



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 31st January 2026

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[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) | [Australian CDC](#) |
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **Weekend Australian** (page 1) reports that National Cabinet reached agreement yesterday on a \$4 billion five-year boost to public hospitals funding in exchange for an increased cap on state and territory NDIS contributions. *Also reported by: Courier Mail, Hobart Mercury, NT News, AFR Weekend, Sydney Morning Herald*
- The **Weekend Australian** (page 3) reports a QUT-led study has flagged almost one in ten published studies on cancer as possibly fabricated by for-profit 'paper mills'.
- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 3) reports that breakthrough cancer therapy Keytruda has been recommended for PBS listing to treat all cancers, with final approval now sitting with Minister for Health Mark Butler. *Also reported by: Herald Sun, Courier Mail, Adelaide Advertiser*
- The **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 4) reports Minister for Health Mark Butler said that the Government is monitoring India's deadly Nipah virus outbreak "very, very closely" and would consider tighter border controls if recommended. *Also reported by: Weekend Australian, Herald Sun, West Australian, ABC Online*
- The **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 4) reports that TGA-approved trials of a daily treatment to slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease are proceeding to stage three.

- The **NT News** (page 6) reports that the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission has placed a five year ban on a director of a Territory NDIS provider for "serious" contraventions of the NDIS Act.
- The **Weekend Australian** (page 7) reports that Tobacco Licensing Victoria inspectors will be empowered to levy fines and seize products but not to shut down illegal operations when new controls take effect on Sunday. *Also reported by: Herald Sun*
- The **Weekend Australian** (page 7) reports that Victoria's Labor government is under pressure to reject affiliation fees from the disgraced Health Workers Union, which insists its contributions are essential to ongoing pay negotiations.
- The **West Australian** (page 8) reports that a toolkit has been circulated to WA schools urging canteens to remove all foods high in sugar, salt and saturated fats.

MINISTER BUTLER

PM lauds hospital funding victory

Weekend Australian, General News, 31/01/2026, Sarah Ison and Matthew Cranston, Page 1

Anthony Albanese has vowed to hold premiers to an ambitious agreement that will see annual growth of the \$50bn-a-year National Disability Insurance Scheme reduced to 5-6 per cent a year and force states to scrap a historic 4 per cent cap on increases to their contributions. [...] Additionally, states agreed to match the \$2bn in Thriving Kids funding announced by Health Minister Mark Butler last year and progress the reforms designed to redirect children with mild to moderate autism off the NDIS.

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

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ACT hospitals to get \$557m boost after PM inks new deal

Canberra Times, General News, 31/01/2026, Dana Daniel, Page 7

Canberra's struggling hospitals are getting a long-awaited funding boost after a deal inked by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and state and territory leaders yesterday, which will lift Commonwealth spending by \$25 billion. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said ahead of the deal being finalised on Friday that the federal government had put a "very generous" offer on the table to lift spending by \$23 billion, which would be a significant increase on previous offers of \$20 billion and \$13 billion.

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

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Government lands last-minute hospital funding deal with states

ABC Online, Other, 30/01/2026, Stephanie Dalzell

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has bowed to mounting pressure from the states and promised \$25 billion for public hospitals in a bid to end a months-long stand-off. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on Thursday conceded if an agreement was not squared away by then, it would be difficult to secure a deal by the time a one-year interim funding agreement expired in June.

[Read More](#)

Albanese strikes \$25bn deal with states to end hospital funding battle and agrees delay autism program

The Guardian, Other, 30/01/2026, Tom McIlroy

Anthony Albanese and state premiers have signed a \$25bn deal to fund health and hospital services around the country, while agreeing to stem growth in the National Disability Insurance Scheme to 6% or less. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, has called the deal the biggest increase in hospital funding "in anyone's memory".

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National Cabinet approves landmark health funding agreement

SBS, Other, 30/01/2026, Briana Charles

The Federal Government has finalised a landmark \$219 billion health agreement with the states in a national cabinet meeting, pledging an additional \$25 billion to stabilise public hospitals and cap NDIS growth over the next five years. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says the hospital system has been at breaking point.

[Read More](#)

PM strikes \$25 billion health deal with states and territories at the 11th hour

9News, Other, 30/01/2026, Yashee Sharma

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has brought months of a stalemate to an end after striking a \$25 billion health deal with the states and territories at the 11th hour. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler had admitted there would not be enough time to secure a deal before the current funding agreement expired on June 30 if one was not reached today.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 30/01/2026, James Glenday and Emma Rebellato

Interview with Minister for Health Mark Butler on the upcoming National Cabinet meeting to discuss hospital funding. He says the Federal Government's offer of \$23 billion, on top of the \$12 billion that states would have received in growth funding under Scott Morrison's deal, is very generous. He says they are running out of time to get the deal done.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 30/01/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Minister for Health Mark Butler about today's National Cabinet meeting. He says he is cautiously optimistic that an agreement will be reached with the states and territories on hospital funding and disability reform. He says they are running out of time to get a deal done as South Australia will go into caretaker mode soon.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Drive, 30/01/2026, Ellen Fanning

Interview with Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls about the new health funding agreement. He says what they have seen today is a better deal than was on the table in December. He says Queensland is ground zero in terms of long-stay patients and he made that point to Mark Butler last December.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 30/01/2026, Adam Steer

Interview with NT Health Minister Steven Edgington. He says the deal that has been reached on hospital funding and the NDIS is a significant step forward for the Northern Territory. He says they have been calling for quite a while now for money through the National Health Reform Agreement. He says he is looking forward to catching up with the Minister for Health Mark Butler next month to discuss an additional \$200m that they are seeking.

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NDIS autism changes delayed as hospital funding deal struck

Canberra Times, General News, 31/01/2026, Grace Crivellaro, Page 22

A program for early intervention autism services will be delayed as part of efforts to deliver urgent hospital funding. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met with premiers and chief ministers in Sydney on Friday for a "landmark" national cabinet meeting where an agreement for an extra \$25 billion in funding over the next five years was struck. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the changes were needed to ensure the sustainability of the NDIS.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Michael West Media \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#)

Support for kids with autism delayed after pushback

Canberra Times, Other, 31/01/2026, Andrew Brown

State and territory leaders have agreed to help rein in the costs of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, but a key early intervention program has been delayed by several months. National cabinet agreed to limit annual growth of the NDIS to six per cent per year, in exchange for securing an extra \$25 billion for public hospital funding over the next five years from the Commonwealth. [...] State leaders had previously said they were blindsided by NDIS Minister Mark Butler's announcement of the Thriving Kids scheme in 2025 during a speech at the National Press Club.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Michael West Media \(Online\)](#)

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Autism community reacts to delay of controversial NDIS replacement, Thriving Kids

Adelaide Now, Other, 30/01/2026, Darcy Fitzgerald

The Albanese government's new Thriving Kids program for children with autism and developmental delays has been delayed, leaving families anxious over potential changes to their child's support. [...] Speaking to ABC Radio National on Friday before the announcement, Health Minister Mark Butler said Thriving Kids would be a "much better program for families".

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

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 30/01/2026, Ashleigh Gillon

Interview with Aruma Disability Services CEO Dr Martin Laverty on the announcement made by the Federal Government on hospital funding and the NDIS growth cap. Laverty expresses support for the 6% future growth cap. He says the Prime Minister and Mark Butler have been able to drag the states back to fulfilling their promise that was actually made 15 years ago to deliver services outside the NDIS. He says the Thriving Kids program is a down payment on being able to hit that 6% target.

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High alert as deadly virus risk persists

Weekend Australian, General News, 31/01/2026, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer, Page 9

Health Minister Mark Butler says the government is monitoring the outbreak of the highly deadly Nipah virus "very closely" after two cases were detected in the Indian state of West Bengal. International airports across South and Southeast Asia have tightened health screening measures, with Thailand this week setting up designated parking bays for planes arriving from areas where the disease has been detected.

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

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Australia monitoring India's outbreak of deadly Nipah virus

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 31/01/2026, Brittany Busch and Kate Aubusson, Page 4

Health Minister Mark Butler says Australia is monitoring an outbreak of the deadly Nipah virus in India "very, very closely" after the country's neighbours ramped up their border protections to avoid any further spread. Two cases of the virus, which has no vaccine and a mortality rate between 40 and 75 per cent, have been confirmed in West Bengal.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#)

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Deadly virus outbreak sparks border alert

Herald Sun, General News, 31/01/2026, Georgia Palgan and Zoe Smith, Page 9

Australia has been advised to sharpen border controls for travellers arriving from India's West Bengal after an outbreak of the Nipah virus, the world's deadliest infectious disease. The confirmed outbreak comes as Lunar New Year is under way, an event that proved a super spreader for Covid-19. The Australian government was monitoring the "very serious" virus "very closely" Health Minister Mark Butler said on Friday.

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Worse than COVID

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 31/01/2026, Max Corstorphine, Page 28

An outbreak of the deadly Nipah virus has health authorities on high alert around the world with Australia's Health Minister confirming on Friday that the current Indian outbreak was being monitored "very, very closely". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, inset below, told morning TV that "Indian authorities tell us they've got that outbreak under control but nonetheless we're monitoring it very, very closely because this is a very serious virus".

Also reported by: [The Nightly \(Australia\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Nightly \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#)

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Top doc's warning to Australian authorities on Nipah virus

NEWS.com.au, Other, 30/01/2026, David Wu

A disease expert is encouraging Australian authorities to introduce border measures for incoming travellers amid fears the deadly Nipah virus could spread further. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Friday said the federal government is monitoring the outbreak of the highly deadly virus "very closely".

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

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Australia closely monitoring Nipah virus, no change to border control

ABC Online, Other, 30/01/2026, Caitlyn Gribbin and Paige Cockburn

The federal health minister says there are no immediate plans to tighten border controls after cases of a deadly virus were detected in India. Nipah virus has been detected in two people in West Bengal and countries across Asia are stepping up health screening measures, including at airports. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told ABC's Radio National the federal government was taking the situation seriously but was not considering additional border measures.

Similar coverage: [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [The Indian Sun \(Online\)](#), [International Business Times Australia \(Online\)](#), [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#), [Travel Daily \(None\)](#)

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Channel 9, Today , 30/01/2026, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Interview with Minister for Health Mark Butler on the Nipah virus. He says there have been two confirmed cases of Nipah in India and the Federal Government is monitoring it very closely because it is a very serious virus. He says there is no advice to change travel protocols at this stage. He says they have seen a terrific amount of work on the Thriving Kids program in the last six months.

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Big drug win for cancer patients

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/01/2026, Sarah Booth and Fergus Ellis, Page 3

A potentially lifesaving treatment for patients with rare cancers now costing tens of thousands of dollars may soon be slashed to just \$25 per round. [...] The announcement following eight years of advocacy is the second positive recommendation in just three months, with the final approval now sitting with Health Minister Mark Butler.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#)

Inner-city clinic opens

Courier Mail, General News, 31/01/2026, Page 20

A Medicare Urgent Care Clinic where patients can show up without an appointment and be bulk billed has opened in Kelvin Grove. It joins 21 clinics now open across Queensland, with a further five still to come. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the clinic would ease pressure on the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

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Families frayed by NDIS cuts brace for more change ahead of defining 2026

ABC Online, Other, 30/01/2026, Nas Campanella and Evan Young

For the more than 700,000 participants and their families relying on the revolutionary National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), 2026 is shaping up to be another transformative year as the government tries to wrestle the scheme back under its control. [...] Something had to change to make the scheme more sustainable — not just from a financial point of view, but also to keep what minister Mark Butler has termed the scheme's "social licence" from crumbling further.

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Time to swallow your pride, minister

Health Services Daily, Other, 30/01/2026, Cate Swannell

Now that the National Health Reform Agreement is finally nailed down, perhaps Mark Butler, Sam Rae, the prime minister and the DoHDA bureaucrats can turn their minds to the steaming pile of regret and expense that is the Support at Home Program. There are two inquiries on the books.

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2GB, Mornings, 30/01/2026, Mark Levy

Interview with Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston about new Productivity Commission data on aged care wait times. She says the Federal Government covered up the numbers but the Productivity Commission has exposed the worsening situation in aged care. She criticises the Prime Minister and the Minister for Health for having failed to negotiate an agreement with the states and territories on hospital funding and the NDIS.

Continues: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#)

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3AW, Mornings, 30/01/2026, Tom Elliott

Interview with Macquarie University professor of pharmaceutical chemistry Nial Wheate about PBS subsidies for weight loss drugs. He says up to 50 per cent of people stop using Ozempic after one year because of either the side effects or the cost. He recalls Minister for Health Mark Butler announced two weeks ago he will probably approve it for people with cardiovascular disease and obesity.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

Aged care support wait times blow out

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 31/01/2026, Zac de Silva, Page 6

Older Australians are waiting an average of nine months to get access to home support services, as the nation's ageing population puts increasing pressure on providers. The median time taken for someone to sign on to a home care package was 272 days in the last financial year, according to a Productivity Commission report. [...] A spokesman for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said there were encouraging signs the sector was moving in the right direction.

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

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Exclusive: Care minutes for religious sisters to count under updated Aged Care Rules

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/01/2026, Lauren Broomham

[...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has updated its definition of a Personal Care Worker to include a person who is a member of a religious order – such as a nun or religious sister – who is also a Registered or Enrolled Nurse. [...] We thank Aged Care Minister Sam Rae for listening to those concerns and acting quickly to ensure this care is now properly recognised."

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

The 'gift of life'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 31/01/2026, Saree Salter, Page 1

Bella Dyer was only five when she received a liver transplant, but she still remembers the life-changing operation. [...] Assistant Minister for Health Rebecca White said Tasmania had "extremely high" rates of families agreeing to be donors.

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LA FM, Breakfast, 30/01/2026, Belinda King

Interview with Member for Lyons Rebecca White. She discusses cheaper PBS medicines, saying she

has always advocated for better healthcare access and she is now Assistant Health Minister. She says the upcoming Transplant Games in Launceston is a celebration of hope and she urges people to visit the Donate Life website or their MyGov account if they are interested in being organ donors.

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[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Funding cut hits hard for grandma

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/01/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 25

A northeast suburbs grandmother has had her life altered after her disability funding was cut in what she calls a deceitful play by the government. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said at the time it was "investigating the circumstances raised".

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Two months from penalties, 1,000 aged care homes non-compliant over care minutes

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/01/2026, Caroline Egan

The number of operators meeting mandatory total and RN care minute targets has soared in the last quarter before providers will be penalised for non-compliance. Data from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing for the September 2025 quarter shows 60% of aged care homes achieved both total and RN care minute targets, a sharp increase from only 44% compliance a year earlier.

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GP renal duplex exam item under threat

The Medical Republic, Other, 30/01/2026, Holly Payne

The AMA is cautioning Medicare against restricting an MBS item covering renal duplex examinations to selected specialties, arguing that the removal of GP access would create a "substantial access risk". [...] It also recommended that, if any changes were to go through, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing commit to a 12-month post-implementation review.

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APRA outlines role in health premium reviews

Insurance Business Australia, Other, 31/01/2026, Jonalyn Cueto

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) plays an advisory role in the annual private health insurance premium approval process but does not approve premium increases itself, according to a statement from the regulator. [...] APRA noted its primary responsibility is to advise the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing on whether proposed premium increases would result in an "adverse prudential outcome."

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Department of Health hunts for enterprise computing partner

techpartner.news, Other, 30/01/2026, Jason Pollock

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the Department) is seeking to engage an enterprise computing service partner (EC service partner) to deliver enterprise computing (EC) services within a complex MultiVendor Environment (MVE) ICT environment.

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Movers & Shakers

The Mandarin, Other, 30/01/2026, Dan Holmes

[...] Jo Hutchinson is now assistant secretary at the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing.

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Wait times for aged care spike

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 31/01/2026, Zac de Silva, Page 22

Older Australians are waiting an average of nine months to get access to home support services, as the nation's ageing population puts increasing pressure on providers. The median time for someone to sign on to a homecare package was 272 days last financial year, according to a Productivity Commission report.

Also reported by: Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong), Launceston Examiner (Launceston), Burnie Advocate (Burnie), Bendigo Advertiser (Bendigo), Ballarat Courier (Ballarat)

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Hospital funding deal struck, but no quick fixes for aged care shortfall

The Weekly Source, Other, 30/01/2026, Ian Horswill

After weeks of escalating pressure from State Governments, Australia's hospital funding standoff has edged toward resolution – but without the full funding boost that Premiers were seeking. Meeting in Sydney on Friday, State and Territory leaders accepted an additional \$4 billion from the Commonwealth, rather than the \$5 billion increase they had pushed for on top of the existing \$21 billion offer under the National Health Reform Agreement.

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If this were surgery, we'd call it a scandal

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 30/01/2026, Kasy Chambers

If waiting times for surgery doubled year after year, there would be national outrage. If people were waiting years for mental health care, it would be described rightly as a crisis. Summits would be held, reviews would be announced, and urgent action promised.

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[Back to Top](#)

Five-year ban for NDIS director

Northern Territory News, General News, 31/01/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 6

A Rapid Creek-based director of an organisation has received a lengthy ban from the NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission, while a number of other Territory providers have been hit with compliance notices. On January 6, Vasiti "Va" Natutuvuli (also known as Korocawiri), the director of the organisation Compassion and Power Ministry Services, was issued a banning order by the commission for contravening the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act.

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

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Cairns is now NDIS hots pot for watchdog

Weekend Post, General News, 31/01/2026, Julie Cross and Annabel Fleming, Page 16

Cairns has emerged as Queensland's second highest hotspot for NDIS watchdog action. A special News Corp analysis mapped every action by the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission by postcode over the past seven years.

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Gympie NDIS provider Arlie Gibson hit with permanent Australia-wide ban

Gympie Times, Other, 30/01/2026, Scott Kovacevic

Gympie NDIS provider Arlie Gibson has been slapped with a permanent ban by the federal government, newly published enforcement documents have revealed. The online enforcement notice says Mr Gibson is prohibited from "engaging in the provision or management of NDIS supports, services or funding to people with disability in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)".

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Illegal tobacco shops skirt Allan legal blitz

Weekend Australian, General News, 31/01/2026, Mohammad Alfares and Euan Kennedy, Page 7

Victoria's illicit tobacco crackdown will begin without the power to shut down illegal stores, as the Allan government admits it is still "developing" closure laws already in place in other states. Despite years of warnings about organised crime infiltrating the illicit tobacco trade, the Allan government confirmed on Friday that inspectors will only be able to fine operators and seize products, not shut down illegal stores, when enforcement begins on Sunday.

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

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Crunch time for school canteens

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 31/01/2026, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 8

'Toolkits' sent out to WA schools defying rules to phase out cakes & biscuits at canteens as the World Health Organisation chimes in with its own guidelines

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Obesity a killer issue

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/01/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 21

Higher rates of death among younger Australians from cardiovascular disease have been linked to being overweight or obese, a new study shows. The University of Melbourne study looked at premature overweight and obesity-related cardiovascular disease mortality for people aged between 35-74 years.

Also reported by: [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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'You go from a VIP to a nobody'

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, 31/01/2026, Sue Williams, Page 1

Early retirement is the ultimate goal for many. But the reality can be a brutal letdown. [...] Non-Indigenous Australians today enjoy one of the highest life expectancies in the world, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, with males born in 2021-23 expected to live to 81.1 years old and females to 85.1.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#)

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Indigenous children overrepresented as youth justice costs climb and outcomes worsen

National Indigenous Times, Other, 30/01/2026, Declan Brennan

Australia's spending on youth detention has increased by \$400 million in five years, with the former National Children's Commissioner describing the system as a "devastating policy failure". [...]

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows First Nations young people were 21 times more likely than non-Indigenous peers to be in detention in the June quarter of 2025.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

This little organ is rarely thought about and that's costing lives

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 31/01/2026, Paula Goodyer, Page 45

We talk a lot about the health of our hearts and brains, but there's one little organ tucked away behind the stomach that rarely rates a second thought – the pancreas. And it's in trouble.

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

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Why your sunscreen application might be putting your good intentions to waste

ABC Online, Other, 30/01/2026, Anna Chisholm

Australian sunscreen has been in the news a lot in the past year and it may have left you wondering how you can best protect your skin — and with kids heading back to school, their skin too. Testing commissioned by consumer group Choice revealed some popular sunscreens failed to meet their sun protection factor (SPF) claims in June, and a number of sunscreens have since been recalled.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

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[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

'Tenth of all cancer studies likely bogus'

Weekend Australian, General News, 31/01/2026, Natasha Bita, Page 3

Chinese and Iranian academics are flooding research journals with fake science, an Australian government-funded investigation has revealed. At least 250,000 published papers on cancer research have been flagged as potentially false, in the analysis of 2.6 million cancer studies between 1999 and 2024.

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

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Bogus cancer research find

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 31/01/2026, Page 7

Technology a new machine learning tool has identified more than 250,000 cancer research papers that may have been produced by so-called "paper mills". Developed by QUT researcher Professor Adrian Barnett and an international team of collaborators, the language model called BERT analysed 2.6 million cancer studies from 1999 to 2024.

Also reported by: [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#)

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Window to the brain

Courier Mail, General News, 31/01/2026, Page 13

Technology created at The University of Queensland could improve the odds of surviving brain cancer and change how we treat a range of neurological conditions. Researchers have opened a "window to the brain" with a new diagnostic device that can tell how deadly brain tumours respond to treatment from a simple blood test.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

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'Opened a window to brain'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 31/01/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

A new blood test that reveals how deadly brain tumours respond to treatment has been developed with funding from the Mark Hughes Foundation. The test represents a significant advancement in brain cancer treatment, and a big step forward in the foundation's 12-year quest for better treatment.

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Aspirin not the answer

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 31/01/2026, Page 17

Australian research contradicts previous studies that suggest taking aspirin reduces the risk of cancer after 10 years, particularly for colorectal cancer. The Monash University study of more than 19,000 Australian and American adults predominantly aged 70 years or over found that there was no effect on overall cancer incidence.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#). Similar coverage: [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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

The reputation of medical research is being trashed. Why?

The Australian, Other, 30/01/2026, Steve Robson

With budget cuts and questions about misleading information, the work that underpins health treatments is being questioned like never before. Is this a problem of ethics, or politics?

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

ALP secures states deal, delays autism plan

AFR Weekend, General News, 31/01/2026, Phillip Coorey and Michael Smith, Page 4

The Albanese government has sealed a hospital funding deal with the states by upping its offer by \$2 billion over the next five years in exchange for delaying a new program designed to stem the flood of children joining the NDIS.

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

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Stand-off ends with PM's \$25b for hospital, NDIS funding

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 31/01/2026, Brittany Busch and Angus Thomson, Page 4

State and territory governments have squeezed an extra \$2 billion out of the prime minister to strike a \$25 billion deal to fund hospitals for the next five years, ending a long-running stalemate in negotiations. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese sweetened his final offer to get state and territory governments on board to shoulder more early intervention work for children with mild to moderate developmental delays and autism under the new Thriving Kids program to move them off the bloated National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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Hospitals get \$25bn

Courier Mail, General News, 31/01/2026, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 1

Queensland's under-pressure hospitals will get an extra \$5.7bn as part of a \$25bn health package after an 11th-hour deal was struck with the Prime Minister, who had been in a months-long battle with all state leaders over funding. The deal was struck in response to The Courier-Mail's Sick of Waiting campaign.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#). Editorial: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Health cheque

Hobart Mercury, General News, 31/01/2026, David Killick, Page 1

A health funding agreement thrashed out with the federal government will deliver an extra \$700m into the state's public hospitals over the next five years. Premier Jeremy Rockliff hailed a hard-fought victory, saying two years of negotiations had delivered a much-improved outcome for Tasmania.

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

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\$1bn health boost

Northern Territory News, General News, 31/01/2026, Fia Walsh, Page 1

A landmark health funding agreement to bring an extra \$1bn hospital funding to the NT has been welcomed by Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro as "a pivotal moment for the Territory". National cabinet met in Sydney on Friday and finally secured a new five-year funding deal for public hospitals, ending a months-long stalemate between the states and federal government.

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

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\$6.5bn to help fix ailing health system

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/01/2026, Nathan Schmidt, Page 4

NSW hospitals are expected to see a \$6.5bn increase to their coffers in an effort to combat a rising number of NDIS and aged care patients clogging up the state's hospital beds. The funding agreement, handed down at national cabinet on Friday, comes after The Telegraph's Sick of Waiting campaign which highlighted the cost of bed block in the public hospital system, with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park warning the additional funding "won't solve all of the challenges we face".

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

PM gets deal on hospital funding

Northern Territory News, General News, 31/01/2026, Nathan Schmidt and Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer, Page 22

\$25bn boost for health Anthony Albanese has struck an 11th-hour deal with the states and territories, securing public hospital funding for the next five years. The Prime Minister on Friday met with state and territory leaders to end the stalemate over negotiations for public hospital funding and the new Thriving Kids program for young children with mild intellectual disabilities.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#)

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Hospital funding deal hands States \$25b boost amid NDIS cap

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 31/01/2026, Katina Curtis, Page 8

State governments will get an extra \$25 billion for their hospitals, the NDIS growth will be curtailed further and a new program for children with mild autism delayed under a new health funding deal. After two years of negotiations, leaders agreed to the package at a National Cabinet meeting in Sydney on Friday.

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

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'Long overdue': states sign off on \$25b hospital deal

Canberra Times, Other, 30/01/2026, Tess Ikonomou and Andrew Brown

Medical groups have welcomed a multibillion-dollar boost to public hospitals, but further reforms are being sought to improve patient care. States and territories will receive \$25 billion extra in commonwealth funding for hospitals following a meeting of national cabinet on Friday.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), Similar coverage: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#)

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Hospitals get lifeline, but healthcare systems on brink

Weekend Australian, General News, 31/01/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 2

So here we are. More than a year of brinkmanship and stalemate on the nation's key health funding agreement has resulted in the commonwealth slapping an extra \$25bn on the table for hospitals.

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

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Hospital cash injection not a cure-all

Canberra Times, Editorials, 31/01/2026, Page 32

News that Canberra's hospitals are getting a funding boost from the federal government is a welcome reprieve from the usual catastrophic reports about our struggling health system. But large amounts of money are only part of the solution to the deep-seated problems that have long plagued our hospitals.

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The government has promised a \$25 billion boost to hospital funding – but only hints at real reform

The Conversation, Other, 30/01/2026, Peter Breadon

Federal and state governments have finally resolved their long-running standoff on public hospital funding. The deal struck at National Cabinet on Friday includes a A\$25 billion boost to hospital funding, and state government commitments on disability services for children. But while public hospitals will get more money, there's no clear plan to manage surging costs and rising demand.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Drive, 30/01/2026, Clinton Maynard

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park about the new health funding agreement. He says NSW will get about \$6.5 billion in additional funding over five years.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 30/01/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with ACT Shadow Health Minister Mark Parton about the new health funding agreement. He says the ACT's \$557 million over five years sounds like a big number but the ACT lost more than half a billion dollars last year to interest expenses alone.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 30/01/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls about negotiations for an agreement on hospital funding and the NDIS. He says the commonwealth needs to step up, as the last offer was rejected because it was inadequate and failed to address the burgeoning problems that they have.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 30/01/2026, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Interview with SA Premier Peter Malinauskas about negotiations for an agreement on hospital funding and the NDIS. He says the cost of running the public hospital system is growing and the contribution from the Federal Government has been declining.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Breakfast, 30/01/2026, Ben Fordham

Interview with NT Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro about negotiations for an agreement on hospital funding and the NDIS. She raises the issue of hospital beds taken by elderly patients waiting for aged care places.

[Play Now](#)

Public eye surgeries back in Toowoomba

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 31/01/2026, Tom Gillespie, Page 3

Major public eye surgeries could start to be performed again in Toowoomba following a new tender process, but mystery surrounds the bid after local ophthalmologists revealed they had missed out. Darling Downs Health (DDH) confirmed it was finalising contracts with the "successful tenderers" for cataract surgeries for Toowoomba patients.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#)

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Redevelopment update sparks concern

Border Mail, General News, 31/01/2026, Chelsea Wilson, Page 5

The release of the Albury-Wodonga hospital redevelopment project update has been met with concern that the clinical services building will not meet current or future patient demands. NSW Health Infrastructure released the project update that promotes the design of the clinical services building including artist's impressions images on Thursday.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Corruption call probe over Labor links to HWU

Weekend Australian, General News, 31/01/2026, Anthony Galloway, Page 7

Victoria's opposition has called for the state's anti-corruption watchdog to investigate the relationship between Labor and the scandal-plagued Health Workers Union, after the union's administrator suggested party affiliation was essential to advancing a major pay dispute with the Allan government. The Australian revealed this week that the HSU is urging Labor to stop accepting affiliation fees from its Victorian branch, warning that continuing to bank the payments would be "unconscionable" and "morally untenable".

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

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Big drug win for cancer patients

Herald Sun, General News, 31/01/2026, Sarah Booth and Fergus Ellis, Page 3

Treatment cost slashed Potentially lifesaving treatment for rare cancer patients that costs tens of thousands of dollars will be slashed to just \$25 per round, pending federal government approval. On Friday the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee officially recommended updating immunotherapy treatment, Keytruda, on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), Editorial: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

NSW health will consider sharing patient health records with ACT

Canberra Times, Other, 30/01/2026, Lanie Tindale

The NSW government plans to enable record sharing between NSW and the ACT's public health systems before it rolls out a statewide record sharing system in 2028. The NSW government's Single Digital Patient Record is expected to replace existing separate systems used across hundreds of public hospitals, community health centres, pathology labs and collection centres when it is finalised in 2028.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 30/01/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with AMA Vice President Julian Rait about NSW agreeing to work on data-sharing with the ACT as it rolls out its new patient records system. He discusses the lack of coordination between federal, state and territory patient records. He says the commonwealth's My Health Record and the Australian Digital Health Agency have been in place for over 10 years. He says it is time for a mandated single standard.

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[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

"They want me to give up": Schwartz

Newcastle Herald, General News, 31/01/2026, Matthew Kelly, Page 5

Suspended cosmetic surgeon Jerry Schwartz says recent misconduct findings made against him are the result of a 20-year vendetta that has been waged against him by the state's medical council. Dr Schwartz has had multiple restrictions placed on his medical and surgical practice since 2013.

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Beware rise of 'Dr Google' on steroids

Canberra Times, General News, 31/01/2026, Sam Spencer, Page 31

The pitfalls of relying on artificial intelligence for consequential decision making, like health decisions, have long been known. [...] If a medical professional makes a mistake during treatment or care, professional bodies like APHRA (Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency) review and investigate, so they can make recommendations to prevent future errors or, when required, sanction professionals who commit malpractice. But who is responsible when ChatGPT hallucinates and gives bad advice?

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

Avoid bats while overseas

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 31/01/2026, Isabella Pesch, Page 5

Queensland travellers are being urged to consult their doctors and avoid bats when heading overseas, as an international outbreak of one of the deadliest bat-borne viruses grows. Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus, meaning it spreads from animals, like fruit bats and pigs, to humans.

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

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Channel 7, Seven News First at 4pm, 30/01/2026, Laura Turner

Interview with infectious diseases specialist Professor Sanjaya Senanayake about Nipah virus. He says targeted screening at airports is not unreasonable but putting the whole of India or the whole of Asia on a travel restriction would be over the top at the moment.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, ABC News Day, 30/01/2026, Ros Childs

Interview with epidemiologist Professor Catherine Bennett about Nipah virus. She says it is concerning that two reported cases in India were workers from one healthcare facility.

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ABC Radio Sydney, The World Today, 30/01/2026, Andy Park

Interview with Sydney Infectious Diseases Institute director Professor Ben Marais about Nipah virus. He says small Nipah outbreaks have been occurring regularly since 1998 and the concern with the current outbreak is that the two cases in healthcare workers in West Bengal was just an indicator of unknown index cases in the community.

[Play Now](#)

'Increased risk': Urgent measles alert issued for Sydney after new case detected in returned international traveller

NEWS.com.au, Other, 30/01/2026, Pamela Rontziokos

An urgent measles alert has been issued for Sydney, with health authorities warning there is an "increased risk" of the highly infectious disease. People who were at Sydney International Airport or Central Station in Sydney on January 27 are being told to watch for symptoms of measles, a statement from NSW Health said.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Government admits tobacco team requires closure powers

Herald Sun, General News, 31/01/2026, Regan Hodge and Carly Douglas, Page 3

The state government has admitted its illicit tobacco enforcement may need to be strengthened with closure powers ahead of the licensing scheme kicking off this weekend. The 14 inspectors will next week begin enforcement action against dodgy cigarette retailers and are expected to be handing out hefty fines for those caught selling the product without a license. [...] The Herald Sun has been told that the TGA have deployed only six officers for the entire state.

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Alzheimer's pill hopes as trial OK to continue

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/01/2026, Zoe Smith, Page 4

A once-a-day pill that helps slow down the course of Alzheimer's disease is a step closer to becoming a reality in a major step forward for the Australian team behind the drug. [...] The trial was approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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

'Counterfeit' items health warning

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 31/01/2026, Pamela Rontziokos, Page 22

A major health alert has been issued by Australia's health watchdog for several "counterfeit" melatonin products which they say increase the risk of "accidental overdose and hospitalisation. An alert from the

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) revealed laboratory testing of several imported unregistered melatonin products were counterfeit.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), Similar coverage: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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Machine capable of making millions of illegal cigarettes seized in Sydney

ABC Online, Other, 30/01/2026, Julia André

A machine which can produce up to 3.6 million illicit cigarettes a day has been seized by the Australian Border Force (ABF) in a storage facility in north-west Sydney. [...] Last week's raid was led by the ABF's Illicit Tobacco Taskforce (ITTF), with the help of the Australian Taxation Office, the Therapeutic Goods Administration and NSW Police.

[Read More](#)

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

Northern Territory News, Other, 30/01/2026, Chloe Grimshaw

After being told she had just three years to live, a Sunshine Coast woman has defied the odds and reclaimed her life with the help of a new "precision therapy". [...] 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](#)

Presolol (labetalol) SSSI in place

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 30/01/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised that Presolol 200 (labetalol 200mg) tablets (Alphapharm), used to treat all grades of hypertension, are in shortage due to manufacturing issues. The regulator has approved the supply of overseas-registered labetalol hydrochloride 200mg tablets to ensure ongoing access to this essential medicine.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Genetically modified purple tomatoes bound for fruit shops after regulator approval

ABC Online, Other, 30/01/2026, Timu King

Genetically modified tomatoes the colour of a plum are set to go on sale in Australian fruit shops for the first time this year. The Purple Bliss tomato has been approved by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator and Food Standards Australia New Zealand, allowing it to be grown and distributed in Australia.

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[Back to Top](#)

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