



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 9th May 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **[Weekend Australian](#)** (page 4) reports that Catholic Health Australia has produced a budgetary proposal indicating that the Federal Government needs to provide funding for at least an additional 20,000 home care packages in order to avoid a significant increase in the number of elderly Australians waiting for support through the government's care-at-home program.
- The **[Weekend Australian](#)** (page 9) reports that an open letter, produced by a collective of nearly 500 scientists and doctors, has been sent to Health Minister Mark Butler and Treasurer Jim Chalmers encouraging the Federal Government to allocate a greater portion of funding from the Medical Research Future Fund in order to progress life-changing medical research projects in Australia.
- The **[Weekend Australian](#)** (page 5) reports that a decline in spending growth for the National Disability Insurance Scheme will underwrite a significant portion of the \$64 billion in gross spending reductions which Finance Minister Katy Gallagher announced will feature in the forthcoming Federal budget, with policy reforms to reduce NDIS spending by \$35 billion. *Also reported by: [Weekend Australian](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- **[Channel 7](#)** features an interview with Health Minister Mark Butler in which he discusses the circumstances facing four Australians aboard a cruise ship which is currently experiencing a hantavirus outbreak, with Mr Butler stating that the individuals are being provided with consular assistance. *Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review](#), [Daily Telegraph](#)*

- [ABC Online](#) (online) reports that Local Government NSW has produced a six-point policy proposal to improve the provision of health services in regional areas, with the proposed plan featuring the allocation of \$200 million in funding to boost GP numbers and reimburse local councils for the costs of maintaining health and aged care services.
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 4) reports that the South Australian health system has recorded the 3,939 cumulative hours of ambulance ramping during the month of April, with the data representing an increase of 199 hours compared to the previous month.
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 4) reports that Engender Equality CEO, Alina Thomas, has stated that the uptake by Tasmanian GP clinics of a program designed to provide support for victim-survivors of sexual violence was encouraging, with nearly 80 clinic across Tasmania signing up in the first 12 months.
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 5) reports that research conducted by Adelaide University, with support from Diabetes Australia, has found that nearly 10 per cent of individuals experience no beneficial health effects from the use of GLP-1 medications due to inherent genetic factors.
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 8) reports that NSW Health have released a detailed list of Sutherland Shire exposure sites visited by an individual with measles, with health authorities cautioning those who attended these sites to monitor for symptoms of measles.

MINISTER BUTLER

Chalmers 'must find money for home care or brace for wait-list blowout'

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/05/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 4

[...] The \$1bn spend was part of broader aged-care package announced by Health Minister Mark Butler in a speech that also included the most drastic reforms to the NDIS since its inception, with a commitment from Labor to build an extra 5000 residential aged-care beds. [...] That's exactly what this is," Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said at the time.

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

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Focus shifts to immediate spending offsets

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/05/2026, Greg Brown, Page 5

Finance Minister Katy Gallagher says finding immediate offsets for spending measures will be a growing feature of the government's economic management, as Labor reveals it will make \$64bn of gross cuts in next week's budget. [...] The federal government rarely announced offsets for new spending announcements in the lead-up to the 2025 election campaign, but last month Health Minister Mark Butler broke this trend by unveiling a \$3bn cut to the private health insurance rebate for over-65s to pay for an equivalent increase to aged-care funding.

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

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Scientists slam 'hoarding' of research funds

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/05/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 9

Australia's top scientists are stepping up their campaign to unlock research funding they insist is being hoarded, compromising Australia's ability to deliver lifechanging medical advancements, as the federal government resists growing calls to release billions of dollars from the Medical Research Future Fund. [...] "What our patients and our country need now is support of great science, not an underfunded strategy," says an open letter to federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Treasurer Jim Chalmers signed by the researchers.

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

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Chalmers is going for broke. Will we end up a poorer country?

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/05/2026, Matthew Cranston, Page 17

If Australians believe Jim Chalmers, then this Tuesday's budget is meant to be the most consequential in decades. [...] Higher inflation will make government programs costlier, a challenge for Health Minister Mark Butler's ambitious plan to cut spending growth in the National Disability Insurance Scheme from 10 per cent to 2 per cent, and a challenge for other ministers to keep a lid on other rapidly growing costs such as defence, hospital payments, medical benefits payments and the Child Care Subsidy.

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

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The NDIS became a grifters' paradise and you're paying

AFR Weekend, General News, 09/05/2026, Michael Stutchbury, Page 43

Health Minister Mark Butler's extraordinary NDIS confession and Michele Bullock's lippy pre-budget rate increase reveal why the economy is stuck in a slow growth rut.

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Betting the house

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/05/2026, Shane Wright & Natassia Chrysanthos , Page 25

On a cool Thursday evening, five days out from delivering the federal budget, Jim Chalmers addressed hundreds of people inside the Federal Treasury building in Canberra. [...] In ordinary times, Health Minister Mark Butler's overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme would still be dominating headlines and public commentary.

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

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Chalmers given a run for his money

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 09/05/2026, Katina Curtis, Page 4

Treasurers usually play a careful game of expectation management before Budgets so they can pull a rabbit out of their hat on the night and dazzle everyone. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler believes he can cut \$35 billion from the runaway scheme over the next four years.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [Thenightly.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Narrogin Observer \(Online\)](#), [Great Southern Herald \(Online\)](#).

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You just can't stub them out

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/05/2026, Rory Williams, Page 11

[...] Theo Foukkare, CEO of the Association of Australian Convenience Stores, labelled federal Health Minister Mark Butler a "poster boy for organised crime", accusing the government of ignoring how high excise incentivises criminal networks. [...] In CC Tobacconist at Wyong, business was booming just 100m from the electoral office of federal Assistant Minister for Regional Health Emma McBride.

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'I was lucky'

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 09/05/2026, Matt Elliott, Page 1

It was a cold morning but he was sweating. [...] From Canberra, a spokesperson for Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Commonwealth provides hospital funding nationally and supports regional training, including a cardiology post in Mildura, but did not directly address the question of a proposed cath lab.

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Everything we know so far about Jim's budget

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 09/05/2026, Page 10

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.

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

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

District Reporter Camden, General News, 08/05/2026, Luke Beck, Page 8

Federal Health Minister 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.

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250,000 + unregistered NDIS providers

Clarence Valley Independent, General News, 08/05/2026, Rodney Stevens, Page 10

Only six per-cent of active National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) providers are registered with the government's NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission. [...] The Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing figures show the NDIS was projected to cost taxpayers \$46.2 billion in 2025, but it cost \$52 billion, the government has said.

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Consistent care could be cut

Colac Herald, General News, 08/05/2026, Ashleigh Wyss, Page 5

For Camperdown residents Liz Morrison and Ellie Blackney, being part of the National Disability Insurance Scheme has given them access to a form of consistent care and independence that would otherwise be out of reach. But following Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement that the Federal Government intends to cut 160,000 people from the scheme, both Liz and Ellie, alongside hundreds of thousands of Australians living with a disability are being met with an uncertain future.

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Disability advocates slam Mark Butler for lack of details before major NDIS reform bill introduced

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 08/05/2026, Julie Cross

Health Minister Mark Butler has been accused of trying to sneak through major changes to disability funding, with advocates saying its "frightening" they haven't been shown the bill which is due to be introduced to parliament next week. The government announced plans last month to remove one in five people from the \$50 billion-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".

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Court strikes down Donald Trump's 10 per cent tariffs on everyone

9News, Other, 08/05/2026, Nick Pearson

Donald Trump 's sweeping 10 per cent tariff on nearly all imports globally has been found to be illegal by a US court. [...] "This is the wrong decision by a partner of a successful free trade agreement that has endured for more than 20 years," Health Minister Mark Butler said when it was introduced.

[Read More](#)

From fuel relief to tax shocks: Inside Labor's Budget that will hit every Australian wallet

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 08/05/2026, Caitlin Powell

Treasurer Jim Chalmers has promised his fifth Federal Budget will focus on 'saving more than we spend' as Australia faces worsening economic conditions. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed that changes to eligibility rules would seek to lower the number of Australians on the NDIS to 600,000 by 2030.

[Read More](#)

\$1.5m extra for Cohealth, but where is the review?

The Medical Republic, Other, 08/05/2026, Caitlin Wright

Federal health minister Mark Butler has released a statement this afternoon promising an additional \$1.5 million in funding to make sure Cohealth services at the Collingwood, Fitzroy and Kensington sites stay open. The money is time-limited and conditional for 12 months, "while Cohealth, supported by North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network, makes the necessary changes in response to the independent review", the announcement said.

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SA opens step-down aged care accommodation

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 08/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The Central Adelaide Local Health Network step-down healthcare service has welcomed its first residents. [...] It's part of a national issue, with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing estimating that the number of older people using residential care will more than double from 198,302 in 2024 to 409,677 in 2044.

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Budget just one lever for boosting supply

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 08/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Western Australian not-for-profit aged care provider Juniper has further expanded its presence in regional Australia with the purchase of Esperance Aged Care Facility. [...] Looking to the \$3 billion of additional funding announced by Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler in April, Mr Bricknell called it a "good start" but said the government would need to "pull a couple of levers" to incentivise new builds.

[Read More](#)

More support needed for community services amid NDIS reforms, says Palliative Care services

Star Community, Other, 08/05/2026, Jency Callimootoo

NDIS overhauls could prompt big changes to crucial terminal-illness services, with a local Casey palliative care organisation calling for greater funding for community services before sweeping reforms takes place. [...] It's been two weeks since the government announced sweeping overhauls to the over decade-long, National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in an effort to mitigate spending costs with Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aging arguing that the new policies would make the Scheme more sustainable.

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News in brief

WEB Daily Straits, Other, 08/05/2026

Welcome to our 'News In Brief' column in which we digest all the news releases for you in no more than five paragraphs. [...] The organisation is calling on Minister Butler to partner with peak bodies to establish evidence-based workforce data and support growth of the allied health workforce nationally.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 08/05/2026, Mike Amor

Authorities around the world are racing to track down anyone who may have come in contact with the deadly hantavirus in the past month, and it comes after a flight attendant in the Netherlands tested positive for the strain that killed three people. While the cruise is on its way to the Canary Islands, nearly 150 passengers are still quarantined, including four Australian passengers, and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler states that they have very clear systems in place to make sure the Australians return home safely.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#).

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 08/05/2026, Monique Wright and Matt Shirvington

Panel Discussion with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Liberal Senator Jane Hume. Butler provides an update on the four Australian passengers on board a ship impacted by a hantavirus

outbreak, stating that they are providing the Australians with consular assistance. He says Australia has very clear systems in place to ensure that the Australian passengers are able to return home safely.

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WIN Wollongong, WIN News, 08/05/2026, Jared Constable

The communities stood alongside NDIS participants outside Federal MP for Cunningham Alison Byrne's office, demanding the Federal Government's proposed cuts to the scheme be called off to ensure no one with a disability goes without essential support. Two weeks ago, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced sweeping changes to the NDIS in a bid to curb growth, including the removal of 160,000 participants from the scheme by 2030.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Drive, 08/05/2026, Ali Moore

Interview with Dr Stephen Alomes, Save Our Community Health. Moore says the Federal Government has announced a \$1.5m lifeline for cohealth last November 2025, and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler also announced a review of the service that cohealth provides, but there are concerns that the said review is being held back from public release. Alomes states that the review has recommended the removal of the board and senior management, but it has been redacted from the report, and even though it is good that the money is being provided to cohealth, they do not believe that fiddling around with the current board and the assistance of the North Western Primary Health Network will solve the problem.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Nightlife, 08/05/2026, Philip Clark and Suzanne Hill

Interview with disability advocate Shane Hyrnocec in which he discusses wheelchair accessibility standards. Mr Hyrnocec discusses the accessibility to the office of Health Minister Mark Butler as an example of structures meeting existing standards while not necessarily being optimal for wheelchair access.

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ABC Sunshine Coast, Drive, 08/05/2026, Miranda Deakin

Deakin is joined by Nicole-Pedersen-McKinnon. McKinnon says CHOICE has found that some people are paying almost four times the headline premiums increase for top policies, and the Federal Government has now drafted new legislation that will require funds to seek approval for new policies. She states that Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler previously announced the so-called 4.41% increase, but insurers only need approval to raise premiums for existing policies, and CHOICE now claims that insurers' sneaky tactics include quietly closing cheaper gold prices and releasing more expensive ones for new customers.

[Play Now](#)

ABC North and West SA, SA Regional Drive, 08/05/2026, Narelle Graham

Panel Discussion with SA Health Minister Blair Boyer and SA Shadow Health and Wellbeing Minister Jack Batty. Batty says there are 373 patients stuck in hospitals who do not need to be there, and they would like to see more step-down beds or transition care centres, so they can provide good care to patients, but in a different setting. Boyer agrees, stating there is enormous pressure on the state's hospital system because people are waiting on aged care beds, but they welcomed Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement that the Federal Government will add an extra 5000 beds into the system.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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hit104.7 Canberra, Rod & Gabi, 08/05/2026, Rod Cuddihy and Gabi Elgood

As the World Health Organisation plays down the risk of a pandemic following the hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has provided an update on the four Australians on board. Butler says they are providing the Australian passengers with consular assistance, and they will have clear systems in place to ensure they are able to return home safely.

Similar coverage reported by: [Hot FM 91.1 \(Sunshine Coast\)](#),

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Triple M Newcastle, 09:00 News, 08/05/2026

Four Australians remain on the Canary Islands-bound cruise ship struck by a hantavirus outbreak. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says precautions will be taken when the Australians return home.

Also reported by: [Triple M Townsville \(Townsville\)](#), [Triple M The Border \(Albury\)](#), [Triple M Bundaberg \(Bundaberg\)](#), [Triple M Cairns \(Cairns\)](#), [Triple M Goldfields \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Triple M Karratha \(Karratha\)](#), [Triple M Albany \(Albany\)](#).

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 08/05/2026, Spence Denny

Interview I mean, Shane, that first story you told us about not being, you know, this extreme ramp when you got to the place that you were staying in Taiwan. I mean, how do you make sure? [...] A great example is the Minister for Disability in Australia, Mark Butler.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

Chalmers 'must find money for home care or brace for wait-list blowout'

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/05/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 4

[...] The \$1bn spend was part of broader aged-care package announced by Health Minister Mark Butler in a speech that also included the most drastic reforms to the NDIS since its inception, with a commitment from Labor to build an extra 5000 residential aged-care beds. [...] That's exactly what this is," Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said at the time.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

You just can't stub them out

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/05/2026, Rory Williams, Page 11

[...] Theo Foukkare, CEO of the Association of Australian Convenience Stores, labelled federal Health Minister Mark Butler a "poster boy for organised crime", accusing the government of ignoring how high excise incentivises criminal networks. [...] In CC Tobacconist at Wyong, business was booming just 100m from the electoral office of federal Assistant Minister for Regional Health Emma McBride.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Calling out racism, a commercial hijacking, and other priorities for prevention

Croakey, Other, 08/05/2026, Melissa Sweet

A key takeaway from this week's Preventive Health Conference, held in nipaluna/Hobart, is that anti-racism must be embedded across institutions, policies, and service systems. [...] Dr Scott McKeown, Deputy Director of Public Health in the Tasmanian Department of Health, and Rebecca White, the Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Indigenous Health, and Women, set a tone of place-based focus and accountability that the week's speakers would repeatedly test.

[Read More](#)

Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 08/05/2026, Kim Millar

A Health Star rating could soon appear on every food item in the supermarket as the Federal Government pushes forward with plans to mandate them, and while medical experts express their support, they insist that the ratings need to be transparent. Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White says there will be some education they need to undertake so consumers can better understand how ratings work.

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[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Boys to men

The Saturday Paper, General News, 09/05/2026, Hannah Bamba, Page 28

When Paul Edbrooke was working as a special education teacher in Frankston in the early 2000s, mobile phones were simple Nokias used for texting or a quick game of Snake. [...] At a federal level, NSW Labor MP Dan Repacholi was appointed as Australia's first special envoy for men's health in 2025.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

250,000 + unregistered NDIS providers

Clarence Valley Independent, General News, 08/05/2026, Rodney Stevens, Page 10

Only six per-cent of active National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) providers are registered with the government's NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission. [...] The Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing figures show the NDIS was projected to cost taxpayers \$46.2 billion in 2025, but it cost \$52 billion, the government has said.

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Prevention and the Comley Venn diagram paradigm

Health Services Daily, Other, 08/05/2026, Jeremy Knibbs

I went to the Public Health Association of Australia's national conference this week, on a last-minute whim, hoping to gain more insight into why prevention is the word on everyone's lips, and has been for decades, but we can't seem to get any traction on embedding it as a key structural and well-functioning element of our system. [...] Our secretary of health, Blair Comley put it succinctly to us all in his

appearance at the event when he explained that he doesn't "have much work to do convincing the centre of government that early intervention works".

[Read More](#)

On body bags, alarm bells and tobacco industry tactics for influencing policy

Croakey, Other, 08/05/2026, Melissa Sweet

Health groups came together on the lawns outside Parliament House this week to lay 66 body bags, as shown in the image above, representing the 66 Australians dying every day from tobacco. [...] Dr Christina Watts is a co-investigator on the Generation Vape study, which is funded by the Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, NSW Health, and Cancer Institute NSW.

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SA opens step-down aged care accommodation

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 08/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The Central Adelaide Local Health Network step-down healthcare service has welcomed its first residents. [...] It's part of a national issue, with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing estimating that the number of older people using residential care will more than double from 198,302 in 2024 to 409,677 in 2044.

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Govt funds NFP's second aged care home rebuild in four years

The Weekly Source, Other, 08/05/2026, Caroline Egan

A second remote aged care home is set for a major redevelopment, backed by a new round of Federal Government funding. The Australian Regional and Remote Community Services (ARRCS), part of Not For Profit UnitingCare Queensland, has confirmed its 25-bed Pulkapulka Kari Nursing Home and Hostel at Tennant Creek, around 1,000km south of Darwin and 500km north of Alice Springs, will be rebuilt through a \$34.6 million grant from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's Aged Care Capital Assistance Program.

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Government greases wheels of great generational wealth transfer

Weekend Australian, Business News, 09/05/2026, James Gerrard, Page 33

If you are 45 or older you might be wondering what your generation has done to fall out of favour with the federal government. [...] And in aged care, reforms effective from late last year penalise self-funded retirees with higher aged-care fees and higher lifetime thresholds before residents can stop paying means-tested aged care fees.

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

VR headsets trialled for dementia patients at Sydney hospital

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/05/2026, Jackson Robb

A new trial in a South Sydney hospital is investigating how technology can be used to help ease the anxiety of dementia patients in hospital waiting rooms. Patients with dementia are participating in a new study at St George Hospital in Kogarah that investigates how virtual reality (VR) headsets can help minimise distress during prolonged hospital wait times.

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

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Terry died in hospital after waiting months for an aged care place

Terry Jefferies enjoyed making others laugh and he loved his squash and bowls. He was a familiar face at his local 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.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

SVHA working on solving digital 'plumbing issues'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 08/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Digital innovation is no longer a nice-to-have, St Vincent's Health Australia digital health executive Jayne Barclay warned Wednesday's ITAC Conference 2026 delegates. Maintaining the old reactive system is "just not viable," she told the Brisbane audience.

[Read More](#)

Videri expands, hopes to see its model grow too

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 08/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Aged care provider Videri is preparing to open its 24th group home in Sydney and the fourth in the city's north-western suburbs. Set to join Videri Lisa and Videri Chiltern in Castle Hill and Videri Oakleigh in Thornleigh, the 10-bedroom Cherrybrook home offers specialised care for people living with dementia, neurodegenerative diseases and frailty.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Canberra still spending like there's no tomorrow

AFR Weekend, General News, 09/05/2026, Jennifer Hewett, Page 1

Jim Chalmers is heartily sick of economists telling him he doesn't think big enough on reform.

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

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Labor's quiet U-turn revives 2019 tax agenda

AFR Weekend, General News, 09/05/2026, John Kehoe, Page 1

We're a few days away from the federal budget, and something quite extraordinary is going on.

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Long path to repair (take it as ... red)

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/05/2026, Greg Brown & Geoff Chambers, Page 1

Jim Chalmers has played down the prospect of outlining a pathway to a near-term surplus in next week's budget and warned more tough decisions will be needed to fix the nation's finances, as he unveiled a plan to address weak productivity growth through red tape cuts that will bolster the economy by \$13bn a year. [...] While his fifth budget will be the first to deliver a net saving from policy decisions on the back of banking \$35bn of cuts to the growth of the NDIS, Dr Chalmers said more would need to be done in future budgets to put the nation on a more sustainable financial footing.

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Labor must break national addiction to tax and spend

Weekend Australian, Editorials, 09/05/2026, Page 14

Jim Chalmers is talking up reform but not ready to claim he has been able to rescue the federal budget from being in structural deficit. Red ink will continue to flow and "budget repair will continue beyond Tuesday night", the Treasurer said. [...] Given that many of the outlays are on recurrent spending, including bigger salaries for a higher number of public servants and health and welfare measures

including the National Disability Insurance Scheme, it is difficult to make the case that we are investing for future prosperity.

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

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Chalmers ready to fight 'scare campaign of lies'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/05/2026, Paul Sakkal & Shane Wright, Page 3

Jim Chalmers has vowed to crash through a "scare campaign of lies" as Labor prepares to break its promises to keep investor tax benefits. [...] Chalmers and Finance Minister Katy Gallagher yesterday revealed \$64 billion in budget savings, mostly from the NDIS and redirected defence spending, in the scramble to reduce inflation and deficits after years of near-record spending.

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

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Nation's priorities upside down

Herald Sun, General News, 09/05/2026, Jeff Kennett, Page 6

Australia is increasingly losing any sense of a moral compass. [...] The Albanese government announces changes to the NDIS in an attempt to rein in the blowout in the scheme's escalating costs.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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A Budget blown off course

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 09/05/2026, Michelle Grattan, Page 117

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.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#)

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Saddest goodbye

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 09/05/2026, Nikita Mcguire, Page 3

A North Queensland family is in mourning following the death of their son Conall Westcott, a young boy who became the face of his family's tireless battle against the medical hardships faced by families in the regions. [...] "The NDIS for us has been good, I get really upset when I see the rorting that's going on with the NDIS system because they truly did help us."

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

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Service provider fined for client death

Central Western Daily, General News, 09/05/2026, Allison Hore, Page 4

A disability service provider has been convicted and fined after a woman in their care died as a result of burns she sustained when she was placed in "boiling" bathwater. Kyah Lucas, 28, died in 2022 after disability support workers from LiveBetter helping her bathe at her home in Orange failed to check the temperature of the bathwater before placing her into it.

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

Federal budget 2026: Labor finds \$64bn in savings

The Australian, Other, 08/05/2026, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer

Next week's federal budget will include \$64bn in net savings, the Albanese government's finance chiefs say. Finance Minister Katy Gallagher said on Friday that Labor had scraped together the savings by

reprioritising funds and trimming spending in key areas, including the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

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

[Read More](#)

Some people will hate Tuesday's federal budget but Jim Chalmers doesn't mind

ABC Online, Other, 09/05/2026, Tom Crowley

The truth is that, for all the hype, federal budgets are often dull affairs. [...] There will also be more new savings than there is new spending, though likely by a slim margin and due in large part to colossal NDIS savings which will require significant further work to be achieved.

[Read More](#)

Lean times, tough choices: can Jim Chalmers meet the moment?

The Guardian, Other, 08/05/2026, Patrick Commins

Jim Chalmers cuts a lean figure in his Parliament House office, and, unusually for a man of such apparently limitless energy, a weary one. [...] The pre-announced "hard decisions" include a major overhaul to the NDIS that will save an estimated \$35bn over four years, and a phased scaling back of the electric vehicle discount.

[Read More](#)

SBS, World News Australia (Late), 08/05/2026

Treasurer Jim Chalmers is preparing to deliver the Federal budget next week. The spending reductions are to come from the National Disability Insurance Scheme and changing priorities within defence. The Federal Government have indicate that the budget will feature \$64 billion in gross savings.

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Plan to help GPs spot family violence signs

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/05/2026, Bridget Clarke, Page 4

A Tasmanian pilot program helping GPs better support patients experiencing family and sexual violence has recorded strong statewide uptake, with about 80 clinics taking part in its first year. Tasmanian family violence organisation Engender Equality's Primary Care Family and Sexual Violence (PCFSV) Support Program provides resources, education and training to GPs to better support patients experiencing family and sexual violence.

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

GP program on front line

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 09/05/2026, Page 26

For many victim-survivors of family and sexual violence, the first person they trust enough to speak to is not a police officer or counsellor - it is their GP. That is why Tasmania's Primary Care Family and Sexual Violence Support Program deserves strong support and recognition.

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

GP clinic shut until June

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 09/05/2026, Page 14

Ramsay Health Care's Joondalup after-hours GP clinic will be shut until at least June despite a review concluding the service would stay open. Patients have been arriving to closed doors at the Joondalup Health Campus clinic since the start of April with the service also shut for the rest of May because of a lack of staff.

Death of newborn 'happened on our watch'

Daily Advertiser, General News, 09/05/2026, Maryam Sulaiman, Page 3

A Wagga health leader says the community needs to provide solutions to the city's homelessness issue and stop waiting on government intervention. [...] Wagga Women's Health Centre president Vickie Burkinshaw said she was devastated by news of the baby's death and the situation the mother and baby were in.

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

A lot is resting on this byelection result

Border Mail, General News, 09/05/2026, Helen Haines, Page 6

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.

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

Towns rally for urgent health support

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 09/05/2026, Eliza Spencer, Page 12

Telehealth services have revolutionised care for rural communities. But with patients left speaking to a screen, or emergency wards enduring days without a doctor on site, country mayors, medical staff and politicians say the technological innovation has become a risk, rather than a cure.

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Doc's \$3.5m bill at centre of black hole

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/05/2026, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 31

Doctors who prop up the ailing rural health system are billing \$1.3 billion per year, with a single specialist claiming \$3.5 million under an ineffective government scheme creating a major budget black hole. The \$1.3 billion spent on more than 7000 visiting medical officers in NSW in 2024/25 represented nearly 10 per cent of the state health department's total clinical costs, according to an audit.

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

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

Contract doctors charged NSW \$1.3 billion. One claimed to work 25 hours a day for a whole year

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/05/2026, Rachel Rasker & Kate Aubusson

A doctor charged taxpayers \$3.5 million, and another billed for the equivalent of five full-time roles in a single year, an audit of NSW's porous payment system for contractor medicos reveals. The NSW Auditor-General's report, released on Thursday, warned that NSW Health's "significant and persistent weaknesses" in its remuneration processes for 8000 visiting medical officers (VMOs) exposed it to errors and fraud.

[Read More](#)

Premier's abortion vow tested as pro-life groups mobilise against new laws

The Courier Mail, Other, 08/05/2026, Taylah Fellows, Hayden Johnson & Mikaela Mulveney

Just when David Crisafulli thought he had finally escaped the abortion wars, the Christian right is once again sharpening its pitchforks over a seemingly dry amendment to Queensland's Medicines and Poisons regulations due to hit Parliament next week. [...] On paper, the changes are mostly bureaucratic housekeeping — ironing out the framework allowing trained nurses and midwives to prescribe MS-2 Step under laws already passed by the former Labor government.

[Read More](#)

NSW councils call for 'GP guarantee' to address regional health crisis

ABC Online, Other, 08/05/2026, Marina Trajkovich

The peak body for councils in NSW is calling for a "GP guarantee" and a \$1.18 billion state government investment to improve health services in regional areas. The initiative calls for a GP to be available in every town, through a targeted \$200 million investment, creating new regional training pathways, while improving support for current and training doctors and struggling practices.

[Read More](#)

Global cyberattack impacts more than 9000 institutions

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 08/05/2026, Karen Burge

The RACGP has assured its online training platforms are not impacted by a cyberattack on popular learning management system, Canvas, which is affecting multiple education providers across Australia. News of the cyberattack broke earlier this week when Canvas's parent company, Instructure, announced it had 'experienced a cybersecurity incident perpetrated by a criminal threat actor'.

[Read More](#)

cohealth secures \$1.5 million lifeline

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 08/05/2026, Michelle Wisbey

Victoria's cohealth clinics will receive \$1.5 million in Federal Government funding in an effort to create long-term sustainability for the general practices – but exactly how that money will be spent and what future services will look like, remains publicly unknown. The not-for-profit company operates GP clinics across Victoria and Tasmania supporting disadvantaged communities, but last year, several of its inner-Melbourne centres were facing closure amid significant funding concerns.

[Read More](#)

RACGP's latest AJGP issue spotlights digital innovation in the future of general practice

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 08/05/2026

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has released the May 2026 issue of the Australian Journal of General Practice (AJGP), under the theme 'Digital general practice'. In line with its theme, the issue explores how digital innovation is transforming care delivery, medical education and patient outcomes in general practice across Australia, spanning past developments, current challenges and future opportunities.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 08/05/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners President Dr Michael Wright. Wright says they have asked about reintroducing Medicare-funded annual health assessments for children under five in one of their budget priorities, because it will give them time to understand what is happening at home, talk about prevention and screening, and support kids to reach their potential, rather than them needing to go onto the NDIS. He also states that investing money in the program will allow every child to have a free one-hour annual checkup until the age of five, and it will save a lot of long-term funding in terms of earlier recognition and treatment.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Sugar hit warnings work

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 09/05/2026, Page 37

Putting warning labels on sugary drinks would significantly change adolescents' behaviour and lead many to avoid buying or drinking them altogether. The South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute study found that warning labels on the front of packaging that included the number of teaspoons of added sugar in a drink were particularly likely to lead to changed behaviour.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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Why Mother's Day Classic is more than a walk in the park

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/05/2026, Jessica Belzycki, Page 30

Newcastle woman Leanne James was heading to a friend's hens party when she felt a lump in her breast. [...] Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer for females in Australia with more than 20,000 cases estimated to be diagnosed in 2025, according to the Australia Institute of Health and Welfare.

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

Doctors warn of 'lifelong effects' for toddler poisoned by cake dust

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/05/2026, Courtney Kruk

The parents of a Gold Coast toddler placed in a week-long induced coma after accidentally inhaling a toxic cake decorating product say their son might have lifelong health issues and long-term lung damage, despite his condition improving. [...] According to the most recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, there were more than 10,000 hospitalisations due to accidental poisoning in 2023–24, the highest in children aged 0–4.

[Read More](#)

On riverbanks and in parkland camps, Australians are sleeping rough through a dire housing crunch

The Guardian, Other, 09/05/2026, Cait Kelly

Lincoln Curtis says if you ask him a simple question, you get a simple answer. [...] Figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show services around New South Wales served 67,824 clients in the 2024-25 financial year, with the number of people being turned away rising to 59 a day on average, up from 57 last year.

[Read More](#)

I didn't think I could get addicted to weed. I was wrong – and I'm not alone

The Guardian, Other, 09/05/2026, Shannon Keating

Amy knew it wasn't great. [...] It's understandable "that people have a lot of distrust" when it comes to institutional messaging on cannabis since the US, Australia, the UK and beyond have all criminalized drug use, even though "we know that drug use is a health problem.

[Read More](#)

Regional businesses and councils are reeling from the axing of the \$45b Inland Rail

Crikey, Other, 08/05/2026, Michael Sainsbury

Whether the now-truncated, budget-blowing Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail project was ever worth the billions already spent is a more than reasonable question. [...] The Australian Institute for Health and Welfare has noted that in 2024, the Year 12 completion rate in remote areas was 16% lower than in major cities.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 08/05/2026, Jess Ong

Ong says the Federal Government has committed just under \$6m to combating illegal tobacco trade in the NT. She notes that the NT has the highest percentage of smokers in the country, and the illicit tobacco trade has links to organised crime.

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[Back to Top](#)

How this budget can make a difference

The Saturday Paper, General News, 09/05/2026, Danielle Wood, Page 7

Strange as it may sound, I've always loved budget nights. [...] Early investments in health and social services can pay big dividends down the track.

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

Why I'm now grieving for my city

The Saturday Age, General News, 09/05/2026, John Silvester, Page 40

Once there was another city here, and now it is gone. [...] Massive excise on tobacco, initially designed to deter smoking but which eventually became nothing but a lucrative federal government revenue stream, opened the billion-dollar market for illicit cigarettes.

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

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

Mother of all days at seven

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 09/05/2026, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 1

Of all the lessons 20-month-old Cruz Kelly has taught his mum Shannon, perhaps the most powerful is the ability to seek out joy during times of deep sadness and fear. The moments when he babbles "mama", the bright smile that lights up his face when he sees her, or a bedtime story read at home instead of in a hospital bed are never taken for granted.

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I used Ozempic and it had no effect

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/05/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 5

GLP-1 medicines, including Ozempic, may have virtually no effect on about 10 per cent of people due to their genetic make-up, according to landmark research led by Adelaide University. [...] The international project - supported by Diabetes Australia - could pave the way for more personalised treatments, tailored to a person's genetic profile.

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

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Dementia No.1 killer

Courier Mail, General News, 09/05/2026, Page 5

Dementia has replaced ischaemic heart disease as the leading cause of death in Australia. Dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, accounted for 17,550 deaths in 2024, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#).

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

Canberra Times, General News, 09/05/2026, Page 41

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: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#).

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

Chalmers, it's past time to act on smokes

Northern Territory News, General News, 09/05/2026, Mary Aldred, Page 69

Jim Chalmers painted himself into a a corner corner this week by ruling out a a cut in the tobacco excise rate when he hands down the federal budget o on Tuesday. The Treasurer says law

enforcement alone will get us out of this criminal catastrophe.

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

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'Right place, right time'

Ballarat Courier, General News, 09/05/2026, Nick Powell, Page 1

Luck is certainly on Karl Robson's side. The 61-year-old seasoned runner, who has 19 marathons under his belt, was competing in a Brown Hill Parkrun when his heart suddenly stopped.

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

My kids saved me

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 09/05/2026, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 1

Gold Coast mum Anna Wilkinson says she owes this Mother's Day to her two children for saving her life, and for stepping up when she needed them the most. [...] Stroke Foundation chief executive Dr Lisa Murphy said research showed women have a 25 per cent higher chance of being told their stroke is something else in emergency departments.

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Celebrities are making smoking cool again – and it's breathtakingly stupid

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/05/2026, Angela Mollard

If you've seen The Devil Wears Prada 2 you might be feeling a bit sorry for the poor beleaguered magazine industry. It's no secret that those glossy relics of aspiration and the crazed mavens who edited them have been digitally disrupted but, apart from the jobs lost, I frankly don't care.

[Read More](#)

Tobacco giant pushes for lower excise to undercut booming illegal cigarette market in secret Senate hearing

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/05/2026, Alex Blair

Australia's illegal cigarette trade has exploded into a full-scale criminal economy, prompting fears within the legal tobacco industry that its industry is being pushed towards extinction. The debacle is hitting the big tobacco giants hard. So much so that a representative of Philip Morris International privately warned a Senate inquiry this week that its days were numbered in Australia.

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

[Read More](#)

Community rallies to buy time for a brave aspiring teen now in palliative care

The Mercury, Other, 08/05/2026, Owen Watts

A Gippsland family is racing against time to fund the only therapy left that could extend their beloved daughter's life as she battles a rare and aggressive cancer. [...] Cabozantinib is the one therapy left that may extend and improve her life.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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One 'marvellous' GP's role in a mystery heart illness

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 08/05/2026, Jolyon Attwooll

After a series of heart crises with an uncertain diagnosis, you could be forgiven for withdrawing a little from life. But that is not Gwen Brett's way.

[Read More](#)

Vitamin C and cancer – is it time to revisit this once discredited link?

The New Daily, Other, 08/05/2026

Linus Pauling was one of the most brilliant scientists of the 20th century. He won two Nobel prizes and transformed our understanding of chemical bonds and the structure of proteins.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, A Current Affair, 08/05/2026, Allison Langdon

Report by Allison Langdon. Jemma Jukes, a woman who died from a rare lung cancer in December 2024, bravely fought to have the treatment for the condition listed and subsidised on the PBS. To honour Jemma and her legacy, her family launched the Jem Project through Rare Cancers Australia.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 08/05/2026, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

An Australian first stroke clinic exclusively for female patients has treated 200 women in its first year of operation at Monash Medical Centre. Stroke is one of the biggest killers in Australia, claiming more lives than breast cancer.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

What's up, bot?

Northern Territory News, General News, 09/05/2026, Mark Furler, Page 25

A teenager bullied online takes his own life, leaving family and friends asking the question that can never be fully answered: Why? [...] While Australia has some excellent mental health services, and 24-hour hotlines such as Lifeline and Kids' Helpline, the grim reality is people can face long waits to get the care they need.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Cost of living and climate change are top concerns for Gold Coast youth

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/05/2026, Rosie Gale

Cost of living, mental health and the environment are among the top concerns for Gold Coast young people at a nation-leading youth summit. More than 200 people aged 15 to 24 attended the Impact Youth Summit at Sea World Conference Centre on Friday to connect, learn from inspirational speakers and find a way forward on the issues that mattered most to them.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

Free RSV jab for seniors

Weekend Post, General News, 09/05/2026, Emma Cam, Page 9

Cairns seniors are being urged to take up a newly-available vaccine protecting against a highly-contagious respiratory virus, as health experts warn of a likely surge in Respiratory Syncytial Virus cases. For the first time, a vaccine for RSV will be available free for eligible seniors from May 15. Outside the program, the vaccine can cost about \$300.

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

Gold Coast company fined \$1.75m for selling unapproved Covid tests

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 09/05/2026, Jessica Elder, Page 19

A Gold Coast company has been hit with a \$1.75m fine for importing more than 240,000 unapproved Covid rapid antigen tests during the height of the pandemic. Key Promotional Products, which has been liquidated and taken over by a non-related promotional company, imported and sold the tests between January and March 2022.

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

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

Kids can now enjoy getting flu vaccine

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 08/05/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 16

A new study will explore the effects of a nasal spray flu vaccine on children's immune systems with the end game no more needles. A Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) 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.

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Diphtheria cases rise in Kimberley, prompting vaccination push

West Australian, Other, 08/05/2026, Phoebe Solon

Health authorities are urging Kimberley residents to check their vaccination status following a surge in diphtheria cases across the region. Since late December 2025, 55 cases of diphtheria have been confirmed in the Kimberley, with the outbreak largely concentrated in local communities.

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, Breakfast, 08/05/2026, Will Goodings and David Penberthy

Interview with Deakin University Distinguished Professor and Epidemiology Chair Dr Catherine Bennett, on measles. Bennett says measles cases in Australia have tripled by 2025, and most people pick up the virus overseas, particularly in South East Asia, because they are not vaccinated. She also states that measles vaccines give people better protection from the disease, but there has been much disinformation around the vaccines, and it is disheartening to have vaccine-preventable diseases running through communities.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

3AW, Mornings, 08/05/2026, Tom Elliott

The Association of Private Healthcare Australia warns that the Federal Government's plans to abolish more generous private health fund rebates for Australians over 65 will cause small private hospitals to close down.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Eye on genetic driver

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/05/2026, Page 10

A major international study led by Flinders University has identified a genetic contributor to juvenile glaucoma. The study marks another important step towards treating multiple forms of glaucoma eye disease that can cause blindness with the support of genetic testing.

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

A seaweed plant almost killed this South Coast scientist. Now she's expanding it

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 08/05/2026

A South Coast scientist who survived a will soon be able to scale up her seaweed business and continue a story where the personal is intimately linked to her research. Dr Pia Winberg was scalped - literally - in her Huskisson workshop in 2019 after her hair became caught in the drive shaft of a machine.

[Read More](#)

Australia's growing 'silent killer' could claim thousands of lives by century's end

SBS, Other, 08/05/2026, Miles Proust

More than 1,500 people a year could die from heatwaves in Australia by the end of the century under current climate trends, with the hottest parts of the country hardest hit, new research shows. The study, led by Monash University researchers and published in The Lancet Planetary Health, is the first nationwide community-level projection of heatwave-related excess deaths.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, News Night, 08/05/2026, Rhiannon Elston

Murdoch Children's Research Institute is celebrating 40 years of operation. 1800 researchers and hundreds of PhD students at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Australia's largest childhood research institute, are undertaking important medical research.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'My intentions were good, but I was wrong'

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/05/2026, Mal Brough, Page 22

As Indigenous affairs minister I authorised new homes to be built in dysfunctional communities. [...] The public is told repeatedly that overcrowding contributes to violence and poor health outcomes.

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

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

NT to launch child protection inquiry after tragedy

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/05/2026, Ria Pandey, Page 13

The Northern Territory government is poised to launch an independent review of its child protection system, just days after department staffers were stood down following an investigation into the circumstances of Kumanjayi Little Baby. The five-year-old girl allegedly killed by Jefferson Lewis in Alice Springs was the subject of six child protection reports since March, it was revealed this week.

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NT's shame: decades of talk and still no action

Northern Territory News, General News, 09/05/2026, Matt Cunningham, Page 23

Now is not the right time to talk about the safety of Aboriginal women and children in the Northern Territory. It's a line that's been repeated many times since the tragic death of Kumanjayi Little Baby in Alice Springs.

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Support service targets Kimberley's high road trauma rates

West Australian, Other, 08/05/2026, Phoebe Solon

Free counselling has been on offer for those affected by trauma linked to road crashes, including witnesses, first responders and family members. Road Trauma Support WA is expanding its reach across the Kimberley, with staff travelling through Broome, Derby and Fitzroy Crossing this week to connect with frontline workers and Aboriginal organisations.

[Read More](#)

NT minister accused of not consulting children's commissioner over care review

The Guardian, Other, 08/05/2026, Douglas Smith

First Nations children's advocates and legal services have called on the Northern Territory government to widen the scope of a planned review into the child protection system announced in the wake of the tragic death of a five-year-old in Alice Springs. The NT minister for child protection, Robyn Cahill, announced on Friday that the Territory's CLP government would launch an extensive review into the child protection system after the alleged killing of Kumanjayi Little Baby.

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[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Coalition 'climbing Everest in thongs and a singlet'

AFR Weekend, General News, 09/05/2026, Nicola Smith, Page 12

Angus Taylor has conceded the Liberals must claw back trust with voters as they brace to lose the former stronghold of Farrer in regional NSW, in the first federal electoral test of his leadership.

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Hospital ramping worst in record for April

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/05/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 4

It was the worst April on record for ramping in South Australia with 3939 hours lost and a rise of 199 hours compared to March - but the state government says the good news is ramping so far this year is 306 fewer hours lost than the same period last year. Opposition health spokesman Jack Batty said: "The new Health Minister has just delivered the worst April of ramping in the state's history.

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\$100m boost to address bed-blockage

Ballarat Courier, General News, 09/05/2026, Nick Powell, Page 4

For 46 years, Kerry Leishman worked the "hard slog" of Ballarat's aged care as a nurse. Now, at 72, she lives as a patient in her old workplace at the Talbot Place Aged Care Facility in Dana Street.

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

Palliative care beds go public after move

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 09/05/2026, Zoe De Koning, Page 4

One dozen palliative care beds are now open to patients in the public system following the relocation of Barwon Health's services to Anam Cara House. A spokesman for the public healthcare provider confirmed its services had last week been successfully relocated from the McKellar Centre in North Geelong to the \$22m purposebuilt facility at Deakin University's Waurin Ponds campus.

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Decision looms on future of 'failed' model

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/05/2026, Damon Cronshaw & Jamieson Murphy, Page 5

NSW Health will present options to Minister for Health Ryan Park on the future of the Calvary Mater Newcastle public-private partnership (PPP) by mid-year. "NSW Health is preparing to advise the government by mid-2026," said a statement to the NSW parliamentary inquiry into the mould and maintenance scandal.

Patients wait for findings

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 09/05/2026, Daniel Shirkie, Page 12

The outcome of an investigation into serious medical failings at Townsville University Hospital's urology clinic remains unknown, despite hundreds of patients desperately waiting on answers. Queensland Health commissioned the independent report in September last year, following revelations that several serious failings had been found within the Townsville University Hospital's urology clinic.

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Bed shortages and border lines: Farrer's health crisis goes to the polls

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/05/2026, Rob Harris

In most federal byelections, the decisive issues tend to be familiar: cost of living, housing, migration, or the performance of the government of the day. But in the city where half of the seat of Farrer's population resides, the political gravity has shifted in a different direction.

[Read More](#)

Central Australia 2026-27 budget healthcare boost

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/05/2026, Gary Shipway

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 pollie and Treasurer Bill Yan in the 2026-27 Budget.

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

[Read More](#)

Ashton Hurn slams SA Labor over record surgery cancellations with 25,000 now on waiting list

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/05/2026, Brad Crouch

The state government is being accused of elective surgery "cancel culture" after a record 17,664 such surgeries were cancelled last year. Cancellations have surged 25 per cent since Labor took office in 2022 when the number hit 14,079.

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

[Read More](#)

State Budget 2026-27: The Advertiser's guide to where money will be spent in the Great Southern

West Australian, Other, 08/05/2026, Melissa Sheil

The long-awaited expansion of the region's biggest hospital and 26 new homes for frontline workers headline the local highlights of Thursday's State Budget, while a relatively small gas transition package will likely disappoint. Pipped by Treasurer Rita Saffioti as a cost of living, housing and health-focused document, her 2026-27 Budget delivers broad support measures to regional Western Australians, but is relatively scarce in new Great Southern-specific programs or infrastructure.

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

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Through the Farrer looking glass, major parties fade as One Nation and independents come into focus

The Guardian, Other, 09/05/2026, Sarah Basford Canales

The cheers and jeers from an Albury pub might show just how strange the historic byelection in Farrer will be. The celebrity presenter Karl Stefanovic dropped into the small Riverina city for a live podcast show on the eve of the byelection. Set up on a stage in Beer Deluxe's beer garden, five of the contest's 12 candidates sat closely together.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 08/05/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry

The rate of Queensland's ambulance ramping fell by almost 3% year on year in the March quarter, with the Prince Charles, RBWH, and Gold Coast University hospitals recording their lowest ramping figures in five years. However, ramping figures at Caboolture, Toowoomba, and Townsville have increased, making a grim reading for the Queensland Government.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Midwives helping home births happen

Central Western Daily, General News, 09/05/2026, Orlander Ruming, Page 7

For Meg Austin, home births are often uneventful. [...] The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia states two qualified practitioners need to be present during a home birth.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Meeting with nurse after hospital incident

Canberra Times, General News, 09/05/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 12

The Minister for Health and Mental Health will meet with a nurse allegedly strangled by a patient last year, and said Canberra hospitals learn lessons from every occupational violence incident. Rachel Stephen-Smith said the nurse reached out after the incident was covered by media on Thursday.

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Lib jobs plan 'a brain drain'

Herald Sun, General News, 09/05/2026, Shannon Deery, Ryan Bourke & Carly Douglas, Page 21

Victoria's public service would suffer a debilitating "brain drain" if a hiring freeze planned by Opposition Leader Jess Wilson were to go ahead, a union has warned. [...] The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation's Nicole Allan said: "The last Liberal government spent nine months fighting Victorian nurses and midwives to replace them with health assistants to save \$104m off its annual nursing budget. It may be 14 years ago, but nurses and midwives will never forget."

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

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

Workers in \$25k booster

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/05/2026, Lauren Ahwan, Page 78

Pay rises of about 20 per cent are still being awarded in a handful of professions, boosting the salaries of some Aussie workers by almost \$25,000 a year. [...] In addition, aged care nurses and childcare workers could expect wage increases over the coming year, related to Fair Work Commission decisions, he said.

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

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Creating better outcomes for women

Daily Liberal, General News, 09/05/2026, Dane Wilson, Page 5

When Emma Howard faced the daunting circumstance of giving birth after only 32 weeks in 2008, she swore to help other women along their pregnancy journey. At that point a registered nurse in Broken

Hill, she was urgently flown to Adelaide to give birth in a moment that changed her career and her life.

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Midwife recognised for maternal care

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 09/05/2026, Denika Anderson, Page 13

A Buronga HealthOne midwife has been recognised for delivering antenatal and postnatal care, and being pivotal in the implementation of the new Maternity Postnatal Service model of care in Buronga. Jesse Prokop was awarded Midwife of the Year for the Far West Local Health District on International Day of the Midwife, which celebrates the contribution of midwives who provide safe care and support during pregnancy and beyond to women and their babies.

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Revealed: The inspiring winners of the NT News Woman of the Year Awards 2026

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/05/2026, Lottie Hood

A group of 11 women from the Northern Territory – who are professionals, leaders and change-makers in their respective fields and social circles – have been recognised for their contributions to community at the NT News Woman of the Year Awards 2026. [...] This year's newest category Health Heroes is designed to highlight the women who have made significant contributions to the health and wellbeing of their communities and Kylie Straube is certainly doing that and at no small sacrifice.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Dissent is silenced as gender row explodes

Courier Mail, General News, 09/05/2026, Des Houghton, Page 64

A Queensland doctor has complained to police she was manhandled and pulled to the ground after she held up a sign at the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists Congress conference in Melbourne. Child psychiatrist Dr Jillian Spencer, who is under suspension by Queensland Health for speaking out against transgender activism, said in a sworn statement she was at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, where 2000 doctors from around the world had gathered earlier this week.

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

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Queensland patients face 'long and onerous' wait for medical complaint investigations

Chinei Ward feels "very defeated" after battling complications from her gastric bypass surgery and a lengthy complaints process that still has no end in sight. [...] Nigel Ford lodged a complaint about his surgeon to Ahpra in April 2024 over a procedure he was later told he "never needed".

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[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

Luxury wildlife cruise turns into nightmare

AFR Weekend, International News, 09/05/2026, Andrew Tillett, Page 16

For nature lovers, it was a chance to tick the bucket list and visit some of the world's least inhabited places, getting up close to seals, birds and whales with prices starting at a cool \$16,000 per berth.

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Measles detected in Sydney

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/05/2026, Emma Kirk, Page 8

Residents in Sydney's south are on alert for measles after a case was detected in the Sutherland Shire in a person who had travelled to an outbreak location in Southeast Asia. The person visited multiple locations across the shire while unknowingly infectious, including healthcare facilities, food outlets, shopping centres, retail stores and an auto repair shop.

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

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Aussie off ship before deaths

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/05/2026, Emma Kirk, Page 23

An Australian traveller has reportedly returned home after being on-board a cruise ship exposed to hantavirus. Spanish newspaper El Pais reported while most passengers remained on-board the cruise ship MV Hondius under strict conditions, 23 people left the ship on April 21 and returned home, including one Australian.

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

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Scramble to trace virus ship passengers

Canberra Times, International News, 09/05/2026, Page 23

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: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#).

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WHO warns of more hantavirus cases in 'limited' outbreak

The Australian, Other, 08/05/2026

The World Health Organization said Thursday that more hantavirus cases could emerge after the disease killed three passengers from a cruise ship, but it expected the outbreak to be limited if precautions were taken. Another sick passenger from the MV Hondius landed in Europe earlier in the day, as the vessel headed to the Spanish Canary Islands and health officials scrambled to trace the outbreak of the potentially deadly human-to-human strain.

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Is it safe to travel? Expert weighs in on the cruise hantavirus outbreak

As global health authorities scramble to understand a aboard a luxury expedition ship in the South Atlantic, a leading Australian medical expert says the risk to ordinary remains "microscopic". The outbreak aboard the MV Hondius sparked international concern following the deaths of three passengers, a Dutch couple and a German citizen.

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

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More cases of hantavirus possible but risk is 'low', leading health body says

9News, Other, 08/05/2026, Emily Bennett

More cases of a deadly, rodent-borne illness could emerge in the coming weeks but the risk to public health is "low", according to the World Health Organisation.

Cases of hantavirus, the term for a group of viruses carried by infected rodents that can pose a severe disease risk in humans, emerged on luxury cruise ship MV Hondius last month.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 08/05/2026, Emma Reballato and James Glenday

The World Health Organisation says the hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship in the Atlantic is not the start of a global pandemic. Four Australian passengers remain on board the MV Hondius, which is en route to Spain's Canary Islands, and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade says it is monitoring the situation.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 08/05/2026, Jayde Cotic

The World Health Organisation is warning it is possible there will be more cases of hantavirus related to an outbreak on a cruise ship, but it reiterated that the threat to public health is low. The ship is still sailing to the Canary Islands, but specialist testing kits and contact tracing technology are being deployed to help control the potential spread of the virus.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#).

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 08/05/2026, Matt Shirvington

Interview with infectious diseases expert Professor Paul Griffin, on the hantavirus outbreak which impacted a ship sailing off the coast of West Africa. Griffin says hantavirus was discovered in the late 70s in South Korea, and there have been a few cases of human-to-human transmission of the disease. Shirvington notes that four Australian passengers remain on board the ship, and at least 22 other passengers are self-isolating after returning to their homes, while Griffin also notes that the risk of spreading the virus outside the ship is exceedingly low.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 08/05/2026, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

There are fears the deadly hantavirus outbreak has spread from an MV Hondius cruise ship passenger to an airline worker in the Netherlands, and authorities are now scrambling to curb further transmission while finalising plans to transfer remaining passengers back home. The ship will now anchor off the coast of Tenerife in the Spanish-controlled Canary Islands, despite pushback from the locals.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Channel 9, Today , 08/05/2026, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Interview with Professor Jane Halton, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness, on reports that an Australian passenger of a cruise ship impacted by a hantavirus outbreak returned home this morning.

Halton says there is some evidence that the virus can be transmitted from human to human, and she also states that authorities need to be careful, and it is vital that people who have been exposed to the virus self-isolate. She notes that people need to be prepared, and they need systems that will help them combat disease outbreaks.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 08/05/2026, Tom Connell

The World Health Organisation has reported that five people have now tested positive for hantavirus in an outbreak that spread on a Canary Islands-bound cruise ship. No Australians have departed the ship, but the UK and the US are among several countries that are known to be tracing people who left the ship early, and the World Health Organisation plays down the risk of a pandemic following the outbreak.

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2GB, Drive, 08/05/2026, Clinton Maynard

Maynard says a measles alert has just been issued by NSW Health for the Sutherland Shire. He states that there have been 47 cases of measles throughout the city and throughout NSW, and it can take up to 18 days after exposure for the symptoms to appear.

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3AW, Breakfast, 08/05/2026, Ross Stevenson and Russel Howcroft

Stevenson and Howcroft are joined by UK correspondent Gavin Grey. Grey says the World Health Organisation stated that the hantavirus outbreak, which impacted a cruise ship in the Atlantic, is not the start of a pandemic. He also reports that health authorities are in a desperate bid to trace dozens of people who have recently disembarked from MV Hondius.

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ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 08/05/2026, Mark Gibson

Report by ABC correspondent Elisa Clure. The World Health Organisation says the hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship in the Atlantic is not the start of a global pandemic. Four Australian passengers remain on board the MV Hondius, which is en route to Spain's Canary Islands, and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade says it is monitoring the situation.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

2GB, Breakfast, 08/05/2026, Ben Fordham

Fordham says the Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a warning about illegal peptides, which are now rising in popularity as people look for a quick fix to improve their health. He also states TGA boss Anthony Lawler warned that many of the products are unapproved, poorly labelled, and not subject to Australian safety standards.

Also reported by: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Hungry? Give us this day our our daily bred

Canberra Times, General News, 09/05/2026, Garry Linne, Page 15

Late night in a secretive laboratory reeking of chemicals and sinister intent, white-coated scientists with thick glasses and unruly hair sit hunched over bubbling test tubes, cackling maniacally. They are bending nature to create something alien.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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Belmont restaurant fined for safety breach

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 09/05/2026, Kirsty Lichtenstein, Page 13

A restaurant in Perth's east has been fined tens of thousands of dollars after failing to comply with a string of food safety standards. But PIND Restaurant, which serves mainly Pakastani food, says it will appeal the finding and \$72,000 fine.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

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