



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 28th January 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports that the NSW opposition has identified men's health as "clear priority" for their 2027 state election strategy, including plans to establish a dedicated portfolio.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that a survey of GPs and specialists found that 27 per cent of voluntary assisted dying practitioners were unpaid and that state payment arrangements were inadequate. The Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia and NZ said the system cannot rely on "clinical altruism" and has called for dedicated Medicare items for VAD care and adequate remuneration.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal has found suspended cosmetic surgeon Jerry Schwartz guilty of professional misconduct over multiple incidents including one in which he mistakenly advised a patient their skin cancer "won't spread".
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that Victorian Chief Health Officer, Dr Caroline McElnay, has advised individuals to take preventative measures, including remaining hydrated and staying indoors, in order to minimise the chance of suffering heat-related health ailments as Victoria endures severe heatwave conditions.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 4) reports that NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has announced a High Volume Planned Surgery Centre has been proposed for the Northern Beaches Hospital.

Mr Park said "With the establishment of the Surgery Centre, we will be able to offer thousands more patients each year the choice to have their surgery quicker, while providing some much needed relief to hospitals around the state.

- **The Northern Territory News** (page 5) reports that yesterday Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited Charles Darwin University Casuarina campus, announcing not-for-profit Ozcare will be the preferred aged care provider for a future 120-bed aged care facility in Palmerston. Mr Albanese said "This is a very experienced provider that has done a lot of work, particularly in Queensland, and it will make an enormous difference."

MINISTER BUTLER

Doctors urge school break for children to apply sunscreen

The Australian, General News, 28/01/2026, Page 3

More than 650 medical experts have urged the Albanese government to establish a mandatory five-minute sunscreen break in schools. The group made their request for a sunscreen application period in an open letter to Education Minister Jason Clare and Health Minister Mark Butler.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#)

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High cost a hurdle to VAD services

Courier Mail, General News, 28/01/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 11

Voluntary assisted dying services are at risk of collapsing as more than a quarter of clinicians are providing the end-of-life-care without pay and those in Queensland regional areas are burdened with sky high out-of-pocket travel costs. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler did not respond to a request for comment.

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

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Call for sunblock time at schools

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/01/2026, Mary Papadakis, Page 5

Medical experts are calling for a mandatory time to be set aside during the school day for students to apply sunscreen, with a study also aiming to change sun safety behaviour among teens. As temperatures soar nationally, about 670 Australian medical experts have signed an open letter to federal Education Minister Jason Clare and Health Minister Mark Butler calling for all students to be given designated time during the school day to apply sunscreen.

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Mandatory sunscreen breaks urged as extreme heat grips the nation

7news.com.au, Other, 27/01/2026, Aimee Edwards

Melanoma remains the most common cancer among Australians aged 15 to 29, while around 2000 people die from skin cancer each year. [...] Under the proposal, schools would set aside five minutes at the start of lunchtime for students to apply sunscreen, a measure outlined in an open letter sent to Federal Education Minister Jason Clare and Health Minister Mark Butler.

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The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus don't miss these key consultations and inquiries

Croakey, Other, 27/01/2026, Melissa Sweet

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler's three television appearances were all about the Government's gun control and hate crime legislation, and he also announced the opening of three Urgent Care Clinics and some medical research grants.

Gawler East Pharmacy closure prompts letter to health minister

The Bunyip, Other, 27/01/2026

Member for Spence Matt Burnell has written to Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler following the temporary closure of Gawler East Pharmacy, amid growing community concern over access to local pharmacy services. The pharmacy closed earlier this year while awaiting the outcome of an application to become a Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) supplier, after being rejected twice over the past three years.

[Read More](#)

2SM, 17:00 News, 27/01/2026

State governments refuse to accept the Commonwealth's hospital funding offer, insisting it still falls short of a fair share. Health Minister Mark Butler says the federal government offers an extra \$23b over five years and ensures health services remain funded regardless of a deal.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 27/01/2026, Kim Millar

Tasmanians get New Year relief as PBS medicine prices drop, with Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White welcoming support for people struggling with rising living costs. More than 105,000 people who rely on regular prescriptions now save on essential medicines for chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease and asthma.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

'Masculinity should be celebrated': NSW Liberals appoint a shadow minister for men

9News, Other, 27/01/2026, Yashee Sharma

NSW Liberal leader Kelli Sloane has declared "masculinity should be celebrated" as she announced a new position in her team targeting men's health. [...] The federal government has its own special envoy for men's health, Dan Repacholi, who was appointed last year, but Sloane said she wanted to "get serious about it" at the state level.

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The NSW Opposition has established a men's health portfolio

The Daily Aus, Other, 27/01/2026

If the NSW Liberals-National win the next election, it would become the first portfolio dedicated to men's health at a state level. [...] In 2025, the Federal Government appointed MP Dan Repacholi as its Special Envoy for Men's Health.

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DEPARTMENT

Teen's fight for PBS listing

Blue Mountains Gazette, General News, 28/01/2026, Georgina Jelovic, Page 14

For Valley Heights teenager Sienna Barbara, completing her HSC was a triumph over near impossible odds. [...] A spokesperson for the federal Department of Health and Aged Care said that the application was rejected due to insufficient evidence to justify the expense.

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My Health Record 'lock' to stay for imaging, except for arm and leg X-rays

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/01/2026, Antony Scholefield

Unlike the broad changes to pathology, changes to imaging results are limited. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said it was also "exploring ways to expand default sharing to My Health Record beyond pathology and diagnostic imaging", including potentially medicines and care plans.

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The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus don't miss these key consultations and inquiries

Croakey, Other, 27/01/2026, Melissa Sweet

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler's three television appearances were all about the Government's gun control and hate crime legislation, and he also announced the opening of three Urgent Care Clinics and some medical research grants.

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'Medicare's got the bill': new gov't campaign

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/01/2026, Holly Payne

A Department of Health, Disability and Ageing campaign promoting bulk billing is coming to a TV screen near you. Brochures, posters and fact sheets for a new Department of Health, Disability and Ageing campaign will carry the tagline "Medicare's got the bill" and link to a map of universal bulk-billing practices.

Also reported by: [Health Services Daily \(Online\)](#).

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Three back-to-school conversations to boost children's resilience and coping skills

The Sector, Other, 27/01/2026

With the rise in bullying and school-related anxiety contributing to a decline in school attendance and lower academic performance, Triple P International Country Director Carol Markie-Dadds said it's more

important than ever to find ways to strengthen children's social, emotional, and academic outcomes. [...] Delivery of the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program to parents and carers of children in Australia is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing under the Parenting Education and Support Program.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Albo's aged care boost

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/01/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 5

The Prime Minister revealed on Tuesday that a long-awaited NT aged care facility is one step closer to being realised after a preferred aged care provider has been selected. Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, made the announcement at Charles Darwin University Casuarina campus on his visit to Darwin on Tuesday afternoon naming not-for-profit Ozcare as the preferred aged care provider for the major residential project in Palmerston.

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

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Hub opens to 'ease strain on hospitals'

West Australian, General News, 28/01/2026, Oliver Lane, Page 9

The first of three health hubs designed to help WA seniors stay out of hospital has started seeing patients before its official opening in the coming months. The Older Adult Care Hub in Cockburn is taking patient referrals from local GPs as part of its staged opening.

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Brodaty named Senior Australian of the Year

Community Care Review, Other, 27/01/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The dementia researcher has been recognised for transforming Australia's understanding of dementia, now the leading cause of death in Australia. Professor Henry Brodaty has been named Senior Australian of the Year in recognition of his contributions to dementia research.

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There was only one thing my friend regretted about her mother's death. It's something we all could learn from

The Guardian, Other, 28/01/2026, Ranjana Srivastava

Some time ago, a friend requested my advice. Her mother was in hospital for the seventh time in one year.

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New research backs what village operators know but Govts ignore

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/01/2026, Ian Horswill

New research from the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHeBA) at UNSW Sydney states what the retirement sector already knows and what Governments ignore: social connections in later life are critical to protecting mental health and reducing depression among older Australians.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 27/01/2026, Max Futch and Katrina Blowers

Gladstone native Nell McEachran, 109, still lives independently at home with support from AusCare, reflecting a growing desire among older Australians to age in place. A \$4b Support at Home program aims to make this possible for more seniors, but uncertainty remains over who will deliver the care.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 27/01/2026, Adam Steer

Interview with Sue Shearer, CEO of Council on the Ageing NT, about the announcement of a new not-for-profit aged care centre in Darwin. Shearer welcomes the plan for a 150-bed facility near Palmerston Regional Hospital, saying it helps ease bed shortages and hospital congestion as the ageing population grows. She urges the PM to lift aged care spending from 1.5% to 2.5% of GDP to cut waitlists, expand services, and improve training and wages in the sector.

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4BC, Afternoons, 27/01/2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Prof Elizabeth Whiting, Geriatrician and General Physician at Prince Charles Hospital, about the impact of long-stay patients on Qld hospitals. Whiting says 1259 medically fit patients remain in hospital beds, creating a crisis that strains capacity and harms older patients through functional decline, delirium, falls, poor sleep, and increased mortality risk. She explains the system struggles due to an ageing population and inadequate community-based support.

Interview continues on: [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#)

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Coroner: Provider failed him

Courier Mail, General News, 28/01/2026, Kyle Rode, Page 14

A disability assistance provider did not give the appropriate services to an Indigenous man who died from health complications at a provided share house, a coroner has found. North Stradbroke Island's Steven John Thelander, 29, was battling diabetes, epilepsy and cerebral palsy when he lived at a Multicap share house in Redland Bay.

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

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Retirement dream hit

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 28/01/2026, Bella Munro, Page 1

For Sue Rogers, denial wasn't a weakness, it was a way to keep living without the weight of what the future had in store. After years of running small properties in Pittsworth and Millmerran, Mrs Rogers and her husband Noel were getting ready to semi-retire in Toowoomba in 2023, when she started noticing she was struggling to walk.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 27/01/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with John Hammond, Director of Hammond Legal, about school discrimination cases involving students with ADHD and ASD. Hammond says an increasing number of parents report that schools are refusing enrolment for children with these conditions, often citing full classrooms, even when space is available. He explains that while schools can exclude students who display violent behaviour, families who fully disclose their child's needs still face barriers.

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PRIMARY CARE

Men to be 'a clear Coalition priority'

Men's health will be a "clear priority" for the NSW opposition in the lead-up to the 2027 state election following the establishment of a dedicated portfolio. NSW Opposition Leader Kellie Sloane on Tuesday announced she had appointed Davidson MP and cancer survivor Matt Cross as spokesman for men's health, tasked with developing a statewide men's health strategy.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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'Surgery factory' to ease hospital pressure

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/01/2026, Angus Thomson, Page 5

Patients waiting for elective surgeries across Sydney and NSW will have the option of receiving their operations at a new hub on Sydney's northern beaches, but the fate of private specialist services at the hospital remains unclear just months away from its transition into public hands. Health Minister Ryan Park said the government will establish the state's first "high volume planned surgery centre" at Northern Beaches Hospital when it takes over the facility later this year.

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

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Northern Beaches overflow surgery

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/01/2026, James O'Doherty, Page 4

Patients from across NSW will be sent to the Northern Beaches for surgery under plans to churn through ballooning wait times for planned procedures at public hospitals. Northern Beaches Hospital will be transformed into an overflow centre to perform an extra 5000 planned surgeries each year.

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Mayor fears for town with no school or GP

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/01/2026, Judy Augustine, Page 8

Tasmania's Central Highlands is being overlooked when it comes to basic services, the region's mayor says, and she fears it could affect the growth of populations across the cluster of small towns. Central Highlands mayor Loueen Triffitt said education, medical services and road infrastructure were areas of need.

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Border baby's life hangs on hospital's surgery decision

Border Mail, General News, 28/01/2026, Hana Humboldt, Page 3

An albury couple is worried sick over the fate of their 13-month-old daughter, who after months of fundraising may not be able to receive lifesaving surgery. Aiah, who was born in Wodonga, has biliary atresia, a rare liver disease, and requires a transplant, but as the daughter of parents in Australia on student visas, she is unable to access the waiting list in Australia.

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'I'm giving up': doctor

Burnie Advocate, General News, 28/01/2026, Rodney Woods, Page 1

A private obstetrician and gynaecologist (O&G) says she has lost hope in the state's health service and will close her practice completely at the end of March. Dr Kim Dobromilsky has been based out of the North West Private Hospital for the past eight years, delivering about a thousand babies in that time.

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Northern Beaches Hospital to cut NSW surgery wait times with 5000 ops

NEWS.com.au, Other, 28/01/2026, Pamela Rontziokos

A high-volume surgery centre is set to significantly reduce wait times across NSW, powering through up to an extra 5000 surgeries each year. The centre, the first of its kind in the state, will be established

at the Northern Beaches Hospital in Frenchs Forest on Sydney's northern beaches.

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

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Mould and maggots found at Newcastle hospital

Nursing Review, Other, 27/01/2026

A NSW hospital has shut the doors to one of its facilities after maggots were discovered in the air vents of a patient's room, following an earlier mould discovery in the cancer ward. Earlier this month, patients were transferred from the haematology ward in Calvary Mater Newcastle in Newcastle after maggots reportedly fell from the airconditioning vents onto the floor.

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Productivity Commission delivers final report on healthcare efficiency

Nursing Review, Other, 27/01/2026, Angela Jackson

At the start of the new year, many of us will commit to joining a gym, eating healthier or cutting back on drinking and smoking. We do this knowing that investing in our health today will pay off into the future – that prevention is better (and cheaper) than the cure.

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Border baby's life hangs on hospital decision to grant life-saving surgery

The Border Mail, Other, 27/01/2026, Hana Humboldt

An Albury couple is worried sick over the fate of their 13-month-old daughter, who after months of fundraising may not be able to receive life-saving surgery. Aiah, who was born in Wodonga, has biliary atresia, a rare liver disease, and requires a transplant, but as the daughter of parents in Australia on student visas, she is unable to access the waiting list in Australia.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Women will suffer from commercial surrogacy scheme

The Australian, General News, 28/01/2026, Julie Bindel, Page 11

Why do so many people believe anyone has the "right" to have their own biological child? I was once asked, in the course of a live debate on surrogacy: "A gay male couple, who would make wonderful parents, are desperate to have their own child.

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Health fears after record temperatures

Age, General News, 28/01/2026, Grant McArthur, Page 1

Health authorities have warned the most dangerous impacts of Victoria's heatwave may be still to come, with the impact of consecutive prolonged temperatures building through another four days in parts of the state and bushfires continuing to effect many. On a day of scorching highs, the state's all-time hottest temperature was recorded in the Mallee region yesterday, where in the tiny town of Walpeup, the mercury hit 48.9 degrees at 3.36pm.

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

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Slim pickings in aisles

Herald Sun, General News, 28/01/2026, Ruby Kraner-Tucci, Page 13

Drugs such as Ozempic already have a big impact on how much patients eat, and also may be

changing the way they shop and how much they spend at the supermarket. A new international study has found that people tend to buy healthier foods after taking glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1RAs) the class of diabetes and weight loss drugs that includes Ozempic and Wegovy.

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Report: Hobart suburbs most at risk from heat

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/01/2026, Bridget Clarke, Page 9

Residents living in New Town, Sandy Bay and Lenah Valley face the greatest risk from rising temperatures in Hobart, according to new research. The 2025 Hobart Residential Heat Risk Report produced in collaboration between the City of Hobart and climate mapping company Geoneon assessed how vulnerable residents were to extreme heat by analysing both heat exposure and social factors.

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Child enlisted in tobacco turf war

West Australian, General News, 28/01/2026, Sarah Crawford, Page 14

The above images provide graphic proof that the turf war over illegal tobacco in WA is continuing to escalate. The pictures are taken from video footage obtained by The West Australian which, police say, shows a 14-year-old firebombing a Perth convenience store narrowly avoiding setting himself on fire.

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

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Injection of religion into healthcare a step back

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 28/01/2026, Page 6

I think it was Woody Allen who once said, "If there is a God, he's a great comic". [...] Detailed local data is hard to source, but Australian Institute of Health and Welfare figures already show wait times for hysterectomies in Queensland are well above the national average.

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Exercising during a heatwave? Here's what you should know

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/01/2026, Shona Hendley

Sixty-one-year-old Ballarat runner David Fraser's weekly training regime includes four morning gym sessions and five trail runs ranging from 10km to 33km. During summer, when temperatures rise, it is no different.

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Australia's heatwaves are getting deadlier – and renters are paying the price

The Guardian, Other, 27/01/2026, Maiy Azize

Australians are struggling through one of the most brutal heatwaves and hottest summers on record. Day after day, temperatures into the high 30s are turning homes into ovens, workplaces into hazards, and everyday tasks into endurance tests.

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What happens to the human body in 49C heat? Australians are finding out

The Guardian, Other, 27/01/2026, Donna Lu

Australia's southern states are scorching in extreme heat that could break temperature records in Victoria and South Australia on Tuesday. January and all-time records were forecast to be set in both states, with temperatures approaching 50C across inland areas, according to the Bureau of Meteorology.

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The forecast you might be missing as heat and bushfire smoke build

Smoke doesn't always stay near the flames. Here's how it can affect air quality and health.

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The common medications that can become 'quite dangerous' on hot days

SBS, Other, 27/01/2026, Amy Hall

Some prescription and over-the-counter medications can make it harder for your body to cool down during hot weather. As temperatures increase across Australia, so too can your risk of developing a heat-related illness.

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Emergency hotline misses key target as demand and 'nuisance calls' rise

Your Life Choices, Other, 27/01/2026, Abegail Abrugar

When seconds matter most, even small delays can have serious consequences. New figures have raised questions about how well an essential emergency service is coping with growing demand, shifting priorities and calls that should never have been made in the first place.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 27/01/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Dr Kim Loo, NSW and ACT Deputy Chair of the RACGP, about staying safe in extreme heat. Loo emphasises that vulnerable groups should stay indoors during heat waves, and notes that radiant heat can make shaded temperatures feel up to 10°C hotter. She recommends preparing the coolest room at home with fans, using spray bottles or ice towels, and cooling key areas like the neck and groin.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 27/01/2026, Spence Denny

Interview with Dr Annagretta Hunter, Member of the Climate and Health Alliance, about how extreme heat affects the human body. Hunter explains the body aims to stay around 36° and must actively cool once environmental temperatures exceed that. She warns that extreme heat forces the heart to work harder, impairs brain function and decision-making, and can progress to heat stroke.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 27/01/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Ken Wallace, Chief Executive of OurFutures Institute, about adapting a vaping prevention program to reduce youth gambling. Wallace says their school-based program, already in 1000 Australian high schools, uses relatable cartoon stories and scenarios to engage young people and change behaviour. He explains the method focuses on education and prevention rather than enforcement.

Interview continues on: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#)

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Unpaid docs fear VAD duty burnout

The Australian, General News, 28/01/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 7

More than a quarter of doctors helping patients through voluntary assisted dying have done so without pay, with no specific Medicare funding available and amid ethical qualms about "profiting from death".

And almost two in three say the remuneration in their state for performing VAD is inadequate, leaving many to question their future commitment to helping dying patients voluntarily end their lives.

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Heavy drinking ups risk of cancer

Herald Sun, General News, 28/01/2026, Page 14

Having more than two glasses of wine a day increases the risk of developing bowel cancer by 25 per cent, research suggests. Scientists looked at data from 88,000 adults in the US and found drinking heavily from the age of 18 onwards significantly increased the risk of the disease.

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The gift of life

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/01/2026, Jessica Adamson, Page 1

Adelaide teen meets German angel who saved his life Angus Bond, 17, has fought for his life since he was diagnosed with rare bone marrow failure at just eight weeks old. He was destined to die until German angel Marie Hiemisch saved him.

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Stranger's gift lets 12yo be a kid again

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/01/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 15

Young Nathaniel "DonDon" Love, who spent a year fighting leukaemia, received the incredible news in the days before Christmas that he is "cancer-free". "It hasn't even sunk in yet," his older brother Ethan Love, 35 told The Advertiser.

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

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A German angel saves our Angus

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 28/01/2026, Page 24

The story behind the bond between an Adelaide teenager and a young German nurse is truly heartwarming; it captures the very best of humanity, love and family. As a baby, Aldgate's sports-loving Angus Bond, now 17, was diagnosed with a rare bone marrow failure disorder.

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'Clinical altruism' at play in assisted dying services

Canberra Times, Other, 27/01/2026, Farid Farid

More than a quarter of doctors providing legal end-of-life care for terminally ill patients say they are paying for it out of their own pockets. A survey of 170 GPs and specialists has revealed that practitioners delivering voluntary assisted dying are not being adequately compensated.

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

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 27/01/2026, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Kate Miranda, CEO, Asthma Australia, about asthma flare-ups that could occur in school, at the start of the school year. Miranda points out that January is the lowest rate of hospitalisations in the country, since kids are mostly at home during that time, but it spikes once kids get back to the classroom.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 27/01/2026, Peter Overton

New research links lifetime alcohol consumption above recommended levels to a sharply higher cancer risk, including a 95% increase in rectal cancer and a 25% rise in bowel cancer compared to light drinkers. The study also shows quitting alcohol can reduce cancer risk over time.

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3AW, Drive, 27/01/2026, Jacqui Felgate

Interview with Kate Miranda, CEO of Asthma Australia, about managing asthma during bushfire smoke. Miranda urges asthma sufferers to stay indoors, keep windows and doors closed, take preventer medication, carry reliever inhalers, and wear N95 masks if going outside. She warns that symptoms like chest tightness, coughing, and wheezing can escalate quickly.

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4BC, Drive, 27/01/2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Dr Austin Lang, Reconstructive Surgeon at Brisbane Skin Cancer, about a mandatory school sunscreen break. Lang supports a five-minute bell before lunch for students to apply sunscreen, noting that children spend more time outdoors and teens often forget protection. He highlights that reapplying every two hours is crucial for outdoor students, and making it a school-wide rule removes the burden from teachers and ensures long-term habit formation.

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6PR, Drive, 27/01/2026, Jamie Burnett

Interview with Dr Nicola Bondonno, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at ECU's Nutrition and Health Innovation Research Institute, about nitrate sources and dementia risk. Bondonno explains a 27-year study of more than 54,000 people in Denmark that links higher nitrate intake from vegetables to lower dementia risk, while nitrate from processed meats, animal-based foods, and drinking water links to higher risk. She says antioxidants in vegetables help convert nitrate into brain-protective nitric oxide, while other sources allow harmful nitrosamines to form.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

LNP weighs up mental health site

Cairns Post, General News, 28/01/2026, Samuel Davis, Page 1

Specialist mental health treatment for Far North patients who have allegedly committed a crime but cannot stand trial could be improved with a new facility to be considered as part of Cairns Hospital's master plan. But details on when the project would start, and its size, are yet to be finalised.

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Kids' anxiety worry in class

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/01/2026, Page 11

As kids return to class, 42 per cent aged 4-12 are already showing signs of anxiety. Research from kids' mental health not-for-profit Smiling Mind reveals 61 per cent of parents worry about their child's mental wellbeing but 42 per cent are unsure where to turn.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 27/01/2026, Jennifer Keyte

Calls from tradies to a national mental health hotline jump 68% over the Christmas–New Year period, with 441 workers seeking support in December alone. Industry experts say the surge shows construction workers are increasingly recognising the importance of reaching out for help.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#).

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IMMUNISATION

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

More women get dementia. Now menopause tied to loss of grey matter

The Australian, General News, 28/01/2026, Eleanor Hayward, Page 7

Women lose grey matter in their brain during menopause, which may explain why they are more likely to suffer from dementia than men, according to new research. A team at the University of Cambridge studied 125,000 women in Britain to examine the effects of menopause on brain health and memory.

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Tiny find is a big advance

West Australian, General News, 28/01/2026, Page 9

An international team of researchers, including scientists from the Australian National University, have developed a way to reveal the smallest of malfunctions in the biochemical machinery that makes proteins in our bodies. According to the researchers, these malfunctions, however small, can trigger neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, as well as cancer.

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Tooth fairies seeking metal

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 28/01/2026, Isabella Davis, Page 1

Kalgoorlie-Boulder children have used sand drawings to tell an animated story promoting a research project into heavy metal deposition in children's teeth. The Heavy Metal Tooth Fairy Project encourages kids across the Goldfields to donate their fallen-out baby teeth and have them analysed for heavy metal exposure.

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Health Check: Actinogen awaits crucial 'futility' ruling on Alzheimer's disease trial

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/01/2026, Tim Boreham

Actinogen Medical soon should find out whether its pivotal Xanamia Alzheimer's trial is futile, or hitting the right notes. Will Actinogen's Xanamia trial prove a bigger hit than ABBA, or is it the company's Waterloo?

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

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Professor Kathryn Burdon gets \$2.7m grant to research childhood cataracts

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/01/2026, Sue Bailey

Tasmanian researchers have received a \$2.7m grant for a new cutting-edge project on genetic testing for childhood cataracts, which can lead to blindness if untreated. Childhood cataracts are a rare but serious condition affecting about two in every 10,000 live births in Australia and unlike cataract in adults it can be difficult to treat and cause lifelong vision problems if not treated early.

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

ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 27/01/2026, Samantha Donovan

Australian researchers say AI can reduce risks in gene editing by preventing unintended damage to healthy genes, potentially expanding the safe use of CRISPR in humans. Faulty genes cause diseases like cystic fibrosis, with Dr Jo Armstrong saying a baby is born with the condition every four days, and researchers believe gene editing offers hope where current treatments fall short. The AI-driven breakthrough, published in *Nature Chemical Biology*, marks an early but promising step toward future clinical trials and broader treatment of genetic diseases.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Arnaout wins legal fight on Alice pub pokies

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/01/2026, Greg Bearup and Zoe Samios, Page 9

A community group says the billionaire's machines are sucking vulnerable people dry...

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

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ABC News, ABC National News, 27/01/2026, Joe O'Brien

Indigenous leaders outline key priorities for First Nations people this year, including calls for a national truth-telling body and stronger action to close the gap. Professor Megan Davis urges a sharper focus on closing-the-gap outcomes, while Federal Minister Malarndirri McCarthy says all levels of government must prioritise progress through investments in health, education, housing, and jobs.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Northern Beaches overflow surgery

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/01/2026, James O'Doherty, Page 4

Patients from across NSW will be sent to the Northern Beaches for surgery under plans to churn through ballooning wait times for planned procedures at public hospitals. Northern Beaches Hospital will be transformed into an overflow centre to perform an extra 5000 planned surgeries each year.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

ANMF condemns fatal shooting of US intensive care nurse

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 27/01/2026

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) has expressed its deep shock and sorrow at the fatal shooting of intensive care nurse Alex Petti, during an incident involving ICE agents in Minneapolis. The ANMF stands with our colleagues across borders in condemning the shooting of Mr Petti and has called for accountability, transparency and justice in ensuring that his tragic death is properly and independently investigated by US authorities.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Program brings huge junior doctor cohort

West Australian, General News, 28/01/2026, Page 5

A first-of-its-kind support service for junior doctors has helped improve workforce shortages at one of the State's biggest hospital service providers. South Metropolitan Health Service had 132 medical interns begin this month, the provider's largest intake to date.

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Pharmacists honoured on Australia Day

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/01/2026

Emeritus Professor Colin Chapman and Victorian pharmacist Dipak Sanghvi have been appointed Members of the Order of Australia (AM) as part of the 2026 Australia Day Honours (PD breaking news yesterday). Chapman has been recognised for significant service to pharmacy and pharmaceutical science research, education and practice.

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Fei Sim reflects on her PSA presidency

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/01/2026

As the mantle of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) presidency officially passes today to Professor Mark Naunton, Associate Professor Fei Sim (pictured) shared with Pharmacy Daily some of the highlights from her four-year tenure as president.

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'A phenomenal outcome': Pharmacy shines in the 2026 Australia Day Honours

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 27/01/2026

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) have proudly recognised the outstanding pharmacists who received awards in this year's Australia Day Honours. National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Professor Trent Twomey, says each award recipient reflects the highest standards of pharmacy patient care, community service, leadership, and the advancement of the profession.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Territory-wide Mornings, 27/01/2026, Lara Stimpson

Stimpson is joined by federal politics reporter Isabella Tolhurst. Tolhurst says that the PM is visiting Darwin to promote the start of Charles Darwin University's medical program, which aims to grow local medical talent in the NT and improve doctor retention. He also notes that the federal government funded the program and that the PM may discuss broader health initiatives, including Medicare rebates and urgent care clinics.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Suspended surgeon guilty of serious misconduct

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/01/2026, Angus Thomson and Kate Aubusson, Page 1

Millionaire Sydney property mogul and suspended cosmetic surgeon Jerry Schwartz has been found guilty of professional misconduct in a major blow to his years-long campaign to return to treating patients. Schwartz is suspended from practising and has had multiple restrictions placed on his medical and surgical practice since 2013, including conditions enforced in 2017 preventing him from giving conscious sedation to patients.

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'Dr Google on steroids': ChatGPT Health exposes a dangerous gap

Canberra Times, Other, 27/01/2026, Sam Spencer

The pitfalls of relying on artificial intelligence for consequential decision making, like health decisions, have long been known. As IBM declared in 1979, "A computer can never be held accountable, therefore a computer must never make a management decision".

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Out-of-home care manager accused of raping three co-workers

Newcastle Herald, Other, 27/01/2026, Sam Rigney

He was a manager at a Hunter out-of-home care provider, an aspiring academic and a speaker at youth justice conferences who spent a decade specialising in child protection and mental health and rose to the ranks of executive roles in major Hunter community service organisations. But detectives say Damian Ellis Spohr, 27, was also a violent sex offender who is accused of raping, choking and assaulting three female colleagues over a more than 12-month period.

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'Troubling' detail after nurse stole ADHD pills

Nursing Review, Other, 27/01/2026, NCA NewsWire

A senior nurse stole a patient's ADHD medication and then tried to cover it up by manipulating a colleague's Facebook page and falsifying hospital records in a series of "troubling" actions, a tribunal has found. Sarah Rebecca Nolan, 41, has been banned from providing any health service for at least four years after a South Australian tribunal found she engaged in professional misconduct while working as a senior nurse at the Modbury Hospital in Adelaide.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No end in sight for HRT patch shortage

Herald Sun, General News, 28/01/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 11

There is no end in sight for the shortage of hormone replacement therapy HRT patches as the

Therapeutic Goods Administration extends its approval for pharmacies to dispense alternative products. Women depend on the patches for the management of perimenopause and menopause but the TGA has revealed it cannot predict with certainty which Australian registered HRT patch products might be available at any time.

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

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19 health habits doctors recommend for a longer life

Australian Financial Review, Other, 27/01/2026, Euan Black

Anyone who takes an interest in their own health knows that exercise, sleep, nutrition and emotional health are perhaps the four most important pillars of wellbeing.

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Sunscreen ARTG list number crackdown

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/01/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a statement on sunscreen labelling practices after irregularities around ARTG listing numbers came to light at the end of last year.

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Buderim woman appears to beat three-year death sentence with new treatment

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 27/01/2026, Chloe Grimshaw

A Sunshine Coast woman has seemingly defied doctors' expectations after a new drug has shown promising results managing a rare genetic syndrome. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration website states the prescription drug is indicated for the treatment of APDS in adults and children over the age of 12.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Afternoons, 27/01/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with Dr Ian Relf, Federal President of the Australian Medical Acupuncture College, about Western medical acupuncture. Relf explains that Western medical acupuncture integrates traditional Chinese techniques with modern understanding of the nervous system to treat many types of pain. He describes the process as using fine needles safely inserted into muscles and ligaments, noting considerations for patients on blood thinners.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Urgent baby formula recall as three products are pulled from the shelves

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/01/2026, Maisy Rae

An urgent recall has been issued for three popular baby formula products sold across Australia due to potential contamination. [...] Food Standards Australia and New Zealand said *Bacillus cereus* is a 'spore-forming bacterium that produces toxins that cause vomiting or diarrhoea'.

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