



# TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 8th March 2026

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sun Herald](#) (page 5) reports that teachers and clinicians are observing disordered eating and distorted body image in increasing numbers of primary school children.
- The [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#) (page 6) reports that of the 1968 Australians currently on organ transplant waitlists, 1545 are waiting for a kidney. *Also reported by:* [Sunday Telegraph](#), [Sunday Herald Sun](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide](#), [Sunday Tasmanian](#), [Sunday Territorian](#)
- The [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#) (page 7) reports that SA Health Minister Chris Picton intends to push other states to add organ donor registration to driver's licence applications at the next national health ministers' meeting in May. *Also reported by:* [Sunday Territorian](#)
- The [Sunday Herald Sun](#) (page 8) reports that a survey of Australian women's health concerns found the biggest were domestic violence, barriers to affordable care, and recognition of women's mental health needs. *Also reported by:* [Sunday Telegraph](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide](#), [Sunday Tasmanian](#), [Sunday Times](#)
- The [Sunday Mail Adelaide](#) (page 8) reports that SA's Liberal opposition has pledged to double the number of beds at Helen Mayo House, where new mothers can receive mental health care without leaving their babies.

- The [Sunday Territorian](#) (page 10) reports that since the end of February there have been no private obstetricians practising in Darwin.

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## MINISTER BUTLER

### **Fight for our sight, doctor urges**

Subiaco Post, General News, 07/03/2026, Jen Rewell, Page 11

The eyesight of 2500 people in WA, and the future of the Lions Eye Institute in Nedlands, will be at risk if the Federal Government goes ahead with a proposed Medicare change, according to a local doctor. [...] Dr Glen Power, from the Lions Eye Institute in Nedlands, said he is asking patients to write to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to "fight for sight of Australians".

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### **Government commits \$115m to boost aged care beds in key hotspots**

Inside Ageing, Other, 07/03/2026, Amy Clarke

The Australian Government has announced an additional \$115 million investment to rapidly expand residential aged care capacity in four areas experiencing high demand. [...] Mark Butler, Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing, said the funding formed part of the government's broader effort to increase aged care capacity.

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## DEPARTMENT

### **Billion-dollar suicide strategy failing, audit finds**

dubbophotonews.com.au, Other, 07/03/2026, Abe Maddison

Government spending of almost \$1 billion on suicide prevention is failing to achieve its objectives and the outcomes are not being monitored. The Australian National Audit Office has released findings critical of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's development and monitoring of suicide prevention measures.

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### **CISO for Department of Health and Aged Care retires**

WEB Cyber Daily, Other, 07/03/2026, Daniel Croft

The chief information security officer (CISO) for the federal Department of Health and Aged Care, David Lang, has announced his retirement. Following a 32-year stint in public service, Lang has announced his retirement.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### **Sponsor axed over fraud link**

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 08/03/2026, Seb Costello, Page 18

A major business lobby group has ended an agreement with an office supplies company linked to shadowy Geelong Football Club sponsor and Crown VIP Sy Giang Nguyen. The Geelong Chamber of Commerce has cancelled a networking function later this month that was to be sponsored by Ryrie Office Machines (ROM), which is at the centre of an alleged \$14.5m NDIS fraud involving Mr Nguyen.

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

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## PRIMARY CARE

### **Regional WA allied health facility that began with one child gets \$3.1m upgrade**

ABC Online, Other, 07/03/2026, Jarrod Lucas

Ben and Candice Klemasz agree their daughter is one of the early success stories of a West Australian regional health service that began in a rundown house and which has just received a \$3.1-million upgrade. The Perth couple's daughter Sienna received an autism diagnosis at age three and was non-verbal when she started kindergarten in the mining hub of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 600 kilometres east of Perth.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### One size does not fit all on health

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 08/03/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 8

The biggest health concern for Australian women and girls is domestic violence, a landmark study has found. [...] The spokesman said the National Women's Health Strategy recognised that women's health had historically been under-researched and committed to strengthening research capacity and addressing evidence gaps.

Also reported by: [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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

### Female health is left behind

Sunday Times, General News, 08/03/2026, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 17

Health and social issues impacting Australian women and girls are being overlooked, underfunded and misunderstood, according to a major new study. Described as the most comprehensive investigation into the issues impacting Australian females, the report detailed "silent" issues including endometriosis, menopause, depression, violence and cardiovascular disease.

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### The health benefits of fibre too many of us ignore, from immunity to mood

The Australian, Other, 07/03/2026, Rosamund Dean

If 2024 was all about the gut microbiome and 2025 was the year we prioritised protein, then the nutrition trend of 2026 is fibre. [...] In Australia about 95 per cent of people aren't meeting the recommended intake of fruit and vegetables, the primary source of fibre, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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### 'I lost my pride': two women's plea for tiny home villages to be legal

The Senior, Other, 07/03/2026, Lisa Edser

Two vulnerable women want to know why all levels of government are not doing enough to help women over the age of 50 find secure housing by allowing tiny homes to be a long-term solution or build more affordable rental units. [...] Of the people who contacted the government's Specialist Homelessness Services, about 17,000 were women aged 55 and older between 2024 - 2025, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### 'I didn't see myself as a man any more': The silent rise of this rare and stigmatised cancer

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 07/03/2026, Henrietta Cook

By the time Wayne Earle received a diagnosis of penile cancer, he had only one option for survival. His doctor told him needed a penectomy – surgery to remove his penis.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

## Eight-year-olds found taping stomachs flat

Sun Herald, General News, 08/03/2026, Emily Kowal, Page 5

Helen Bird knew eating disorders in Australia had changed when a primary school approached her for advice. "They had had some eight-year-olds coming to school with gaffer tape on their tummies because they wanted their tummies to be flat," the head of prevention at eating disorder charity the Butterfly Foundation said.

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## Libs' pledge for new mothers

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 08/03/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 8

A Liberal government would double the number of beds in Helen Mayo House to 12 for new mothers experiencing mental health crises, in a \$20m commitment. Helen Mayo House at Glenside is South Australia's only inpatient mental health service where mothers can receive treatment while staying with their babies, but demand continues to outstrip capacity and waiting times can stretch for months.

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## IMMUNISATION

### Vax rollout with measles on the rise

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 07/03/2026, Lochlainn Heley

The Mallee community is being urged to get on top of their measles vaccinations as the risk for the infectious disease increases. Thousands of free vaccinations have been procured for the State's public health units to ensure more people can be protected from the disease.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Crisis: no kidney around

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 08/03/2026, Isabella Pesch and Kristy Symonds, Page 6

More than three-quarters of Australians on the waitlist for an organ transplant need a kidney donation as more than 2.7 million people battle the disease behind the worsening crisis. As of March, there are currently 1968 people waiting for a transplant and, of those, 1545 are waiting for a kidney.

*Also reported by: [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Territorian \(Darwin\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).*

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### When the worst happens, your family shouldn't have to decide

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 08/03/2026, Chris Thomas, Page 6

"The bastards want to take her eyes." It is 40 years ago this year since my father stormed into the intensive care unit at Royal Brisbane Hospital, where my mother lay on a ventilator.

*Also reported by: [Sunday Territorian \(Darwin\)](#).*

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### Push to restore drive-by donation

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 08/03/2026, Kristy Symonds, Page 7

A push to reinstate organ donation registration to the driver's licence process will be brought to the next national health ministers' meeting, with South Australia's Chris Picton saying it "just makes sense" to encourage the rest of the country to follow his state's lead. The South Australian Health Minister said

he was committed to raising the issue of allowing people to register through a simple tick of the box on licensing forms state and federal counterparts at the next meeting set for May.

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

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## Saying yes can change lives

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 08/03/2026, Isabella Pesch, Page 18

South Australia's top cop has urged all other states to add organ donation registration to the driver's licence process after his own son's lifesaving legacy helped his family navigate their immense grief. Queensland, NSW, Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania scrapped the licensing scheme which was as simple as ticking a box on the licence forms in 2002 after the national organ donor register was established.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Territorian \(Darwin\)](#)

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## The end of an era for private Top End births

Sunday Territorian, General News, 08/03/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 10

Just over a year ago, the closure of the maternity ward at Darwin Private Hospital was announced and at the end of February, the Northern Territory's last practising private obstetrician delivered her final Territorian baby. Dr Alia Vemuri, the last of two private obstetricians still standing in the Top End, said she had been forced to move interstate as her job had become "untenable".

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## Think twice about April's private health premium hike

Sun Herald, Business News, 08/03/2026, Nicole Pedersen-McKinnon, Page 35

The five-year survivor milestone is a big, beautiful one when it comes to breast cancer. And I hit it today. There was one insurance and one medical test that allowed me to.

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

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## Moama hospital proposal wins council support

Shepparton News Online, Other, 07/03/2026, Lua Ikenasio

Murray River Council has thrown its support behind a proposal to establish a private and community hospital in Moama. At its most recent ordinary meeting, council backed a motion from Cr Joy Allan to support health service development in Moama and greater collaboration between NSW and Victorian providers.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Revolutionary patch could transform IVF treatment for Australian women

7news.com.au, Other, 07/03/2026, Kristy Mayr

Researchers have developed a revolutionary stick-on patch that could transform the IVF experience for thousands of Australian women, replacing constant blood tests and potentially increasing the chances of successful pregnancy. The device, developed by researchers at Monash IVF and the University of Melbourne, would allow patients to monitor their hormone levels at home, eliminating the need for multiple blood tests during each IVF cycle.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### **When Territorians have to call triple-0, we must be ready**

Sunday Territorian, General News, 08/03/2026, Abigail Trewin, Page 15

Picture this: it's 2am, when most of Darwin is asleep, a crew steps into the dark knowing the call could be anything, chest pain in the suburbs, a rollover on a remote highway, or a transfer that will take them hundreds of kilometres from home. That quiet readiness is what Territorians rely on.

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### **Concerns over 'escalating unrest' at regional hospital after senior doctor escorted from building**

ABC Online, Other, 07/03/2026, Erin Somerville and Gaye Pattison

Senior doctors and regional residents have raised fears about "escalating unrest" amongst staff at a major cross-border health service. Albury Wodonga Health's Director of Emergency and Critical Care Services, Dr David Clancy, was seen by staff being escorted from the Albury hospital on Wednesday.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Getting the pill now easier – but is it safe?

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 08/03/2026, Molly Appleton, Page 6

Expanding pharmacist-prescribed contraception is safe and breaks down barriers to access, says Terry White Lindisfarne pharmacist Lucy Rowell. [...] On Friday The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) expressed disappointment that the Victorian government had overridden warnings from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) by allowing pharmacists to prescribe the contraceptive pill.

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### The vaping conundrum

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2026, Angelo Pricolo, Page 102

"The key points about vaping (e-cigarettes) can be easily summarised. If you smoke, vaping is much safer; if you don't smoke, don't vape." [...] Therapeutic vaping products supplied in Australia must meet the standards set out in Therapeutic Goods Order (TGO) 110 and appear on the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) notified vape list.

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### Paracetamol safe for use in pregnancy: TGA

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Supplements, 01/03/2026, Page 6

"Paracetamol remains the recommended option for pain or fever in pregnant women when used as directed", the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said in September 2025. The Australian medicines regulator noted that "robust scientific evidence shows no causal link between the use of paracetamol in pregnancy and autism or ADHS", despite claims made by US president Donald Trump.

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### Cannabis prescribing without robust evidence 'mirrors early trends in opioid use'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Supplements, 01/03/2026, Page 7

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has added its voice to those advising caution on the rapid growth in prescribing and dispensing medicinal cannabis, in its submission in late 2025 to a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) consultation on reviewing the safety and regulatory oversight of unapproved medicinal cannabis products.

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