



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 26th January 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports OECD secretary-general Mathias Cormann has warned rising debt requires fiscal rules as the Prime Minister seeks a National Cabinet deal on hospital and NDIS funding, with Health Minister Mark Butler saying the Commonwealth has put a "very generous" offer on the table and is prepared to negotiate in good faith with the states. Meanwhile, **ABC Online** reports state and territory sources have told the ABC there have been no new federal offers on public hospital funding, as Mr Butler said ongoing disputes frustrated Australians facing ambulance ramping and emergency department delays.
- The **West Australian** (page 1) reports WA's illicit tobacco taskforce has seized cash, cigarettes and vapes without issuing fines or charges so far, with Health Department director Shane Giblett saying proposed tougher laws will allow stronger enforcement once enacted. *Also reported by: [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).*
- The **Courier Mail** (page 2) reports Queensland says 909 patients stuck in hospitals awaiting aged-care places are costing \$2.1 million a day as state and federal leaders head to national cabinet over hospital funding, with Health Minister Mark Butler asking states and territories to work with the Commonwealth.
- The **West Australian** (page 8) reports the NHMRC has rejected claims of east coast bias in medical research grants, with chief executive Steve Wesselingh saying WA's low success rate

reflects infrastructure differences rather than funding discrimination, after concerns were raised with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

- **ABC Online** reports demand for cheap cigarettes is driving the illegal tobacco trade despite promised tougher laws, with a federal Health Department spokesperson saying nicotine patches and some quit-smoking medicines are subsidised through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme to support people trying to quit.
- **The Guardian** (online) reports outsourced NDIS call centre workers said they "have to pretend" to present as public servants and that they triage urgent cases without specialist training, while an NDIA spokesperson said only appropriately delegated public servants could action and progress priority plan change requests.
- The **Courier Mail** (page 9) reports former Queensland health minister Dr Anthony Lynham, awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia, said he would work with federal Health Minister Mark Butler to expand access to clinical trials, after being unable to secure one for his son before his death from brain cancer.
- The **Northern Territory News** (online) reports the free National Lung Cancer Screening Program launched in 2025 has seen strong early uptake, with 250 people scanned in the Northern Territory by January 7, including 41 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as Health Minister Mark Butler urged eligible Australians to get screened.

MINISTER BUTLER

Budget girt by prudent fiscal rules

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 26/01/2026, Matthew Cranston, Sarah Ison & Joseph Carbone, Page 1

Australia's top global economic official, Mathias Cormann, has warned Anthony Albanese and the premiers they should apply fiscal rules to their bulging budgets and ensure federal Future Made in Australia subsidies are "well designed" to give taxpayers confidence and prepare the nation for "unexpected events". [...] His main policy fixer and Left faction ally, Health Minister Mark Butler, made clear on Sunday that he wants recalcitrant states to take the deal to share hospital funding and to take more responsibility in getting children with lower level disability off the NDIS.

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

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Hospital funding stoush fires up

Courier Mail, General News, 26/01/2026, Ellen Ransley, Page 2

The 909 Queenslanders languishing in hospital waiting for an aged-care bed are costing the state a combined \$2.1m per day, as a drawn-out stoush with the commonwealth nears its crescendo. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler asked states and territories to work with the commonwealth.

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Safety of young people his goal

Courier Mail, General News, 26/01/2026, Michael Madigan, Page 9

Political guile combined with the deft skill of an accomplished surgeon has led to former Queensland MP Anthony Lynham not merely receiving one of Australia's highest honours, but being recognised for what he views as the greatest accomplishment of his life, so far. [...] Dr Lynham said he would work closely with federal Health Minister Mark Butler - "perhaps the best health minister we have ever had" - to open up clinical trials.

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Lack of health infrastructure cruels WA's medical funding hopes

West Australian, General News, 26/01/2026, Jessica Evensen, Page 8

Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council chief says there is no funding bias against WA but a lack of infrastructure may cause the State's researchers to be less successful in scoring

grants. [...] WA Science, Innovation and Medical Research Minister Stephen Dawson was the lead signatory last month of a letter to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler questioning whether the grant allocation favoured applicants on the east coast.

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

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WA Medical research leaders and universities accuse Canberra of Eastern States funding bias

West Australian, Other, 25/01/2026, John Flint

Leading WA medical researchers have pressed the panic button on a "catastrophic" rate of grants being rejected by the Federal Government's primary funding body. [...] WA's Minister for Science, Innovation and Medical Research Stephen Dawson was the lead signatory of a letter to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler questioning the unfair grant allocation that favoured applicants on the east coast.

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Premier Cook to attend national cabinet to find breakthrough in negotiations over hospital funding agreements

West Australian, Other, 25/01/2026, Jessica Evensen

Premier Roger Cook will this week travel to Sydney where a national cabinet meeting will attempt to break a deadlock in negotiations over hospital funding agreements. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said governments had been "stuck in trench warfare playing the blame game on hospital funding" for "too long".

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New lung cancer screening program praised for its co-design with Indigenous communities

Northern Territory News, Other, 25/01/2026, Thomas Stewart

In 2025 the National Lung Cancer Screening Program was launched, and it has already seen plenty of people take up the chance to get screened, with Territorians strongly urged to yarn with their doctor to see if screening is right for them. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, said lung cancer was often diagnosed at an advanced stage.

[Read More](#)

Last-ditch push to land hospital and NDIS funding deal, as states fight back

ABC Online, Other, 25/01/2026, Jake Evans & Stephanie Dalzell

A last-ditch attempt by the federal government to secure a new public hospital funding deal in a matter of days could prove futile, with states and territories maintaining they will not sign up to the current offer on the table. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the offer on the table was generous.

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Combined policy holders could be forking out more than \$170 extra for annual cover

Sunshine Coast News, Other, 25/01/2026

Australians with private health insurance are being warned to brace for the possibility of the biggest price hike in almost a decade. [...] "Over the past few years, we have seen Health Minister Mark Butler push back on health funds and demand lower, more affordable premium adjustments.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Why Medicare still matters in Tasmania

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/01/2026, Rebecca White, Page 19

In many ways 2025 was the year of Medicare. [...] In my role as Assistant Minister for Health, I've spent much of this year listening to families, to older Tasmanians, to health workers, and to people managing illness alongside the pressures of everyday life.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Why easing demand for illegal cigarettes will be a win-win situation for WA government

ABC Online, Other, 25/01/2026, Keane Bourke

The rapid growth of illegal tobacco has been fuelled by something simple — smokers want cheap cigarettes. [...] A federal Health Department spokesperson said the government subsidised nicotine patches and some pills to help people quit smoking through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, with patients paying no more than \$25.

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Meritorious Australians who go above and beyond

Perth Now, Other, 25/01/2026

Australia day honours [...] Public Service Medal (Department of Health, Disability and Ageing) Maureen Veronica McCarty

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Gift of hope to dementia sufferers

Canberra Times, General News, 26/01/2026, Sally Pryor, Page 10

When Henry Brodaty's father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease at just 52, dementia was poorly understood and often ignored. This experience would go on to inform a lifetime of work that has not only revolutionised this field of psychiatry, but has transformed the diagnosis, care and prevention of dementia.

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Dementia researcher calls for brain 'slip slop slap'

Canberra Times, Other, 25/01/2026, Zac de Silva

Dementia researcher Henry Brodaty thinks people should spend more time thinking about their head in the battle against dementia. [...] The pioneering professor called for a national brain health program, to help make people aware of the steps they can take to prevent dementia.

[Read More](#)

Australia honours Mersiades' service to aged welfare

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 25/01/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Nicolas Mersiades is among the 680 Australians being honoured with an Order of Australia – General Division this year. [...] Mr Mersiades has been recognised for his significant service to aged welfare, which includes an extensive list of senior roles within the public service.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Tireless advocate for women with disability lauded

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/01/2026, Elise Kaine, Page 5

When Carolyn Frohmader began her advocacy, women and girls with disability did not even have a seat at the table. [...] Despite retiring last year, she is still active, urging the NDIS to adopt a gender strategy, noting women and girls comprise only 38 per cent of participants.

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Champions for women's health and equality honoured

Canberra Times, Other, 25/01/2026, Maeve Bannister

Carolyn Frohmader doesn't think she looks like someone you'd expect to have an honour after her name. "Half my head is shaved, the other half is blue, I'm not posh," she said.

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Outsourced call centre staff at NDIS have to pretend to work for government, workers say

The Guardian, Other, 26/01/2026, Jonathan Barrett

Outsourced call centre staff on the national disability insurance scheme (NDIS) phone lines must pretend to be public servants, according to workers, and are responsible for deciding which funding requests are prioritised despite having no specialised welfare training. Workers at Serco , a major outsource provider, have also been issued government agency email addresses, making it impossible for the public to tell them apart from direct employees despite vast differences in their pay, conditions, training and support.

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PRIMARY CARE

'Amazing' privilege

Burnie Advocate, General News, 26/01/2026, Rodney Woods, Page 1

Changes to Medicare and the lack of specialists in the region have been the biggest changes one general practitioner has witnessed during his time in the industry. Jim Berryman, who is the practice principal at the Saunders Street Clinic at Wynyard, has been recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) as part of the Australia Day honours for 2026 for his service to medicine as a general practitioner.

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MOA for veteran of health

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 26/01/2026, Nikita McGuire, Page 15

Townsville Hospital and Health Services Medical Director Kunwarjit Sangla has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for a career spent bridging the health gap between the city and the bush. Dr Sangla will be recognised on Monday for his significant service to medicine, particularly in the fields of endocrinology and rural health, after almost 25 years of delivering specialist care to some of the state's most isolated communities.

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Dr Tam honoured with AM for dedication to paediatric medicine

Shepparton News Online, Other, 25/01/2026, Grace Carter

When Dr Joseph Chun Ming Tam found out he was receiving a Member of the Order of Australia award, he thought it was too good to be true. When checking his emails, he suspected it might have been a scam, until a Google search confirmed the phone number belonged to the Governor General's office.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Breakfast of champions (and health experts)

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 26/01/2026, Susie Burrell, Page 17

For some of the country's top health professionals, breakfast remains the most important meal of the day. Here are the food choices some of our leading doctors, nutritionists and trainers make to kickstart their busy days.

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State set to hit 49 degrees as north braces for week-long heatwave

Age, General News, 26/01/2026, Lachlan Abbott & Cassandra Morgan, Page 2

Northern Victoria is bracing for record-breaking temperatures of up to 49 degrees tomorrow and a weeklong heatwave, intensifying the risk of bushfires. [...] Air quality alerts for Melbourne, Geelong and surrounds were upgraded shortly after 9am yesterday, as winds pushed smoke from the Otways across central Victoria.

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

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Sizzling weather looms

Herald Sun, General News, 26/01/2026, Amelia Swan, Lucy Crock & Harvey Constable, Page 1

Emergency crews are bracing for Victoria's most extreme heatwave in almost 20 years as six major active fires burn across the state. [...] Smoke from the Otways fires blanketed metropolitan Melbourne and greater Geelong on Sunday, sparking warnings of poor air quality.

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'Success' comes with a few butts

The State's crack illicit tobacco team has not issued a single fine or laid any criminal charges despite reporting a "massive" haul of cash and illegal cigarettes in its first week of raids on businesses. On Sunday, more than a week after the joint compliance squad was launched by the Department of Health and WA Police, Supt Steve Post provided an update on the "successful" operations carried out in WA's South West.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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A lifelong mission to beat cancer

West Australian, General News, 26/01/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 7

Emeritus professor Bruce Armstrong has been part of improving outcomes for sufferers of just about every cancer you can think of, and has dedicated his life to preventative screening programs across the country. [...] His work has included appointments on the International Agency for Research on Cancer, as a former director of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and as the chairman of dozens of cancer advisory committees.

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Illicit tobacco crime puzzles magistrate

West Australian, General News, 26/01/2026, Rachel Fenner, Page 10

A WA magistrate has questioned why a young retail worker is facing the brunt of WA's illicit tobacco laws after police raided the Mandurah store she was working at this month. In Mandurah Magistrates Court on Friday Alannah Julie Morrow, 20, was convicted of unlawful possession of a prescription drug and selling a tobacco product without having a licence.

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

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Border braces for second 'dome'

Border Mail, General News, 26/01/2026, Hana Humboldt, Page 15

It is "not good news for the north" of Victoria, as experts say to expect another record-breaking heatwave along the Murray River from Sunday, January 25, onwards. [...] Heatstroke has an 80 per cent fatality rate once it sets in, Mr Armstrong says, which is why staying hydrated throughout the day is vital.

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2GB, Healthy Living, 25/01/2026, Dr Tanvir Ahmed & Ned Green

Interview with Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Vice President Simon Blacker about medication side effects in extreme heat. Blacker says antibiotics and dermatology products can make people more prone to sunburn while psychiatric medications and simple anti-inflammatory pain relievers can also cause sensitivity. He states diuretics increase fluid loss and can lead to quicker dehydration in hot weather while common antidepressants can cause excess sweating, worsening dehydration, leading to thirst, headaches, and dizziness. Blacker urges people to keep medications out of direct sunlight in a cool, dark place, away from steam.

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2GB, Healthy Living, 25/01/2026, Dr Tanvir Ahmed & Ned Green

Interview with The Kids Research Institute Australia PhD candidate in youth mental health Kai Schweizer about higher rates of eating disorders observed in LGBT communities. Schweizer says the higher prevalence in LGBT communities is not genetic, but predominantly due to the stigma and discrimination they face. He states that for some, restrictive eating can be a way to suppress sexual desire. In trans and gender-diverse people, eating disorders often manifest as a way to suppress puberty, hormones, and physical characteristics when gender-affirming medical care is inaccessible.

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2GB, Healthy Living, 25/01/2026, Dr Tanvir Ahmed & Ned Green

Interview with University of NSW study author Dr William McDonald about research from the found toxic metals and carcinogens in Australian tattoo inks. McDonald noted that Australia has very little regulation on ink contents. He states the toxic metals found—including lead, arsenic, cadmium, and chromium—are used for their vibrant, long-lasting color, but their long-term effects after intradermal injection are unknown. McDonald says while acute adverse reactions (like infections or allergies) are quickly regulated, the long-term cancer risk, based on current epidemiological studies, appears weak.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Victim's remarkable dedication to help others fight disease Caitlin Delaney

The Australian, General News, 26/01/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 6

When Caitlin Delaney was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of ovarian cancer as a mother with two young children, she never imagined that, nine years on, she would be appointed a Member of the Order of Australia. She did not even know if she would still be alive.

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

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For Paula Fox, AC, giving has been the work of a lifetime

Age, Supplements, 26/01/2026, Chip Le Grand, Page 1

The urge to give, Paula Fox explains, comes from within. "From the heart," she says. [...] It houses a \$24 million Quadra PET scanner, the first to be installed in a Victorian public hospital, which enables faster scans and earlier detection of small cancers.

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Gift of hope to dementia sufferers

Canberra Times, General News, 26/01/2026, Sally Pryor, Page 10

When Henry Brodaty's father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease at just 52, dementia was poorly understood and often ignored. This experience would go on to inform a lifetime of work that has not only revolutionised this field of psychiatry, but has transformed the diagnosis, care and prevention of dementia.

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Recognition for Gold Coast's unsung heroes

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 26/01/2026, Caitlin Hawkins, Page 6

While many Aussies are using Monday's public holiday as an excuse to kick up their feet and soak up the sun, there are a select few who'll be honoured with a distinguished award. [...] "There are so many people being diagnosed with breast cancer. BCNA (Breast Cancer Network Australia) have just implemented a scheme where people living with metastatic breast cancer are now being counted as well."

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Cost-of-living adds more stress on heart: experts

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 26/01/2026, Isabella Davis, Page 2

Health experts warn cost-of-living stress is compromising Australians' heart health and increasing risks of heart attack, disease, and stroke. Heart Research Australia is sharing simple steps to reduce stress and inviting Australians to take part in a bingo challenge for REDFEB the organisation's heart awareness month.

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2GB, Weekends, 25/01/2026, Jason Morrison

Caller Nevaeh says she is the daughter of convicted sex offender Daniel Hume, who died using NSW's voluntary assisted dying scheme. She talks about her reaction when she learned the news of a convicted murderer being granted voluntary assisted dying rights before finishing his sentence due to a condition he was diagnosed with prior to the crime.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Builders pushed right to the wall

Daily Telegraph, General News, 26/01/2026, Nathan Mawby, Page 17

The construction sector is buckling under the strain of building Australia out of a housing crisis, with record insolvencies and rising mental health concerns for tradies. Industry groups have revealed growing instances of depression and anger, as senior figures comfort tearful builders who don't know how to go on.

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Student mental health at risk

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/01/2026, Bridget Clarke, Page 12

Persistently long wait times for school support are threatening student mental health and learning outcomes, Tasmanian Labor has warned. As of March 2025, students were waiting an average of 280 days for school psychology assessments and 156 days for speech pathology services.

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Veterans must feel respected and welcomed by evolving RSL

West Australian, General News, 26/01/2026, Peter Tinley, Page 31

The RSL has long been one of the most recognisable institutions in Australian community life. [...] The royal commission into defence and veteran suicide revealed painful truths about how difficult this journey can be.

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Nine self-harm hospitalisations in 12 months after new NT youth justice centre opened

ABC Online, Other, 25/01/2026, Jason Walls

Nine youths have been hospitalised after self-harming and two have been sexually assaulted at Darwin's Holtze Youth Detention Centre since it opened in November 2024, documents obtained by the ABC under Freedom of Information (FOI) laws have revealed. The incident reports also reveal youths continued to vandalise the \$130 million centre in the days after a riot that caused almost \$200,000 in damage a week after it opened , including one boy who used a broken phone panel to "slice" his throat, causing blood to "gush" from his neck.

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Screen time limits for children are no longer enough, new US report finds

The Guardian, Other, 26/01/2026, Hannah Harris Green

The American Academy of Pediatrics has released new guidance on how to protect children's mental health in the digital age – emphasizing the need for systemic changes as well as parental engagement that goes beyond limiting screen time. [...] Schleider says the ban is “very unfortunate” because while social media platforms are indeed designed in a harmful way, bans do nothing to make those platforms safer.

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The forensic psychiatrist working with Victoria's young offenders:

‘when you know their origins, you wonder how they’ve survived at all’

The Guardian, Other, 25/01/2026, Benita Kolovos

You don't live with mum and dad. School has always been hard – keeping up, fitting in. [...] Through his work with the community forensic youth mental health service – an early-intervention program for at-risk young people – Deacon sees children at every stage, from those showing “red flag” behaviours such as aggression, fire-lighting or animal cruelty to those in custody.

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2GB, Healthy Living, 25/01/2026, Dr Tanvir Ahmed & Ned Green

Interview with University of NSW Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing social health expert Dr Suraj Samtani discussing the critical need to address mental health among elderly Australians. Samtani notes that over 60% of people over 65 show depressive symptoms. He states that social interactions in later life are modifiable and shaped by life experience, not genetics, making them a crucial factor in healthy aging. Samtani says the new research, published in the British Journal of Psychiatry, followed 600 twins for up to six years, assessing lifestyle, memory, and mental health.

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IMMUNISATION

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Cancer pioneer recognised for lifetime's work

The Australian, General News, 26/01/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 6

Every woman who has a mammogram to check for breast cancer may like to spare a thought for Bruce Armstrong, who has just been awarded Australia's highest civilian honour. Professor Armstrong was instrumental in the global acceptance of using mammograms as a screening measure to protect women a stance that he says was quite controversial at the time, and one that probably saved more lives than anything else he has achieved in his long and successful career.

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

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Hero of medical research

Herald Sun, General News, 26/01/2026, Mark Dunn, Page 8

Victorian biomedical expert and leading administrator Anne Kelso has helped transform the way Australia invests in and targets groundbreaking health and medical research. As a recipient of the nation's highest Australia Day honour, the Companion of the Order of Australia (AC), Professor Kelso said she was very proud of her work helping with the establishment of the WHO influenza reference centre at the Doherty Institute in Melbourne one of five such facilities in the world.

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From medics to muesli

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 26/01/2026, Mark Dunn, Page 8

Victoria's highly respected medical and scientific researchers, business leaders, frontline emergency workers, philanthropists and community advocates have been recognised in the Australia Day honours list. Some one in five recipients in the national awards are Victorian, with 181 people being recognised for their work in making this state and the country a better, safer, healthier and fairer place to live.

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Champions for women's health and equality

Canberra Times, General News, 26/01/2026, Page 11

As former chief executive of the National Health and Medical Research Council, Anne Kelso was concerned about the lack of women being awarded grants compared to their male colleagues. She introduced a system to ensure equal numbers of the most valuable grants were awarded to male and female researchers.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#)

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For Josie: the dad driven to find cure

Newcastle Herald, General News, 26/01/2026, Madeline Link, Page 7

An earth-shattering diagnosis changed the trajectory of Matthew Dun's life. When his two-year-old daughter Josephine Laura Dun was diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG) in February 2018, the biomedical scientist and his GP wife Dr Phoebe Hindley were in a devastating but unique position to help others.

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2GB, Healthy Living, 25/01/2026, Dr Tanvir Ahmed & Ned Green

Interview with Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences Chief Investigator Professor Natalie Trevaskis about developing a new targeted imaging tool to better study the digestive lymphatic system, which is currently difficult to track due to invasive and limited methods. Trevaskis says current clinical imaging methods are generally limited to surface lymphatics or require invasive tracer injection into tissue or lymph nodes. She states Monash's research uses a "bottom-up" approach to identify molecules that specifically traffic through liver and intestinal lymph to design 'hitchhiker' imaging agents. Trevaskis says their goal is to develop a less invasive, faster, and cheaper method for dynamic measurement of lymphatic flow, blockage, or leakage, leading to more precise diagnosis and treatment.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Our city's heroes

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 26/01/2026, Peta Mceachern, Page 1

Seven Darling Downs residents have been recognised in the 2026 Australia Day honours. [...] Floyd Cecil LeedieAM Goondir Health Services chief executive Floyd Cecil Leedie has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his significant service to Indigenous health in Queensland.

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From truth-telling to closing the gap, First Nations leaders outline their priorities in 2026

ABC Online, Other, 25/01/2026, Dana Morse & Sean Mantesso

Improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is a continuous challenge for communities, activists, politicians, and governments. [...] In a statement, Senator McCarthy said Closing the Gap should be a focus for all governments and pointed to federal investments in Indigenous health, housing, remote jobs and reducing grocery prices in remote stores.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Ambo outcry as units offline

Herald Sun, General News, 26/01/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 9

More than a dozen ambulances, including specialised intensive care resources, were not staffed on Saturday as temperatures soared. Demand for emergency healthcare surges during heatwaves, but the Victorian Ambulance Union says 31 ambulances, including 14 MICAs, were offline after a mix of day, afternoon and night paramedic shifts were not filled.

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New hospital shows off its wow factor

Herald Sun, General News, 26/01/2026, Robyn Riley & Grace Frost, Page 16

Locals would understand if Victorians did a double-take at the description of Footscray Hospital as having the "wow factor". Most think of it as a tired and cramped red-brick building off Gordon St in the heart of Melbourne's west hardly a designer's dream.

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Surgery waitlist down, but its waitlist up

Courier Mail, General News, 26/01/2026, Paul Brescia, Page 15

The Crisafulli government has taken credit for bringing the elective surgery waitlist down, but the Opposition claims it is because another list has blown out instead. Health Minister Tim Nicholls said the elective surgery waitlist had been reduced by 7 per cent accounting for 12,000 patients.

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State vows to cut surgery waitlist with \$49.5 million funding boost

Brisbane Times, Other, 25/01/2026, Catherine Strohfeldt

The state government has pledged an additional \$49.5 million to reduce Queensland's elective surgery waitlist by offloading public-sector patients through private hospitals. Speaking from Prince Charles Hospital, in Brisbane's north, Health Minister Tim Nicholls said the surgery waitlist had dropped about 7 per cent in the past year, and promised the funding would help treat another 5600 patients.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

The chatbot will see you now: why AI is tackling health

West Australian, Other, 25/01/2026, Jennifer Dudley-Nicholson

Before seeing a doctor about a rash, sleeping issue or chronic heart condition, have you considered asking a chatbot for advice? [...] Australians could be included in a small group of early testers, although the service is not compatible with the government's My Health Record platform.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

New alert as measles cases rise

The Australian, General News, 26/01/2026, Page 2

Health authorities are warning Sydneysiders to monitor closely for measles symptoms after another two cases of the highly contagious disease were confirmed. One of the two new cases was acquired locally in Sydney after another known case recently returned from South-East Asia, NSW Health warned.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Among the weeds, a boutique pharmacy grows

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 26/01/2026, Jessica Yun, Page 24

Wood-panelled shelves are lined with pothos plants, palm-sized boxes and protein powder-looking packets. [...] Therapeutic Goods Administration chief medical adviser Robyn Langham raised concerns about the "abuse" of medical prescriptions for recreational use.

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