



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 3rd July 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a parliamentary committee has revealed organised crime syndicates are targeting the NDIS through rampant rorting costing \$3.7 billion a year, prompting NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister to pledge that the government will "seriously consider" the report's recommendations.
- **[The Australian Financial Review \(page 8\)](#)** reports that a Federal Government consultation paper released on Thursday sets out a range of proposals to reform the private health insurance industry.
- **[The Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that RANZCOG President, Nisha Khot, and RANZCP President, Astha Tomar, have withdrawn from attending a fundraiser for Victorian Labor candidate Mikaela Stafrace following backlash from college members.
- **[The Australian \(page 3\)](#)** reports that a new study has found mass prescriptions of statins and blood pressure medications have successfully lowered the cardiovascular risk of obese middle-aged and older adults to levels similar to or better than those of healthy-weight individuals.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 3\)](#)** reports that Australian researchers are preparing to test a new stem cell therapy aimed at reversing Parkinson's disease, with human trials to commence in two-and-a-half years' time.

- **The Courier Mail (page 1)** reports that a drug developed by UQ scientists in collaboration with global experts has the potential to transform MND from a terminal illness into a long-term chronic condition.
- **The Australian (page 2)** reports that the Federal Government has promised to introduce a new layer of human oversight to its automated aged care assessment system, following parliamentary pressure from the Greens and the Coalition.

MINISTER BUTLER

Insurance overhaul to fix hospitals

Australian Financial Review, General News, 03/07/2026, Michael Smith, Page 8

Labor has proposed a major shake-up of private health insurance by simplifying the thousands of types of products on the market, slashing waiting times to access pregnancy cover and forcing funds to share the risk pools for maternity and mental health...

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

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Bundaberg's voice of representation for mental health

Bundaberg Today, General News, 03/07/2026, Page 47

Bundaberg's voice was represented at the 2026 headspace National Forum in Meanjin/ Brisbane, with David Facer attending in his role as chair of the Bundaberg headspace Consortium. [...] A highlight of the forum was meeting The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Ageing, who spoke at the event about the impact of headspace and the future of youth mental health support in Australia.

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Premier rejects Labor claims of a broken promise over Legana Health Hub

The Mercury, Other, 02/07/2026, David Killick

The Liberals promised residents of a Tasmanian suburb a multidisciplinary health precinct – but Labor says the government is now asking the Commonwealth to fund the project. [...] She has asked federal Health Minister Mark Butler to consider extending the network of Medicare Urgent Care Clinics onto the site.

[Read More](#)

Minister looks to be sending a very clear message about these therapies and the PBS

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 02/07/2026

Health Minister Mark Butler was very deliberate in response to a question about the future of multiple sclerosis therapies on the PBS, and his message that these medicines should remain on the PBS was unmistakable. Are the relevant people listening?

[Read More](#)

One year on, lung cancer screening is proving itself valuable

Oncology Republic, Other, 02/07/2026, Mariella Attard

Although it could be doing better, according to an Australian expert. Almost 100,000 people have participated in Australia's national lung cancer screening program since its launch in July 2025, with 285 joining the program every day on average, according to federal health minister Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

Wine of the Week

Sydney Times, Other, 02/07/2026

A vast suite of legislative updates, tax adjustments, and health reforms have officially taken effect today, marking what the federal government claims is a significant turning point in its strategy to

address national cost-of-living pressures. [...] In the healthcare space, Health Minister Mark Butler stated the reforms represent a structural reversal of prior systemic declines.

[Read More](#)

Broken promise? Tasmanian Government faces heat over delayed health hub

Tasmanian Examiner, Other, 02/07/2026, Bailey Forbes

A Northern Tasmanian mother has said she is extremely disappointed progress on a proposed health hub has seemingly stalled, though the premier says construction will soon begin. [...] Subsequently, a letter written by state Health Minister Bridget Archer to her federal counterpart, Mark Butler, seen by The Examiner, asked the federal government to categorise the Legana Health Hub as a Medicare urgent care clinic.

[Read More](#)

MS biologics face PBS jeopardy amid price dispute

The Limbic, Other, 02/07/2026, Emma Koehn

Australians living with MS face an anxious wait to find out whether medications integral to their daily functioning will remain on the PBS for the long term. [...] And while Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler said on Wednesday he was "deeply concerned" about the prospect of patients losing access and that he wanted both therapies to stay listed, the topic stoked fear for countless patients.

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Paediatric growth hormone deficiency drug hits PBS

The Limbic, Other, 02/07/2026, Emma Koehn

A new treatment for growth hormone deficiency and a once-daily insulin product will be available to Australian patients via the PBS from this month. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler said without the listing, patients would be out of pocket \$650 per pack.

[Read More](#)

Mark Butler signs off on PBS listings for cancer drugs

The Limbic, Other, 02/07/2026

Health Minister Mark Butler has announced a number of cancer treatments are now on the PBS for patients with lung, breast and bile duct cancer. The pay day for lung cancer patients includes an expanded indication for alectinib (Alecensa, Roche) as adjuvant treatment of ALK-positive NSCLC following tumour resection.

[Read More](#)

PBS future of two leading MS therapies hangs on pricing decision

The Medical Republic, Other, 02/07/2026, Amanda Sheppeard

Thousands of Australians with multiple sclerosis could lose subsidised access to ocrelizumab and ofatumumab as a PBS pricing dispute heads to the PBAC. [...] The PBAC will then advise federal health minister Mark Butler on whether there are sufficient clinical or policy grounds for the medicines to remain on the PBS despite the pricing dispute.

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Health insurance saga: Greens welcome inquiry into planned rebates cuts

The Senior, Other, 02/07/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Controversial changes to private health insurance for over-65s will now head to a Senate inquiry, as the Greens reveal which way they will vote. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has defended the legislation as necessary to restoring "intergenerational equity".

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Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has praised Professor Richard Scolyer's contributions to cancer research. It comes after he passed away last month at the age of 59.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Rorts, money laundering 'rife' in NDIS

Australian Financial Review, General News, 03/07/2026, Michael Smith, Page 1

Organised crime syndicates are targeting the NDIS and providers bribe participants with cigarettes and alcohol in widespread rorting costing the scheme \$3.7 billion.

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

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

Government urged to crack down on NDIS kickbacks and bad actors as fraud inquiry handed down

ABC Online, Other, 02/07/2026, Evan Young, Mary Lloyd and Nas Campanella

Bans on providers struck off in other parts of the care economy, penalties for offering kickbacks and stronger action on conflicts of interest are among the recommendations made by a parliamentary committee analysing the extent of fraud in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). [...] The Labor-led inquiry was set up in March by minister Jenny McAllister, who welcomed the report and said the government would "seriously consider" the recommendations.

[Read More](#)

Labor-led committee calls for tougher NDIS fraud rules

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 02/07/2026

Dodgy disability providers could be named and shamed, fines for bad conduct increased and greater powers granted to agencies overseeing the NDIS in a bid to crack down on fraud in the scheme. [...] Responding to the report, NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said there was still work needed to clean up the disability sector and the government would seriously consider the committee's recommendations.

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ABC Radio Canberra, 10:00 News, 02/07/2026

A Parliamentary inquiry into the extent of fraud in the National Disability Insurance Scheme [NDIS] will be handing down its report today. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said that this week, the Fraud Fusion Task Force contributed to seven successful prosecutions in NDIS cases this financial year alone.

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MINISTER RAE

Labor tweaks algorithmic aged care tool

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/07/2026, Brittany Busch and Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 7

Older Australians whose aged care needs are determined by an algorithm will be guaranteed a new layer of human oversight after Labor conceded to parliamentary pressure and promised to reassess its controversial automated assessment regime. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae tried to get ahead of the Coalition's bill in a Radio National appearance yesterday morning, saying the government would over the winter parliamentary break develop a new way to speed up decisions.

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

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Angus aced

West Australian, General News, 03/07/2026, Aaron Patrick, Page 1

Everyone in the Canberra bubble knows the rule you don't disclose what happened at the midwinter press gallery ball. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae responded with an answer that might have sounded, a couple of years ago, like science fiction.

Also reported by: [The Nightly](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Thenightly.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Protection boost

Seniors Today, General News, 01/06/2026, Page 1

The Federal Government is set to strengthen protections for older Australians in the Support at Home program, with a new package that responds directly to feedback from older people, their families, advocates and providers according to Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae. "Older Australians and their families told us they need stronger protections against rogue market prices when it comes to Support at Home," he said.

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A daughter's fight after father's 'horrific' death

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/07/2026, Humaira Saeed, Page 6

A Toowoomba woman has called for urgent national aged care reforms in line with Queensland's 'Ryan's Rule' after her father's death in palliative care. [...] She has remained steadfast in her commitment for Australians to die with dignity and following meetings with shadow minister for Aged Care Anne Rushton and Minister Sam Rae.

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'Cruel' algorithm-based aged care funding tool could have human override reinstated after Senate passes bill

The Guardian, Other, 02/07/2026, Melissa Davey

The Senate has passed legislation to return human oversight to an aged care algorithm described by elderly Australians and their carers as "cruel" and "inhumane", with the government conceding some decisions made by the tool need review. [...] The aged care minister, Sam Rae, told the ABC's Radio National program on Thursday that IAT decisions could soon be changed by a human in "extenuating circumstances" – which would probably capture fewer cases than that proposed by the bill passed in the Senate.

[Read More](#)

Ageing Australia welcomes human oversight of Integrated Assessment Tool

Ageing Australia, Other, 02/07/2026

Ageing Australia welcomes the Government's decision to introduce human oversight to the Integrated Assessment Tool which decides the level of an older person's Support at Home services. [...] "We thank the Government and especially Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, for listening to our concerns and acting.

[Read More](#)

Govt responds to First Nations Commissioner report

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 02/07/2026

The government has accepted two of the interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner's recommendations, accepted in principle another and noted the fourth. [...] The government has also accepted in principle the recommendation to develop a 10-year transformation plan, pointing to the February 2025 Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's release of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Framework 2025-35 .

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CHA calls for \$430m for 600 transitional beds

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 02/07/2026

The peak advocacy body is also calling for 300 hospital liaison officers and discharge planners with the authority to move patients between care systems to address the bed block. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae was among the attendees of the roundtable, which was chaired by Dr Mike Freeland.

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Bill to restore human override to assessments passes Senate

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 02/07/2026

The Coalition, the Greens and Independent Senator David Pocock have teamed up to pass Senator Ruston's bill to restore human override to the IAT. [...] Senator Pocock told AAA he would "take the minister at his word that he wants to work with older Australians, clinicians and advocates to fix this," but that if the change simply creates a new escalation pathway to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing after the algorithm gets it wrong, he struggles to see how it will "materially address the concerns that have been raised."

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Government warned hospital bed block up by 60 per cent

CathNews, Other, 02/07/2026, Rebecca Comini

Hospital bed block has soared by 60 per cent in the past three years, new analysis from Catholic Health Australia has revealed. [...] The figures come ahead of a roundtable today between CHA and government officials, including Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, who will likely be pushed to release 60,000 extra homecare packages a year and open up 5000 additional places in residential aged care.

[Read More](#)

Rae backflips (again) on IAT human override

Health Services Daily, Other, 02/07/2026, Caitlin Wright

It's taken months of advocacy and a private member's bill with the support of almost everyone except Labor. But an 'out of his depth' Sam Rae finally made a concession on the integrated assessment tool.

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Aged care minister unveils plan to challenge algorithm decisions but details remain unclear

HelloCare, Other, 02/07/2026, Jakob Neeland

The Albanese government has announced another change to its controversial aged care assessment tool, this time creating an escalation pathway for complex cases where the algorithm's funding decision does not appear to match a person's actual needs. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae announced the change in an interview on ABC Radio National this morning, describing a new process by which an assessment organisation's clinical delegate can refer a case to the Secretary of the Department, the so-called System Governor, when they believe the Integrated Assessment Tool has failed to adequately capture a person's circumstances.

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'Damning admission': Labor concession on controversial aged care tool fails to quell anger

SBS, Other, 02/07/2026

The federal government has partially backed down on its controversial Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) for aged care, following criticism from advocacy groups, aged care providers and politicians. [...] "In some limited circumstances, people's complex circumstances don't necessarily fit neatly into a framework," aged care minister Sam Rae told ABC radio's National Breakfast on Thursday.

[Read More](#)

Backtracking Minister promises to act on human oversight of home care algorithm

Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has been cornered in an interview this morning and backtracked on the controversial Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT). The Minister said the Government will devise its own solution to oversight of on the IAT algorithm decisions.

[Read More](#)

Labor backs down on irreversible age care algorithm

Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia, Other, 02/07/2026

Humans will be allowed to overrule a controversial automation tool that determined aged care assessments after complaints that decisions could not be reversed. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae on Thursday conceded changes would be made to allow a review of decisions in extenuating circumstances.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 02/07/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has announced decisions from the government's algorithm-assisted tool used to determine how much funding older Australians get to support living at home can be changed in certain circumstances.

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Channel 7, Seven News Qld at 4pm, 02/07/2026, Samantha Heathwood

Started in November last year, older Australians have been getting assessed by clinicians. That information is then processed through an algorithm-assisted tool to determine an outcome and checked by a delegate.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 02/07/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, announcing legislative changes to the controversial algorithm-assisted Integrated Assessment Tool used to determine home care funding for older Australians. Addressing widespread complaints and pressure from the Senate crossbench, Rae says the changes will allow human clinical assessors to have the final say after the initial automated baseline output is generated. He dismisses criticisms that the extra clinical intervention will severely compromise wait times, arguing that median assessment wait times have already plummeted from 10 months to under a month.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, 22:00 News, 02/07/2026

The Albanese government has rejected claims that rely solely on artificial intelligence to assess aged care claims. The AI tool was launched two years ago, which examines the needs of an individual to determine if they're eligible for government-supported services. The move has been criticised by the opposition. argue there needs to be human intervention. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has told Parliament that is happening.

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ABC Newcastle, Drive, 02/07/2026, Jenny Marchant

Aged Care Minister Sam Rae says only only a fraction of in-home aged care assessments require reviews as the government moves to change its assessment system. Currently, an integrated assessment tool determines a person's eligibility in-home aged care.

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ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 02/07/2026, Dijana Damjanovic

[...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has announced decisions from the government's algorithm-assisted tool used to determine how much funding older Australians get to support living at home can be changed in certain circumstances.

ABC Radio Melbourne, 12:00 News, 02/07/2026

Federal Shadow Health Anne Ruston believes the Federal Government has been shortchanging older Australians through its algorithm-based assessment tool for at-home support. The Coalition, Greens, and the crossbench passed a bill in the Senate to ensure the decisions are made by a human. Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae says the Government will change the tool so it can be overridden.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 02/07/2026, Melanie Tait

Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has announced that there will be a change to the process that determines how much government funding older Australians are gonna get to live at home. According to Rae, under the changes, health bureaucrats will have the power to override decisions.

Also reported by: [2MCE \(Orange\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's President's Message - July 2026

WEB Australasian Pharmacy, Other, 02/07/2026, Trent Twomey

The past few months have seen intense activity across Australia and beyond, underscoring the momentum building in community pharmacy. [...] Australia's Special Envoy for Men's Health, Dan Repacholi MP, spoke powerfully about the need for earlier intervention and more accessible everyday care for men.

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DEPARTMENT

Training a first for Australia

Bundaberg Today, General News, 03/07/2026, Page 13

The Maggie Beer Foundation has launched its Community Meals Pilot Training Program at Bundaberg Meals on Wheels, delivering three days of intensive hands-on training to kitchen staff and volunteers, the first time this training has been delivered to a community meal provider anywhere in Australia. [...] New requirements under the Aged Care Rules 2025 and the Guidance for In-Home Meal Requirements released by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing in August 2025 have raised expectations for providers, including annual dietitian review of menus and a quality assurance framework for continuous improvement.

McLean Care still in talks for new provider

Wee Waa News, General News, 02/07/2026, Dylan Smith, Page 5

Gunnedah aged care facilities operator McLean Care is still in negotiations for a provider to take over its facilities. [...] "McLean Care has worked closely with clients, staff, Australian Unity and the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing throughout this process.

Also reported by: [Narrabri Courier \(Narrabri\)](#), [Gunnedah Times \(Gunnedah\)](#).

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Govt responds to First Nations Commissioner report

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 02/07/2026

The government has accepted two of the interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner's recommendations, accepted in principle another and noted the fourth. [...] The government has also accepted in principle the recommendation to develop a 10-year transformation plan, pointing to the February 2025 Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's release of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Framework 2025-35 .

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Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 02/07/2026

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MS biologics face PBS jeopardy amid price dispute

The Limbic, Other, 02/07/2026, Emma Koehn

Australians living with MS face an anxious wait to find out whether medications integral to their daily functioning will remain on the PBS for the long term. [...] And while Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler said on Wednesday he was "deeply concerned" about the prospect of patients losing access and that he wanted both therapies to stay listed, the topic stoked fear for countless patients.

[Read More](#)

Tezepelumab added to PBS for uncontrolled severe asthma

The Limbic, Other, 02/07/2026

Adolescent and adult patients with uncontrolled eosinophilic or allergic severe asthma now have subsidised access to tezepelumab following its listing on the PBS this month. Recommended by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee last November, tezepelumab (Tezspire) has been added to the highly specialised drugs program in its 210 mg/1.91 mL injection, 1.91 mL pen device form.

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PBS future of two leading MS therapies hangs on pricing decision

The Medical Republic, Other, 02/07/2026, Amanda Sheppeard

Thousands of Australians with multiple sclerosis could lose subsidised access to ocrelizumab and ofatumumab as a PBS pricing dispute heads to the PBAC. [...] The PBAC will then advise federal health minister Mark Butler on whether there are sufficient clinical or policy grounds for the medicines to remain on the PBS despite the pricing dispute.

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Political odd couple team up on aged care

The Australian, General News, 03/07/2026, Nathan Schmidt, Page 2

Pauline Hanson has teamed up with David Pocock and the Greens in a push to bring back human oversight to determine aged-care support. The Coalition also voted on Thursday morning the last sitting day before the winter break to approve the Aged Care Amendment (Restoring Human Override for Aged Care Needs Assessments) Bill 2026 in a blow for Labor, which opposed the measure.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Should aged care have its own HECS?

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/07/2026, James Wiltshire

Australians don't expect to pay for university before they study. So why do we expect older Australians to pay for care before they receive it?

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 02/07/2026, Peter Mitchell

The Albanese Government has been forced to tweak its aged care reforms bill by adding a human layer to ensure the computer algorithms make the right assessment for home-based care. A trained clinician will make an initial assessment before passing it on to a separate delegate, who will also handle appeals. However, the Coalition, Greens, and crossbenchers still find it inadequate, with Shadow Aged Care Minister Anne Ruston insisting that all processes must be subject to human oversight.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 02/07/2026, Alicia Loxley

The Albanese Government's aged care reforms failed to pass the Senate on Thursday, despite changes that include human assessors to ensure the accuracy of algorithm-generated home care assessments. The Coalition, Greens, and crossbenchers insist on complete human oversight. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae expressed worries about humans making inconsistent and subjective decisions, but Shadow Aged Care Minister Anne Rushton maintains humans should have the final say.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

NDIS fraud crackdown urged

Canberra Times, General News, 03/07/2026, Page 12

Dodgy disability providers could be named and shamed, fines for bad conduct increased and greater powers granted to agencies overseeing the NDIS in a bid to crack down on fraud in the scheme. As the federal government plans to kick thousands of participants off the National Disability Insurance Scheme, a parliamentary inquiry warned tougher measures are needed to limit the amount of taxpayer money stolen by fraudsters.

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Two Bundaberg NDIS providers banned with one struck off permanently

Adelaide Now, Other, 02/07/2026, Scott Kovacevic

Two Bundaberg region NDIS providers have been slapped with bans for breaching the service's rules, with one handed a permanent ban. Sharon's Kristy Louise Rabnott (Orpin) was struck off the list for good after breaching the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 and failing to comply with

three parts of the service's Code of Conduct, the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission said in a statement published on its website.

[Read More](#)

Labor-led committee calls for tougher NDIS fraud rules

Daily Mail UK, Other, 02/07/2026

Dodgy disability providers could be named and shamed, fines for bad conduct increased and greater powers granted to agencies overseeing the NDIS in a bid to crack down on fraud in the scheme. [...]

Responding to the report, NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said there was still work needed to clean up the disability sector and the government would seriously consider the committee's recommendations.

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ABC News, ABC News Day, 02/07/2026, Ros Childs

Interview with ABC News national disability affairs reporter Nas Campanella, reporting that a parliamentary report into NDIS fraud has made 12 recommendations. Campanella notes that a key recommendation proposes a cross-sector ban to prevent workers penalised in one care sector from operating in another. The report also cracks down on blatant conflicts of interest. It also includes a public registry of care workers. Campanella quotes NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister, who says that an existing Senate bill already incorporates most of the recommendations.

Interview continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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Channel 7, Seven News, 02/07/2026, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

A major crackdown on NDIS fraud is being recommended with a parliamentary inquiry calling for tougher laws to protect vulnerable Australians and billions of taxpayer dollars.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, 14:00 News, 02/07/2026

The parliamentary report into fraud within the National Disability Insurance Scheme has recommended 12 measures, such as preventing workers banned in one sector of the care economy from operating in another. Others include changing the Crimes Act to crack down on fraud and related offences involving exploitation, abuse, or neglect of participants. The joint committee also recommends that only clinicians who are registered with their professional body complete the reports or assessments needed to be eligible for the scheme. Federal NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister notes the Federal Government will consider the recommendations.

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PRIMARY CARE

Wood weighing in online

Herald Sun, General News, 03/07/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 8

Celebrity personal trainer and entrepreneur Sam Wood has launched a medical weight-loss telehealth clinic, renewing debate over the rise of online GLP-1 prescriptions. Mr Wood who founded the multimillion-dollar online diet and exercise program '28 by Sam Wood' has announced Ollo for Women, a digital platform for "doctor-led, personalised weight-loss solutions".

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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The tech bringing experts to the beds of regional patients where every minute can mean life or death

7News.com.au, Other, 02/07/2026

'We know that regional Australians are 17 per cent more likely and have higher risk factors. So getting that specialist care is critical.

[Read More](#)

4BC, Drive, 02/07/2026, Gary Hardgrave

Interview with West Morton Health Foundation CEO Scott Young, discussing new chemotherapy equipment that was recently donated by the Stanbroke Pastoral Company to Gatton Hospital. Young says the new tele-oncology equipment will benefit patients living within a 110km radius of Gatton, including Ipswich, as it will allow home-based chemo sessions instead of travelling all the way to the hospital.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Statins even out risk for fat adults

The Australian, General News, 03/07/2026, Eleanor Hayward, Page 3

Obese middle-aged adults now have a similar heart attack risk to those who are slim and healthy because of the mass prescription of statins, a study has found. Researchers said that blood pressure and cholesterol levels in over-40s with obesity were "often indistinguishable or better" than in those who were a healthy weight.

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

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Labor pains

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 03/07/2026, Aden Hill and Dasha Havrilenko, Page 1

Controversial anti-abortion campaigner Dr Joanna Howe has been expelled from the Labor Party, accused of breaching party rules by urging voters to support non-Labor candidates. It comes after Premier Peter Malinauskas voted in favour of a Bill from upper house MP Sarah Game, supported by Dr Howe, to restrict late-term abortions.

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Problem rehab drug depends on age

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 03/07/2026, Page 22

The principal drug of concern for Australians being treated for drug and alcohol issues varies with age. According to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data, younger people are more likely to be treated for cannabis.

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Put brakes on soaring e-scooter injury tally

Cairns Post, General News, 03/07/2026, Grace Carter, Page 4

A Cairns emergency doctor has sounded the alarm over a surge in e-scooter injuries, as police begin a major year-long crackdown on dangerous riding behaviours. Cairns Hospital Emergency Department physician Dr Amanda McConnell, pictured, said she had become an "activist" on e-scooter injuries, after seeing a sharp increase in the number of people being treated in ED.

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Lotto win to run out

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/07/2026, Page 1

A Gatton newsagency sold a winning Gold Lotto ticket worth nearly \$775,000 almost seven years ago and the prize will disappear forever if no one comes forward within days. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare stated on their website that at-risk gambling is associated with lower overall life satisfaction, decreased mental health, high alcohol consumption and financial stress.

Melbourne to push for tougher laws on 'nangs' after massive street clean-up bill

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/07/2026, Brendan Kearns

"Nangs" have cost Melbourne ratepayers nearly \$150,000 in clean-up fees in just the past year, with Town Hall gearing up to push the state and federal government to take harder action on the "growing scourge". Driven by the rise of rapid delivery services and larger canisters, the city is grappling with a 15-fold increase in sale of the drug, which is spilling on to the streets.

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Walk in Her Shoes shines light on Australian women without housing

ABC Online, Other, 02/07/2026, Stephanie Ferrier

During long, bitter winter nights, Vanessa Heart would hide under the front hedges of homes in Melbourne's outer west to protect herself against the "monsters". [...] Family and domestic violence is a major driver of homelessness, accounting for more than 40 per cent of those who access specialist services to find a place to live, according to the latest statistics from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

[Read More](#)

It kills two-thirds of lifetime users – so why is smoking cool again?

The Guardian, Other, 03/07/2026, Wendy Syfret

Have you heard? Smoking is back. Or rather, have you seen? Kylie Jenner lit up on the cover of Vanity Fair. Madonna and Hailey Bieber posed with cigarettes in Interview. Cool girl fashion brands Khaite and D  en have been handing out branded packs at parties.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Stem cell hope for disease of brain

Herald Sun, General News, 03/07/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 3

Australian researchers will test a one-off therapy that aims to replace damaged brain cells in people with Parkinson's disease a world first. The Australian patients will be the first to trial the therapy, expected to start in 2 years.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Stand up against cancer

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/07/2026, Page 10

Each extra hour of prolonged, uninterrupted sedentary behaviour in a person's day is linked to a 9 per cent higher risk of cancer death. A study involving Australian researchers found that prolonged sedentary behaviour described as 30 minutes of sedentary behaviour during which at least 90 per cent of the time is spent sitting or lying was linked to a higher risk of cancer incidence and death, obesity-related cancers, and type 2 diabetes-related cancers.

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

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Arrow's shot at hope

Courier Mail, General News, 03/07/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

A new Queensland-made superdrug could turn motor neurone disease from a cruel death sentence to a manageable illness, offering hope to recently diagnosed Maroons star Jai Arrow. Queenslanders

were devastated when Arrow revealed in May that he had developed a form of the disease so severe it immediately ended his career and claimed his ability to speak within a matter of months.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Dementia risk 'could be cut in half'

West Australian, General News, 03/07/2026, Page 7

Nearly half of dementia cases could be prevented but new WA research suggests current public health warnings are not getting the message across. Up to 45 per cent of dementia cases are linked to risk factors a person can change such as high blood pressure, smoking, excessive alcohol use, weight, social isolation, untreated vision loss, physical inactivity, high cholesterol, and hearing loss.

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

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

Australia's lung cancer screening program is a year old. But can the health system deliver?

Medicine Today, Other, 02/07/2026, Fraser Brims

It's been a year since Australia launched its National Lung Cancer Screening Program. Since July 2025, about 100,000 Australians have been screened.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Healthcare failure nearly fatal for Carly

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/07/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 10

When Carly Richardson's mental health hit a crisis point, she tried to seek help. She asked her community mental health team for more intensive therapy, but was told the resources weren't available.

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

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

Funding for mental health support boost

Shepparton News, General News, 03/07/2026, Page 24

Mental health support has received a boost, with the William Buckland Foundation committing \$2.5 million over four years to the Goulburn Region Open Dialogue Connect. The initiative aims to transform mental health support for young people by creating community-wide connected care.

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IMMUNISATION

WA broadens nasal flu vaccine access

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/07/2026, Kate Cowling

Community pharmacies in the state can now offer the needle-free influenza vaccine to more children and teenagers Western Australia has expanded free access to the nasal influenza vaccine FluMist to try and curb the spread of the virus among school-aged children and teenagers.

[Read More](#)

NIP pneumococcal changes now in effect

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/07/2026

The Australian Immunisation Handbook has been updated to reflect expanded adult pneumococcal eligibility under the National Immunisation Program (PD 26 Jun). Among the changes is a newly listed vaccine, Capvaxive (21vPCV, MSD), which has replaced 13vPCV as the NIP-funded vaccine for adults aged over 18 years.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Biotech warns Chalmers of brain drain risk from R&D overhaul

The Australian, General News, 03/07/2026, Thomas Henry, Page 5

Australian pharmaceutical and biotechnology start-ups are already looking to take their investments to jurisdictions overseas that offer tax advantages, after Jim Chalmers pulled key research and development tax breaks as part of his May budget overhaul. A coalition of peak bodies representing the biotech, medical and pharmaceutical industries has reignited a push for the government to scrap key elements of the budget, penning a letter to the Treasurer requesting an urgent meeting.

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

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Sleep drug steps up for pain relief

West Australian, General News, 03/07/2026, Kirsty Lichtenstein, Page 18

A sleep supplement widely used to treat insomnia could help reduce reliance on some of the most common and potentially harmful pain medications. New research done in conjunction with Edith Cowan University, The University of Sydney, Macquarie University and George Institute for Global Health found melatonin could reduce chronic musculoskeletal pain.

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Arovella prepares off-the-shelf cancer trial after boardroom shakeup

Australian Financial Review, Other, 02/07/2026, Michael Smith

An Australian company developing a new cancer-fighting technology that takes cells from healthy donors and stores them in large batches at a fraction of the cost of traditional immunotherapies that use a patient's own blood will start human trials of the ...

[Read More](#)

Call for study participants: Knowledge of chronic pain management among primary care nurses

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 02/07/2026

A research team from the University of Southern Queensland are investigating primary care nurses' knowledge, confidence, challenges and support needs in chronic pain management in Australia. The findings of the project will inform the development of future educational resources and support programs for primary care nurses.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Cook and company have it all wrong on hospitals and housing

West Australian, General News, 03/07/2026, Basil Zempilas, Page 13

[...] For a sixth consecutive year, more than 5000 hours of ambulance ramping has been recorded at WA hospitals in the month of June. This year it was 5310 hours to be precise.

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MPs won't commit to more hospital funds

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/07/2026, Dylan Nicholson, Page 7

Hunter MPs have toured the John Hunter Hospital's new acute services building, but they are keeping mum on when the next stage of the expansion will be funded. When open, the John Hunter's new seven-storey building will deliver specialist world-class healthcare for communities in Newcastle, the Hunter and northern NSW.

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New Victorian community hospital brings urgent care closer to home

Build Australia, General News, 30/04/2026, Berkay Erkan, Page 72

Funded by the state government through the Victorian Health Building Authority (VHBA), the health development will expand services in a central location for urgent but non-life-threatening care, as well as everyday treatment options for locals. It will not have overnight beds or an emergency department, but will provide strong links to specialists, community health providers, and social support services improving follow-up treatment and support for those requiring complex care.

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Major upgrades boost capacity at regional South Australian hospital

Build Australia, General News, 30/04/2026, Berkay Erkan, Page 76

Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service's new \$8-million emergency department short stay unit opened last year, marking a major milestone in the ongoing \$24-million hospital upgrade. Funded by the state government through the Victorian Health Building Authority (VHBA), the health development will expand services in a central location for urgent but non-life-threatening care, as well as everyday treatment options for locals.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Medical chiefs' ALP dinner ire

The Australian, General News, 03/07/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

The presidents of two of the nation's top medical colleges have plunged their institutions into controversy after agreeing to participate in a fundraiser for a Labor candidate in Victoria, sparking a furious backlash from doctors. The president of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Nisha Khot, and president of the Royal Australian and New Zealand

College of Psychiatrists, Astha Tomar, withdrew from the event to be hosted by Labor candidate Mikaela Stafrace after questions were raised by college members.

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

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Union backs insourcing public hospital pharmacy services

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/07/2026

South Australia's decision to move to insource pharmacy services across the Flinders and Upper Northern Local Health Network (FUNLHN) is being backed by the Health Services Union.

[Read More](#)

After her uni prac placement, Audrey was left with \$10 in her bank account

Canberra Times, Other, 02/07/2026, Sarah Lansdown

Audrey Keillor worries about how she will afford to finish her degree. The medical radiation sciences student loves her course at Charles Sturt University's Wagga Wagga campus, but it is bleeding her bank account dry.

[Read More](#)

A south-west hospital will now need more nurses, but do they have the staff?

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 02/07/2026, Sophia Baker

A south-west hospital will now have more nurses working per shift but will it have the staff to meet new requirements? This week, changes were introduced to new nurse-and-midwife-to-patient ratios at 26 Victorian hospitals, including Hamilton Base Hospital.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Patients face pricing policy pinch

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/07/2026

Drug pricing policies are starting to bite in Australia, with some further impending withdrawals from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) expected to have significant impacts on patients. Indivior has announced the discontinuation of its long-acting buprenorphine injection Sublocade from Australia at the end of Dec 2026, citing operational and commercial.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Veterans deserve respect

Courier Mail, General News, 03/07/2026, Helen Whit, Page 21

More than 29,000 Australian veterans and war widows are set to be cut off from life-sustaining healthcare due to a disastrous new \$5000 cap on allied health services. Introduced in the recent federal budget and planned to begin on July 1, 2027, this arbitrary limit is a direct assault on the people who put their lives on the line for this country.

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Woman pretended to be a psychologist in a 'brazen' crime

Canberra Times, General News, 03/07/2026, Hannah Neale, Page 5

A woman pretended to be a psychologist when she gave evidence about an attempted rapist's mental health in a "brazen and almost audacious" crime. Tania Ann Dhillon was sentenced in the ACT Magistrates Court on Wednesday, July 1, when she was convicted and handed a \$2000 fine.

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

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Bird flu in SA

Border Watch, General News, 03/07/2026, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

The H5 bird flu has made its way into South Australia with local bird watchers concerned. The state government announced one confirmed case of H5 bird flu in the state from a migratory bird.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Sam Wood is accused of 'cashing in on weight loss injectable trend' as he announces his surprise new business while talking about the popularity of peptides: 'This is disappointing'

Daily Mail UK, Other, 02/07/2026, Ali Daher

Sam Wood has divided fans after announcing his latest business venture, with some accusing the former Bachelor star of 'cashing in' on the booming medical weight loss industry. [...] Australian health authorities have cracked down on the illegal sale of unapproved peptides such as retatrutide, or 'Reta', which is not approved by the TGA and has been linked to a number of serious health incidents involving black market products.

[Read More](#)

Testosterone-boosting supplement loved by Manosphere and MAHA is contaminated with toxins, experts warn

Daily Mail UK, Other, 02/07/2026, Cassidy Morrison

On remote cliffsides in India 's mountainous land grows the latest obsession among looksmaxxers and manosphere fixtures looking to boost their testosterone. [...] While the substance is not banned outright, it is tightly regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the country's drug and supplement regulator.

[Read More](#)

'I thought 'Ozempic face' was bad. Then 'peptide face' entered my clinic.'

Mamamia, Other, 02/07/2026, Erin Docherty

In case you missed it, in 2026, we're utterly fixated on optimisation. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has published strict warnings regarding unapproved therapeutic goods, compounded or imported peptides, and products sold online.

[Read More](#)

South Australia 'Resist tyranny': NSW GP suspended in pandemic calls

out 'witch hunt', promises 'war'

NEWS.com.au, Other, 02/07/2026, Rohan Smith

A Sydney GP has declared "war" and shared unsubstantiated conspiracy theories about a "witch-hunt" against her involving fake complaints after her medical license was suspended for her actions during the Covid-19 pandemic. [...] In relation to the Westmead Hospital complaint, Dr Trinh claimed the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) ban on the use of ivermectin was "politically motivated and part of a coordinated effort to discredit ivermectin in order to justify its banning".

[Read More](#)

New drug listings for ALGS, haemophilia

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/07/2026

Ipsen Australia has announced that Bylvay (odevixibat) is now approved to treat cholestatic pruritus associated with Alagille syndrome (ALGS), a rare genetic liver disease characterised by a relentless itch. [...] Meanwhile, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved the registration of ALTUVIII O (efanesoctocog alfa, Sanofi), a first-in-class, high-sustained factor VIII replacement therapy designed to provide extended protection against bleeding episodes in people with haemophilia A.

[Read More](#)

What the little black triangle means on your prescription meds info

The Senior, Other, 02/07/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

If you've ever noticed a little black triangle on prescription medication information, it's not there to look pretty - it could save future lives. [...] The Black Triangle Scheme was introduced nationally in 2018 by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Channel 7, Seven News, 02/07/2026, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

New Australian research has found that medicinal cannabis helps reduce incidents of seizures in some children with drug-resistant epilepsy. University of Melbourne researcher Dr Daniel Perkins says medicinal cannabis has also reduced the severity of seizures and trips to the emergency department. Epilepsy Action Australia CEO Carol Ireland wants medicinal cannabis to be included in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 02/07/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

The Therapeutic Goods Administration is warning Australians to only use medicines sold through local pharmacies. Health authorities are raising the alarm over a spike in unapproved peptide products being sold online. The illicit drugs have now been linked to liver damage, severe allergic reactions, and other side effects.

[Play Now](#)

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FOOD STANDARDS

Nasties lurking in lunch

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/07/2026, Page 3

Many "natural" school lunch box snacks are more than three times as concentrated in sugar as a can of CocaCola, a new study reveals. The study, conducted in collaboration with Cancer Council Victoria

and Deakin University, found that dried fruit is highly concentrated in sugar, amounting to 33.5g per 100g.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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AICIS

Shire cops spray

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03/07/2026, Lucy Crock, Page 1

A Torquay father is demanding answers after council workers sprayed glyphosate around a playground frequented by toddlers and left no signage to warn barefoot children or their parents. Matthew Hardie said his partner and their two children, aged one and three, arrived at the rocket ship playground in North Torquay earlier this week to find weedkiller being sprayed around the edges.

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

Darwin residents want answers on toxic gas emissions. The science shows their concerns are warranted

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 02/07/2026

For years, Darwin residents have been concerned about toxic chemicals emitted by the city's two gas export facilities. In fact, some locals are so worried about these airborne chemicals – particularly benzene – they recently formed a community group and launched a fundraiser to buy a regulation-grade mobile device for continuous monitoring.

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