



# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 8th May 2026

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports that the Western Australian Government have released a state budget which includes more than \$300 million to fund the provision of support services for young people with autism and other disabilities. The funding assists Western Australia in preparing for the Thriving Kids initiative announced by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler earlier this year. *Also reported by: [West Australian](#)*
- The **West Australian** (page 6) reports that Western Australia Treasurer Rita Saffioti has announced a state budget which includes \$9.1 billion in funding for the state health sector, with \$6.5 billion dedicated to improving hospital performance and access to health services.
- **The Australian** (page 5) reports that Private Healthcare Australia chief executive, Rachel David, has written to Health Minister Mark Butler contending that proposed reforms to private health insurance rebates will jeopardize the future of 27 private hospitals in rural and regional areas.
- **The Australian** (page 3) reports that Therapeutic Goods Administration head Anthony Lawler has stated that the use of unregulated peptides, purchased from black or grey market sources, can lead to significant health issues for the user.
- The **Age** (page 6) reports that the Monash Medical Centre has established the Stroke in Women Clinic which provides tailored medical care for women who experience strokes, with the

facility aiming to improve an existing gender imbalance in the health outcomes of stroke sufferers.

- **[ABC Online](#)** (online) reports that Federal Member for Lingiari, Marion Scrymgour, has welcomed the Federal Government's allocation of \$5.9 million in funding combat illegal tobacco use in the Northern Territory, with Ms Scrymgour stating that the funding would assist in improving the Northern Territory's high rate of smoking-related disease. *Also reported by: [ABC Radio Darwin](#)*
- **[ABC Online](#)** (online) reports that a letter, signed by 115 senior medical professionals at Townsville Hospital and Health Service, has been sent to Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls demanding meaningful action to improve cultural issues and executive leadership at the hospital. *Also reported by: [Cairns Post](#)*
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that Murdoch Children's Research Institute Allergy Group Leader, Kirsten Perrett, has stated that an increase in the number of Australians suffering from an allergic disease represents a serious public health challenge, with allergies representing the fastest growing chronic condition nationwide.
- The **[Australian Financial Review](#)** (online) reports that an Australian is among the 23 passengers of the MV Hondius who left the cruise ship following an outbreak of hantavirus aboard the vessel. *Also reported by: [Channel 9](#)*

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## MINISTER BUTLER

### Lovely Rita, your handouts meter made RBA groan

The Australian, General News, 08/05/2026, Paul Garvey, Page 1

West Australian Labor has defied the Reserve Bank and pushed ahead with a fresh round of cash handouts, as Treasurer Rita Saffioti lashed out at Michele Bullock's decision to hike interest rates. [...] The Thriving Kids initiative - agreed prior to the broader NDIS reforms flagged by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler - will see WA spend more than \$300m on support for young school students with autism and other disabilities.

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

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### This is not what equity looks like, say retirees

The Australian, General News, 08/05/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 5

Retiree Paul Dyer worked his whole life until retirement, even when he became an amputee due to diabetes complications. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says the Howard-era policy makes no sense and it is fundamentally unfair to give those who are living on the same income different rebates according to their age.

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### 'Final straw' for small private hospitals

The Australian, General News, 08/05/2026, Rosie Lewis, Page 5

Dozens of private hospitals in regional and rural Australia - including in the marginal Labor seats of Aston, Menzies, and Gilmore - are at risk of losing significant numbers of patients, and some may be "tipped over the edge" if the government manages to abolish the more generous private health insurance rebate for over-65s, according to the sector. [...] Amid concerns it could be the "final straw" for many smaller private hospitals, Private Healthcare Australia chief executive Rachel David has written to Health Minister Mark Butler identifying private hospitals in rural and regional Australia and the outer suburbs with more than 70 per cent of patients covered by private health insurance aged over 65.

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

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### Everything we know so far about Jim's budget

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/05/2026, Page 11

The Prime Minister announced \$10bn had been earmarked in the federal budget to bolster Australia's fuel security and resilience. [...] Some \$15bn will be cut from the NDIS over the next four years under sweeping reforms announced by NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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## **Panic at Butler's 'secret' reforms**

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/05/2026, Julie Cross, Page 22

Health Minister Mark Butler has been accused of trying to sneak through major changes to disability funding, with advocates saying it's "frightening" they haven't been shown the Bill due to be introduced to parliament next week. The government announced plans last month to remove one in five people from the \$50bn-a-year National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) by 2030, basing funding on a person's "functional capacity that impacts their day-to-day living" rather than "diagnosis alone".

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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## **Disability and inclusion**

Southern Argus, General News, 07/05/2026, Page 10

Last month Health Minister Mark Butler unveiled the Federal Government's plans for a sweeping reform of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The changes are aimed at bringing the ballooning costs of the scheme under control to hopefully ensure its longevity.

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## **Toowoomba parents and carers to rally against 'devastating' NDIS cuts**

The Courier Mail, Other, 07/05/2026, Michael Nolan

Parents, carers and people living with disability will rally at the weekend as part of a national day of action targeting the federal government's proposed cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Health Minister Mark Butler announced in April that the New eligibility rules would also move about 160,000 people off the scheme, with existing recipients to be reassessed.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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## **New Taskforce formed as 3000-plus in hospital beds wait for aged care**

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/05/2026, Caroline Egan

The NSW Government's Productivity and Equality Commission will lead a national review of older patients stranded in hospital. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said: "The establishment of this Taskforce ... is going to help us understand the precise nature of the challenge.

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## **Budget 2026: Ageing Australia pinpoints substantial critical need**

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/05/2026, Lauren Broomham

More than 100,000 older Australians are waiting for Support at Home and Ageing Australia says Tuesday's Federal Budget needs to deliver the packages. [...] The push follows April's \$3 billion aged care funding announcement, where Federal Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler told the National Press Club that more Support at Home places would be included in the Budget as pressure mounts on waiting lists and hospitals.

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## **Aged care providers still cautious despite \$3B boost**

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/05/2026, Lauren Broomham

Aged care providers say the Government's response to the Accommodation Review is a step forward. [...] The Independent Review of Residential Aged Care Accommodation Pricing – released on 23 April – warned Australia needs around 10,600 new aged care places every year for the next two decades – effectively a new home every three days, a line Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler has repeatedly highlighted – to keep pace with demand.

## States concerned aged care plans won't fix bed block

CathNews, Other, 07/05/2026, Rebecca Comini

NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler last month announced a multibillion-dollar aged care investment on the same day as unveiling the biggest changes to the \$50 billion-a-year disability scheme since its inception. [...] Mr Butler's promise of 5000 aged care beds a year came on the same day Aged Care Minister Sam Rae reiterated the country needed 10,000 annually.

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## Kid's cancer centre zeroes in on 'terrible disease'

HealthTimes, Other, 07/05/2026

Children with cancer are entering an era of renewed hope, as Australia's first medical centre solely focused on their needs is unveiled. [...] "There was a zero survival rate not too long ago, thirty, sixty years ago, when I was a kid," Health Minister Mark Butler said at the centre's opening.

Also reported by: [dubbophotonews.com.au](http://dubbophotonews.com.au) (Online).

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## The NDIS is changing: Here's what it means for you and your family

Have a Go News, Other, 07/05/2026

If you have a family member on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, or you help care for someone who does, the news out of Canberra this past fortnight has probably caught your attention. On April 22, Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler stood at the National Press Club and announced what many are calling the most significant shake-up to the NDIS since the scheme began.

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## If you can't beat 'em ... write the standards

Health Services Daily, Other, 07/05/2026, Holly Payne

After almost three years, the Royal Australian College of GPs appears to have begrudgingly accepted the existence of Medicare urgent care clinics – but its next campaign seeks to bring the model more firmly under GP control. Earlier this week, federal health minister Mark Butler foreshadowed a new tranche of funding for UCCs coming in next week's budget.

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## The federal government is considering capping specialists' fees. Is that constitutional?

Monash Lens, Other, 07/05/2026, Luke Beck

The federal Minister for Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, has said the government is considering capping specialists' fees to reduce the gap between what Medicare covers and what specialists charge patients. The Australian Medical Association strongly opposes the idea and is threatening legal action. Butler says the government is willing to "test the boundaries" of constitutional limits.

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## Secret Big Tobacco hearings will be released eventually... redacted: Blyth

Oncology Republic, Other, 07/05/2026, Caitlin Wright

Public health experts and Labor MPs have criticised the Coalition for allowing tobacco giant Philip Morris to give evidence in secret at a parliamentary inquiry in Canberra on Monday. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler admitted that he had reminded his parliamentary colleagues in the previous days about their obligations under the WHO Framework.

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## Australia's PBS listing crisis: drug makers are walking away

The Limbic, Other, 07/05/2026, Emma Koehn

Late on a Friday afternoon last month, long-simmering tensions about the state of Australia's medicines access processes were hurled back into the spotlight. [...] In September last year, Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed work had begun on HTA reform, including a rolling review of PBAC guidelines starting with comparator selection and discount rates.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

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## MINISTER RAE

### States concerned aged care plans won't fix bed block

CathNews, Other, 07/05/2026, Rebecca Comini

NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler last month announced a multibillion-dollar aged care investment on the same day as unveiling the biggest changes to the \$50 billion-a-year disability scheme since its inception. [...] Mr Butler's promise of 5000 aged care beds a year came on the same day Aged Care Minister Sam Rae reiterated the country needed 10,000 annually.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Region to benefit from mental health facilities

Busselton Dunsborough Times, General News, 08/05/2026, Rose Patane, Page 14

The South West will receive a new perinatal mental health centre and a Medicare mental health centre after the latest announcement from the Federal Government. Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Regional and Rural Health Emma McBride visited the Health Hub at Eaton Fair Shopping Centre alongside Senator Ellie Whiteaker on Wednesday morning to announce the new facilities.

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### Nareen Gardens retirement village on its way

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 07/05/2026, Page 21

Leading retirement living provider Uniting NSW.ACT has turned the first sod on its Nareen Gardens retirement village redevelopment at Bateau Bay. [...] State Member for The Entrance David Mehan and Federal Member for Dobell Emma McBride joined Uniting NSW ACT Chief Executive Officer Tracey Burton and Director of Property and Housing Simon Furness, Growthbuilt Joint Chief Executive Officer Peter Sukkar, and Uniting Nareen Gardens residents to celebrate the milestone.

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### Inclusive employment support office opened

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 07/05/2026, Page 29

People in Tuggerah living with a disability, injury or health condition now have access to invaluable employment support, as Breakthru, part of Royal Rehab Group, expands its offering with the opening of its Tuggerah IEA Office one of 30 new employment centres across the east coast of Australia. [...] The new Tuggerah office, located at 1 Bryant Dr, was officially opened on April 30 with a launch event attended by Federal Member for Dobell Emma McBride.

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## Two new clinics and one huge party for the Far North

Newspost, Other, 07/05/2026, Matt Smith

Carnivale Port Douglas is the crown jewel of the Far North and there isn't a time more special here than the Carnivale weekend. [...] Recently, I was joined by the Assistant Minister for Mental Health Emma McBride as we officially opened the Medicare Mental Health Centre at 267 Mulgrave Road.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

No relevant coverage

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

### Hantavirus, men's health, GP research funding and heatwaves

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/05/2026, Amanda Sheppard

Authorities are monitoring an international hantavirus outbreak as a new GP research grant launches, men's wellbeing initiatives expand and researchers warn heatwave deaths could surge. [...] The project will be led by assistant minister for social services and the prevention of family violence Ged Kearney and special envoy for men's health Dan Repacholi.

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### The Quicky, Podcast, 07/05/2026, Claire Murphy and Taylah Strano

Interview with Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi. Repacholi discusses Men's mental health, chronic illness, and how early men die. He admits that some men do not take their health seriously enough and do not look after themselves.

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## DEPARTMENT

### Headspace milestone

South Eastern Times, General News, 08/05/2026, Melanie Riley, Page 16

Headspace celebrated its 10-year birthday this week with staff, partners, and community members, reflecting on a decade of supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing. [...] Operated by Uniting Communities and funded by Country SA PHN (Primary Health Network) through the Australian Department of Health Disability and Ageing PHN program, an estimated 4,000 occasions of service have taken place at headspace Mount Gambier over the last 12 months.

Also reported by: [Border Watch \(Mt Gambier\)](#).

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### Woman scammed Medicare \$1m for gigs, fast food and sporting events

The Australian, Other, 07/05/2026, David Hannant

A receptionist splashed out thousands on concerts, sporting events and fast food after swiping close to \$1m in fraudulent Medicare claims. [...] Then, on December 8, 2023, she received a letter from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care informing her of an investigation into Medicare benefit claims and inviting her to be interviewed as part of this.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

## **I've investigated a hantavirus outbreak. Here's what I can tell you about the cruise ship cluster**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 08/05/2026

The cruise ship cluster of hantavirus cases continues to grow. The World Health Organization reports that as of May 6 there were eight cases, three of whom are confirmed by laboratory testing as hantavirus. In recent days, we heard three passengers had died. [...] Craig Dalton receives funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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## **Illicit tobacco, aged care, federal budget, and more**

Australian Medical Association, Other, 07/05/2026

Hello and happy Friday! [...] The ongoing conflict in the Middle East continues to bring challenges to us all and I met again with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing about impacts and responses in the health sector.

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## **If you can't beat 'em ... write the standards**

Health Services Daily, Other, 07/05/2026, Holly Payne

After almost three years, the Royal Australian College of GPs appears to have begrudgingly accepted the existence of Medicare urgent care clinics – but its next campaign seeks to bring the model more firmly under GP control. Earlier this week, federal health minister Mark Butler foreshadowed a new tranche of funding for UCCs coming in next week's budget.

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## **'Don't let Medicare compliance become another Robodebt'**

Medical Forum, Other, 07/05/2026

The comment was made in a submission to the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) in regard to the use of artificial intelligence to manage health provider noncompliance. The ANAO is assessing whether the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's use of AI to manage health provider non-compliance is effective.

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## **Australia's PBS listing crisis: drug makers are walking away**

The Limbic, Other, 07/05/2026, Emma Koehn

Late on a Friday afternoon last month, long-simmering tensions about the state of Australia's medicines access processes were hurled back into the spotlight. [...] In September last year, Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed work had begun on HTA reform, including a rolling review of PBAC guidelines starting with comparator selection and discount rates.

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## **Not much point applying for a DPA exemption**

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/05/2026, Holly Payne

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing working group in charge of deciding whether certain locations are eligible to attract internationally trained doctors serving out their rural moratorium approved 96% of applications in 2021. But for the last two years running it has not approved any – even in areas with high levels of socio-economic disadvantage, high population growth and dwindling GP numbers.

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## **Aged care bombshells dropped in Govt audit hearing**

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/05/2026, Caroline Egan

A Government inquiry has revealed \$368 million in aged care overpayments, and questioned governance of the Integrated Assessment Tool. [...] Automation of aged care assessments under

scrutiny Fay Flevaras, Chief Digital Information Officer with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, was questioned about how the Department ensures the Integrated Assessment Tool is performing its role correctly.

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## **New Taskforce formed as 3000-plus in hospital beds wait for aged care**

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/05/2026, Caroline Egan

The NSW Government's Productivity and Equality Commission will lead a national review of older patients stranded in hospital. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said: "The establishment of this Taskforce ... is going to help us understand the precise nature of the challenge.

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## **Women workers have every right to feel anxious**

Women's Agenda, Other, 07/05/2026, Melissa Donnelly

Budgets make a difference to the lives of Australian women. [...] The growing list of agencies cutting back on staff numbers includes the Department of Health, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and the Department of Education.

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## **Australia updates care data and digital action plan**

Aged Care Housing News, Other, 07/05/2026

Australia's Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has published the second-year action plan.

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## **AGEING AND AGED CARE**

### **Capecare Rosa Brook redevelopment signals new era for dementia care in Busselton**

West Australian, Other, 07/05/2026, Madelin Hayes

Capecare has completed a major upgrade to its Rosa Brook dementia facility to create a more home-like and supportive environment for residents. Opened in 2000, the dementia wing has undergone a transformation incorporating contemporary dementia-friendly design principles, improved layouts and upgraded care infrastructure, funded through the Australian Government's aged care capital assistance program.

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

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### **Vic budget boosts aged care**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 07/05/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Aged care services are among the winners in the Victorian Budget 2026/27, with new funding aimed at improving safety, reducing hospital transfers and strengthening in-home and residential care support. Treasurer Jaclyn Symes said the budget "acknowledges the real challenges Victorians are facing" as families continue to grapple with ever-rising costs fueled by global conflict and national inflationary pressures.

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### **Capecare celebrates revamped dementia wing**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/05/2026

Capecare Busselton's refurbished Rosa Brook Wing is now open as a dedicated, purpose-designed environment for residents living with dementia and changes in cognition. It is home to 20 residents,

with the new design offering a calm and more familiar environment that eases confusion and reduces distress whilst encouraging independence and meaningful daily experiences.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Turning housing pain to Labor's gain

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/05/2026, James Massola, Page 27

Jim Chalmers is on the brink of handing down the most ambitious budget of the five he's put together as treasurer. [...] The number of NDIS participants will be cut, with savings targets of a mammoth \$35 billion over four years, while there will also be a modest \$300 tax offset for workers.

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

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### Handout of little relief

West Australian, General News, 08/05/2026, Jessica Page, Page 1

A \$100 "extraordinary" fuel handout was the Budget surprise as Rita Saffioti delivered a \$3.5 billion surplus and laughed off suggestions the Reserve Bank would not appreciate it amid rising inflation. [...] There was a warning that the impact of Canberra's overhaul of the NDIS on the State's finances was also "unknown".

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

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### 'Too complicated': Limit life admin for the family

Daily Telegraph, Business News, 08/05/2026, Cameron Micallef, Page 59

The Government could help women by simply getting out of the way and reducing unintended "life admin", according to Westpac chief economist Luci Ellis. [...] "Getting the NDIS on a sustainable footing and back to its core purposes of supporting the severely disabled and reducing family members' caring burden is a singular example of what is needed."

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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### Households to face prolonged pain due to fuel costs: RBA

Australian Financial Review, Other, 07/05/2026, Lea Jurkovic

Housing construction, fruit and vegetables and travel will be the sectors of the economy most exposed to the fuel price shock over the next two years.

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### WA families say Cook Government's cost-of-living measures don't go far enough

West Australian, Other, 07/05/2026, Oliver Lane

A \$100 petrol voucher that can be used to purchase anything and continued access to one-off payments for every school-aged child has left much to be desired for families, who say they were hoping for more cost-of-living measures in the WA Budget. [...] The Cook Government included \$169.3 million in the budget for "the provision of support for children aged 8 years and under with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs and their parents/carers, known as Thriving Kids".

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**Grattan on Friday: The Farrer result will set off a willy willy. The budget already has**

The run-up to a budget always sees a degree of chaos. [...] As is the modern way, some major items have been announced well before Tuesday's main event, including reform of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and a fuel security plan

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Call for sugar alert on drinks

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/05/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 8

South Australian researchers want warnings on soft drinks - showing the number of teaspoons of sugar - after a study found graphic labelling would deter teens from buying them. The call comes as the Australian Medical Association pushes for a 20c per can sugar tax on beverages in the federal budget.

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### What's in it for you? Key points explained

Shepparton News, General News, 08/05/2026, Monique Preston, Page 14

The Victorian Government passed down its 2026-27 Budget on Tuesday, May 5. [...] There was also a statewide commitment of \$75 million through the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund, to renew and upgrade infrastructure across regional and rural health services.

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### When there's no female doctor

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Rachel Carter, Page 1

"If you educate a woman, you educate a nation" is an African proverb that has stuck with Dr Pethidia Mango since she moved from Zimbabwe to Australia 20 years ago. "I have always been aware that looking after women, enhancing their quality of life and their health, has a ripple effect for their families and their children," she says.

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### More pharmacists to prescribe first-time oral contraceptives

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Ciara Seccombe, Page 3

NSW is allowing pharmacists with extra training to initiate oral contraceptives, with taxpayer cash to pay for 5000 pharmacist consultations. The changes, due to start on 1 June, also mean pharmacists undergoing the training will be allowed to resupply medroxyprogesterone acetate injections and the combined hormonal contraceptive ring.

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### UCC's cancer misdiagnosis

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Bella Rough, Page 6

Dr Danielle McMullen has shared the story of one of her patients whose increasing dyspnoea was dismissed by an urgent care clinic as asthma but later diagnosed as cancer. The AMA president said her patient's experience illustrated the dangers of a healthcare system with increasing numbers of access points but not enough GPs opening the doors.

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### Charting Medicare's 'erosion'

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Antony Scholefield, Page 8

So, who is to blame for the slow erosion of patients' GP Medicare rebates compared with the actual cost of living and has it now been fixed? This graph was compiled by Professor Stephen Duckett, the former director of the Grattan Institute's health program.

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## MP's flyers target 20 GP practices

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Ciara Seccombe, Page 12

A cabinet minister has posted flyers to her constituents naming 20 GP practices that do not universally bulk-bill, which doctors have called "aggressive and irresponsible". The list of names was part of a printed newsletter sent by federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Julie Collins, alongside other local announcements, such as new childcare centres.

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## 85% collapse in GP home visits

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Carmel Sparke, Page 13

Once a routine part of general practice, the GP home visit has collapsed in Australia, plunging by 85% over the past three decades, a review shows. The figure is based on an analysis of Medicare data showing home visits have fallen from nearly four million annually 30 years ago to under 500,000 last year.

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## Surcharge ban could hike fees

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Jamie Thannoo, Page 14

A ban on card payment surcharges that starts on 1 October could lead some GP practices to raise fees to compensate, the peak body for practice managers has warned. The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) says it will go ahead with the ban, with the Federal Government arguing that the surcharges made little sense when 75% of transactions were now card based.

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## 'Prevention pays off,' govt told

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Bella Rough, Page 15

The Productivity Commission has urged the Federal Government to overcome its election-cycle thinking and invest in prevention and telehealth to save billions of dollars in the long term. The commission is tasked with producing economic reports for the government at a time when the federal Treasurer has warned it will take five years to return to the long-term average productivity growth of 1.2%.

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## Hundreds to roll over Story Bridge as e-bike crackdown frustration boils over

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 07/05/2026, Felicity Caldwell

More than a hundred people rode across the Story Bridge's traffic lanes in peak hour on Thursday night, ahead of a report expected to green-light a raft of restrictions on low-speed electric bicycles. [...] TMR suggested three organisations supported 10km/h limits – E-Bike Safety Australia, Australian Medical Association Queensland and Vision Australia.

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## Funding supports healing for sexual violence survivors

West Australian, Other, 07/05/2026, Maeve Bannister

Survivors of sexual violence will have greater access to healing and recovery services as a result of funding for grassroots organisations delivering trauma-informed support. Eleven community organisations will receive a share of \$3.35 million to deliver programs that help victim-survivors of sexual violence to recover and heal.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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## New mobile clinic delivers vital healthcare directly to Palm Island homes

A groundbreaking healthcare solution has arrived for Palm Island's residents, with a new custom-built mobile health and aged care clinic ready to deliver primary care services directly to people's homes. Providing vital primary care services directly to the community, the health initiative was delivered with support from Mobile Health Clinics Australia and the Palm Island Community Company, a community-controlled not-for-profit.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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## **Bulk-billing changes 'deepen fundamental problems' with GP funding: Report**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 07/05/2026, Jolyon Attwool

The Grattan Institute has laid out a plan for a funding overhaul, saying current incentives are leaving vulnerable patients behind. The Grattan Institute believes limiting bulk-billing incentives to children and concession card holders was 'the closest thing funding had to a needs-based adjustment'.

[Read More](#)

## **Local councils call for 'GP guarantee'**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 07/05/2026, Karen Burge

A coalition of rural councils has banded together to call for a \$200 million 'GP guarantee' in a bid to ensure all residents have access to healthcare. Local Government NSW (LGNSW) launched its six-point action plan on Thursday, as communities in rural, regional and remote regions face a 'crisis in the provision of essential healthcare services'.

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## **POPULATION HEALTH**

### **It's time to act on smokes**

Courier Mail, General News, 08/05/2026, Mary Aldred, Page 27

Jim Chalmers has painted himself into a corner by ruling out a cut in the tobacco excise rate this week. The Treasurer says law enforcement alone will get us out of this criminal catastrophe.

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

### **What (and when) kids read is a bit of a page-turner**

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/05/2026, Danielle Wood, Page 34

Reading, books, children ... three such apparently innocent factors. [...] While nobody expects a three-month-old to be reading letters, words and sentences just because they've been read to since birth, the evidence is absolutely there (from organisations including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Harvard Centre on the Developing Child, and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) that reading to very, very young children has benefits for brain development and adult-child relationships.

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### **Tobacco giant Philip Morris calls for cheaper smokes to curb illegal cigarette trade**

West Australian, Other, 07/05/2026, Ben McKay

A previously secret parliamentary hearing has been released, revealing that tobacco giant Philip Morris used the occasion to lobby for cheaper legal cigarettes. The company was on Monday controversially called to give evidence to a Senate committee into the booming illicit tobacco trade.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Every step forward counts: expert tips for quitting smoking and vaping

Canberra Times, Other, 07/05/2026, Elizabeth Habermann

Quitting smoking and vaping looks different for everyone, but it often starts with a common thought: "It's time I made a change for the better." For many who are on their way to quitting or have already quit, making the decision to take the first step is a defining moment in their journey.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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## Federal government commits \$5.9 million to illicit tobacco reform in the Northern Territory

ABC Online, Other, 07/05/2026, Kylie Stevenson & George Nicoll

The seizure of more than 82,000 cigarettes, 15.5 kilograms of loose-leaf tobacco and 873 vapes in Darwin has prompted federal government funding for the Northern Territory to combat the problem of illicit tobacco. The illegal products were part of six Customs Acts searches by Australia Border Force (ABF) in April, with the vapes alone equating to about \$147,895 in duty tax evaded.

[Read More](#)

## Reintegration: Australia's missing justice reform

The Mandarin, Other, 07/05/2026, Mainul Haque

As an official visitor to correctional centres, I regularly speak with people in custody throughout their sentence, not only at the point of release. [...] Mental health conditions are reported in a significant proportion of people in custody, with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare consistently identifying high levels of psychological distress and diagnosed conditions.

[Read More](#)

## Silverchain study finds complex diagnoses no barrier to dying at home

Community Care Review, Other, 07/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Older people with complex health conditions are fulfilling their preference to die at home rather than in a hospital environment if able to access specialist community palliative care, new research from Silverchain shows. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, palliative care related hospitalisations in Australia have risen by around 29 per cent between 2015 to 2022, largely driven by the population ageing.

[Read More](#)

## Quit-smoking spend falls short

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/05/2026

Federal Government investment in tobacco addiction treatment is falling short of recommended levels and is inconsistent with best-practice evidence, experts have warned, calling for greater investment in making effective tobacco dependence treatments more accessible and affordable. In a paper published in Public Health Research & Practice, Dr Elizabeth Greenhalgh from Cancer Council Victoria and Professor Lisa Wood from University of Notre Dame pointed to 2021 WHO modelling that recommended a per capita investment of A\$2.39 (in 2024-25 adjusted for inflation) annually on pharmacological interventions.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 07/05/2026, Adam Steer

The federal government has allocated \$5.9m to the NT to strengthen its response to the illegal tobacco trade after a report ranks it the worst-performing Australian jurisdiction on enforcement. The funding aims to modernise tobacco laws and boost compliance efforts to curb illicit sales.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, 07/05/2026, Joel Rheinberger

Interview with Sam Anderson\*, Senior Program Manager, and Tash Newman, Resilience and Recovery Officer, Australian Red Cross, about the World Red Cross Day celebrations in Tasmania. Anderson

highlights the organisation's extensive volunteer network and its global humanitarian reach, while focusing locally on free "Get Emergency Ready Tasmania" workshops delivered across councils, libraries and community spaces.

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### Fighting Australia's fastest-growing disease

The Australian, General News, 08/05/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 7

Allergies are one of the top health concerns for children, touching almost every family, school and healthcare service. Experts say this makes them one of our most urgent public health challenges.

*Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).*

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

### Coles tailors home-brand range for GLP-1 era

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 08/05/2026, Carrie Lafrenz, Page 20

Coles chief executive Leah Weckert says there are plenty of opportunities for the supermarket giant as the use of GLP-1s soars, with the retailer tailoring home brand products for shoppers taking weight-loss drugs.

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

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### One of the biggest killers, but many women don't know risk

Age, General News, 08/05/2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 6

Olivia Spalding was washing the dishes when a dull headache set in. It was a hot New Year's Day, and the 54-year-old, who was helping her family prepare for an event to remember her late father-in-law, assumed it was due to dehydration or stress.

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

### A special bond that simply can't be broken

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/05/2026, Ruby Kraner-Tucci, Page 25

It is hard to keep siblings Rachael and Luke Matthews apart even though they technically shouldn't be in the same room as one another. The Gold Coast pair have cystic fibrosis (CF), a genetic condition that causes severe damage to the lungs and digestive system and can lead to chronic infections.

*Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).*

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### Donation is a true life-saver

Shepparton News, General News, 08/05/2026, Page 25

Halfway through its journey to becoming a Heart Safe community, Nagambie has upped its amount of accessible automated external defibrillators. In October last year, the town began the Heart Safe Communities program, a year-long, community-driven initiative delivered by Ambulance Victoria and the Heart Foundation.

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### How old laptop, audio clip, AI gave MND sufferer Elena her voice back with help of pathologist Bradley Pang

West Australian, Other, 07/05/2026, Harriet Flinn

A 30-second video found on an old MacBook was all that remained of Elena's voice before motor neurone disease stole her ability to speak as a teenager. But it was all Perth speech pathologist

Bradley Pang needed to bring it back — using new AI technology to recreate her voice and integrate it into her communication device.

[Read More](#)

## Every Canberra suburb to receive Automated External Defibrillators before the end of the year in 'world first'

ABC Online, Other, 07/05/2026, Georgia Roberts

Last year, Rory Pittman was spending his night like any other 16-year-old, playing sports with friends, when the unthinkable happened. He went into cardiac arrest.

[Read More](#)

## Dementia revealed as Australia's leading cause of death, ABS data shows

Sky News Australia, Other, 07/05/2026, Stamatina Notaras

Dementia is now the leading cause of death in Australia, new data shows, having overtaken ischaemic heart disease. Dementia became Australia's leading cause of death in 2024, accounting for 9.4 per cent of all deaths, compared with 8.7 per cent for ischaemic heart disease, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data shows.

[Read More](#)

## James Valentine's final TV appearance before his euthanasia death was heartbreaking

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/05/2026, Kylie Stevens

The ABC has denied explosive claims key discussions about assisted dying were edited out of James Valentine's emotional final episode of Australian Story at the last minute. Monday night's program followed the beloved radio presenter's final year before he died at his Sydney home, aged 64, using voluntary assisted dying (VAD) after a two-year cancer battle.

[Read More](#)

## Landmark deal makes \$200,000 'living' cancer therapy free for Aussies

The Senior, Other, 07/05/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

In 2018, Phil Citera was told a cancer tumour had eaten away 80 per cent of his vertebrae. Today, the father-of-two is cancer free Mr Citera, now 50, is sharing his remarkable recovery from a blood cancer, known as multiple myeloma, after being diagnosed at just 44-years-old.

[Read More](#)

## Time to talk about palliative care

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 07/05/2026

National Palliative Care Week 2026 starts on Sunday, 10 May, with the theme "Getting to the heart of it: Big Questions. Real Answers", which promotes starting conversations earlier about end-of-life care, making the process easier to understand. Marina Lloyd, the palliative care clinical coordinator at Sunraysia Community Health Services, said there were many misconceptions surrounding the subject, including when it can start and what it encompasses.

[Read More](#)

## Report reveals aged care VAD failures

Aged Care Insite, Other, 07/05/2026, Stefanie Schultz

A national report has found that most aged care providers are still failing to support older Australians' access to voluntary assisted dying (VAD), despite the practice being legal in every state and the ACT and protected under federal aged care law. Go Gentle Australia's Voluntary Assisted Dying in Residential Aged Care Homes: A National Report Card reveals widespread gaps in transparency, policy and practical support.

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# MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

## A \$50k boost in honour of Dolly

Northern Territory News, General News, 08/05/2026, Page 3

The NT government is marking Do It For Dolly Day with a funding boost for the Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Community Grants program. Minister for Health Steve Edgington said NT Health and the Northern Territory Primary Health Network had boosted the SPCG funding by an additional \$50,000, with \$20,000 from NT Health, as part of its commitment to reducing suicide rates.

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## Lifeline on hold in silence over government funding

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/05/2026, Rob Inglis, Page 7

A vital service for Tasmanians experiencing mental health challenges is seeing record demand amid increasing cost-of-living pressures but the state government cannot confirm whether the support line will continue to receive funding. A Tasmanian Lifeline (ATL), which is operated by Lifeline Tasmania, was established by then-mental health minister and now-Premier Jeremy Rockliff at the height of the covid pandemic in 2020.

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## Culture of kindness

Herald Sun, General News, 08/05/2026, Page 28

A decade since she lost her life in an equestrian accident, Billie Kinder's legacy of love is continuing to grow. The Tasmanian-based b kinder Foundation set up following the 12-year-old's tragic death in 2006 is driven by a vision to help children in their pivotal years by encouraging them to become kinder, more empathetic and more compassionate.

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## 'No help' for the rough sleepers

Daily Advertiser, General News, 08/05/2026, Maryam Sulaiman, Page 5

A man who has been sleeping in his car for the last two years and in Wagga since March has opened up on his struggles in the wake of a tragic death in the city's homeless community. [...] Poor mental health can also contribute to homelessness and make life a lot harder for those who are sleeping rough.

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## MP slams mental health response

Shepparton News, General News, 08/05/2026, Bree Harding, Page 15

State Member for Euroa Annabelle Cleeland says the Victorian Government's recent mental health announcement is a "band-aid fix", which fails to meet the needs of bushfire-affected communities. A \$4.9 million investment, funded by the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements as part of the \$370 million support package announced by the federal and Victorian governments in January, was pledged on May 2 to expand service areas of existing Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals into bushfire-impacted areas.

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## Hospital closure fuels bed crisis

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Rachel Carter, Page 14

The announcement of another private hospital closure has rung more alarm bells for the overburdened public mental health system. Aurora Healthcare says it will close the 34-bed Mackay Private Hospital on 16 June because of rising operational and maintenance costs.

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## AdPha urges mental health pharmacy funding

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has broadly welcomed the Victorian Government's 2026-27 Budget, with its strong focus on mental health services and more accessible frontline care. "We commend the Victorian Government for prioritising both mental health and access to free, timely care - two of the most pressing challenges facing our health system," said AdPha president Assoc Prof Tom Simpson.

[Read More](#)

## 'Came here with hope' and 'died unseen': tearful crowd says goodbye to homeless man Bikram Lama

The Guardian, Other, 07/05/2026, Ariel Bogle & Christopher Knaus

People gathered at dusk under the fig tree canopy of Sydney's Hyde Park to pay tribute to 32-year-old, who laid undiscovered for up to a week. No one should be left to die in the middle of Sydney, alone and unseen. [...] "Homelessness is one of the symptoms, mental health struggles is another," she said.

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## IMMUNISATION

### Kids can turn up their nose at needles

The Australian, General News, 08/05/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 7

A new study will explore the effects of a nasal spray flu vaccine on children's immune systems, with the goal being no more needles. A Murdoch Children's Research Institute team is running the Sniffles study involving a nasal spray vaccine as well as the injectable flu shot to better understand a child's immune response to each.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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### Measles alert

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 08/05/2026, Ben Loughran, Page 1

The Loddon Mallee region has been exposed to the recent measles outbreak, prompting health authorities to urge wider community vaccination against the disease. Four new cases of measles were detected in Victoria in the week leading up to May 5, with one of the cases spending time in the Loddon Mallee region.

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### HPV VX for boys 'halves cancer risk!

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Ciara Seccombe, Page 15

Vaccinating young men against HPV reduces their risk of HPV-related cancers by almost half, a retrospective cohort study suggests. Researchers have used a US-heavy global database to compare 510,260 males aged 9-26 who had received at least one dose of the 9-valent HPV vaccine with propensity score-matched unvaccinated males.

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### Measles cases surge across Australia as vaccination rates decline, outbreaks occur overseas

7News.com.au, Other, 07/05/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Australians have been warned to be on high alert as cases of "the most infectious virus" surge around the world. Health authorities say measles, which was effectively eliminated here in 2014, may already be spreading undetected in the community, fuelled by overseas outbreaks and falling vaccination rates.

[Read More](#)

## Rare outbreak of life-threatening disease not seen in Western Australia for 50 years

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/05/2026, Caitlin Powell

A rare outbreak of a life-threatening disease not seen in Western Australia for half a century has sparked a health warning from authorities. The Department of Health announced on Wednesday that dozens of residents have been diagnosed with diphtheria, a serious bacterial infection that can cause severe illness and death.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Elective surgery 'cancel culture'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/05/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 11

The state government is being accused of elective surgery "cancel culture" after a record 17,664 such operations were cancelled last year. [...] The federal government's move to slash private health insurance rebates for people aged over 65 is expected to add to pressure on the public system as older Australians drop private cover due to cost.

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### Specialist fee crisis fix?

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Ciara Seccombe, Page 10

"People like doctors. They just don't like doctors driving Lamborghinis." These words, from paediatrician-turned-MP Dr Mike Freeland, sum up why the gap between specialist fees and what patients can afford is politically treacherous.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Timely trial of Apple Watch

Northern Territory News, General News, 08/05/2026, Page 18

A new trial will test whether a tool that harnesses Apple Watch health data and artificial intelligence can help protect children undergoing cancer treatment from infections. Murdoch Children's Research Institute aims to explore the ability of a custom-designed research app to detect signs of looming infection over a four-week period.

*Also reported by:* [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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

### Massive GST windfall fuels Western Australia's \$3.5bn budget surplus, new spending

The Australian, Other, 07/05/2026, Emma Kirk

Cost-of-living relief — including a \$100 fuel credit for every driver's licence holder — is on its way for Western Australians as part of a nearly \$200m plan to help with rising petrol costs. [...] The funding will deliver a Perth-based cancer facility similar to centres in Sydney and Melbourne that integrate treatment, research and clinical trials.

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

[Read More](#)

### Australian-first trial tests Apple Watch to see if it alerts to infection in

## cancer patients

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/05/2026, Robyn Riley

Apple watches are to be trialled in an Australian first study to see if they can be a potential lifesaver for children having cancer therapy. Researchers at Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) will explore whether a tool that harnesses Apple Watch health data and artificial intelligence can help protect cancer patients from infections.

[Read More](#)

## Australian researchers use stem cells in 'unique' bid to finally cure common cold

The Courier Mail, Other, 07/05/2026, Ruby Kraner-Tucci & Charlotte Brundrett

Researchers say they could cure the common cold using this revolutionary technology: "What we really need is support so we can continue doing this sustained research for a long time." Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) is "uniquely" using stem cells to investigate new treatments for respiratory diseases, even finding a cure for the common cold.

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

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## Heatwaves to kill 6000 Aussies every year by 2100

9News, Other, 07/05/2026, Emily McPherson

The number of Australians dying from heatwaves is set to increase exponentially due to climate change, with almost 6000 to perish a year by 2100, a new Australian study has found. This staggering figure represents a death toll twenty-four times higher than the current rate.

[Read More](#)

## La Trobe tackles global AMR threat

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/05/2026

LA Trobe scientists have made a pivotal discovery in the fight against drug-resistant bacteria, as the university launches a major research initiative focussed on new ways to target antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The Research and Engagement for Antimicrobial Resistance and Community Health (REACH) initiative brings together the expertise of scientists in the La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science (LIMS) with clinicians and members of the community impacted by antimicrobial resistance to find new ways to prevent and treat pathogenic bacteria, fungi and viruses.

[Read More](#)

## 2GB, Drive, 07/05/2026, Clinton Maynard

Interview with Dr Rhiannon Werder, Group Leader of the Lung Disease Lab at Murdoch Children's Research Institute, about research into respiratory infections using stem cells. Werder explains that the common cold resists a cure because hundreds of rhinovirus strains circulate, making a single vaccine or targeted treatment extremely difficult. She says her team uses stem cells to grow miniature lung tissue to study early infection stages.

[Play Now](#)

## 4BC, Drive, 07/05/2026, Gary Hardgrave

Interview with Dr Rhiannon Werder, Group Leader of the Lung Disease Lab at Murdoch Children's Research Institute, about stem cell research for respiratory diseases. Werder explains that her team uses induced pluripotent stem cells, which can be created from any person and developed into lung cells to study how infections begin at their earliest stages.

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## Recommendation rejected

Canberra Times, General News, 08/05/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 2

The ACT government has rejected a recommendation of an inquiry into the ACT police watchhouse despite reports of Aboriginal teenagers being punched, handcuffed and mocked. [...] The government did agree to measures like implementing a health workforce strategy, improving pathways to employment and education, registering an Aboriginal community-controlled housing provider, allocating proportional funding to First Nations services and designing cultural design reviews for all new housing projects.

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

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## 'It's racism of low expectations'

The Nightly, General News, 07/05/2026, Kristin Shorten, Page 14

The Northern Territory's child protection crisis is deepening amid revelations a six-week-old baby was this week flown to Darwin with "suspicious" head injuries. A report in The Australian revealed the infant was allowed to remain with its family in a remote Aboriginal community despite NT Health staff notifying the Department of Children and Families before the child sustained its head injuries that they suspected the baby had been sexually assaulted.

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## 'Hell on earth': Future of Alice Springs town camps under scrutiny after Kumanjaji's death

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/05/2026, Robert White

A devastated Alice Springs local has called for the town's notoriously squalid camps to be "destroyed completely" as the community reels from Kumanjaji Little Baby's death. [...] Senator Jacinta Price, who grew up in and out of Alice Springs town camps in the 80s and 90s, described the camps as a "hell on earth" with widespread and severe alcohol-related violence, fatal stabbings and devastating health failures that often leave children orphaned or raised by relatives.

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

[Read More](#)

## Australia accused of ignoring human rights obligations on Indigenous children

National Indigenous Times, Other, 07/05/2026, Dechlan Brennan

The overrepresentation of Indigenous children in the criminal justice system "reflects systemic and structural racial discrimination", the United Nations has said. Despite making up only 6.5 per cent of children aged 10-17 nationwide, Indigenous children and young people account for 65 per cent of the youth prison population, according to the latest data.

[Read More](#)

## Closing the Gap: We can't afford to ignore what works

The Mandarin, Other, 07/05/2026, Angela Jackson

Budget season is well underway, and state and federal governments have been casting far and wide for savings. Balancing the books is an important part of responsible government — but good fiscal management is not just about spending less, it's also about spending on the right things.

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### WA splashes cash after surplus

Australian Financial Review, General News, 08/05/2026, Tom Rabe, Page 3

A whopping \$18 billion in mining royalties and GST payments propelled Western Australia to its eighth straight budget surplus.

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

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## \$9b health boost but questions over detail

West Australian, General News, 08/05/2026, Brooke Rolfe, Page 6

A history-making investment will be made in WA's health sector with \$9.1 billion promised in the 2026 State Budget. Health spending was earmarked as one of four key focus areas by Premier Roger Cook and Treasurer Rita Saffioti on Thursday, along with jobs, housing and cost-of-living relief.

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## Budget healthcare boost

Northern Territory News, General News, 08/05/2026, Gary Shipway, Page 20

Alice Springs Hospital has received funding for increased medical specialist services including an Alice Springs based oncologist service to help treat cancer patients in Central Australia. The funding was announced by local polmie and Treasurer Bill Yan in the 2026-27 budget.

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## Left Languishing

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 08/05/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 1

Dapto man Terry Jefferies enjoyed making others laugh and he loved his squash and bowls. He was a familiar face at the Citos bowling club, even after he could no longer play the sport, and insisted on staying in the house he had shared with his beloved late wife, Ann, following her death several years ago.

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## Budge letdown

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 08/05/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 1

Victoria's latest election-year budget has sparked significant backlash from regional leaders, who argue it prioritises metropolitan infrastructure over rural needs. Despite cost-of-living measures like registration rebates, the most profound disappointment stems from the continued lack of funding for the Mildura Base Public Hospital (MBPH) redevelopment.

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## Auditor-General will look into Border's brownfields hospital

Border Mail, General News, 08/05/2026, Hana Humboldt, Page 5

A year after the request, the NSW auditing body has agreed to review the brownfield redevelopment of Albury's hospital site. On June 1, 2025, Greens MP Amanda Cohn, of Albury, asked the Auditor-General of NSW to examine the planned redevelopment of the Albury-Wodonga hospital, as part of the 2025-26 external audit program.

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

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## Cancer centre into next phase with change

Border Mail, General News, 08/05/2026, Hana Humboldt, Page 11

The next stage of changes under the public model Border cancer centre now has a date. The Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre's pharmacy will change hands from Ramsay Health Care to Albury Wodonga Health on August 28, as part of its transition to a fully public model.

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## Budget 'ends at edge of Geelong'

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/05/2026, Euan Kennedy, Page 7

Liberal MP Richard Riordan has lambasted the Victorian state budget, claiming the money seems to

end at the "edge of Geelong", while calling Health Minister Harriet Shing's pledge to finally build Torquay hospital "fake news". Mr Riordan, the Liberal member for Polwarth encompassing Torquay, Colac, Winchelsea and Lorne, said Labor had left Great Ocean Road businesses out to dry in the budget with no plans to provide suitable commercial leases.

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## Shepparton overlooked in state budget, local leaders say

Shepparton News, General News, 08/05/2026, Monique Preston, Page 14

While some Greater Shepparton and regional investments were announced in the Victorian Budget 202627, overall it has drawn ire from local politicians and local government for what was not included. Greater Shepparton City Council, as well as state Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell and state Member for Shepparton Kim O'Keeffe have all said more was needed for the region.

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

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## Top doctor questions penalties

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Bella Rough, Page 5

Reducing funding to hospitals with higher complication rates is linked to a 25% reduction in complication risk, the Productivity Commission says. The government's economic think tank published data last month showing the risk of a hospital-acquired complication fell from about 2.3% to 1.7% between 2018 and 2020 at hospital networks where the penalty system was used.

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## Labor accused of 'betrayal' as major hospital projects are shelved

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/05/2026, Shannon Deery

A Liberal MP has excoriated Jacinta Allan after the government backed away from constructing new hospitals promised as part of Labor's 2022 election pitch. Three major hospital developments promised before the 2022 election appear to have been stalled, with little to no further investment in this year's budget.

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

[Read More](#)

## 'Fed up, fired up, and finally heard': inside the political earthquake brewing in Farrer

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 07/05/2026, Michelle Grattan

In Australia's regional heartland, something unusual is happening — and voters know it. For decades, elections in regional seats such as Farrer have followed a familiar script: predictable outcomes, entrenched party loyalties, and little sense that individual votes could change the result.

[Read More](#)

## Your vote in Farrer could decide the fate of our regional health services

The Border Mail, Other, 07/05/2026, Helen Haines

The eyes of the nation are on Farrer right now. And across the electorate - from the smallest towns to the regional centres - one issue rises above the rest: health.

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## NSW launches inquiry into hospital bed block crisis

Aged Care Insite, Other, 07/05/2026

A landmark inquiry will probe the fate of elderly patients stranded in NSW public hospitals, as Australia's health ministers agree to establish an urgent interstate taskforce. The NSW Productivity and Equality Commission will assess the cost and impact of the more than 900 patients waiting in hospital for aged care placements.

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## A 'record' investment – what the state budget means for health

Medical Forum, Other, 07/05/2026, Aleisha Orr

Treasurer Rita Safiotti described the spend as the biggest investment in health in the state's history as she handed down the State Budget for 2026/2027 on 7 May. "This Budget delivers a record \$9.1 billion for more beds, more staff and more hospital capacity, while backing the programs that help people access care sooner and closer to home," she said.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Nurse on drugs at work gets cancelled

West Australian, General News, 08/05/2026, Hannah Cross, Page 18

An emergency department nurse who worked multiple shifts while high on a cocktail of drugs has had her registration cancelled. [...] She was legally required to report her criminal charges to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia within a week, which she did not.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Doctors call for board renewal

Cairns Post, General News, 07/05/2026, Daniel Shirkie, Page 15

A revolt of more than 100 top doctors at Townsville Hospital has seen senior clinicians write to Health Minister Tim Nicholls asking he step in following an explosive confrontation where the board chair asked one specialist: "Are you deaf?" Townsville Hospital and Health Service board chair Tony Mooney is facing scrutiny over his conduct during a discussion with senior medical officers at a prearranged meeting held on April 22.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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### GP training in ADHD 'falls short

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Rachel Carter, Page 4

The state-based training being developed for GPs to diagnose and manage ADHD needs reform, with some programs putting too much emphasis on pharmacological treatment, a top paediatrician warns. Since 2023, most states and territories have given GPs greater powers to diagnose and treat ADHD, although the scope and training requirements vary.

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### Stupid PR stunts and the menace of pharmacist prescribing

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Louise Stone, Page 18

Under our code of conduct, doctors have a responsibility to reduce error, improve patient safety and to act if we identify an issue that may compromise patient safety. Which is why I make no apology for expressing concerns about the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's plans to manage complex illnesses using brief training and a series of algorithms.

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**Public servants have had enough. And it will be Canberrans who suffer if the ACT govt doesn't act**

ACT public servants in the ACT have had enough. That message could not have been clearer last Friday on May Day, when more than 700 union members rallied outside the Legislative Assembly.

[Read More](#)

## Townsville Hospital doctors write to premier demanding cultural change

ABC Online, Other, 07/05/2026, Meghan Dansie & Baz Ruddick

Senior doctors at one of Queensland's largest hospitals have revolted against their executive leadership, writing directly to the premier and health minister with claims of cultural dysfunction. The letter, signed by 115 senior medical staff, stated there had been at least four cultural reviews in the past decade, and all had failed to achieve meaningful change.

[Read More](#)

## 'You're a polished politician and I'm a bloody clinician': Doctors in flare-up with hospital boss

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/05/2026, Carmel Sparke

Senior doctors have stormed out of a meeting with a hospital boss after being called "deaf" as debate heated up over a third review of the hospital's culture. Video footage shows the moment dozens of doctors from Queensland's Townsville University Hospital left the meeting with hospital board chair Tony Mooney (pictured).

[Read More](#)

## When does your shift really start? The growing expectation of pre-shift tasks in nursing

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 07/05/2026, Rebecca Millar

Whilst nurses need to be ready to start work from their start time, recent case law has explored what 'starting work' means, discovering that many of the start work rules and processes put in place by employers are not always substantiated by law. Specific controversy surrounds the concept of pre-shift (or sometimes post shift) tasks and what should constitute paid work.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Administration leaves dozens of agencies in limbo

Canberra Times, General News, 08/05/2026, Lucinda Garbutt-Young & Ray Athwal, Page 4

Hundreds of active government department contracts have been left in limbo following the entry into voluntary administration of a major recruitment company that supplies contractors to the Commonwealth. [...] Meanwhile, the Australian Digital Health Agency has 28 active contracts with Hudson, valued at \$16 million.

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

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## Fraudster fails to get cars back

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/05/2026, Shannon Tonkin, Page 19

Disgraced Sydney pharmacist Ben Huynh has been ordered to pay \$70,000 in legal costs over a failed bid to retrieve his seized supercars, as he awaits sentence for ripping off millions of dollars in public funds. Huynh last month confessed to fleecing \$5.1m worth of taxpayer funds by systemically rorting the federal government's subsidised medications scheme at Cabramatta East Day and Night Pharmacy, which he operated for 26 years.

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

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## AHPRA lists sexual misconduct

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Heather Saxena, Page 4

Notices about historical sexual misconduct findings against 50 doctors have been published on AHPRA's website under controversial new rules. Responding to health ministers' demands, AHPRA has started publishing notices on health practitioners' public listings if they have been found guilty of professional misconduct involving sexual misconduct since 2010.

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## RBWH nurse Montahna Stengel sentenced to 12 months probation for forging her own prescriptions

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/05/2026, Nicola McNamara

An "exceptionally embarrassed" Brisbane nurse has fronted court for forging her own scripts after becoming hooked on oxycodone for pain relief. Montahna Rose Patrice Stengel started forging her own scripts in November 2024 to cope with the pain of an ongoing stress fracture, Brisbane Magistrates Court heard at her sentence on Thursday.

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

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## Former Wheatbelt nurse jailed for sexual relationship with 14yo mental health patient

West Australian, Other, 07/05/2026, Melissa Sheil

A former mental health nurse has been put behind bars for more than a decade after being found guilty of grooming one of his vulnerable young patients into a sexual relationship that began when she was only 14. Adam Simon McGovern was sentenced in Perth District Court last month for persistently engaging in sexual conduct with a child under the age of 16.

*Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).*

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Virus patients leave ship

Canberra Times, International News, 08/05/2026, Page 29

Two patients with hantavirus and one suspected of infection have been removed from a cruise ship and flown to the Netherlands, the World Health Organisation says. The Dutch cruise ship MV Hondius at the centre of the deadly outbreak departed Cape Verde with nearly 150 people on board on Wednesday and headed to Spain's Canary Islands.

*Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).*

## Inside the global effort to figure out where hantavirus will strike next

The Australian, Other, 07/05/2026, Xavier Martinez, Jennifer Calfas & Jacob Passy

Ruhi Çenet, a YouTuber and travel blogger, was on the MV Hondius cruise ship when the captain announced that someone on board had died. "We're not infectious," a ship official said in a video Çenet posted on social media. "The ship is safe."

[Read More](#)

## Dozens of passengers left hantavirus-stricken ship after first death

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/05/2026

More than two dozen passengers from at least 12 different countries left a cruise ship hit by a deadly hantavirus outbreak on April 24 without contact tracing, nearly two weeks after the first passenger died on board, the ship operator and Dutch officials said. The announcement raised concerns that the virus could spread as travellers returned home, although experts say the risk to the wider public is considered low as hantavirus isn't easily transmitted between people.

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

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## Australian among 23 passengers who have left rat-virus ship: reports

Australian Financial Review, Other, 07/05/2026, Andrea Hamblin

An Australian is among 23 people who have left a cruise ship stricken by an outbreak of hantavirus that is now headed for Spain's Canary Islands, according to media reports from Europe.

[Read More](#)

## Nations race to track passengers of virus-hit ship

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 07/05/2026, Bart H Meijer

Countries worldwide are scrambling to trace people who had left the cruise ship hit by a hantavirus outbreak before it got marooned off the coast of Cape Verde, to prevent further spread of the disease. Three people - a Dutch couple and a German national - died in the outbreak on MV Hondius.

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

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## Global race under way to trace passengers who left hantavirus ship before outbreak confirmed

The Guardian, Other, 08/05/2026, Rory Carroll & Sam Jones

Authorities around the world are racing to trace dozens of passengers who disembarked from the cruise ship at the centre of a deadly hantavirus outbreak before isolation measures were implemented. It emerged for the first time on Thursday that at least 29 passengers of 12 nationalities left the MV Hondius on 24 April after the first fatality, prompting a scramble to identify and track their movements since then.

[Read More](#)

## ABC, ABC News, 07/05/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

Health officials are tracing passengers who left the cruise early after a Hantavirus outbreak linked to a ship journey from South America, with concerns over international spread. The WHO notes the virus usually spreads from rodents, while a rare Andes strain capable of limited human-to-human transmission appears responsible for two cases so far.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 07/05/2026, Max Fletcher

Health authorities urge Australians to stay alert as measles cases rise globally, with outbreaks spreading across Europe, the Americas, and Asia. Officials warn the virus may already be circulating

undetected because symptoms often appear about 10 days after exposure, allowing wide contact before diagnosis.

[Play Now](#)

### **Channel 9, Nine News, 07/05/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry**

A hantavirus outbreak that began on a cruise ship in the Atlantic has spread internationally, with health authorities tracking cases across up to 16 countries and testing contacts worldwide. Among 23 passengers who disembarked on 24 April, an Australian reportedly returned home as cases emerged in Europe, the US, and Switzerland.

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### **4BC, Afternoons, 07/05/2026, Carla Bignasca**

Interview with Prof Paul Griffin, Director of Infectious Diseases at Mater Health, about a hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship off West Africa. Griffin explains that hantavirus mainly spreads through contact with infected rodents and differs significantly from COVID-19 because it does not typically transmit easily between people, with only rare cases of human-to-human spread in specific conditions.

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### **FIVEAA, Afternoons, 07/05/2026, Stacey Lee**

Interview with Dr Emily Kirkpatrick, Non-Executive Director for AMA SA, about the hantavirus outbreak on a stranded cruise ship off Senegal. Kirkpatrick says hantavirus is a well-known virus mainly spread through contact with infected rodent urine, faeces or saliva, and not typically transmitted between humans like COVID-19. She adds that while the WHO is investigating possible limited human-to-human spread, the situation remains rare.

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## **THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION**

### **TGA's illegal peptide warning**

The Australian, General News, 08/05/2026, Penny Timms, Page 3

Unapproved peptides are being seized and destroyed at the border as authorities struggle to contain the grey and black markets for the popular but potentially dangerous injectable drugs. Therapeutic Goods Administration head Anthony Lawler warned Australians could be risking their health by importing drugs that may be mislabelled, have unknown ingredients or not be fit for humans.

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

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### **\$40,000 Alzheimer's drugs 'do not work'**

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Jamie Thannoo, Page 5

The Cochrane Collaboration has written the next chapter in the controversial history of amyloid-targeting drugs for Alzheimer's disease by declaring that their effect on cognitive decline is trivial. But several Australian neuroscientists are unconvinced that this marks the final chapter for the monoclonal antibodies - two of which are TGA approved and cost \$40,000 a year or more.

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### **Most-used cannabis 'lacks evidence'**

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Ciara Seccombe, Page 7

Scant evidence exists on the efficacy of medicinal cannabis in the TGA's most-used approval category, Australian researchers say. The TGA issued 112,000 approvals under Special Access Scheme Category B last year for 'category 5' products those where cannabidiol comprises less than 2% of cannabinoid content, the rest typically THC.

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## Best Practice targets clinical AI

Australian Doctor, General News, 08/05/2026, Bella Rough, Page 13

A CPD provider has developed an AI that answers questions on Medicare and medicine, aiming to integrate it with Best Practice software by the middle of this year. [...] Until now, most AI in GP practices has been scribes, because software to diagnose patients or plan management would likely require TGA registration as a medical device.

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## Queensland company fined \$1.75 million over unapproved Covid tests

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/05/2026, Jessica Elder

A Queensland company has been hit with a \$1.75 million fine for importing more than 240,000 unapproved Covid rapid antigen tests during the height of the pandemic. [...] The company falsely claimed the tests were approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration more than 2300 times, the court found.

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

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### If you're what you eat, I may be cat litter

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/05/2026, Bob Holderness-Roddam, Page 35

What are you? [...] This resulted in a seven-page printout from Food Standards Australia and New Zealand, containing the number codes for 352 food additives.

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### I'm a gut health doctor - and these are the supermarket items you'll NEVER find in my family's kitchen

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 07/05/2026, Shania O'Brien

An Australian gut health expert has revealed the three common supermarket items he refuses to keep in his family kitchen - warning that many products marketed as 'healthy' may actually be disrupting people's gut health without them realising. Dr Paul Froomes, a microbiome doctor and gastroenterologist at The Microbiome Clinic in Melbourne, has built a growing online following by breaking down the science behind digestion, ultra-processed foods, and the microbiome in simple terms.

[Read More](#)

### Gold Coast: Parents of toddler in intensive care after Bluey cake-making accident issue plea

West Australian, Other, 07/05/2026, Emily Williams

Heartbroken parents have spoken out for the first time since a baking mishap left their toddler in intensive care, fighting for his life. [...] At the time of publication, no recall had been posted on the Food Standards Australia and New Zealand website.

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

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## AICIS

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