other, 13/01/2026, Margaret Mielczarek

While shingles has typically been associated with older age, it's increasingly being diagnosed in younger Australians, prompting calls for early recognition across frontline healthcare settings, including community pharmacy. Shingles: what is it? According to the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, shingles is a viral infection caused by the varicella zoster virus – the same virus responsible for chickenpox.

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GPs' ECG rebate restrictions reversed

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 13/01/2026, Michelle Wisbey

GPs will be able to claim an electrocardiogram (ECG) trace and clinical note under the MBS from March, reversing a five-year-old decision to cut funding for GPs to deliver this service. [...] 'From 1 March 2026, ECG item 11714 will be claimable for a service provided by a GP,' the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing told newsGP.

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Bulk billing bound to bounce up: Butler

The Medical Republic, Other, 13/01/2026, Holly Payne

This time last year, the health minister was dragging Cleanbill's methodology. Now, he says its findings stack up. Health Minister Mark Butler has all but confirmed the broad findings of GP fee aggregator Cleanbill's latest report, which indicates that the number of bulk billing clinics nationwide has doubled over the past 12 months.

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The practices which 'disproportionately' face accreditation barriers

The Medical Republic, Other, 13/01/2026, Holly Payne

We don't even know for sure how many unaccredited general practices there are. GP practices that have a smaller number of doctors, limited support staff, an alternative practice model or are located in a lower socio-economic or non-metro are all more likely to be unaccredited, a new analysis has found. According to the report, which was published by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing last week but is dated 2024, there is "significant potential" for further action by the government and Primary Health Networks to increase motivation and incentives for clinics to get accredited.

[Read More](#)

Juvenile arthritis patients among those helped in latest PBS listings

WEB Region Canberra, Other, 13/01/2026, Chris Johnson

Young Australians living with arthritis are among those who will benefit from newly listed medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. [...] The PBS Schedule lists all of the medicines available to be dispensed to patients at a government-subsidised price and is part of the wider Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme managed by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and administered by Services Australia.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

The fight to protect aged care facility

Age, General News, 14/01/2026, Alexander Darling, Page 12

The skylights were melting. Ash and embers were getting in. The smoke was so thick staff inside the aged care facility could barely see out the windows and needed masks to breathe.

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A dementia diagnosis shouldn't mean the end of personhood

West Australian, General News, 14/01/2026, Naomi Moylan, Page 33

The words dementia and rehabilitation are not often heard together. [...] This approach aligns with the strengthened aged care standards, which emphasise independence, re-ablement and quality of life.

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Over 80% of older Australians with the dementia face potentially inappropriate polypharmacy

HelloCare, Other, 13/01/2026, Jakob Neeland

Dementia affects a growing number of Australians, with estimates placing the number living with the condition at around 425,000 in recent years. Projections suggest this figure will more than double by mid-century as the population ages.

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All retirement village (and assisted living) operators need to teach Jim Chalmers mathematics

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/01/2026, Chris Baynes

Village operators will have no choice but to source private home care, but who will pay for it and who carries all the risks associated with medically ill people on the premises? Jim, mate, and village operators, the maths don't lie.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Frontline fight to keep NDIS grifters in check

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/01/2026, Will Bennett, Page 12

This summer, the NDIS is giving property prices a run for their money as the staple of Australian barbecue conversation. We all know the stories: the "carer" paid to accompany a relative on a New Zealand fishing trip for "mental health", or the NRL fans who funded a trip to Las Vegas by billing the taxpayer for services never performed.

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PRIMARY CARE

Hospital revamp a big win for our kids

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/01/2026, Jake McCallum & Harry Clifton, Page 10

Sydney's most vulnerable patients are set to be welcomed into a \$659m redeveloped Children's Hospital at Westmead, featuring a major expansion of intensive-care facilities. The Daily Telegraph can reveal construction of the new 14-storey hospital building is now complete, with state-of-the-art facilities set to be installed in coming days, to deliver critical care to the health system's youngest patients.

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

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Rain can't stop these angels from working

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/01/2026, Thomas McLean, Page 6

As floodwaters and damp conditions continue isolating remote communities across the Northern Territory, CareFlight says it is still prepared to respond to incidents and support frontline health services. In the final week of 2025, CareFlight NT crews completed back-to-back retrievals in challenging wet season conditions.

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St John WA to expand courses in 2026 to prepare remote areas and high-risk workers for emergencies

West Australian, Other, 13/01/2026, Claire Sadler

St John WA says its plans to expand its program of first aid courses will not take medical professionals away from providing ambulance services and clinical settings. The State's ambulance provider will this year launch a suite of advanced courses in a bid to prepare those in high-risk industries and in remote WA to respond to emergencies.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 13/01/2026

The Cook government has committed an additional \$20 million to Western Australia's first children's hospice to cover operational costs including staff and resourcing. First announced in 2020, the project was delayed partly by objections from the former Nedlands Council, with the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation saying the delays prevented some children from ever accessing the service, which is now expected to open by the end of this year.

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2CC, Breakfast, 13/01/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Cleanbill CEO James Gillespie about bulk billing in the ACT. Gillespie discusses a rise in fully bulk-billing clinics from around 3% to just under 12% since November 2025, noting that this is still below the national average and highlights high gap fees in the territory. He adds that some clinics are trialling the changes and that future bulk-billing rates remain uncertain.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Hamad gang's symbolic gesture

Age, General News, 14/01/2026, Chris Vedelago & Marta Pascual Juanola, Page 1

The gangland crew run by underworld kingpin Kazem "Kaz" Hamad have begun referring to themselves as the '313s" in an apparent nod of loyalty to their leader, and as a symbol of their fierceness. [...] Since his release from prison in July 2023 and deportation to his native Iraq, Hamad and his gang have taken control of large sections of the illicit tobacco market and forced a new order on Melbourne's gangland scene.

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

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Drunk unit is wasted

Herald Sun, General News, 14/01/2026, Alex White, Page 1

Victoria's \$79m sobering-up centres, created to house drunks who cannot be sent home, are sitting almost empty, with just over three admissions on average each day. [...] The Health Department ordered a behind-the-scenes review "to provide advice to ministers on service improvements".

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Vape divide over tough tobacco law

West Australian, General News, 14/01/2026, Jessica Page, Page 8

Roger Cook has vowed to "crush and destroy" the illicit tobacco trade by bringing in tough new legislation this year, but baulked at the idea of fast-tracking tougher penalties now. The Premier returned from a two-week break on Tuesday and shrugged off the criticism of former Labor premier Peter Dowding, who said the Government's pace on illegal tobacco law reform had been too slow.

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

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Controversial children's hospice finally readies to open

West Australian, General News, 14/01/2026, Jessica Page, Page 8

WA taxpayers will foot the operating costs for a children's hospice finally set to open in Swanbourne, five years after it was promised. Funding of \$21 million for two years was locked in on Tuesday, as Roger Cook marked a construction milestone for the project that is due to open this year after a long and bitter fight with the City of Nedlands.

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

Victoria bushfires could burn 'for weeks', expert warns

9News, Other, 13/01/2026, Adam Vidler

The bushfires in Victoria could burn "for weeks", an expert has warned, even as official alerts across the state are downgraded. All active bushfires are currently at watch-and-act warning levels, though residents of some communities have been told it is still not safe to return home.

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Japan's journey from unlicensed 'baby hotels' to delivering restaurant-quality childcare food

ABC Online, Other, 13/01/2026, James Oaten & Akane Saiki

A team of cooks at Tokyo's Shikama Kodomo En kindergarten is creating a meal that's been two months in the making. [...] A recent major international study showed half of children and young people in Australia are forecast to be overweight or obese by 2050.

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Man charged after officers' alleged shock find of illicit tobacco substances in NSW storage facility

The Australian, Other, 13/01/2026, Pamela Rontziokos

A man has been charged after more than \$400,000 worth of illicit vapes, cigarettes and other tobacco were located in a NSW storage shed, as part of the state's major crackdown on illegal tobacco. Strike forces located and seized 384,600 cigarettes, 1070 vapes, 9kg of loose tobacco leaf and 23 jars of nicotine gum during a search warrant in the storage facility located in Oran Park, southwest of Sydney.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#)

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Why are law-abiding WA citizens turning a blind eye to organised crime?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/01/2026, Rebecca Peppiatt

Australians are, by and large, a nation of "do-gooders" and "curtain twitchers", despite the larrikin narrative. [...] When it comes to the illegal tobacco trade, the public's sense of civic duty has been thoroughly stubbed out by the lure of a \$15 packet of smokes.

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Seven charged and more than 230,000 cigarettes seized after a series of raids exposed illegal tobacco sales

West Australian, Other, 13/01/2026, Oliver Lane

WA police raided several shops in the South West in relation to alleged illegal tobacco and vape sales, including three stores in Bunbury region. Police seized 233,542 cigarettes, 714 tobacco pouches and 1767 vapes during these searches.

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Here to see bushfire impact, Health Minister talks about hospital's future

The Border Mail, Other, 13/01/2026, Hana Humboldt

A brownfield redevelopment of Albury hospital "just makes sense", Victoria's Health Minister said during a visit to Wodonga's bushfire relief centre. Mary-Anne Thomas also said employment decisions like terminating the contract of surgeon John Stuchbery "rightfully belong to the health service and the board".

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Adrenaline and anti-aging: these seniors are flocking to the race track

January 13 2026 - 6:00am January 13 2026 - 6:00am

Could remote control (RC) cars and helicopters be the secret weapon to ageing well and the cure for the loneliness epidemic? [...] Baby Boomers and the Interwar generations have the highest percentage of people watching TV at home, according the Australian Bureau of Statistics And Australian males aged 55-64, experienced higher levels of social isolation and loneliness, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reports.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

VAD has found its place

Adelaide Advertiser, Letters, 14/01/2026, Frances Coombe, Page 18

Father Dean Martin states that he is opposed to voluntary assisted dying (VAD) because of the Catholic Church respect for the sanctity of life, and that palliative care is the answer ("250 South Aussies choose euthanasia", The Advertiser, 13/1). Data show that around 80 per cent of people requesting VAD are in a palliative care service, similar to the experience with assisted dying around the world.

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New database to target chronic UTIs

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 13/01/2026, Anmj Staff

A new database targeting chronic urinary tract infections (UTIs) – a long-overlooked condition that may begin in childhood – is set to help researchers uncover why millions of women and girls worldwide suffer from infections that defy treatment and stump microbiologists. A growing body of research suggests that persistent, antibiotic-resistant UTIs may be caused by bacteria that embed deep within the bladder wall, potentially evading both the immune system and conventional treatments.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicide attempt a risk for murder

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/01/2026, Ashley Argoon, Page 9

A coroner has ordered hospitals treating suicidal patients who are going through breakups to contact their ex-partners amid concern self-harm could be a precursor to murder. The call for Victoria's hospitals to check in on patients' partners comes after the coroners' court found more could have been done to protect pregnant mum Michelle Durragh from her killer ex.

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Elite female athletes speak out about struggles with body image and disordered eating

ABC Online, Other, 13/01/2026, Johanna McDiarmid

From the age of 8 Matilda Friend chased a dream of becoming one of the world's best ice dancers. [...] Clinical psychologist Scott Fatt was the lead researcher on Western Sydney University's ASPIRE study which investigated how body image and eating disorder symptoms impact male and female elite athletes.

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IMMUNISATION

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Bell Potter's 4DMedical raise

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 14/01/2026, Page 16

Bell Potter's team is the first cab off the ranks in 2026's ECM deals, launching a cash call for the \$2.3 billion respiratory imaging business, 4DMedical, on Tuesday morning.

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

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Aussie households face triple threat of bill hikes in 2026

NEWS.com.au, Other, 13/01/2026, Owen Raymond

Major hikes to several household bills could leave Aussie families hundreds of dollars out of pocket in the coming months, according to analysis from Compare the Market. [...] Health insurance premium hikes will come in from 1 April, while electricity price changes will come into effect from 1 July, according to Compare the Market.

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Medical imaging service raises concerns about patient referrals from Kalgoorlie Health Campus

West Australian, Other, 13/01/2026

A local medical imaging service is concerned Kalgoorlie-Boulder's hospital is not referring them, meaning patients could be waiting weeks for urgent scans. However, the WA Country Health Service says it works closely with other service providers in the community and the team at Kalgoorlie Health Campus continues to advise patients of their imaging options.

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2CC, Breakfast, 13/01/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Private Healthcare Australia director of policy and research Ben Harris. Harris advises that people really don't want to spend a long amount of time in the hospital. He added that they support \$6b worth of extras and more than \$20b worth of hospital spending.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

No-brainer: Egg intake can reduce risk of memory loss and dementia

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/01/2026, Ella Nunn, Page 14

Poached, boiled, scrambled or fried: eggs are a staple breakfast food, with recent data suggesting we consume almost 19 million of them every day in Australia. While they are undoubtedly delicious and often linked to weight loss and heart health benefits, recent studies suggest that the remarkable powers of eggs do not end there.

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

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Simple test can find endo

Herald Sun, General News, 14/01/2026, Page 12

Non-invasive, cost-effective blood tests have provided a breakthrough in early diagnosis of

endometriosis. As of now, women wait six to eight years between onset of symptoms and diagnosis, but new research could transform this timeline.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#)

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Mental health judgment

Herald Sun, General News, 14/01/2026, Page 18

Patients with mental health concerns or chronic pain are more likely to be perceived as "difficult" by their doctor. About 17 per cent of patients visiting on-psychiatric clinics are viewed as "difficult" by physicians, according to the international review of 45 studies, published in Annals of Internal Medicine.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

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Game-changer for rare cancer

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/01/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 15

Adelaide researchers have developed a new approach that could improve outcomes for people living with myelofibrosis, a rare and serious form of blood cancer. The highly targeted therapeutic method focuses on finding smarter ways to treat the disease by targeting abnormal blood cells that drive the disease using immunotherapy, rather than just managing symptoms.

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Fatigue breakthrough

Courier Mail, General News, 14/01/2026, Page 5

Researchers have made a breakthrough in understanding chronic fatigue syndrome, which impacts hundreds of thousands of Australians each year. They found a crucial cellular structure which is responsible for transporting calcium known as the TRPM3 ion channel was faulty in immune cells from people with the condition, according to the Griffith University study.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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NeuroScientific Biopharmaceuticals soars on stem cell tech results

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/01/2026, James Pearson

In the high-octane world of biotech, nothing speaks louder than results in real patients. And that's exactly what NeuroScientific Biopharmaceuticals appears to have delivered, with fresh data showing its StemSmart stem cell therapy is making a meaningful difference for people living with the debilitating bowel condition, fistulising Crohn's disease.

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

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Why Victorians are uniquely vulnerable to devastating health impact of bushfire smoke

Herald Sun, Other, 13/01/2026, Robyn Riley

A six-year study by Monash University shows people living in Victoria's southeast are more prone to the devastating health impacts of bushfire smoke than anywhere else in Australia. [...] The researchers said while previous studies focused on the immediate impact to the communities nearest a bushfire, this was the first to review the profound effects on human health in daily life for people living far from ground zero.

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New research unveils Australia's healthiest and unhealthiest locations

NEWS.com.au, Other, 13/01/2026, Kaylee Cranley

Australians living in some regions reportedly face a shorter life expectancy than others, with new research exposing a stark health postcode divide across the nation. The research from iSelect

analysed SA4 regions, examining 21 factors across housing conditions, climate and environment, population health, and access to healthcare to determine the healthiest regions to live nationally.

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Users of Ozempic and other weight loss drugs warned of dangerous new side effects

7news.com.au, Other, 13/01/2026, Aimee Edwards

Fresh research is warning of serious health issues that may arise from using popular weight loss drugs without proper physical activity, prompting an urgent call to include regular exercise in treatment plans. It is estimated that around 2 per cent of Australians are using weight loss medications, a number that is expected to rise over the coming months as the government moves to add them to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

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Tool hopes to predict post-stroke dementia risk

Community Care Review, Other, 13/01/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Australian researchers have led the development of an accessible tool to predict the likelihood of developing dementia in the five years following a stroke. An international study led by a team of researchers from the University of New South Wales Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing has seen the development of the first practical, five-year dementia risk prediction tool for stroke survivors.

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Drugs alone not enough for long-term weight control: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 13/01/2026, Michelle Wisbey

Most patients will return to their original weight less than two years after stopping weight-loss medication, regaining an average of 0.4 kilograms a month, according to a new analysis. The international research examined 37 studies of more than 9000 participants who took weight-loss medications for at least two months, including GLP-1 receptor agonists, among others.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Jemelke residents swelter through summer without water

Northern Territory News, Other, 13/01/2026, Gera Kazakov

While the old bush pub is battling to get its liquor licence back all the community of Jemelke want is water. Residents of Jemelke say they have been living without any running water in their homes for months now.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Healthcare is feeling the pressure like never before

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/01/2026, Angus Thomson & Kate Aubusson , Page 8

Nurse practitioner Melissa Freeman was working on an acute ward in 2016 when she took a plan to her bosses to get patients out of hospital quicker. The idea was simple a "transit lounge" for patients who were well enough to leave the hospital but had other factors, such as a lack of nursing home beds, holding them up.

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'Hospital of Horrors' snap audit hits \$400k

West Australian, General News, 14/01/2026, Charlton Hart, Page 1

The cost to audit the rundown conditions of WA's hospitals has blown out to more than \$400,000 after the Cook Government secretly paid an external consulting firm to assist with the review, The West Australian can reveal. It was announced last year respected figures Michael Barnes the State's former under treasurer and one-time WA Health director-general Dr Neale Fong had been enlisted by the Premier's department to undertake the "snap" audit and review of hospital maintenance.

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Ramping roadblock

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/01/2026, David Killick, Page 1

Fixing ambulance ramping requires joint state and federal action and cannot be solved by blunt time targets alone, the Australian Medical Association warns. Simplistic responses like banning ambulance ramping would not solve the underlying problems of overstretched hospitals and a health system underfunded for the job it faces, AMA Tasmania president Michael Lumsden-Steel said.

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

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The sickening new blow for heartbroken daughter whose parents BOTH died after an unbelievable hospital blunder

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/01/2026, Jonica Bray

A hospital accused of negligence after the death of an elderly couple has now infuriated their daughter by offering to waive the fee for collecting their dead bodies. To add insult to injury, Mandy Wing says her parents Margaret Wing, 64, and Steven Jackson, 76, were pensioners - and wouldn't have had to pay those costs anyway.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Australia's inaugural Respectful Maternity Care conference to address birth trauma

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 13/01/2026, Natalie Dragon

Australia's first national conference on respectful maternity care will be held in a bold response to the systemic shortcomings exposed by the NSW Birth Trauma Inquiry last year. Hosted by the Maternity Consumer Network, the Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) conference will be held on 6-7 March 2026 in Brisbane, and online for interstate and international attendees.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Trainee doctors lacked supervision: review

Canberra Times, General News, 14/01/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 5

Canberra Hospital trainee doctors were unsupervised after hours and asked to do procedures they were not qualified to do, according to a 2024 review. Senior doctors from the hospital's obstetrics and gynaecology unit also had to complete emotional intelligence, compassion and respectful workplace workshops after the hospital failed to meet a bullying, harassment and discrimination related standard set by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

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

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Interview with Former independent Health Minister Michael Moore about training and workplace standards at Canberra Hospital. Moore discusses ongoing challenges, including trainee doctors performing unsupervised work, reliance on costly locums, and issues of bullying and racism. He emphasises the importance of retaining accreditation to ensure quality training for future obstetricians and gynaecologists in Canberra.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Historic PBS price cut a relief for many

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 14/01/2026

As of 1 January 2026, the cost of PBS medicines for Medicare cardholders is \$25, down from \$31.60. According to the Pharmacy Guild, "that's the lowest amount since 2004, and only the second time in history that the price of medicine in Australia has been reduced".

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First new PBS medications listed for 2026

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 13/01/2026, Jolyon Attwooll

The first batch of medications listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) under newly reduced pricing includes an expanded use of adalimumab (sold as Humira) to treat juvenile idiopathic arthritis. The medication is already listed to treat other paediatric immune-mediated inflammatory diseases such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and chronic plaque psoriasis and works by calming the immune system and reducing inflammation.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 13/01/2026, Monique Wright & David Woiwod

Interview with Ken Griffin, AUSactive CEO. Compere says around two percent of Australians are now taking weight-loss drugs like Ozempic, and that number is slowly rising. Griffin points out that the drugs are great if they are being utilised for weight loss, but with the nature of the drug, if a person is not matching the drugs with exercises, people could lose muscle.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 13/01/2026, Monique Wright & David Woiwod

Interview with Angelo Virgona, President-elect, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists. Compere says psychiatrists across Australia are sounding the alarm as medications for ADHD become the fastest-growing drug on the PBS, overtaking Ozempic. Virgona explains that the ADHD drug in question was listed in the PBS five years ago and was the first medication for people who were adults and are diagnosed with ADHD.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 13/01/2026

Wegovy, a weight-loss drug similar to Ozempic, will become much more affordable for thousands of Australians. The medication will be subsidised under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for people with severe obesity who have had a heart attack or stroke, cutting the cost from up to \$5,000 a year to \$25 a script, or \$7.70 for concession card holders.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'Where is Dr Cox?. Licence cancelled for 'missing' medico

Herald Sun, General News, 14/01/2026, Lucy Crock, Page 19

The medical registration of a doctor who worked at Geelong clinics has been cancelled by Australia's health regulator. Dr Andrew Daryl Cox disappeared from clinics in the region early last year, reportedly on long service leave. But in September, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency cancelled his registration.

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

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Brisbane GP Dr Kim Seng Chye reprimanded for obtaining drugs through patient

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/01/2026, Patrick Billings

A Brisbane GP has been reprimanded for his "bizarre" behaviour in obtaining a powerful painkiller and sedatives through a patient. Dr Kim Seng Chye was taken to the Queensland Civil And Administrative Tribunal for disciplinary proceedings by the Health Ombudsman.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Fears of deadly mozzie disease

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/01/2026, Phoebe Griffiths, Page 9

A warning for people to protect themselves from mosquitoes has been issued in southern parts of NSW after a probable case of Japanese encephalitis (JE) was detected. NSW Health said JE is a rare but serious illness spread by mosquitoes and can cause severe neurological illness with symptoms including headache, confusion and convulsions.

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

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Summer travel is back and so is a highly infectious illness

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/01/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 6

January tends to be a month for new fitness regimens and healthy habits, but according to NT Health, it is also an "extremely dangerous" time for measles. As people return from their travels or jet off on annual leave, the health body said it was the prime time for this infectious viral illness to join in the travelling.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#)

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'Super-K' is the new flu strain ruining summer

The New Daily, Other, 13/01/2026

If you've noticed a surprising number of Aussies sneezing and sniffing this summer, the culprit may be a new influenza strain dubbed "Super-K". [...] A recently published report from the Australian Centre for Disease Control noted that influenza cases nationally increased from late October, and had remained considerably higher than at the same time in previous years.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Online advertising and algorithms target consumer insecurities about intimate hygiene

ABC Online, Other, 13/01/2026, Dr Emmalee Ford

Britney was intrigued when ads for honey flooded her social media feed. [...] Therapeutic products, which claim to prevent or alleviate an ailment or defect or influence a bodily function like vaginal discharge, are regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

[Read More](#)

Sports supplement firm cops ad fine

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/01/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) issued two infringement notices to Booty N Buff Nutrition Caringbah Pty Ltd relating to the alleged unlawful advertising of sports supplements that were not listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG). The regulator reported that the supplements contained Schedule 4 substances - tryptophan and levodopa.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

You want flies with that

Courier Mail, General News, 14/01/2026, Taylah Fellows, Page 3

Workers at a billion-dollar Far North Queensland renewable energy project have been served meals crawling with maggots. [...] "The presence of larvae in meals constitutes a clear breach of food safety standards and raises serious concerns about negligence in the handling, storage and preparation of food as well as the standard and frequency of audit," Mr Hill said.

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

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AICIS

No relevant coverage

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