



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 28th February 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 1) reports that documents obtained by the NSW Opposition relating to fungal infections at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital reveal extensive maintenance issues including mould, damp and pests across several NSW Health facilities. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Guardian Australia](#), [7NEWS.com.au](#), [Yahoo! News](#)*
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 1) reports staff at Lyell McEwen Hospital told WorkSafe SA that clinicians are so overworked they mix up which patients they are treating.
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 1) reports ACT's independent health system inquiry found staff are dissatisfied with workplace culture and hesitate to raise concerns about patient care.
- The [West Australian](#) (page 1) reports that St John of God Midland Public Hospital has released a suite of recommendations after reviewing the case of a woman who gave birth in the back of her car after being turned away.
- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 3) reports that incoming Royal Australasian College of Physicians president Sharmila Chandran has dropped her Fair Work bullying claim against sitting president Jennifer Martin.
- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 3) reports that the parents of a teenager with profound autism say families like theirs are stressed and neglected by the NDIS. *Also reported by: [Weekend](#)*

- The [Saturday Age](#) (page 5) reports that police and firefighters have backed the Victorian Ambulance Union's call for an urgent review of laws intended to protect first responders.
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 9) reports that SA Premier Peter Malinauskas has pledged to fund the training of 100 more GPs to diagnose and treat ADHD if Labor is re-elected to state government.

MINISTER BUTLER

Chalmers' CEO tax carrot

Weekend Australian, General News, 28/02/2026, Greg Brown, Page 1

Labor is laying the groundwork for "affordable" corporate tax reform in the May budget, with Jim Chalmers consulting business leaders on a model that would encourage productivity-enhancing investment without resorting to an expensive cut to the headline rate. [...] The biggest saving in the budget is likely to come from updated projections of NDIS spending based on Health Minister Mark Butler's goal to limit annual growth of the scheme to 5 to 6 per cent, with the government facing pressure to find further structural savings.

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

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Thinking safety by appointment

Central Western Daily, General News, 28/02/2026, Jenna Price, Page 62

The woman who has been studying our medical regulator for decades just shocked me to my core. [...] Maybe Mark Butler needs to enforce a total overhaul of what is communicated to patients about individual practitioners because we sure as hell won't get any information from private hospitals who will protect their cash cows at all costs – even if that cost is the happiness and safety of patients.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), and syndicated widely online

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Generational shift for nurse prescribing one step closer

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/02/2026, Cate Swannell

Nursing peak bodies are delighted with the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs decision to recommend the passage of the Health Legislation Amendment (Prescribing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Bill 2025, with one describing it has a "the most significant recognition of nursing's role in Australia's health system in a generation". [...] Nurses are already studying to become RN prescribers, even though the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and federal health minister Mark Butler are yet to provide details about which medications designated RN prescribers will be allowed to prescribe.

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Leaders gather to address critical workforce shortage

WEB InDaily SA, Other, 27/02/2026, Rory Dowdell

[...] Data from a Department of Health and Aged Care study shows that Australia is facing a projected nursing shortfall of more than 70,000 full-time equivalent nurses by 2035, as the state's aging population is expected to continue to increase. [...] Damning statistics from Federal Health Minister Mark Butler this month identified a need for new aged care facilities to be built every three days for the next 20 years to keep up with the demand for services.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

ABC Pilbara, Statewide Drive, 27/02/2026, Andrew Collins

Interview with Fly2Health founder and CEO Kennedy Lay. Collins says fly-in fly-out allied health workers will be available to NDIS participants in five regions of WA under an expansion of a pilot program, which will be run by Fly2Health. He plays an excerpt from NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister speaking from Northam. Lay says Perth is the only tertiary centre in the state, and a lot of people living with disability are struggling to get the access that they need to allied health and other services.

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MINISTER RAE

FIVEAA, Mornings, 27/02/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie. Sharkie says that significant fee increases for in-home aged care are eroding the purchasing power of older Australians in terms of care packages. She says that since the Support at Home program replaced Home Care Packages on 1 November 2025, some providers have reportedly increased hourly rates for personal care and domestic assistance by up to 80%, with government-mandated price caps not scheduled to take effect until 1 July 2026. She says that she has been pleading with Aged Care Minister Sam Rae to cap the fees.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Construction starts on \$3.8 million health centre upgrade

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/02/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 22

Stage two of works to a rural health centre will include an additional eight-bed capacity and an additional consultation room. The state and federal governments announced the next stage of construction on the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre in Oatlands will begin the week of February 24. [...] Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White said the project was a result of 35 years of community support.

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Mental health in focus at the mill

New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News, General News, 27/02/2026, Damian Bester, Page 5

The Australian Government's special envoy for men's health was hosted in the Lyons electorate this week by the federal member and assistant minister for health and aged care, Rebecca White MHR. Ms White hosted the envoy, fellow federal MP Dan Repacholi, on visits to New Norfolk, Ross and Oatlands as part of ongoing national work to improve the health and wellbeing of Australian men and boys.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Mental health in focus at the mill

New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News, General News, 27/02/2026, Damian Bester, Page 5

The Australian Government's special envoy for men's health was hosted in the Lyons electorate this week by the federal member and assistant minister for health and aged care, Rebecca White MHR. Ms White hosted the envoy, fellow federal MP Dan Repacholi, on visits to New Norfolk, Ross and Oatlands as part of ongoing national work to improve the health and wellbeing of Australian men and boys.

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DEPARTMENT

Testosterone saved Claire's sex life, but women still pay more for it than men

The Saturday Age, General News, 28/02/2026, Wendy Tuohy, Page 30

There was no issue with the sex life in Claire Atkins' long marriage until a few years after she went into early menopause, aged 46. [...] A Health Department spokesman said the committee "acknowledged the impact of hypoactive sexual desire dysfunction on postmenopausal women" but had concerns over the strength of clinical evidence, safety risks if misused, and whether the proposed price offered value for money.

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

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'They don't work': Subsidies to be slashed for expensive spinal implants linked to severe injuries

The Age, Other, 27/02/2026, Liam Mannix

Private health insurance rebates for spinal cord stimulators are set to go under the knife after the federal Health Department found there was not enough evidence to support use of the expensive, controversial devices. The proposed changes would cut the subsidy by up to \$6182 for the devices, and by \$6450 for the electrical leads that wire them into the spine.

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

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Accessible health care arrives in Newman

Pilbara News, Other, 27/02/2026, Phoebe Solon

Heart of Australia, a mobile specialist healthcare provider, launched its first mobile lung cancer screening clinic, HEART7, in Newman earlier this month at Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service, marking a significant step forward in accessible health care for regional WA. [...] Heart of Australian Pilbara mobile clinic opening official ribbon cutting, (L-R) Perdi Mitchell, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Senator Glenn Sterle, Senator for WA, Dr Rolf Gomes, Founder and Cardiologist at Heart of Australia and Robby Chibawe, CEO of Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Services.

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Leaders gather to address critical workforce shortage

WEB InDaily SA, Other, 27/02/2026, Rory Dowdell

[...] Data from a Department of Health and Aged Care study shows that Australia is facing a projected nursing shortfall of more than 70,000 full-time equivalent nurses by 2035, as the state's aging population is expected to continue to increase. [...] Damning statistics from Federal Health Minister Mark Butler this month identified a need for new aged care facilities to be built every three days for the next 20 years to keep up with the demand for services.

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Best Practice for sale to the right buyer, but who would that be?

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/02/2026, Jeremy Knibbs

Twelve years ago, I was serving out a one-year non-compete on my previous job – I'd been fired, but I still had a non-compete ... that's private equity for you. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has been unusually – for a government department – creative and forward-leaning in this trend and has to be given a fair bit of credit for what movement we are seeing.

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

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Public consultation about restricting infant formula marketing in Australia

FoodProcessing, Other, 27/02/2026

In October 2024, the Australian Government announced its intention to develop mandatory controls to restrict the marketing of infant formula in Australia. [...] The Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (Department) is now seeking public views on options to mandate infant formula marketing controls in Australia — the scope of the future legislation, as well as information and data to inform the Impact Analysis, through a public consultation on the Department's consultation hub.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Keep your GP, live longer

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 28/02/2026, Page 15

People living in residential aged care who continue seeing their regular GP are less likely to end up in hospital or die early. South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute research, the first of its kind, found only 17 per cent of residents could stay with their usual GP after entering care.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Warning after autism family tragedy

Weekend Australian, General News, 28/02/2026, Ros Thomas, Page 3

The parents of a profoundly autistic child have warned that "more families will blow up" if the NDIS does not better support parents of children with high needs. Laura Clarke, 52, and Simon Lewis, 49, whose youngest daughter Maddie, 16, has severe autism, told The Australian Weekend Magazine they had not seen an NDIS case worker in five years, "not since the day she entered the system".

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

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Maddie is loved. Her parents are near breaking point.

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 28/02/2026, Ros Thomas, Page 1

It's 7am and Maddie Lewis, 16, is eating cereal in self-absorbed delight. Ignoring my arrival, she doesn't look up when I sit beside her at the kitchen table.

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

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AI was meant to lift productivity. It increased fraud

AFR Weekend, Editorials, 28/02/2026, Page 38

A century ago, economist John Maynard Keynes prophesied that technological progress would reduce work weeks to 15 hours and unleash a surplus of leisure time. His thesis was proven spectacularly wrong.

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NDIS ought to look in mirror

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 28/02/2026, Jo Russell, Page 13

This week's column is a review of National Disability Insurance Scheme ethics. Participants are scrutinised about every penny spent on them but recent revelations in the media suggest the system has accountability issues.

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Gold Coast couple accused of breaching freezing orders a second time amid alleged NDIS fraud investigation

ABC Online, Other, 27/02/2026, Jess Longbottom

The wife of a Gold Coast businessman who's alleged to have squandered tens of millions of dollars of investor funds meant for disability housing has been accused of still living the high life despite freezing orders. It's the second time David McWilliams and his wife have been accused of breaching freezing orders, which preserve the assets of a person accused of wrongdoing while legal proceedings play out.

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PRIMARY CARE

Labor to lift GPs in ADHD training

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/02/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 9

Labor has pledged to train another 100 GPs to diagnose and treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), saving families thousands of dollars and potentially years of waiting. It will double to 200 the number of GPs across the state who can make a diagnosis.

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RN prescribing closer as Senate Committee endorses PBS reform

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 27/02/2026, Natalie Dragon

The Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee has recommended the passage of the Health Legislation Amendment (Prescribing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Bill 2025. The Bill formally recognises authorised nurse prescribers as a new category of PBS prescriber.

Similar coverage: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 27/02/2026, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter

Interview with Tasmanian community pharmacist Dr Shane Jackson. Jackson calls for the removal of arbitrary caps on the Home Medicines Review program to address the estimated 250,000 medication-related hospital admissions in Australia each year. He says credentialed pharmacists are restricted to 30 reviews per month, despite the high demand for optimising complex medication regimes.

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POPULATION HEALTH

My diagnosis is tough, my focus tight

The Saturday Age, General News, 28/02/2026, Tim Read MP, Page 45

I was about to pull on my suit for parliament one morning in October when I noticed my left leg looked puffy and swollen. [...] So, you can imagine how I felt sitting in a hospital chair a few weeks later a

former GP and medical researcher, current Greens MP and member of the VicHealth board having \$25,000 worth of medicine pumped into my veins to treat an aggressive and largely preventable disease, while the Allan Labor government announced it will close VicHealth, our only health promotion agency.

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Traffic study makes noise

Herald Sun, General News, 28/02/2026, Page 25

A single night of road traffic noise can have measurable health impacts and stress the heart and blood vessels. Johannes Gutenberg University findings could help explain why people exposed to long-term traffic noise have higher rates of high blood pressure and heart disease.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [The West Australian \(Perth\)](#).

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'Putting the sexy back in sex': What's the solution to rising youth STIs?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/02/2026, Lauren Ironmonger

For all the talk about Gen Z and celibacy, there's not much attention given to the many young people who actually are having sex. Research suggests STI rates are rising among younger cohorts (although they are also climbing among midlife and older adults), and that safe sex practices like using condoms, regular testing and contraception, may be declining.

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Crash leaves 88-year-old scooter rider dead—what every road user needs to know

Your Life Choices, Other, 27/02/2026, Lexanne Garcia

A tragic incident in Adelaide's north has once again highlighted the vulnerability of older Australians on our roads. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the number of older Australians is set to double over the next 25 years.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

My life on the clock and its deadline I never met

Herald Sun, General News, 28/02/2026, Fiona Byrne, Page 30

Former Neighbours great Ian Smith is preparing to mark an extraordinary milestone having defied incredible odds. [...] Front of his mind, however, is the National Lung Cancer Screening Program and the It's Good To Know awareness campaign.

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Urgent investment needed to reduce lung cancer deaths

Medical Forum, Other, 27/02/2026

Urgent investment to fix critical care gaps is needed if the National Lung Cancer Screening Program is to reach its full potential. Research from Curtin University, published in the Medical Journal of Australia, warned screening alone would not be enough to reduce lung cancer deaths without stronger clinical infrastructure and workforce support.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 27/02/2026, Ross Solly

Interview with ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith about the report that the ACT's voluntary assisted dying scheme has helped 14 people end their lives and found another 43 eligible.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Another escape at 'ward of horrors'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/02/2026, Linda Silmalis, Page 11

A fourth mental health patient was escaping from Cumberland Hospital as the Minns government was finalising its plans for a team of independent experts to take control of the psychiatric facility. The Saturday Telegraph can reveal the 30-year-old Intensive Care Unit (ICU) patient absconded on Tuesday, the day before the government seized control of the hospital.

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Instagram's self-harm alerts

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 28/02/2026, Page 11

Instagram will introduce new parental alerts designed to support families if their teenage children are at risk of struggling with suicidal or self-harm-related thoughts. Parents using Instagram's supervision tools will receive a notification if their teen repeatedly searches for suicide or self-harm-related terms.

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Are you OK?

Weekend Post, General News, 28/02/2026, Editorial, Page 46

The case of a man who harmed himself in the emergency department of Cairns Hospital this week is another sad reminder of the challenges faced by frontline workers.

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IMMUNISATION

Wider pharmacist vaccination: 'Just make it happen'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/02/2026, Megan Haggan

As more cases of measles appear around the country, one group of pharmacists is urging change to increase uptake of NIP vaccines.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Nectar of the bods: how birds stay fit

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/02/2026, Page 9

If we ate sugar like rainbow lorikeets, honeyeaters, and sunbirds do, we'd risk diabetes, but somehow these Aussie birds have evolved to thrive on fruit and nectar. Now research involving the University of Wollongong has found the genes that help them do it.

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

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Federal Court orders South West Aboriginal Medical Service board be dismissed, new election at AGM

ABC Online, Other, 27/02/2026, Georgia Loney and Madigan Landry

The entire board of one of Western Australia's largest Aboriginal community health services has been dismissed after the Federal Court found it used "oppressive conduct" and factional control to unfairly expel members and a director. The Federal Court released its final orders late on Thursday with Judge Craig Colvin saying all member positions of the South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS) board be vacated.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Enough to make you sick

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/02/2026, James O'Doherty, Page 1

NSW Health facilities are plagued by widespread mould, pet infestations and even mice in staff toasters, a trove of government documents reveals. The full extent of the cleaning and maintenance catastrophes in NSW hospitals can be revealed after a fungal outbreak caused the deaths of two people at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital last year.

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State's health system is toast

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/02/2026, Linda Silmalis, Page 10

If a sick canary is a sign of hazards in a coalmine, then the equivalent surely must be a mouse in a hospital toaster. The discovery of the rodent in a staffroom at a regional hospital is one of the lesser horrors that are documented in hundreds of Health Department documents that have been tabled in state parliament.

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Health system problems are mounting up

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 28/02/2026, Page 72

At its best, NSW has a world-class hospital system. NSW citizens deserve nothing less. And yet time and again we have seen how easily disaster can strike when complacency sets in, problems are left unchecked and world's-best standards are failed to be upheld.

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Mould found in hospital after fungal infections

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/02/2026, Angus Thomson and Michael Ruffles, Page 10

Confidential testing triggered by a deadly cluster of fungal infections on a Sydney transplant ward found mould and water damage on at least four floors of the hospital, as new documents reveal mould growing in at least five other major health facilities across the state. Two people died and another four became seriously ill in a cluster of fungal infections among patients at the Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) transplant unit in Camperdown between October and December, the Herald revealed on Thursday.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), Similar coverage: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Mould fears emerge at another hospital

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/02/2026, Jamieson Murphy, Page 5

Paediatricians have raised concerns about "significant mould growth" at the John Hunter Children's Hospital, and the potential impact on "vulnerable children" attending respiratory clinics. The Coalition has accused NSW Health Minister Ryan Park of ignoring issues at the Calvary Mater Newcastle for three years, despite the warnings of a confidential briefing, and the Minns government of a "cover-up culture" following revelations of mould deaths in a Sydney hospital.

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Hospital warning ignored

Newcastle Herald, General News, 27/02/2026, Jamieson Murphy, Page 1

Two days before the 2023 election, a confidential briefing was sent to warn the incoming government of a "future major incident" at the Calvary Mater Newcastle due to the "pattern of consistent problems" by its private operator. The briefing was backed by an independent report detailing a long history of "major non-compliance incidents" by Honeywell, the company responsible for the hospital's maintenance under its public-private partnership, and ended with a plea for government intervention.

Editorial: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#).

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Overworked docs 'mix up' patients

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/02/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 1

Clinicians at Lyell McEwin Hospital are so overloaded they get "mixed up" about who they are treating, a workplace safety report alleges. The assessment was sent to SafeWork SA with claims of five breaches of safe conditions denied by officials.

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A culture of silence

Canberra Times, General News, 28/02/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 1

Staff working in Canberra's health system are afraid to escalate patient safety concerns, and some have left because they are worried about the quality of care, a progress report says. The progress report from the independent inquiry into ACT health system data, demand and processes was tabled on Thursday.

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

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Freeway baby forces changes

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 28/02/2026, Caleb Runciman, Page 1

A hospital investigation has called for all birthing mothers to receive ambulance transfers and an additional examination in a maternity bypass scenario after a heavily pregnant Perth mum was forced to give birth in the back of her car on Kwinana Freeway. St John of God Midland Public Hospital has released its Severity Assessment Code 1 (SAC1) report to the young couple after their traumatic experience on November 13 last year.

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State must act on freeway baby findings

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Editorials, 28/02/2026, Page 118

The birth of a child is a special moment. It can also be a stressful time. But those stresses can be lessened if the birth takes place in a calm and comfortable environment – not in the back of a car on the side of Kwinana Freeway.

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Police, firefighters join call for review of assault loophole

The Saturday Age, General News, 28/02/2026, Rachel Eddie and Grant McArthur, Page 5

Police and firefighters' unions have joined calls for an urgent review of mandatory sentences for

assaulting emergency service workers, after a paramedic was hospitalised but fell through gaps in the law because she was not treating a patient at the time she was attacked. Premier Jacinta Allan conceded that further reform could be needed and that the outcome in this case, revealed by The Age on Thursday, was concerning.

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

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MP says pigheadedness is blocking new Border hospital as she backs Milthorpe

The Border Mail, Other, 27/02/2026, Anthony Bunn

Indi MP Helen Haines has accused the NSW and Victorian governments of "dogged pigheadedness" as she claimed it was not too late for a new Albury-Wodonga hospital to be built. The independent politician was speaking after Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, on a recent Albury visit, dismissed the possibility of his government investing in the building of a new Border hospital.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

'Disappointing': doctor drops FWC action

Weekend Australian, General News, 28/02/2026, Penny Timms, Page 3

The incoming president of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians has abandoned her Fair Work complaint against the college's sitting president in a move she has described as "disappointing". Melbourne-based renal physician Sharmila Chandran had been seeking an "urgent" Stop Bullying order through Fair Work since May last year.

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

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New nurses to boost city's healthcare

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 28/02/2026, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 7

More than 170 new nurses and midwives are set to bolster clinical units across Gold Coast Health facilities this month. Executive director of nursing, midwifery and patient experience Matthew Lunn said the latest workforce addition would boost the public sector's capacity to provide care as the city continued to grow.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Government outsourcer DXC faces industrial action over zombie deals

The Mandarin, Other, 27/02/2026, Julian Bajkowski

Federal government technology outsourcing behemoth DXC Technology is facing the prospect of staff working on Commonwealth government projects and worksites taking industrial action against it over the company's stand on its so-called "zombie" workplace agreement and the stalling of bargaining talks. [...] The biggest contracts DXC has won over the past decade include the Department of Defence, the Australian Signals Directorate, the Australian Digital Health Agency, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Geoscience Australia, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Services Australia, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, and the Australian Taxation Office.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Stacey spent eight hours a day looking in the mirror. Now her condition is trending on TikTok

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/02/2026, Courtney Thompson

It was a friend who first mentioned the disorder to Stacey Anderson. "We worked together, and she noticed I went to the bathroom a lot," Anderson, now 41, says. [...] In July 2023, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the Medical Board of Australia made it a requirement for cosmetic surgeons to use a validated psychological screening tool to assess patients for BDD and suitability for treatment.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

NT gas giant Inpex cleared of excess emissions, but questions remain whether they broke the law

Northern Territory News, Other, 27/02/2026, Camden Smith

The NT's environmental watchdog has criticised Japanese gas giant Inpex's emissions reporting processes, but largely cleared the company of endangering human health. A review into the impacts of emissions from Inpex's Darwin plant found benzene and toluene emission levels were too low to cause serious harm, but said Inpex wasn't totally off the hook, with the EPA warning its investigation into potential breaches of environmental laws was ongoing.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Wound gel recall

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/02/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has confirmed that 16 batches of Comvita Medihoney Antibacterial Wound Gel, over concerns that packaging may not be sealed properly. The regulator warned the issue could "make the product non-sterile or cause it to leak".

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Zimstat SSSI extended

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/02/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced the extension of the Serious Scarcity

Substitution Instrument (SSSI) for Zimstat (simvastatin) 5 mg tablets, to 31 May 2026. The decision came after Alphapharm told the regulator that the shortage of the 5 mg tablets is expected to continue until the end of April.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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