



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 25th January 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)** (page 7) reports that a discontinued electrical part found by a tradesman prevented a serious power failure at The Prince Charles Hospital, as an Auditor-General report highlighted risks from ageing hospital infrastructure. Queensland Health denied claims of parts being sourced online or surgery being affected and said it works with suppliers to replace obsolete systems.
- **[The Sunday Mail Adelaide](#)** (page 7) reports that while the toxic algal bloom has mostly cleared in SA, a new cluster has risen off the Yorke peninsula in the last three weeks. Communities on the peninsula are reporting human illnesses, loss of tourism, and the catastrophic death of marine life.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that South Australia has seen an influx in cases of Ross River Virus with 106 cases recorded in South Australia in 2025 compared to 25 cases in 2024.

MINISTER BUTLER

Our sickening lack of funding

Leading WA medical researchers have accused the Federal Government's primary funding body of an Eastern States bias, saying it had rejected a "catastrophic" number of grants. [...] A letter to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler questioning the grant allocation that favoured applicants on the east coast was signed by the research leaders from four WA universities, six medical institutes and WA Medical Research Minister Stephen Dawson.

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Neale Daniher's fight against the 'Beast' is far from over

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 24/01/2026, Rob Harris

Neale Daniher used his valedictory address as Australian of the Year to urge governments, the medical sector and the broader public not to lose momentum in the fight against motor neurone disease, warning that despite increased awareness and funding, the task remains unfinished. [...] Meetings with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, the federal Health Minister, Mark Butler, and most state premiers, he said, helped push forward the need for vital research, expand support for people with MND and place the disease on the national agenda "in a way we've been striving for more than a decade".

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

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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DEPARTMENT

Further Support at Home shocks

Both changes should be abandoned for the sake of the older people currently being disadvantaged and the overburdened hospitals where they will find themselves when inadequate arrangements collapse. [...] Second, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing appears to be making extensive use of the provision in the new Aged Care Act that enables the granting of interim funding at only 60% of the level a person has been assessed as needing.

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ChatGPT ain't Dr Google: things are about to get messy

Health Services Daily, Other, 23/01/2026, Jeremy Knibbs

Forget ambient scribing, AI receptionists and decision support, the real seismic change in how AI is going to affect healthcare providers and government is the new health AI platforms in the hands of your patients. [...] In the meantime, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has been doing some important groundwork by getting our government to start changing laws around how providers who have access to their own siloed information on the patient have to start sharing it much more openly with the government (the My Health Record) other providers and patients.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

NDIS patient was left to die

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 25/01/2026, Julie Cross, Page 41

The ndis carer of a woman with severe disabilities, who had an epileptic seizure, fell off a bed and died, was most likely either asleep or not in the property when the incident happened, court papers state. Jo Dwyer, 39, of Bendigo, was being monitored for her epileptic seizures, which is why her death was captured on video.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#)

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Nurse claims NDIS cuts are 'death sentence'

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 25/01/2026, Julie Cross, Page 39

A nurse claims NDIS clients are being handed a death sentence after having the right to 24/7 intensive care in the home denied or taken away. Patrik Hutzel, who runs a business employing 150 registered nurses working in people's homes, said three of his clients who had intensive care nursing cut from their plans have died in the last 18 months.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Hi-tech shot in the arm in '26

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 25/01/2026, Amanda Sheppeard, Page 34

Australia is entering a transformative era in health care, with advances ranging from dementia-

preventing vaccines to AI-powered diagnostics and virtual hospitals. Innovations and new technologies are improving early detection, speeding treatment, and bringing high-quality care to urban, regional, and remote communities.

Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Electric shock

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 25/01/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 7

The state's leading cardiothoracic hospital was saved from a serious power system failure by a tradie who found a vital discontinued part for the outdated electrical system at the back of his garage. This shocking maintenance dilemma at The Prince Charles Hospital has been revealed amid stunning claims from a former health department electrical engineer that staff have been forced to find parts from eBay and Amazon to help prevent system meltdowns at the Princess Alexandra and QEII hospitals.

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Our hospitals need to get off life support

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 25/01/2026, Page 68

It is there in black and white on page 28 of the Queensland Auditor-General's report just how dire the state of our ageing hospitals is. The 70-page report reveals a shocking hospital maintenance backlog including faulty electrical equipment that was affecting patient care, often resulting in treatment delays.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Fake turf puts heat on schools

Sun Herald, General News, 25/01/2026, Emily Kowal, Page 3

Hundreds of NSW public schools have synthetic turf on their grounds, it has been revealed, amid concerns about the hot surface's impact on children's health and its environmental risks. A Department of Education survey of 1600 of the state's 2200 public schools conducted late last year found 58 per cent had synthetic turf.

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Schools are hot enough without synthetic turf

Sun Herald, Editorials, 25/01/2026, Page 32

The mercury is rising as children enter their final week of school holidays, with a string of warm, sunny days forecast after a scorcher today. With the first days of term 1 fast approaching, parents may find themselves reminding their children that the common playground myth that schools shut at 40 degrees is exactly that: a myth.

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Daily tipple a high-risk 'mouthful'

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 25/01/2026, Page 41

Alcohol has long been known to increase the risk of various cancers and now a new study, published in BMJ Global Health, confirms that the risk of mouth cancer is significantly higher in people who have a daily drink. "The mouth is the first place in the body that alcohol comes into contact with," says Dr Jeevan Fernando, a spokesman for Alcohol Change.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Punishment shootings surge

Organised crime "punishment shootings" are driving up the number of non-fatal gunshot cases in Victorian hospitals, it can be revealed. The latest emergency department data shows the state's public hospital system treats a gunshot injury, on average, every fortnight, a "major proportion" of which are inflicted by crime figures wanting to warn victims without triggering a murder inquiry.

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Yorke engulfed toxic bloom's sea of carnage

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 25/01/2026, Andrew Hough, Page 7

South Australians are falling ill, local tourism is being smashed and marine ecosystems destroyed as the toxic algal bloom devastates some of the state's most picturesque coastline amid mounting criticism of authorities. Swathes of pristine Yorke Peninsula beaches today resemble a "marine Chernobyl" as tens of thousands of dead sea creatures wash ashore and usually "crystal clear" blue waters change colour after the "hotspot" intensified in the past three weeks.

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Get help in a heartbeat

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 25/01/2026, David Goldsmith, Page 32

In a cardiac emergency, every second counts. Research shows around 22 people suffer a cardiac arrest each week in South Australia, with many happening outside of a hospital setting.

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Boosting survival chances

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 25/01/2026, Page 32

South Australia's nationleading Automated External Defibrillator (AED) legislation will save lives. That's the simple assessment from Heart Foundation South Australia general manager Claire Gardner, top, who says the improved access to lifesaving AEDs across the state is "heartwarming news".

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Sickies on the rise

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 25/01/2026, Ray Athwal, Page 1

Public servants are taking more time off than at any point in the past decade. New data reveals a growing divide in personal leave taken between front-line staff and their policy-focused counterparts.

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State's black market tobacco stain

Sunday Examiner, General News, 25/01/2026, Hamish Geale, Page 3

The underground market is crushing legitimate Tasmanian retailers. NEW black market tobacco stores opened across Tasmania around the same time the state government announced a crackdown on illegal vapes and cigarettes.

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Medicines warning as mercury soars

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 23/01/2026, Kate Cowling

A reminder has been issued about heat-related medicines risks, as parts of the country get set to sizzle over the long weekend Community pharmacists may receive heat-related medicines queries this long weekend, with patients warned certain medicines increase the risk of sunburn or heat-related illness.

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How a single daily drink can harm your health

The Australian, Other, 24/01/2026, Peta Bee

If you have it too frequently, even small intakes of alcohol can seriously affect your body and brain. What harm is there in a daily tipple?

[Read More](#)

Fire with fire: growing fight to shift booze culture

Canberra Times, Other, 24/01/2026, Stephanie Gardiner

Shanna Whan remembers the story of a bloke who went to a country pub and ordered a schooner of alcohol-free beer. "The bartender threw it at him and said, 'I'm not charging you for that camel's piss, get out of my pub'," Ms Whan told AAP.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Why telling obese kids to eat less is likely to be terrible advice

Canberra Times, Other, 24/01/2026, Violette McLauchlan

Parents of overweight children are often told to reduce their child's food intake to improve their health. But a new study shows that advice might be misplaced.

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How a tank of zebrafish helped two children born with a rare genetic variant

ABC Online, Other, 24/01/2026, Janelle Miles

Two tiny babies born on different sides of the world have avoided medical treatment costing millions of dollars, thanks to an Australian-based scientist and his tanks of zebrafish. The babies — a boy in NSW and a girl in Germany — were born in 2023 with unusual variants of the gene that causes spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), detected in newborn screening.

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Triggering a heatwave takes more than just temperature — as Australia braces for another

ABC Online, Other, 24/01/2026, Tyne Logan

Another major heatwave is engulfing the south-eastern states, set to see temperatures soar to above 40 degrees Celsius for multiple days over the next week, including in our major capitals. It coincides with the Australia Day long weekend, with January 27 the deadliest day in Australia for heat-related deaths.

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After a night out, men and women face very different heart health risks

SBS, Other, 24/01/2026, Cameron Carr

Alcohol consumption can lead to a range of health issues, and your risk level can change based on a range of factors. New research has found that your sex and alcohol intake could be related to your risk of developing a "major" condition called atrial fibrillation, which could lead to stroke or heart failure.

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Australians set to sizzle this Australia Day weekend as experts warn medications increase heat risks

7news.com.au, Other, 24/01/2026, Luran Thomson and Sarah Keszler

Australians are being warned to brace for a record-breaking heatwave sweeping across most of the country this Australia Day long weekend, with inland towns forecast to hit up to 45C and some northern areas possibly reaching 48C. Health experts say coping with the extreme temperatures could be made even more dangerous by some common medicines, including painkillers, antidepressants and antihistamines.

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Coward's way out

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 25/01/2026, Jake McCallum and Linda Silmalis, Page 16

A jealous husband who smothered his wife to death after she reconnected with a high school sweetheart on Facebook has become the state's second voluntary assisted dying case. The Sunday Telegraph can reveal convicted murderer Warren Rogers, 78, died in the Prince of Wales Hospital on December 23 after he made a VAD application to the Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network.

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No euthanasia for our worst criminals

Sunday Telegraph, Editorials, 25/01/2026, Page 81

The point of euthanasia is that it is merciful. That it alleviates the suffering of someone who is wracked by disease or debilitation.

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Drink now... pay later

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 25/01/2026, Page 11

Alcohol has long been known to increase the risk of various cancers and now a new study, published in BMJ Global Health, confirms that the risk of mouth cancer is significantly higher in people who have a daily drink. "The mouth is the first place in the body that alcohol comes into contact with," Alcohol Change spokesman Jeevan Fernando said.

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World Early test for 'silent killer' ovarian cancer may be a game changer

The Australian, Other, 24/01/2026, Natasha Robinson

A new blood test has opened up the possibility of early detection of ovarian cancer, but surgeons are warning of the risk of unnecessary interventions as preventive medicine comes of age. For women, ovarian cancer is one of the most feared of all diagnoses.

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New research reveals potential breakthrough for West Australians living with chronic fatigue

West Australian, Other, 24/01/2026

Scientists say they have new proof that a particular cellular dysfunction could be the key to helping up to 250,000 Australians who suffer from chronic fatigue. New research, partly carried out in Perth, showed that people diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/

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A dream ends: why is a successful cancer centre model being undone?

The Border Mail, Other, 24/01/2026, Jenny Black, Jodie Hart, Dianne Thomas, Craig Underhill and Marianne Warren

As members of the original advocacy group for the development of the Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre(AWRCC), we write this with a sense of sadness. The imminent transition from an integrated service to a public-only service feels like the end of a dream - a decade-long vision of world-class, collaborative cancer care for our region.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Health check is just a dud

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 25/01/2026, Sahra O'Doherty, Page 57

When you are struggling to get out of bed, you do not want to have to complete homework to get help.

You want to talk to someone who understands mental health and is trained to help you navigate it.

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IMMUNISATION

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

New era for health

Sunday Herald Sun, Editorials, 25/01/2026, Page 56

Australians, and Victorians in particular, are proud of the long and growing list of medical breakthroughs that arise from local research. In the health field, where plenty of focus is applied on discovering answers to some of the most pressing illnesses, from cancer to Motor Neurone Disease and dementia, progress relies on talent, perseverance and investment.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Care beyond the call-out

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 25/01/2026, Isabella Pesch, Page 34

Paramedics have helped more than 2600 Queenslanders struggling with issues such as domestic violence, loneliness and child welfare concerns while on the job. The Queensland Ambulance Service

has introduced a specialist social work program that involves paramedics looking out for those who might need extra support when they're on scene.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Maternity deal alarm

Sunday Territorian, General News, 25/01/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 7

Health professionals have expressed "serious concerns" after a Darwin midwife, who has been barred from working unsupervised, was selected to provide a private midwifery service with \$1.1m in government funds. The NT government contract was subcontracted to Darwin midwife Claire Marks in September to run a private practice midwifery service after the NT's only private maternity ward closed in 2025.

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Care in limbo

Sunday Territorian, Editorials, 25/01/2026, Page 20

Sadly, Territory parents face uncertainty, stress and diminishing maternity choices preparing to welcome a new life into the world should be a time of joy, excitement and anticipation for expectant parents, not one of stress, fear and anxiety.

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Glamorous aged care nurse suspended for sleeping on the job while in charge learns her fate

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/01/2026, Caitlin Powell

A young nurse has had her registration cancelled and struck off the register after 'improper conduct' during night shifts at a nursing home, including falling asleep on the job up to six times. Chimzuruoke Okembunachi, 25, started work as a registered nurse at Hardi Aged Care (HAC) in Guildford in western Sydney in February 2024.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Ross River Virus cases quadruple in South Australia in 2025

ABC Online, Other, 24/01/2026, Amelia Walters

Like many Australians, Bec Powditch was enjoying the Australia Day long weekend at her family's shack along the River Murray last year when she was "annihilated" by mosquitoes. [...] Professor Williams hoped the Australian Centre for Disease Control, which was launched in 2024, could play a leading role in setting national policy and strategy around surveillance for diseases, including RRV.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

The Trumpian policies Hanson would roll out if One Nation took over

Sunday Age, General News, 25/01/2026, James Hall, Page 16

One Nation wants to distance itself from the far-right brand to attract broader appeal and woo disenfranchised conservative voters fed up with the turmoil in the Liberal and Nationals parties. [...] One Nation wants to abolish the National Indigenous Australians Agency, review both the housing and education departments, abolish the Therapeutic Goods Administration and review the medications approved for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme during the pandemic.

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Instagram's dad-bod busting, energy boosting pills are all about vibes

Australian Financial Review, Other, 24/01/2026, Isabella Freeland

No more dad bod. Weight loss without Ozempic. Chin and jawline more defined. Love handles melting away.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Fighting fakes and food fraud, this team knows where your festive dish really comes from

SBS, Other, 24/01/2026, Sandra Fulloon

Almost five million people in Australia fall ill each year from unsafe or contaminated food. Australian technology is helping combat this growing global problem.

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