



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 1st August 2026

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[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports a listing of weight-loss medication Wegovy on the PBS remains uncertain after the manufacturer submitted a revised proposal following stalled negotiations with the Federal Health Department over price and funding conditions. While Health Minister Mark Butler has highlighted fiscal risks and advocated for targeted subsidisation, representatives from the RACGP have expressed disappointment over the impasse given the significant clinical need for affordable obesity treatments among disadvantaged communities.
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 1) reports design flaws in a surgical device allowed lethal bacteria to contaminate water tanks and spray as a fine mist into patients during heart surgeries, leading to multiple deaths in surgical theatres in Australia. Despite experts warning of ongoing infection risks and calling for the device to be banned, the TGA has permitted the machine to remain on the market following updated manufacturer design and disinfection protocols.
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 2) reports an elderly woman has died at her home in western Melbourne after waiting approximately three hours for paramedics to respond following the activation of her personal medical alarm. Ambulance Victoria has commenced a clinical governance review into the triage and communication handling of the response.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports analysis by the NDIA found that 40 per cent of surveyed providers incorrectly billed the NDIS for unapproved services. Minister for the NDIS Jenny McAllister

announced that the agency has raised debts against non-compliant providers and referred others to the ACCC amid stricter oversight and digital payment integrity measures.

- **ABC Online** reports a national survey by the Australian Dental Association found that 60 per cent of adults aged 18 to 25 are delaying professional dental care due to cost, with many using social media to manage their oral health. A spokesperson stated that the Federal Government recognises oral health as fundamental to overall health and quality of life, funding public hospital dental treatment through the National Health Reform Agreement and developing a new National Oral Health Plan with states and territories.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 4) reports 4058 essential workers and families have relocated to regional NSW since 2023 through the Make the Move campaign, boosting resources for rural communities by attracting frontline workers including doctors, nurses, paramedics, aged care, and disability support workers.
- **The Saturday Age** (page 5) reports the national census on 11 August 2026 will include new questions on sex recorded at birth, gender identity, and sexual orientation for Australians aged 16 and above. Equality Australia stated that the demographic data gathered by the ABS will be crucial in informing public service policies and addressing health conditions, homelessness, and suicide rates among sexual and gender minorities.

MINISTER BUTLER

Unwanted wait gain: Wegovy PBS deal on hold

Weekend Australian, General News, 01/08/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

A landmark listing of weight-loss drug Wegovy for public reimbursement is in doubt after the manufacturer of the medication rejected the government's conditions for taxpayer funding of the medication for people with obesity. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has said he regards the medications as having the potential to reshape Australia's approach to chronic disease.

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Butler fleecing us in his hunt for 'free money': retirees

Weekend Australian, General News, 01/08/2026, Penny Timms & Noah Yim, Page 5

When retired forklift driver Vic Muco was unexpectedly diagnosed with kidney cancer two years ago, he was operated on within a week because he had private health insurance. [...] On Friday, Health Minister Mark Butler described the government's plan as a "tough decision" that needed to be made because there is "no lazy, free money lying around" to help fund more aged-care beds.

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Health rebate cut a stitch-up, says Taylor

Weekend Australian, General News, 01/08/2026, Noah Yim & Richard Ferguson, Page 5

Health Minister Mark Butler is reducing private health insurance rebates for older Australians and possibly pushing thousands off the system because he says there is no "lazy free money", as the sector takes its case to stop the reforms directly to Anthony Albanese. The opposition stepped up its criticism of the federal government's move to remove the higher rate of over-65s rebate for private health insurance, with Angus Taylor accusing it of shifting costs to state health departments.

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

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Thriving Kids deadline stirs fears

The Saturday Paper, General News, 01/08/2026, Elena Filipczyk, Page 10

A member of the Thriving Kids advisory group has warned that the persistent lack of detail on the program two months ahead of its targeted launch leaves families unable to plan for their children who will be removed from the National Disability Insurance Scheme. [...] A spokesperson for the minister for disability and the NDIS, Mark Butler, said the federal government is "continuing to engage with the Queensland government".

Labor warned on health rebate cuts

The Saturday Age, General News, 01/08/2026, Brittany Busch, Page 14

Labor was warned that scrapping the private health rebate for over65s meant some pensioners would have to cut back on spending or go without cover, according to documents released to the Coalition under freedom of information laws. [...] Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler said the change would free up funding for under-pressure aged care services.

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

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

The issue exposing Labor division

Canberra Times, General News, 01/08/2026, Michelle Grattan, Page 46

At last week's Labor conference, which was totally under the Prime Minister's thumb, only one issue was contested on the floor: support for the use of telehealth in voluntary assisted dying (VAD) care. [...] But on the other side of the argument is a weighty voice - that of Health Minister Mark Butler.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#).

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Mark Butler defends Labor's private health rebate cuts as Coalition warns of longer public hospital waits

West Australian, Other, 31/07/2026, Madeline Cove

The Albanese Government was forced to defend its controversial decision to wind back higher private health insurance rebates for older Australians, rejecting warnings the policy will push more patients into the public hospital system as it argues the savings are needed to fund aged care. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler insisted government modelling showed the changes would have only a limited effect on private health insurance membership, despite growing concerns from state governments and the insurance industry that the policy could increase pressure on already stretched public hospitals.

Also reported by: [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Thenightly.com.au \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

'Tricky, sneaky' new tax on older Australians to increase private health insurance costs

NEWS.com.au, Other, 31/07/2026, Samantha Maiden

A plan to force more than 3 million Australians aged over 65 to pay hundreds of dollars more for their private health insurance has been slammed by the opposition as a "sneaky tax" on seniors. Health Minister Mark Butler announced changes for those over 65s before the budget confirming older Australians will have to pay the same amount for health insurance as people in their 50s.

Also reported by: [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [nine.com.au \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#), [OverSixty \(Online\)](#).

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The new tax on older Australians to fund private health insurance

Daily Mail UK, Other, 31/07/2026, Alasdair Belling

Millions of older Australians will lose access to higher private health insurance rebates from next year under a federal government overhaul that will instead base subsidies solely on income. [...] Under changes announced by Health Minister Mark Butler before the May federal budget, the government will abolish higher private health insurance rebates for older Australians from April 2027.

[Read More](#)

Telehealth announcement for credentialed pharmacists

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 31/07/2026, Megan Haggan

The health minister tells pharmacists that greater flexibility is on its way for members of the profession who provide HMR and RMMR services. Addressing delegates during the opening plenary at PSA26:

The Home of Pharmacists, the minister for health and ageing, Mark Butler, announced negotiations are progressing on the First Pharmacy Programs Agreement (1PPA).

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Alzheimer's blood test next step

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 31/07/2026

A blood test to detect signs of Alzheimer's disease well before symptoms appear has been cleared by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for clinical trials, which are expected to commence in the next six to nine months. [...] The announcement was made yesterday at the launch of the Asia-Pacific Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease Diagnosis in Sydney, which was attended by Health Minister Mark Butler.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(None\)](#).

[Read More](#)

HMR telehealth

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 31/07/2026

In the opening plenary at PSA26 this morning, Health Minister Mark Butler announced that from 01 Nov this year, pharmacists will be able to conduct follow-up home medication reviews (HMR) by telehealth. The change will also come into effect for Residential Medication Management Reviews (RMMRs).

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(None\)](#).

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Health Minister announces greater flexibility for medication safety programs at PSA26

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 31/07/2026

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has today welcomed the announcement that will afford pharmacists greater flexibility in delivering Home Medicines Reviews (HMRs) and Residential Medication Management Reviews (RMMRs). [...] Mark Butler MP, announced negotiations are progressing on the First Pharmacy Programs Agreement (1PPA), and that from 1 November, follow-up services for the HMR and RMMR programs will be able to be delivered via telehealth.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 31/07/2026, Monique Wright & Matt Shirvington

Panel Discussion with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Deputy Opposition Leader Jane Hume, on NSW, Queensland, and Tasmanian Health Minister demanding the Federal Government to rethink its private health insurance changes, warning they could drive more Australians into the public health system. Butler says they have done modelling through the officials, and it indicated that there will be a very marginal impact on private health insurance membership, but he notes that he's surprised that the state governments have accepted the self-serving modelling of the insurance industry. He says they are confident that they made the right decision, and every dollar they save will go towards aged care beds and packages.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 31/07/2026, Peter Overton

There are concerns that Australians over 65 years of age will be pushed to the public health system after the Federal Government decided to scrap private health insurance premiums for older Australians to fund other aged care needs. The Federal Government estimates 44,000 older Australians will drop their coverage, with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stating that every dollar they save will go towards aged care.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#).

ABC Illawarra, Breakfast, 31/07/2026, Melinda James

Interview with Neuroscience Research Australia Associate Professor Emma Devenney. James says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is expected to launch the new Asia-Pacific Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer's Diet in Sydney. Devenney, who will oversee the new centre at Randwick, says the new test is called P-tau217, and it can detect the changes that happen in the brain in people with Alzheimer's disease.

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GOLD FM 104.3, 18:00 News, 31/07/2026

Pensioners are pushing back on the Federal Government's plan to slash private health rebates for older Australians. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the funds would be redirected to aged care.

Also reported by: [Hot FM 91.1 \(Sunshine Coast\)](#), [GOLD 1323 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Gold 101.7 \(Sydney\)](#), [hit104.7 Canberra \(Canberra\)](#).

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Triple M Hobart, 12:00 News, 31/07/2026

The Federal Government is playing down fears its cut to private health rebates for people over 65 will clog public hospitals. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the impact will be marginal.

Also reported by: [Triple M Cairns \(Cairns\)](#), [Triple M Central Queensland \(Rockhampton\)](#), [Triple M Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Triple M Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Triple M Townsville \(Townsville\)](#), [Triple M Gold Coast \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Gold 101.7 \(Sydney\)](#), [GOLD 1323 \(Adelaide\)](#), [GOLD FM 104.3 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Triple M Bendigo \(Bendigo\)](#), [Triple M Central West \(Orange\)](#).

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2GB, 05:00 News, 31/07/2026

The TGA has approved the blood plasma test for clinical trials, and it's hoped it will revolutionise how Alzheimer's is treated. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says it will allow for local data to be collected.

Also reported by: [Salt 106.5 \(Sunshine Coast\)](#), [Hope 103.2 \(Sydney\)](#).

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GOLD 1323, 17:00 News, 31/07/2026

The Federal Government is defending changes to private health, with concerns from NSW, Queensland, and Tasmanian Health Ministers about the impact of abolishing higher rebates for the elderly. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the ministers' concerns are unfounded.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Govt closes NDIS loophole allowing providers to charge for golf lessons

The Mercury, Other, 31/07/2026, Ellen Ransley

A loophole allowing dodgy NDIS providers to charge up to \$194 an hour for golf lessons, decluttering and horse therapy will be closed, the federal government says. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the government was clamping down on the rorts on multiple fronts, with sweeping new powers to investigate, fine and compel compliance.

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4,000 NDIS service providers profiting from incorrect billing practices

ABC Online, Other, 31/07/2026, Nas Campanella & Mary Lloyd

A National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) service provider was allowed to pocket more than \$1 million by incorrectly billing for personal training services, while at least 4,000 other providers also incorrectly charged Australians with disability, the federal government says. [...] NDIS minister Jenny McAllister said the government wanted every dollar spent on the NDIS to go to quality supports that genuinely improved the lives of NDIS participants.

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

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News24, Newsday, 31/07/2026, Trudy McIntosh

Interview with Federal NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister, on the Federal Government's decision to close the NDIS loophole that allows NDIS providers to charge for golf lessons, decluttering and horse therapy. McAllister says the NDIA examined around 10,000 claims, and it found that 40% of them were for alleged therapies which are not NDIS supports, such as businesses offering golf lessons. He notes that the Federal Government is taking its steps to crack down on the providers.

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2SM, 13:00 News, 31/07/2026

Analysis by the National Disability Insurance Agency has found nearly 40% of audited providers are claiming for alternative therapies, and it comes as the Federal Government looks to clamp down on these alternative options, reducing the pricing for other professional support items from almost \$200 to under \$160 per hour. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister says it is necessary to continue having a claiming category of its kind, but the change will make it less lucrative to rot the system.

Also reported by: [2MCE \(Orange\)](#), [Curtin FM \(Perth\)](#).

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ABC Radio Brisbane, 11:00 News, 31/07/2026

The Federal Government says it's cracking down on inappropriate claims for therapy through the National Disability Insurance Scheme. It's raised concerns about a loophole that it says is being used to subsidise activities like golf lessons. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister says therapy needs to be delivered by a qualified practitioner.

Also reported by: [ABC Illawarra \(Wollongong\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC South East SA \(Mt Gambier\)](#), [ABC Newcastle \(Newcastle\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC Western Queensland \(Longreach\)](#).

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Radio National, Breakfast, 31/07/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Federal NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister, on the Federal Government's announcement that it will be continuing to make the case for its proposed overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. McAllister says they have clarified in 2024 that therapy needs to be delivered by a qualified practitioner and that wellness supports or alternative therapies are not suitable. She also says they want every dollar to go to quality supports that genuinely improve the lives of NDIS participants.

Also reported by: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#), [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

Fairer pay as aged care nurses given \$36,000 boost

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 01/08/2026, Emma Cam, Page 9

Registered nurses working in aged care are taking home an extra \$700 a week after the latest in a series of wage increases came into effect. [...] Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae said the pay

risers were having a measurable impact on the sector.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#),

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

'Overwhelmed' adult children caring for parents demand aged care clarity

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 31/07/2026, Rachel Rasker

A lack of transparency about waiting times for government-funded aged care support packages approved months earlier is driving families to breaking point as they balance care for ageing parents, their children and full-time jobs. [...] A spokesperson for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said in a statement the federal government was "working hard to bring down wait times", and was delivering an additional 32,000 Support at Home places in 2026-27.

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

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Aged care standoff

Star Weekly, Other, 31/07/2026, Jack O'shea-Ayres

Melton council's decision to exit aged care services under the federal government's new Support at Home program has sparked backlash, with union leaders warning almost 100 local jobs are now in limbo. [...] Aged care and seniors minister Sam Rae has called for an urgent meeting with council and the ASU.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Wegovy's PBS listing would have been landmark. Now it's in doubt

The Australian, Other, 31/07/2026, Natasha Robinson

A landmark listing of weight-loss drug Wegovy for public reimbursement is in doubt after the manufacturer of the medication rejected the government's conditions for taxpayer funding of the GLP-1 agonist medication for people with obesity. Novo Nordisk has placed a revised proposal before the nation's medicines approval committee for listing its semaglutide medication on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, indicating the federal Health Department and the pharmaceutical giant were not able to agree after months of negotiation on the conditions under which public access to Wegovy would be funded.

“Much more can be done” to ensure aged care residents' safety

The Weekly Source, Other, 31/07/2026, Caroline Egan

Residential aged care residents remain at "risk of harm" unless national medication safety standards are introduced, a Victorian coroner has found. [...] She recommended the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing "urgently progress" the development of national safety standards for medication management in residential aged care and clear standards for post-error emergency and reporting responses.

[Read More](#)

Department launches accommodation census

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 31/07/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Amid new data showing occupancy has hit 95 per cent, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has announced an aged care accommodation census for residential providers. Provider feedback will be used to build a national database on bed capacity and home locations, conditions and areas with supply pressures to inform funding allocation, address care shortages, reduce hospital stays and better support older Australians.

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Give thin market subsidies to seniors, inquiry hears

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 31/07/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Thin market subsidies should be given to care recipients rather than providers, health and social care economics expert Professor Brenda Gannon has told this week's Senate Inquiry hearing into Support at Home. [...] But looking at a survey conducted by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing last February, the indicative price listed by surveyed providers was up to \$220.

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Resources to prepare for personal care changes

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 31/07/2026

Ahead of personal care services transitioning into clinical care services under Support at Home on 1 October, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has published a collection of resources to help providers prepare. The change means that Support at Home clients will no longer need to pay a co-contribution for assistance with showering, dressing and continence services.

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‘People in nursing homes cannot go to urgent care clinics’: More GP services fall victim to PHN after-hours funding cuts

Australian Doctor, Other, 31/07/2026, Rachel Carter

A long-running GP after-hours service will be forced to close after the Federal Government withdrew all after-hours funding to its local PHN. [...] The PHN said it could no longer commission the service because all its after-hours funding, which is provided by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, ceased on 30 June.

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Polling challenges the government's membership impact estimate for rebate cut

Insurance Business Australia, Other, 31/07/2026, Roxanne Libatique

New consumer research has found that a significant share of older Australians with private health insurance are considering dropping their cover in response to the federal government's proposed rebate reduction – a finding that points to a potential membership impact well beyond official projections. [...] Premium round applications are submitted to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing in November for changes to take effect from April 1 the following year.

[Read More](#)

States push back on plan to cut higher health insurance rebates for over-65s

Starts at 60, Other, 31/07/2026

The federal government's plan to scrap higher private health insurance rebates for Australians over 65 is facing growing resistance from state governments, according to a report in The Australian, with new polling suggesting far more seniors may abandon their private cover than the Commonwealth has predicted. [...] Perhaps the most striking element of The Australian's report is a Freedom of Information document, obtained by the Coalition, reportedly showing the federal Health Department itself modelled how the change could affect individual pensioners before the policy was adopted – and reportedly confirmed there had been no consultation on the change beforehand, citing the sensitivity of the issue.

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New Medicare mental health kids hub to open in Tuggeranong, expanding free support for ACT children

The Sector, Other, 31/07/2026, Fiona Alston

Children and families across the Australian Capital Territory will soon have greater access to free mental health care, with the Australian Government announcing a new Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub will open in Tuggeranong later this year. [...] Families, educators and community organisations can learn more about the new service and the Australian Government's investment in children's mental health by reading the full announcement from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing here.

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Defeating dementia

AFR Weekend, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 32

When Eric Stallard began looking into the incidence of dementia among elderly Americans, he was so stunned by his findings that he held off publishing his first paper on the subject for two and a half years while he doublechecked his work.

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Top neurologist explains pros and cons of new Alzheimer's blood tests

The Australian, Other, 31/07/2026, Natasha Robinson

Blood tests that can diagnose Alzheimer's disease up to 20 years before symptoms appear are about to become available in Australia. Yet at the moment, there are no publicly reimbursed medications or effective treatments – and certainly no cure – for the neurodegenerative disease.

[Read More](#)

Neurologist's at-home dementia test earns prestigious national science prize nomination

Adelaide Now, Other, 31/07/2026, Bridget Clarke

Dr Jane Alty's idea for an at-home computer dementia test was initially met with scepticism. But it's that very idea that has earned the neurologist and Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre associate professor national recognition in one of Australia's most prestigious science prizes.

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

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2GB, Afternoons, 31/07/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with Families for Aged Care Equity and Support convenor Melissa Reader. McLaren says Families for Aged Care Equity and Support or FACES is pressuring the Federal Government to publish accessible and consistent data when it comes to wait times for aged care support. Reader says the

average wait time for getting aged care support is 340 days, but families don't have any insight or certainty over where they are in the queue, and they are grappling to fill all the gaps.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Mum's \$2.2m NDIS 'greed'

Herald Sun, General News, 01/08/2026, Julie Cross & Imran Ali, Page 29

A middle aged mum at the centre of a \$2.2m National Disability Insurance Scheme rort, cried and clutched at her heart as the court heard she had made more than 1000 false claims driven by "greed". Ebtesam Ibrahim Hamoud Fahmy, 57, who is married with two teenage children, was found guilty earlier this year by a jury, of five counts of dishonesty intending to obtain a gain and one count of dealing in indictable crime proceeds of crime with a value of more than \$1m.

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

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Ryogie Tumandao fronts court over NDIS fraud

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/07/2026, Imran Ali

A God-fearing consultant hired by two Melbourne companies to help become NDIS providers changed the bank accounts details to his own and fleeced the under-fire government entity of nearly \$229,000. Ryogie Tumandao, 30, of Melton, in Melbourne's West, fronted the County Court for a plea hearing on Friday and was seen reading a Bible in the dock prior to the case.

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

[Read More](#)

Fears for son with severe autism after disability agency slashes \$46,000 support

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/07/2026, Emma Cam

A mother's fight to restore more than \$40,000 in disability funding for her son with severe autism and epilepsy is headed to tribunal, after his support budget was cut. [...] According to Ms Braithwaite, the funding cut came despite written advice from NDIS late last year that "no changes" had been made to Jesse's existing support budget.

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

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Ex-NDIS planner James Davies sentenced for defrauding scheme he helped create of \$700,000

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/07/2026, Julie Cross

A former NDIS poster boy has been jailed for scamming the system he helped champion – exposing just how easy it is to rip off. Fifteen years ago, James Davies was celebrated as an inspirational disability advocate, had the ear of the then Prime Minister and starred in a high-profile video campaign pushing for the scheme's launch.

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

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 31/07/2026, Patricia Karvelas

There are revelations that NDIA, the agency that runs the National Disability Insurance Scheme, paid incorrect claims made by 4000 providers, and advocates are now questioning how the operators were able to make the claims in the first place. Some of the things that were outlined that could not be used for NDIS funds were recreational activities.

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PRIMARY CARE

Elderly woman dies after wait for paramedics

The Saturday Age, General News, 01/08/2026, Erin Pearson & Grant McArthur, Page 2

A woman in her late 90s has been found dead in her home after waiting hours for paramedics to respond to her calls for help. [...] An Ambulance Victoria review of the incident will examine whether the emergency call, which was classified as a non-urgent Code 3 case, was triaged appropriately, as well as the communication between the medical alarm agency, Triple Zero Victoria and Ambulance Victoria.

Also reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Woman dies three hours after alert triggered ambulance call

Herald Sun, General News, 01/08/2026, Fergus Ellis & Gerald Lynch, Page 11

An elderly woman has died after waiting three hours for an ambulance to arrive at her home in Melbourne's west early yesterday. [...] The Herald Sun understands that, once the woman triggered her medical alert system, the provider contacted triple-0, which then passed the relevant details to Ambulance Victoria's triage services team.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [3AW \(Online\)](#).

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

The gift that saved Thea

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 01/08/2026, Brendan Casey & Talara Mchugh, Page 8

Pediatric organ donation is extremely rare, yet it can transform unimaginable tragedy into hope, healing and lasting legacy for up to seven lives. Many Australian families may meet nurses like Melissa Short on the worst day of their lives.

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

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Negligible nutrition for grandmother

Northern Territory News, General News, 01/08/2026, Zizi Averill, Page 5

A Darwin grandmother fighting for her life in the intensive care ward went more than a week without adequate nutrition as her dietitians gave increasingly "frustrated" warnings. Over six days of evidence at the inquest, the family of Bev Rynski heard the 75-year-old received "negligible nutrition" for long periods while attached to a feeding tube for 19 days at the Royal Darwin Hospital, with repeated recommendations to change her treatment not implemented.

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'Smoke' billows out of Geelong hospital in viral video

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/08/2026, Harvey Constable, Page 6

Concerning footage of what looks like smoke billowing from the children's emergency department of the Geelong hospital has emerged. The video shows a young girl dressed in pyjamas brandishing a fire extinguisher while the other appears to film the incident.

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

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Health fund's high hopes

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 01/08/2026, Denika Anderson, Page 3

A pet scan closer to home could soon be a reality for local patients. [...] MHF chair Terry Hill said Mildura Health Foundation was focused on bringing advanced cancer diagnostic technology to the region and reducing the need for patients to travel hundreds of kilometres for essential scans.

Life-saving Townsville cancer service funded after major Glencore donation

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 31/07/2026, Evan Morgan

A substantial donation from Glencore has helped the Brighter Lives' Brighter Day campaign to establish a lifesaving donor stem cell transplant service at Townsville University Hospital.

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

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New IV guidance

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 31/07/2026

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has published new national guidance to support health professionals deliver the safe, appropriate and sustainable use of intravenous (IV) fluids. Resources include a fact sheet to guide decision-making when starting, reviewing and ceasing IV fluids.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Census questions shows LGBTQ people they count

The Saturday Age, General News, 01/08/2026, Brittany Busch, Page 5

Transgender Australians have long been the focus of debates about the future of sport, schools, healthcare and public bathrooms. But there has never been a single, official tally of how many Australians identify as transgender only a patchwork of estimates.

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

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Dental health being brushed aside

Newcastle Herald, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 5

Three quarters of the 25,000 Australians surveyed in the Australian Dental Association's 2025 consumer survey said they faced barriers to accessing dental care, which could be forcing them to delay or avoid dental care. "Unfortunately, many are delaying dental visits until something goes wrong, and by then the problem is often more painful, more complex, and more expensive to treat," association vice president Angie Nilsson said.

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New test provides hope for menopause 'tunnel of chaos'

Canberra Times, Other, 31/07/2026, Emily Woods

Almost every hour, an Australian woman dies from heart disease. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death for Australian women, and risk increases with age, yet the impact of menopause on heart health is poorly understood.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail UK \(Online\)](#)

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Young people brushing dental health aside, experts warn

Newcastle Herald, Other, 31/07/2026, Eleanor Wilson

For the past couple of years sporadic, dull aches have alerted Georgia Smith to the wisdom teeth slowly rearing in her gums. Despite the pain and discomfort, the 26-year-old has avoided the dentist for two years.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#)

Census 2026 guide: When is Census night and everything you need to know

SBS, Other, 31/07/2026

Every five years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) counts every person and every household in the country as part of the Census of Population and Housing. That includes Australians, young and old, from metropolitan and rural Australia.

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

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 31/07/2026, James Glenday & Emma Rebellato

Data from the Australian Dental Association shows 60% of adults aged 18 to 25 are making decisions about how to manage their dental health care through social media. The Greens claim the Federal Government has not done enough to help young Australians with dental care.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 31/07/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Australian Dental Association member Dr Andrew Gikas. Mabin states that a growing number of Australians are delaying going to the dentist, ignoring wisdom tooth-related problems, and some even resorting to DIY dentistry. Gikas says they have surveyed 25,000 Australians each year, and they found that 60% of 18 to 25-year-olds report that social media influenced their decision to pursue DIY dental procedures that have temporary effects, and he adds that they could do more damage without supervision.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 31/07/2026, Bob Murphy & Richelle Hunt

Interview with Australian Dental Association Board Director Dr Andrew Gikas. Hunt says many young Australians are delaying going to the dentist, ignoring wisdom tooth-related problems, and some even resorting to DIY dentistry. Gikas says 74% of the young Australians they surveyed claimed that they resort to DIY dentistry due to barriers, but he confirms that cost, reduced access to support, and busy lifestyles were the main barriers, and he adds that they are encouraging young Australians to prioritise preventative dental health before it becomes an issue.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 31/07/2026, Mark Gibson

Interview with Australian Dental Association Board Director Dr Andrew Gikas. Gibson many young Australians are delaying going to the dentist, ignoring wisdom tooth-related problems, and some even resorting to DIY dentistry. Gikas says 60% of respondents reported that social media influenced their decision to chase or pursue DIY cosmetic tendril procedures, such as teeth whitening, and 74% of them claimed they experienced barriers to accessing dental care.

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

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ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 31/07/2026, Craig Reucassel

A survey of 25,000 Australians was conducted last November by the Australian Dental Association, and it found that 60% of 18 to 25-year-olds have issues with their wisdom teeth and the same number have been influenced by social media to have cosmetic dental procedures. ADA Vice President Angie Nilsson says many young adults were falling through the cracks after moving out of home.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Lingering test for Albanese

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 01/08/2026, Michelle Grattan, Page 115

At last week's Labor conference, which was totally under the Prime Minister's thumb, only one issue was contested on the floor: support for the use of telehealth in voluntary assisted dying care. The amendment in favour passed, but Anthony Albanese later flagged he was opposed to such a move.

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

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

This 'sex problem' could be a sign of heart disease

Australian Financial Review, Other, 31/07/2026, Euan Black

Men are more likely to get irritated or embarrassed than worried about their health when they struggle to get an erection.

[Read More](#)

Clinical trial based on Richard Scolyer's treatment offers new hope for brain cancer patients

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 31/07/2026, Garry Maddox

There is new hope for brain cancer patients with an Australian clinical trial based on Professor Richard Scolyer's experimental treatment opening for newly diagnosed patients. Just weeks after the former Australian of the Year's death, which came three years after he was diagnosed with a highly aggressive glioblastoma, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne has confirmed the trial has started in this country.

[Read More](#)

New study reveals major barriers to voluntary assisted dying in rural Australia

Adelaide Now, Other, 31/07/2026, Dane Millerd

People living in rural and remote Australia continue to face significant barriers to accessing voluntary assisted dying (VAD), despite the service now being legal across every Australian state and the Australian Capital Territory, according to new Charles Sturt University research. The study, published in the journal Death Studies, is the first comprehensive review to map global evidence on how people in rural and remote communities experience access to voluntary assisted dying.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Machete thugs in violent clinic raid

The Saturday Age, General News, 01/08/2026, Grant McArthur, Page 4

Machete-wielding thugs forced entry into a secure youth mental health centre before assaulting two people and fleeing before police arrived. Some staff from the Parkville Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Service's Sunshine site are now being relocated due to ongoing safety concerns, following Tuesday afternoon's brazen attack.

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

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Coroner looking at death during mental health admission

Border Mail, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 3

A coroner is investigating the death of a mother who was admitted to Albury Wodonga Health during a mental health crisis. Kate Manley, 46, died at Albury hospital in the early hours of November 16, 2022.

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Homeless Australians trapped in 'cycle of crisis'

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 16

Homeless people in Australia are being shunted from the streets to hospitals and prisons and back again, advocacy groups say, as they call on federal and state governments to deliver 20,000 extra housing places. New analysis from Homelessness Australia and Mental Health Australia has found more than 31,000 people are trapped in a cycle of crisis, repeatedly rotating through acute mental health services, homelessness, crisis accommodation, hospitals and prisons.

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The midlife disconnect: Australians aged 45 to 54 are hardest hit by loneliness

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 31/07/2026, Abby Seaman

On the morning of July 16, when Argentina took on England at the World Cup, Nathan Lewin and his group chat of mates gathered at his place at 4.45am for breakfast with a side of soccer. Three years earlier, life looked very different. [...] A 2026 report from Ending Loneliness Together, released ahead of Loneliness Awareness Week, found that one in two people living in Australia reported some form of social disconnection.

[Read More](#)

Port MacDonnell tragedy puts Limestone Coast mental health crisis in spotlight

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/07/2026, Ruby Stewart & Dylan Hogarth

A mental health advocacy group have warned that more people could "fall through the cracks" if the state government fails to respond to the "unmet need" for services on the Limestone Coast following the tragic death of a mother and two children near Port MacDonnell. [...] Data from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists found that only 0.1 psychiatrists are available per 10,000 people in country South Australia.

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

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How practice nurses can help manage patients with ADHD

Australian Doctor, Other, 31/07/2026, Ciara Seccombe

As GPs move into diagnosing and managing patients with ADHD, practice nurses can help enhance the services they provide, a nurse leader says. Nurse consultant Bel Davis envisages RNs becoming involved in ADHD care in several ways, including running education groups modelled on those for patients with diabetes or breast cancer.

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[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Premiums no barrier to higher coverage

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 01/08/2026, Rebecca Le May, Page 123

Private health insurance membership keeps inching higher despite soaring premiums, new figures by the regulator reveal. [...] "While for some people, having private hospital cover is about having access to medical care as and when they need it, for others it's primarily a financial decision, driven by the double threat of the Medicare levy surcharge and the lifetime health cover loading."

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News24, Afternoon Agenda, 31/07/2026, Tom Connell

Interview with Private Health Australia CEO Dr Rachel David. Connell says the Health Ministers of NSW, Queensland and Tasmania are against the Federal Government's planned changes to private health insurance that will lead to senior Australians paying hundreds of dollars extra to get the health care they need. David says Australians are being put in a position where they cannot continue with their health insurance and they would now consider adding themselves to public hospital wait lists.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 31/07/2026, Leon Delaney

The Federal Government is facing growing backlash to plans to reduce the private health insurance rebates for over 65s. Shadow Health and Aged Care Minister Anne Ruston says the decision will impact all Australians if additional older Australians are forced into that system that's already under pressure.

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2GB, Drive, 31/07/2026, Clinton Maynard

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park. Maynard says the Private Healthcare Australia is worried after it's reported that 40% of older Australians in outer suburban and regional electorates will drop out of their health cover as a result of the Federal Government's decision to reduce private health insurance rebates for older Australians. Park says it's very concerning because older Australians who are considering to drop their health cover would now consider going to public hospitals, noting that it would increase the pressure within the public hospital system that is already struggling.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 31/07/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Private Health Australia CEO Dr Rachel David. McClaren says the Federal Government plans to reduce private health insurance rebates for older Australians from next April, and it would mean that many older people could end up paying hundreds of dollars more each year to keep their cover. David says 40% of Australians aged over 65 will consider dropping their cover as a consequence of the Federal Government's latest measure, and she notes that it results in an increase of about \$807 for an individual and \$1600 for a couple.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Accidental lab find

Northern Territory News, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 17

An unexpected observation by a University of Queensland researcher could lead to a new treatment for deadly infectious diseases. While working on unrelated research, UQ neuroscientist and biochemist Merja Joensuu discovered a disruption in a pathway that human viruses rely on to spread from one cell to the next.

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

Cancer treatment CAR-T that gave Hollywood star Sam Neill hope could soon help millions

7News.com.au, Other, 31/07/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

The treatment that gave Hollywood legend Sam Neill renewed hope in his battle with cancer could soon become available to millions of patients. Australian scientists are developing the next generation of CAR-T therapy, transforming the way cancer is treated.

[Read More](#)

ADHD in kids: Dexamphetamine associated with more early weight loss than methylphenidate in Aussie study

Australian Doctor, Other, 31/07/2026, Rachel Carter

The University of Sydney study found the two stimulants were equally effective in treating the condition. Children and teens prescribed dexamphetamine for DSM-5-confirmed ADHD have significantly more weight loss during early treatment than those on methylphenidate, Australian research suggests.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 31/07/2026, Angela Cox & Mark Ferguson

The treatment that gave Hollywood legend Sam Neill renewed hope in his battle with cancer could soon become available to millions of patients. Monash University scientists are now developing the next generation of CAR T-cell therapy with hopes of transforming the way cancer is treated.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Young Australian adults are delaying dental care after leaving home because they cannot afford it

ABC Online, Other, 31/07/2026, Emma Pollard

Thu 30 Jul 2026 at 9:37pm Young Australians are delaying dental care because of the cost with many also performing "DIY dentistry" due to the influence of social media, a new national survey says. The Australian Dental Association (ADA) has found 60 per cent of adults aged 18 to 25 are making decisions about how to manage their dental health through social media.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Influx of regional recruits

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/08/2026, Harrison Finlay, Page 4

A recruitment drive has injected more than 4000 essential workers into regional NSW, with the Far West and Riverina taking the lion's share. [...] The Riverina has also reaped the rewards, attracting 354

essential workers nearly 70 per cent of whom work in health and ambulance services.

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

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Nurse shortage looms

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 20

Australia is staring down a projected shortfall of almost 80,000 nurses by 2035, the Australian College of Nursing warns. It says well-designed nursing transition to practice programs build confidence and competence and keep nurses in the profession.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#)

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Pharmacy placements now paid

Broken Hill Times, General News, 31/07/2026, Aaron Dias, Page 6

The Federal Government has extended paid placement support to pharmacy and allied health students, a move the Broken Hill University Department of Rural Health (BHUDRH) says will help address chronic health workforce shortages across far west New South Wales. Pharmacy students completing mandatory placements as part of their degree will become eligible for the financial support from 1 July 2027.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Clarification

Courier Mail, Letters, 01/08/2026, Page 67

A sub-heading in The Courier-Mail yesterday suggested AstraZeneca's life-saving drug Zoladex would continue to be funded on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Instead, it will no longer be available on the PBS, but access to the medication will be provided by AstraZeneca after November 1.

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Aussie women's rights 'are in danger'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/08/2026, Sophie Elsworth, Page 20

Scottish nurse Sandie Peggie, suspended by her employer for refusing to share bathrooms with a trans doctor, fears Australia has been captured by "gender ideology" and is destroying women's rights in the process. [...] Dr Upton is now registered as a medical practitioner at NSW's Port Macquarie Base Hospital and Kempsey District Hospital, records show at the medical regulator, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

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Ex-Ballarat dentist to appeal conviction for behaving in an offensive

manner

Ballarat Courier, Other, 31/07/2026, Bryan Hoadley

Former Ballarat dentist Ian Lomax, who booed at an Anzac Day dawn service alongside several prominent neo-Nazis, will appeal his conviction for behaving in an offensive manner. [...] During the June 4 hearing, Mr Norton also told the court his client was working as a farmhand after his dental licence was suspended by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

[Read More](#)

Surgeons charged over alleged kickback scheme put under extensive AHPRA conditions

Australian Doctor, Other, 31/07/2026, Antony Scholefield

Two surgeons who allegedly accepted bribes to ensure public hospitals purchased or leased particular equipment have had extensive conditions placed on their AHPRA registration. Neurosurgeon Dr Richard William Laherty, 53, and orthopaedic surgeon Dr Dihan Taranga Aponso, 45, have been charged with multiple counts of misconduct in public office and official corruption.

[Read More](#)

'They don't understand how this gets weaponised': Nursing union calls on AHPRA to ditch anti-Semitism definition

Australian Doctor, Other, 31/07/2026, Ciara Seccombe

The new anti-Semitism definition adopted by AHPRA is creating confusion, and employers are already using it to restrict what nurses can wear or say outside work, Australia's biggest nursing union says. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation says its members have already reported being instructed by employers to avoid political commentary or clothing that could be seen as expressing allegiance to a political cause, including while travelling to and from work.

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[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

'Fatally flawed'

The Saturday Age, General News, 01/08/2026, Liam Mannix & Henrietta Cook, Page 1

Fay Sherret's heart operation was supposed to extend her life. [...] The fixes, approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), do not appear to have worked, an investigation by this masthead reveals.

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

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Breathe easy, bud, TGA nose best

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 31

Devices that once seemed awkward in public can quickly become normal and nostril buds could follow that path. A new device approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration could see people with buds protruding from their nostrils to beat nasal congestion problems.

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What should be done about peptides?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 31/07/2026, Jonathan Bradley

Illegal peptide products pushed through social media are promising to improve Australians' looks and libidos, increase muscle tone or fight the effects of ageing – but they also come with multiple risks. [...] 'These are not approved goods, so not only do we not have clarity on the ingredients; we don't have clarity on the long-term effects,' said panellist Professor Tony Lawler, Head of the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Why I'm not sweet on these sugars

The Nightly, General News, 31/07/2026, Sarah Di Lorenzo, Page 34

The question I get asked more than almost anything else in the clinic is some version of the following "Is coconut sugar actually better for me than regular sugar?" or "should I be using stevia instead of sugar?" [...] Regulatory bodies including FSANZ and the FDA maintain that these [artificial sweeteners] are safe within set daily intake limits, and decades of research haven't shown clear harm at normal consumption levels.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 31/07/2026, Sirine Demachkie

Interview with former food technologist Min Sheen Tan. Demachkie says a Four Corners investigation has uncovered products whose labels did not match independent scientific testing, and she also states that food industry insiders have told Four Corners that Australian shoppers are being deceived by marketing and labelling that makes ultra-processed foods appear healthier than they really are. Tan states that manufacturers like to use marketing words such as 'natural', 'real', and 'wholesome' to make ultra-processed foods healthy for consumers.

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[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

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[Back to Top](#)

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