



# TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 2nd February 2026

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports unions are urging the government to provide additional funding and staffing for the Thriving Kids program to prevent school staff from becoming overburdened. Minister Butler stated that children with moderate support needs should be assisted through such mainstream, easy to access programs, while those with the most acute disabilities will continue to be supported by the National Disability Insurance Agency.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports Ageing Australia has noted that two billion dollars in proposed aged care funding was omitted from the final \$25b dollar deal the Federal Government has just inked with states and territories. While the funding was intended to address hospital bed block, state and territory leaders ultimately chose to direct those resources into the broader public hospital system how they see fit.
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 2) reports the NDIA reported twenty complaints of workplace sexual harassment in the previous year, resulting in two employee terminations for breaches of the APS code of conduct.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports the Australian Paediatric Society has warned a Senate inquiry that current childcare regulations create a systemic and preventable clinical risk to children with life-threatening allergies, and is calling for mandatory training for all childcare workers.

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports that despite a legislative requirement, the Victorian Government has missed the deadline for an independent review of the Victorian Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act by nearly two years, amidst reports that the law allows for imprisonment of medical practitioners treating children with gender dysphoria.
- **The Australian** (page 2) reports Victoria has issued a measles alert after four confirmed cases were detected in January 2026, all of which were linked to overseas travel to South-East and South Asia.
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 1) reports the AMA and ANMF have called for the construction of a new Royal Hobart Hospital on a greenfield site, warning that current upgrades will not satisfy future clinical demands for an ageing population.
- **7News** (online) reports leading medical specialists in the AMA and RACGP and peak health bodies have issued a collective warning regarding the escalation of viral health misinformation on social media, identifying it as a primary threat to public safety, calling for greater public scepticism and more rigorous verification of online medical content.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Helping kids thrive? That will cost you

The Australian, General News, 02/02/2026, Thomas Henry & Sarah Ison, Page 1

Labor is being warned that teachers and school staff cannot be expected to absorb the responsibilities of a program designed to cater for autistic children previously on the NDIS, as unions say the Thriving Kids scheme will fail without additional pay rises and staffing. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler was on Sunday also not able to say how much the disability and health reforms landed by national cabinet last week would save the taxpayer, revealing Labor "hadn't made budgetary decisions about that yet".

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

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### Thriving Kids savings must not be swallowed by unions

The Australian, Editorials, 02/02/2026, Page 10

As homebuyers with \$600,000 mortgages anticipate an interest rate hike of \$94 a month after Tuesday's Reserve Bank board meeting (\$1128 a year if the rises stop there), the Albanese government's leave pass on fiscal and economic reform must stop. [...] However commendable Labor's goal of reining in annual NDIS growth to 5per cent is, Health Minister Mark Butler was not able to say on Sunday how much the disability and health reforms agreed by national cabinet last Friday would save the taxpayer, saying the detail would "become clearer as we move through our own budgetary process".

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### Give our Logan a fighting chance

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/02/2026, Charles Chadwick, Page 14

Aussie families affected by a rare childhood cancer are pleading with the Albanese government to fund a trial of a life-saving new treatment. [...] As part of the campaign, which coincides with Neuroblastoma Awareness Week, families, friends and supporters will send personalised postcards featuring images of kids diagnosed with neuroblastoma to federal Health Minister Mark Butler's office at Parliament House.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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### NDIS savings unquantified

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 02/02/2026, Grace Crivellaro, Page 2

The health minister has been unable to quantify how much reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme will save the Federal Budget after a long-awaited deal was struck on hospital funding. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on Sunday could not say how much the changes would lead to in budget savings for the \$50 billion-per-year NDIS.

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## Woman hospitalised after Juniper prescribes weight-loss drugs her GP refused

ABC Online, Other, 01/02/2026, Shari Hams

A woman says she was hospitalised with an eating disorder after a medical telehealth provider approved weight-loss drugs her GP had refused. [...] The ABC contacted federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who responded in conjunction with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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## Call for access to improve quality of life for thyroid cancer survivors

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 02/02/2026, Nance Haxton

A TGA-approved drug that prevents kidney failure in thyroid cancer survivors remains inaccessible. [...] "Federal Health Minister Mark Butler could kindly request that feedback, prioritise it again and renegotiate the cost and then also look into some research, definitely logging stats in Australia, but also some awareness of the international research and what's happening there."

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## Health Minister Mark Butler expresses concern about antisemitism in healthcare following Jewish identity change at Liverpool Hospital

Sky News Australia, Other, 01/02/2026, Oscar Godsell

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has expressed concerns about antisemitism within the healthcare system, after a Jewish Bondi terror attack victim had her identity changed without consent. Sky News revealed that Rosalia Shikhverg was given an Anglo alias , "Karen Jones", during her stay at Liverpool Hospital following the December 14 attack.

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## No concern over delay to kids' autism program, says PM

Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia, Other, 01/02/2026, Andrew Brown & John Kidman

The delay of an early intervention program for children linked to National Disability Insurance Scheme costs isn't a mark of uncertainty, Anthony Albanese insists. [...] 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.

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## ABC News, ABC News at Noon, 01/02/2026, Miriam Corowa

Australians with an aggressive form of prostate cancer will have access to cheaper medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Abiraterone acetate and prednisolone (Andriga-10) will help with the treatment of castration-resistant metastatic carcinoma, but without a subsidy, patients are paying \$930 per script. The PBS listing means eligible patients will pay a maximum of \$25 per script, or \$7.70 with a concession card. Health Minister Mark Butler says this scheme must be modern in its approach to be able to offer the best care.

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## Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 01/02/2026, Georgie Tunny

Prostate cancer is the second most common cause of death from cancer in Australian men each year. Starting today, people with aggressive prostate cancer will now have access to cheaper drugs, with Andriga-10 listed on the PBS for the first time. Health Minister Mark Butler says the new drug is "a combination therapy that does all of the things that the different medicines to date have done."

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## Channel 7, Seven News (Weekend), 01/02/2026, Angela Cox & Mark

## Ferguson

Potentially life-saving treatment for aggressive prostate cancer is now more accessible for Australian men. A new combination therapy packing the power of multiple drugs has just been listed on the PBS. Health Minister Mark Butler says it is the most common cancer across the population, with about 30,000 new diagnoses every single year.

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## Sky News Live, Sunday Agenda, 01/02/2026, Andrew Clennell

Interview with Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler says there has been a good cooperation between governments to get the NDIS growth rate down to 8 per cent, and with the recent funding deal, both the Commonwealth and state governments have made a commitment to further reduce the growth rate to five to six per cent over the coming years. He claims that states agreeing to increase their NDIS contributions is crucial to make the scheme more sustainable.

*Interview continues on: [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#).*

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## 2SM, 17:00 News (Weekend), 01/02/2026

The Federal Government announced on Friday that it struck a hospital funding agreement with the states and territories, committing to pay an extra \$25 billion to fund public hospitals. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese says the states and territories will, in return, play a greater role in providing disability support services to reduce pressures on the NDIS. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler conceded that 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.

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## 2SM, 10:00 News (Weekend), 01/02/2026

Thousands of men with an aggressive form of prostate cancer will now be able to access new treatment at a fraction of the price on the PBS. Andriga-10 is a drug designed to provide support by battling metastatic cancer that is resistant to castration. Health Minister Mark Butler says until now, the cost of the medicine has been beyond the reach of many.

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## DEPARTMENT

### Woman hospitalised after Juniper prescribes weight-loss drugs her GP refused

ABC Online, Other, 01/02/2026, Shari Hams

A woman says she was hospitalised with an eating disorder after a medical telehealth provider approved weight-loss drugs her GP had refused. [...] The ABC contacted federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who responded in conjunction with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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### Call for access to improve quality of life for thyroid cancer survivors

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 02/02/2026, Nance Haxton

A TGA-approved drug that prevents kidney failure in thyroid cancer survivors remains inaccessible. [...] "Federal Health Minister Mark Butler could kindly request that feedback, prioritise it again and renegotiate the cost and then also look into some research, definitely logging stats in Australia, but also some awareness of the international research and what's happening there."

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Robots to replace Olympians in village

Australian Financial Review, General News, 02/02/2026, Brittney Levinson, Page 9

Investor Mark Carnegie has a plan to turn Brisbane's temporary Olympic athletes' village into a high-tech aged care facility where robots roam the halls.

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

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### 'Golden opportunity' lost as \$2bn vanishes from aged-care deal

The Australian, General News, 02/02/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 1

Anthony Albanese and state and territory leaders have missed a "golden opportunity" to address the aged-care crisis and hospital bed block after \$2bn in promised funding disappeared from a health deal struck last week. While the commonwealth's success in landing a five-year health agreement was welcomed by the health sector and lauded by premiers who had extracted an extra \$4bn, the peak body representing elderly Australians, Ageing Australia, condemned the outcome of national cabinet.

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

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### Mali's makeover for Magill

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 02/02/2026, Aden Hill, Page 10

One hundred residential homes will be built as part of the redevelopment of the Magill campus, but the government has committed to retaining green and open community space. The plan, unveiled by

Premier Peter Malinauskas and Housing Minister Nick Champion on Sunday, will see the current 11ha university campus, due to be home to Adelaide University's journalism school, redeveloped by Renewal SA as an aged care/retirement living facility.

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## Bain's Estia Health hires banks for \$700m-plus IPO; preps under way

Australian Financial Review, Other, 01/02/2026, Sarah Thompson, Kanika Sood & Emma Rapaport

Bain Capital has tapped three investment banks to lead a public listing for its aged care business Estia Health, betting it can mirror the blockbuster exit the global buyout firm orchestrated with Virgin Australia.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Agency staffers fired for sexual harassment

Canberra Times, General News, 02/02/2026, Eleanor Campbell, Page 2

Ten Services Australia staff were fired in 2025 for workplace sexual harassment after the agency disclosed more than 80 complaints of alleged employee misconduct. Data provided to the Australian Public Service Commission in the 2025 APS Survey shows Services Australia, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) recorded the highest number of complaints of workplace sexual harassment in the public service last year.

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### 'NDIS failed two very special boys'

West Australian, General News, 02/02/2026, Oliver Lane & Matt Zis, Page 1

Shattered carer says family let down by disability fund A support worker who cared for the teenage boys who died in a murder-suicide in Mosman Park has paid tribute to the brothers who she said captured her heart.

*Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).*

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### Chalmers' spending claim debunked by budget watchdog

Australian Financial Review, Other, 01/02/2026, John Kehoe

New figures from the independent budget watchdog show that higher government spending caused about two-thirds of the \$57 billion blow out in the deficit next decade, debunking claims by Treasurer Jim Chalmers that weaker tax revenue was mainly to blame.

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### 'Demand is high, supply is thin': Rural South Australia ranked among worst in nation for disability services access

Adelaide Now, Other, 01/02/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas

Regional and rural South Australians have less access to disability services, with their electorates ranked some of the worst in the country. [...] The CEO of Kismet, Mark Woodland said innovation is key to prevent intensive wait times on NDIS services.

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

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### NDIS workers are being stalked, harassed and assaulted while 'urgent' safety reforms take three years to enact

The Guardian, Other, 01/02/2026, Kate Lyons

In the years he has worked for the National Disability Insurance Agency, Lawrence (not his real name) has narrowly escaped violence on multiple occasions. He managed to avoid being beaten up at a hospital, was present when an angry NDIS participant threw a table through a glass window at a service centre, and witnessed another participant try to smash glass and run over staff in their power wheelchair.

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## Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 01/02/2026, Georgie Tunny

Funding for families with autistic children has come under scrutiny following the tragic deaths of two teenage boys in a double murder-suicide in Perth. It has been revealed that the children's NDIS funding has been recently cut. As the police investigation enters its third day, the autism community says it's crying out for better support.

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## Channel 9, Today on Sunday, 01/02/2026, Alison Piotrowski & Michael Atkinson

Friends of the family found dead inside a Perth home have revealed the children's NDIS had been recently cut. Disability advocate Samantha Connor says there is a huge number of people who have had NDIS funds cut over the last six months. Advocates are now calling for greater support for families with disabilities.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Pharmacists alert ACCC to Priceline sales unease

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 02/02/2026, Carrie Lafrenz, Page 17

The Pharmacy Guild, an influential lobby group representing thousands of independent pharmacies, will escalate concerns with the competition regulator about the sale and future ownership of a large network of Priceline pharmacies.

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### Extra \$700m for Tasmanian hospitals 'will not magically resolve' stressed system, AMA warns

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/02/2026, Sue Bailey

The Australian Medical Association says an extra \$700m for Tasmania's hospitals will not "magically" resolve a stressed system where demand has "significantly outpaced investment". And Council on the Ageing Tasmania warns hospital bottlenecks will not be solved if older people cannot access adequate care.

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

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Allan pilloried for a post as she plays 'dirty' on gender question

The Australian, General News, 02/02/2026, James Dowling, Page 7

Jacinta Allan has been criticised for using disputed transgender youth suicide statistics to avoid legitimate questions during a press conference about the treatment of gender dysphoric young people, and later citing footage of the exchange as her motivation to march in a pride rally. [...] Australia's National Mortality Database and National Hospital Morbidity Database do not include information on LGBTIQ+ status, meaning as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website currently notes,

"rates of suicide deaths and intentional self-harm hospitalisations cannot currently be nationally reported for LGBTIQ+ people".

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

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## Here's what to eat when taking Ozempic, Mounjaro and other GLP-1 medicines

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 02/02/2026, Susie Burrell, Page 29

In recent years, the weight-loss industry has been seriously disrupted by the arrival of a new range of medications: the semaglutides, or GLP-1 medications. Targeting appetite as well as glucose and fat metabolism, these drugs work on underlying issues driving disproportionate weight gain in those predisposed to developing glucose regulation issues and type 2 diabetes.

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

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## Women pay price of minding the gap

West Australian, Business News, 02/02/2026, Sarah Wells, Page 30

Welcome to the intriguing realm of women aged 40 and beyond in Australia, where the financial landscape is as complex as a fine wine pairing nuanced, layered, and occasionally overwhelming. In this post-gender wagegap era, strides towards equality have been made, yet many modern women still contend with a rather quirky phenomenon known as the female expense gap.

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## Australia's top doctors unite to combat dangerous social media health misinformation

7news.com.au, Other, 01/02/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Millions of Australians are turning to social media for medical advice, but what some of them are seeing is dangerously wrong. In an unprecedented move, Australia's top doctors have united to confront viral misinformation head on, issuing an urgent national warning about the health risks posed by fake medical content online.

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## A stronger focus on prevention could help governments rein in health care and social spending

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 02/02/2026, 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. It's advice the Productivity Commission thinks federal and state governments should also follow to improve Australia's finances and productivity.

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## Vaping can help disadvantaged Australians quit smoking. What now for clinical practice?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 02/02/2026, Ryan Courtney & Hayden McRobbie

Vaping has shown promise as an effective quit smoking aid in the general population, but prior to this clinical trial vaping's role in helping those experiencing socio-economic hardship to quit was unknown. Tobacco smoking is a leading cause of preventable morbidity and mortality in Australia with over 24,000 Australian's dying per year from attributable tobacco related disease (equating to 66 deaths per day).

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## Doctors warn on allergy risks in childcare

The Australian, General News, 02/02/2026, Natasha Bitá, Page 5

Pediatricians are demanding allergy training for all daycare workers, warning that children's lives are endangered by "unlawful and preventable risks". As growing numbers of children suffer life-threatening food allergies, the Australian Paediatric Society has called for all staff to be trained in anaphylaxis and diabetes management.

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

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## Cancer trial connected to disgraced scientist axed

Age, General News, 02/02/2026, Liam Mannix, Page 3

A human trial of a cancer drug based on research done by accused Australian scientific fraudster Mark Smyth has collapsed, confirming the fears of Smyth's collaborators that the drug did not work. The axing of the trial is likely to have cost sponsor GSK tens of millions of dollars, as well as wasting the time of participants with cancer.

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

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## Gestational diabetes hit big numbers in suburbs

Age, General News, 02/02/2026, Broede Carmody, Page 7

Gestational diabetes rates have skyrocketed in Melbourne's southeast within a short timeframe, putting more Victorian mothers and babies at risk of complications and piling additional pressure on the state's health system. A team of researchers from Monash University analysed data relating to more than 1.7 million women who gave birth between 2016 and 2021 for gestational diabetes, a condition where blood sugar level is elevated during pregnancy.

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## Worrying breast cancer rise

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 02/02/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 9

More than 1000 young women a year are now being diagnosed with breast cancer in Australia. The increase in cases of the deadly disease has prompted experts to call on women to get tested.

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

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## Keeping up the fight against cancer

Courier Mail, Editorials, 02/02/2026, Page 20

In this incredible age of medical advancement that we live in, it's easy to fall into the belief that things will always get better in the fight against our most deadly diseases. But while some diseases have been all but eradicated by vaccines, and treatment and outcomes for others had been greatly improved thanks to early detection and new medications and procedures, there are always new challenges, with some caused by community complacency and others by lifestyle changes that bring on unforeseen consequences.

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## Diagnostic blood test could bolster brain cancer survival rates

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 02/02/2026, Aaron Bunch, Page 5

A simple blood test could improve the lives of brain cancer patients and boost tragically low survival rates. Australian scientists have developed a diagnostic device that reads tiny biological particles in a patient's bloodstream to analyse how brain tumours are responding to medical treatment.

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## Change in drugs boosts survival

Years of dogged work is paying huge dividends in leukaemia research with a change of drugs resulting in a 100 per cent survival rate among a test group. The Australian collaboration including SA Health and Medical Research Institute and Adelaide University researchers swapped one of the most intensive chemotherapy rounds with a targeted immunotherapy drug for patients with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

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## **‘Gut feeling’ led 24yo to discover stage 4 cancer**

NEWS.com.au, Other, 01/02/2026, Naomi Kaplan

A young Australian woman has shared the 10 warning signs she missed before being diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, in the hopes her story will encourage others to take changes in their body seriously. [...] More common warning signs of lymphoma, according to the Cancer Council , can include swollen lymph nodes, unexplained weight loss, night sweats, persistent fatigue, fevers and loss of appetite.

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## **Shellharbour workers prioritized as free lung screening clinic rolls into town**

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 01/02/2026, Glen Humphries

A special bus capable of detecting dust diseases like asbestosis, silicosis and mesothelioma will pull in at Shellharbour on Monday. The NSW government-funded Lung Bus is a mobile screening service that provides free lung screening checks to aid the early detection of these diseases

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## **Thunderstorm asthma: causes, risks, and mitigation**

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 02/02/2026, Constance H Katelaris

As climate change drives increased aeroallergen prevalence and more extreme weather, incidence of thunderstorm asthma could become more frequent and unpredictable. On November 21, 2016, Melbourne experienced the largest and deadliest episode of thunderstorm asthma recorded to date.

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# **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

## **Therapy law deadline late**

The Australian, General News, 02/02/2026, Rachel Baxendale, Page 1

The Victorian government has missed its legislated deadline to commission an independent review of a controversial conversion therapy law by almost two years, despite widespread concern it is having a chilling effect on the willingness of medical professionals to treat vulnerable children who may be questioning their gender. The Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act took effect on February 17, 2022, despite the AMA and RANZCP expressing concern health professionals could be jailed for giving advice that led to a patient choosing not to undergo permanent medical procedures to transition gender.

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

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# **IMMUNISATION**

## **State on high alert over exposure to measles**

The Australian, General News, 02/02/2026, Ria Pandey, Page 2

Thousands of Victorians are at risk of catching measles, as the state's health authority issues an

updated list of exposure sites that includes hospitals, airports and shopping centres. At the weekend, Victoria's health department confirmed two new cases of measles had been detected, bringing the state's total to four confirmed cases in the first month of 2026.

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

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## Influenza and whooping cough vaccines safe in twin pregnancies

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 01/02/2026, Natalie Dragon

Women who receive the influenza or whooping cough vaccine during a twin pregnancy are not at higher risk of birth complications, new research shows. The University of Queensland study, which showed 72% of women pregnant with twins were unvaccinated against influenza and whooping cough, has found the vaccines are safe and do not increase the risk of preterm birth, stillbirth or small-for-gestational-age infants.

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## Syphilis cases continue to climb as NT Health says \$20m needed to 'turn the tide'

Northern Territory News, Other, 01/02/2026, Lottie Hood

Nearly a year after a specialised team was jump-started to tackle a syphilis outbreak, NT Health said numbers remained high and an additional \$20 million in federal funds might be needed to turn the tide. The spreading of a sexually transmissible infection, syphilis, is sadly not a new problem in the Territory.

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

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 01/02/2026, Georgie Tunny

New research has shown that 60 minutes of skin-to-skin contact, known as kangaroo care, can have health benefits for babies suffering from birth asphyxia. A study of 13 full-term babies born with severe birth asphyxia found that kangaroo care made a significant difference, with results showing that infants had 20 per cent better heart function and blood flow and 8 per cent better brain oxygen delivery. Close to a million babies die each year due to asphyxia.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Diagnosing and managing bleeding disorders in regional and remote Australia

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 02/02/2026, Kirollos Kamel & Joel Wight

Patients in regional and remote Australia face major barriers to bleeding disorder diagnosis and management due to limited expertise, transport delays, and lack of specialised testing. These challenges disproportionately affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Intensive care unit shut

Newcastle Herald, General News, 02/02/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

Most of the intensive care unit and rooms in three wards at a major Hunter hospital were shut at the weekend for "deep cleaning" of mould that could harm patients. The Calvary Mater Newcastle had to transfer two stable patients from the ICU to wards for "clinical cleaning in ICU", an email to staff at 8pm on Friday said.

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### Minns government moves on Mater

Newcastle Herald, General News, 02/02/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

Cladding remediation work is set to begin at the Calvary Mater Newcastle to stop water leaking into the hospital, the Minns government says. The leaks, which have been happening for years, contributed to a mould crisis that has shut wards, forced cancer patients to be moved and distressed staff.

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### Sky News Live, Sunday Agenda, 01/02/2026, Andrew Clennell

Interview with Liberal Deputy Senate Leader Anne Ruston. Ruston says the health funding deal between the Commonwealth and the states is a good outcome as it provides some certainty for Australians who rely on the hospital system in the country. She criticises the Federal Government for bed shortage in public hospitals due to aged care failures.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### RHH: time to operate

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02/02/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 1

Doctors and nurses are renewing calls for a new Royal Hobart Hospital to be built on a greenfield site by 2035 but the government says it has already spent \$520m on upgrades. The Australian Medical Association and Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation say, while costly, a new RHH is vital for the health needs of Tasmanians.

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### Hospital safety fears after assault

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 02/02/2026, Amelie Blanc, Page 1

Police are investigating a violent attempted robbery in Geelong that has reignited concerns about the safety of hospital workers travelling to and from early and late shifts. [...] Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation secretary Maddy Harradence said union members had raised "significant safety concerns" involving carparking and security, and were "aware of incidents of nurses being assaulted and threatened".

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

## Strikes loom as pay deal rejected

Herald Sun, General News, 02/02/2026, Shannon Deery, Page 6

Victoria's public healthcare system faces the threat of increased industrial action in a major escalation of a bitter pay dispute with the government. The move would wreak havoc across the already embattled public health system, which is battling bed closures and cleaning bans.

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## Wage fights flare for Allan

Herald Sun, Editorials, 02/02/2026, Page 22

The Allan government is facing wage disputes on two major fronts health and education. [...] Today, the Herald Sun reports on the situation in public hospitals where the Health Services Union is incensed at a lack of progress, or palatable counteroffers, in a long-running pay dispute for ancillary workers.

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## SA Health under fire

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 02/02/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 17

The Public Service Association has given SA Health more time to respond to extraordinary claims of bullying and work overload which it claims has led to suicide attempts and mass staff resignations. PSA officials served Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) officials with a bombshell letter of complaint alleging half the PSA members had quit in the past six months and multiple had tried to take their own lives as a result of work pressure and they had been ignored by management.

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## Under Russian bombardment, this Ukrainian children's hospital got an Australian lifeline

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 01/02/2026, David Crowe

Olga Pavliieva smiles when she talks about her son, Yehor, in the bare corridors of a Lviv hospital on a recent winter evening. [...] Fortunately, and thanks in part to Australian aid funding, there was a medical centre with the expertise and equipment to help.

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## Why estate and succession planning matter for medical professionals

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 02/02/2026, Sarah Kabiri

As a medical practitioner, you pride yourself on being meticulous, analytical, and aware of risks vs outcomes. Qualities that define your profession. Yet without an estate plan, everything you've built remains vulnerable.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 01/02/2026, Fauziah Ibrahim & Johanna Nicholson

Doctors have again raised concerns about the prescription of weight loss drugs by telehealth clinics after a woman was hospitalised with an eating disorder. The Federal Government insists it has not seen a rise in eating disorders related to weight loss drugs, but it is aware of a handful of cases. GPs are now calling for greater government scrutiny of telehealth medical services.

Also reported by: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Laneway Festival 2026: Pill testing to be rolled out at Australia's biggest festival

7news.com.au, Other, 01/02/2026, Lauren Thomson

Australia's biggest festival will introduce pill testing for the first time, with Laneway Festival confirmed as the next event to join the NSW Government's drug-checking trial. The Sydney leg — returning to Centennial Park on Sunday, February 8 — will be the 11th festival to take part.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Charter uses new name for Dubai clinic

Age, General News, 02/02/2026, Chris Vedelago, Page 3

The underworld figure and biochemist at the centre of the Essendon supplements scandal has opened a specialist anti-ageing clinic in Dubai under an assumed name. [...] In 2020, Charter was hit with fines by the Therapeutic Goods Administration over a fake "breakthrough" COVID-19 treatment he was offering.

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

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