



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 11th July 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[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](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) | [Australian CDC](#) |
[Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that an innovative prefabricated housing project in Tennant Creek is being held up as a potential model for remote housing reform, with its lead advocate Dr Simon Quilty arguing that better-designed housing is essential to addressing chronic diseases including rheumatic heart disease, which thrives in the overcrowded, poorly ventilated homes that have long been the norm in remote Australia.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 2) reports that the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists will hold a general meeting to consider a motion for an independent review into its president's planned attendance at a political fundraising dinner.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that WorkSafe is investigating the AFL's handling of player concussions as experts argue that the league's 12-day return-to-play protocol is insufficient given the evolving science on concussions and CTE.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 8) reports that a spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing acknowledged the "uncertainty and distress" facing patients relying on AstraZeneca's Zoladex breast cancer drug after it was announced it would be removed from the PBS, and said that the department was working with other companies to subsidise alternative therapies.

- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 3) reports that a review by the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency found that Tasmanian police are spending significant time responding to mental health call-outs, straining resources and highlighting the state's under-resourced hospitals.
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 9) reports that Tasmania has seen its number of bulk billing GP clinics rise from 26 to 71 since the federal government expanded incentives last year, with Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White saying Labor's promise to strengthen Medicare had been delivered upon.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 3) reports that the Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association is calling for additional funding in its fight against the rare and aggressive cancer affecting bone, cartilage, or soft tissue, which receives less than 1 per cent of cancer research funding.
- **The Courier Mail** (page 9) reports that 363,886 patients are on a waitlist for specialist appointments in Queensland, with wait times increasing by 15 per cent in a year as GPs struggle to handle an influx of patients requiring longer consultations.
- **ABC Online** (online) reports that the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission says it is increasing compliance efforts in the Kimberley region, where disability workers allege serious safety complaints are being ignored.
- **ABC Online** (online) reports that South Australian Police have said that there is no evidence that the death of a woman at a regional hospital during this week's major Telstra outage was caused by the outage. *Also reported by: Adelaide Now*

MINISTER BUTLER

Haley takes health concept to Canberra

Clarence Valley Independent, General News, 10/07/2026, Rodney Stevens, Page 2

The innovative model of the new Maclean Health Centre was brought to the attention of the Federal Health Minister recently at the Parliamentary Friends of Nursing 2026 showcase. [...] "I got to meet Health Minister Mark Butler, and he met with the peak bodies after our session with them," she said.

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The Health Wrap: strange times in the United States, Ebola updates, tackling misinformation – and celebrating wildflowers

Croakey, Other, 10/07/2026, Melissa Sweet

The impacts of extreme heat, updates on vaccine matters, challenges for science in the United States and elsewhere, innovation in the community controlled sector, and good news for coffee drinkers are among the topics covered in The Health Wrap. [...] A media release from Health Minister Mark Butler described this as "a bumper month for cheaper medicines" – although none of the listed medicines will have widespread use.

[Read More](#)

MS patients face losing cheap access to \$30,000 drug

HealthTimes, Other, 10/07/2026

A decision is looming on whether thousands of Australians with multiple sclerosis will continue getting subsidised access to two life-changing drugs. [...] But the two drugs needed to remain on the PBS, which caps prices at \$25 for general patients and \$7 for concession card holders, Health Minister Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

Ryan seeks PBS guarantee for MS medicines

Melbourne Insider, Other, 10/07/2026, Amelia Hartley

Ocrevus and Kesimpta are used by 13,000 Australians Federal MP Monique Ryan has urged the Albanese government to guarantee that two key multiple sclerosis medicines will stay on the

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme without any break in access. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has indicated that he wants both treatments to remain on the PBS.

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General Managers on the move

Pharma In Focus, Other, 10/07/2026

More employment moves in senior leadership positions this week, with news that a well-known industry professional had landed a General Manager role - for the second time - our top story. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler is clearly feeling pressure over the possible delisting of two PBS drugs for multiple sclerosis - warning the two pharmas involved and PBAC to ensure the drugs remain funded for Aussies when they met this week.

[Read More](#)

ABC Central Coast, Breakfast, 10/07/2026, Scott Levi

Levi says MS advocates and patients have warned that losing subsidies and access to Ocrevus and Kesimpta would cost some people their lives. He states that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has declared he wants the medicines to remain on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and has linked the dispute with global drug makers Roche and Novartis to changes in US policy.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

A new Indigenous-only NDIS phone line is launching, in response to cultural safety 'gaps'

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Other, 10/07/2026

For Woppaburra woman Tahlia Rose Vanissum, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is "built on a level of privilege". [...] It's feedback like this, that Minister Jenny McAllister says has informed the creation of a new phone service: 'First Nations Connect'.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

ABC Mildura - Swan Hill, Breakfast, 10/07/2026, Sarah Buchecker

Interview with Murray PHN CEO Matt Jones. Buchecker says Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride announced funding for a network of 20 headspace outreach services, with two of them set to be located in Robinvale and Kerang. Jones also says the announcement of providing youth mental health services through headspace Outreach is a welcome addition to healthcare in the regional communities.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Bulk billing back from brink in Tassie but not without a catch

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/07/2026, Rob Inglis, Page 9

Bulk-billing GP clinics were virtually non-existent in Tasmania as recently as last year but the situation has improved markedly since a new federal incentive scheme was introduced, according to fresh data released by Labor. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White said Labor had delivered on its promise to strengthen Medicare.

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GLP-1 drug a lifeline for women

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/07/2026, Bridget Clarke, Page 25

After years spent searching for remedies, Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS) sufferer Chloe Morgan was recently prescribed the drug GLP-1. [...] Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White acknowledged that while many women living with the condition were looking for affordable treatment options, there were no plans to list GLP-1 medications on the PBS.

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[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

No, this can't be right. This can't be happening. Oh, it is

Herald Sun, Weekend, 11/07/2026, Frances Whiting, Page 8

A lifesaving breast cancer drug's withdrawal has plunged thousands of Australian women like Lucy Ormonde into shock, creating an outcry and adding to the emotional toll on those who desperately need it. [...] VWeekend asked for further, updated information from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and a spokesman said it acknowledges that "AstraZeneca's decision to remove Zoladex 3.6mg from the PBS is creating uncertainty and distress for patients, especially women".

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

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Council to exit aged care services

Stawell Times News, General News, 10/07/2026, Page 1

More than 300 Northern Grampians aged care clients will transition to new providers from early next year after councillors voted to withdraw from direct service delivery. [...] Council has endorsed Grampians Community Health and East Wimmera Health Service as its preferred providers, although the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care will make the final decision on who delivers care.

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Health technology assessment reforms to give patients visibility over PBS calls

Health Services Daily, Other, 10/07/2026

DoHDA says consumers will be told how their input shaped HTA recommendations as it responds to feedback on new engagement framework.

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Government response outlines progress on First Nations aged care

reforms

Health Services Daily, Other, 10/07/2026

DoHDA backs key First Nations aged care reforms, and highlights the work already underway.

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Assignment of benefit will be difficult to capture correctly 100% of the time

The Medical Republic, Other, 10/07/2026, Holly Payne

If the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing approaches assignment of benefit rules like the PSR approaches potential Medicare misuse, then it could potentially be kissing any chances of a 90% GP bulk billing rate goodbye. That's according to David Dahm, an accountant largely servicing general practices.

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Mandating MHR won't solve online-only telehealth safety

The Medical Republic, Other, 10/07/2026, Holly Payne

Cleaning up the online-only telehealth clinic sector will take more than just a national medicines record, the AMA tells the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing in a newly-issued submission. Announced earlier this year, DoHDA is working on a set of reforms to address doctor shopping.

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Independent living vs. residential aged care: finding the right fit in Shepparton

Shepparton News Online, Other, 10/07/2026, Annie Barrow

The primary difference between independent living and residential aged care is the level of medical and personal support provided. Independent living (often within retirement villages) is designed for seniors who can manage their day-to-day lives but want a low-maintenance, community-focused lifestyle.

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AI in aged care faces a data integrity crisis

HelloCare, Other, 10/07/2026, Jakob Neeland

Australian aged care providers are increasingly exploring artificial intelligence to predict health risks such as strokes and diabetes complications among residents. However, new research highlights serious flaws in many AI-driven clinical prediction models, raising concerns about patient safety and the reliability of tools entering the sector.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

NDIS watchdog slammed for 'snail's pace' response to neglect allegations

ABC Online, Other, 10/07/2026, Dunja Karagic

Disability sector workers say lives are being put at risk due to the NDIS watchdog's failure to act on serious safety complaints in one of Australia's remotest regions. More than two years ago, support coordinator and senior social worker Stuart Morris started becoming suspicious about the care his client Jamie* was receiving at a disability home in Western Australia's Kimberley region.

PRIMARY CARE

363,886 are still waiting for doc

Courier Mail, General News, 11/07/2026, Rose Innes, Page 9

An alarming 363,886 desperate patients are on a wait list for a specialist appointment as new data reveals wait times have jumped by 15 per cent in just 12 months. Queensland Health's Our Performance figures, released on Friday, show an influx of patients left waiting for specialist appointments and surgeries despite a 2 per cent decrease in referrals since this time last year.

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

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Major win for rural health

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/07/2026, Bridget Clarke, Page 23

The final barrier preventing rural generalists from working in the Tasmanian health system has been lifted, according to a major advocate of the model. Dr Sally Street, a long-term advocate of the rural generalist model of care, said the development lays the groundwork for better patient access, and a more sustainable statewide workforce.

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Mum's plea after experience at clinic

Newcastle Herald, General News, 11/07/2026, Chloe Coleman, Page 42

A trip to Maitland's Medicare Urgent Care Clinic has a Hunter mum calling on it to do better after her son waited hours to be seen for a suspected fracture, only to find there was no x-ray machine on site. Fiona Dunmore attended the clinic with her son in June after he hurt his wrist at school.

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Medical care costs bite

Sunraysia Daily, Letters, 11/07/2026, Dr Elizabeth Deveny, Page 21

More than a quarter of Australians who need to see a GP or a dentist are either delaying or going without care, with cost increasingly a major factor. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's biennial Australia's Health 2026 report shows of the 18.5 million Australians aged 15 and over who needed to see a GP, 27 per cent delayed or did not see one at all.

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Elderly Victor Harbor woman's death investigated after failed triple-0 call during Telstra outage

Adelaide Now, Other, 10/07/2026, Darren Chaitman & Dasha Havrilenko

A death at Victor Harbor is being investigated by police after the deceased person's spouse failed to connect to triple-0 during Telstra's outage on Wednesday, officials have confirmed. An SA Ambulance Services spokeswoman said an ambulance was dispatched and arrived on scene in 11 minutes after receiving a triple-0 call on Wednesday morning.

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

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Telstra shares new details of possible outage death in SA

ABC Online, Other, 10/07/2026, Eugene Boisvert

Telstra says it has no record of Triple Zero (000) calls made from phone numbers associated with the address of a person who later died in a South Australian regional hospital on Wednesday. The SA Police Commissioner told radio station FiveAA earlier today that the person's spouse had tried to ring for an ambulance, which "didn't go through" so they used another phone.

Pharmacists can ease health burden

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 10/07/2026

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has reiterated the potential role for appropriately trained pharmacist prescribers in improving healthcare access, as it responded to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) national health report card released yesterday (PD 09 Jul). The report found that one in four (27%) people delayed or skipped seeing a GP last year, while urinary tract infections (UTIs) were the nation's leading preventable acute hospital admission.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Work from home raises obesity risk: study

AFR Weekend, General News, 11/07/2026, Michael Read, Page 2

Australians who work from home do less exercise, eat more food and are at greater risk of becoming obese, according to research that opens a new front in the debate over the benefits of remote work.

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

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Review for concussion rules

Weekend Australian, Sport, 11/07/2026, Jon Ralph, Page 39

The AFL says it will be guided by experts about changes to make football fields with cricket pitches safer after the death of a 27-year-old player in Melbourne's north this week. AFL chief executive Andrew Dillon says the league will again review its concussion protocols at season's end after a wave of news about the toll of cumulative head knocks in football.

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

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AFL head hits probe

Herald Sun, General News, 11/07/2026, Jay Clark, Page 1

WorkSafe has launched an investigation into the AFL's alleged concussion failings amid increasing fears about footy's CTE crisis. The Herald Sun can reveal the regulator is probing whether the league failed to safeguard its players from repeat brain impacts at training.

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

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'Sad state of affairs' as treatment waitlists continue to grow

Ballarat Courier, General News, 11/07/2026, Michelle Smith, Page 3

A bottleneck of people waiting up to six weeks for assessment before starting treatment for alcohol or drug addiction is putting lives at risk, according to local health services, and the problem is getting worse. The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association has found that, on any day in May, 5122 people were waiting for alcohol and other drug treatment in Victoria - more than double the number who were waiting in September 2020.

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Alcohol, cancer deaths, obesity, life expectancy, out-of-pocket costs: Australia's health in graphs

Australian Doctor, Other, 10/07/2026

Australians' life expectancy has increased steadily over time but dropped during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new report released last week by the Australian Institute of Health and

Welfare. The report — Australia's Health 2026 — shows that between 2003 and 2024, Australians' life expectancy and years lived in "full health" increased.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 10/07/2026, Sirine Demachkie

Interview with University of Sydney Professor of Public Health Dr Becky Freeman. Freeman says smoking rates have not gone up in Australia, but she is concerned that vaping rates are increasing, and young people who vape are five times more likely to smoke cigarettes. She discusses the impact of the media's portrayal of smoking on the everyday lives of people.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Battle deadly cancer

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/07/2026, Page 3

One in three Australians diagnosed with sarcoma will not survive beyond five years, yet the disease receives less than 1 per cent of Australia's cancer research funding. The Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association is calling on Australians to help change that by supporting The Great Sarcoma Plank-A-thon and getting involved with global Sarcoma Awareness Month this winter.

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

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The daughter dilemma

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 11/07/2026, Lauren Novak, Page 18

A frozen embryo, an inherited cancer gene and a decade of soul-searching inspired Lindsay Bartels' moving memoir about motherhood, fate and impossible choices Imagine this: you're a breast cancer survivor with a gene mutation that makes cancer more likely.

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Shane thankful for second chance at life

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 11/07/2026, Mitch Turner, Page 14

"Either you do your cancer treatment and have a 20 per cent chance of living, or we cut your arm off and save your life right now." That was s the impossible choice that Far North Queensland schoolteacher and rugby league identity Shane Muriata was faced with in January last year.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Global VAD benchmark

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 11/07/2026, Page 17

The Victorian model for oral self-administration of voluntary assisted dying (VAD) medication is safe and effective and a global benchmark for patient outcomes. A Monash University stud analysed the first six years of experience in Victoria.

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

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Georgina Long's tribute to fellow Australian of the Year Richard Scolyer

The Australian, Other, 11/07/2026, Georgina Long & Kerry Crotty

Dedicated, energetic, patient and generous: the globally revered pathologist is remembered by those

who knew and worked with him ahead of a memorial at Sydney Opera House on Monday. Richard Anthony Scolyer AO, our beloved friend and colleague, died on June 7, 2026, at the age of 59.

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Life-changing drug gives Jaylen his childhood back from itchy, painful eczema

Ballarat Courier, Other, 10/07/2026, Michelle Smith

A year ago, Jaylen Lench was angry, frustrated, and always miserable. Severe eczema stopped the then six-year-old from doing most of the things that little boys love. Now, according to his mother Sarah, he's a different child who loves swimming, soccer, sports, fishing, school and time with family.

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Multimorbidity clusters in Aussies 65-plus

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 10/07/2026

A new national study from the University of Sydney has found that more than threequarters of people aged 65 and over are living with multiple chronic conditions, which tend to cluster into three main groups rather than occurring at random. The research led by Associate Professor Edwin Tan from the School of Pharmacy analysed the health records of over 4.4 million older Australians and identified three consistent multimorbidity clusters: cardiovascular and metabolic conditions; neuropsychiatric and functional decline conditions; and inflammatory, musculoskeletal and cancer-related conditions.

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 10/07/2026, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Diabetes Australia External Affairs Group Executive Hannah Jackson, on National Diabetes Week. Jackson says two million Australians are living with all types of diabetes, while more than 123,000 people in South Australia are living with the chronic condition. She says Diabetes Australia has partnered with SiSU Health and Target to install SiSU Health check machines in 10 Target stores in Adelaide, and notes it's a great opportunity for people to have a quick health check.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Heatwaves to hospitals

Courier Mail, General News, 11/07/2026, Page 22

Sustained extreme heat is linked to an increased risk of heading to hospital for issues relating to mental health. Researchers including Monash University scientists looked at hospitalisation records from across the globe.

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Connection key to good mental health

Newcastle Herald, Weekender, 11/07/2026, Tarnya Davis, Page 8

In a culture that often prizes independence, it's easy to underestimate how much we need other people. Yet, decades of psychological research show that connection is one of the strongest predictors of mental health and wellbeing.

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Petition to re-purpose Banksia House

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 11/07/2026, Tom Plevy, Page 12

A Tamworth man with lived experience in addiction has said that a local, 24-hour detoxification centre would make "all the difference". "Addiction doesn't tell the time, so a lot of the time we need services, those services are shut," community ambassador Corrie Morris said.

Call out to back campaign for better detox services

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 11/07/2026, Kevin Anderson MP, Page 57

The campaign to repurpose the Banksia Mental Health Unit as a Drug and Alcohol Detoxification facility is ramping up, and I'm asking the community to back our campaign to keep Banksia for our future. We've been pushing for some time to have this facility retained in public hands, and now that the brand-new \$56m Tamworth Mental Health Unit has been officially opened, it's time to ramp up the pressure on the government.

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Proposed laws to extend detention for people in Queensland to three days for mental health check

ABC Online, Other, 10/07/2026, Alex Brewster

Concerns have been raised over proposed powers allowing a person to be detained for up to three days for a mental health examination. The legislation would allow Queensland's chief psychiatrist to extend the maximum detention for a person accused of a serious crime from 24 to 72 hours.

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EU accuses Meta of failing to tackle mental health risks of 'addictive design'

The Guardian, Other, 10/07/2026, Jennifer Rankin

EU regulators have accused Meta, the company behind Facebook and Instagram, of failing to tackle the risks of its "addictive design" on the physical and mental health of users. In an official charge sheet against Meta released on Friday, the European Commission said features such as video autoplay and infinite scroll, which provides an endless stream of content, "shift the brain into autopilot mode, contributing to unhealthy habits and compulsive use".

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 10/07/2026, Jess Ong

University of Sydney Mind Centre Co-Director Ian Hickie says the Federal Government needs to step in to slow the growing toll of mental health issues amongst young people, especially in regional communities. New data from the Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing 2026 report released this week shows mental health disorders among young people aged 16 and 24 rose from 26% to 39% between 2007 and 2022.

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[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

Vaccination: keep to the process

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2026, Page 6

Administering vaccines and injectable medicines is now a regular part of pharmacists' work, but with increased demand it is important to adhere to each step of the vaccination process. Vaccination was once largely seasonal, but with expanded pharmacist scope nationwide, pharmacists now administer a wide range of injectable medicines year-round.

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Pharmacies targeted by anti-vaxxers

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 10/07/2026

PDL and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia issues guidance for pharmacists confronted by "disruptive, hostile and antagonistic behaviours" by anti-vaxxers. Pharmacy owners are being urged to take steps

to protect patients, staff and the profession as anti-vaccination campaigners target stores across the country.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 10/07/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Mater Health Services Director of Infectious Diseases Professor Paul Griffin, on new research revealing that older Australians may be underestimating their risk of RSV. Griffin notes that RSV is a contagious respiratory virus. He also says they need people, particularly those who are over 65, to know that they are at risk of getting RSV, and they are being urged to seek medical advice and get themselves vaccinated to reduce the risk of getting the disease.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Program allows patients to switch hospitals

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 11/07/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 1

Privately insured patients who present at the region's emergency departments now have the option of transferring to Wollongong Private Hospital. The hospital is the first in NSW to pilot the emergency department nurse liaison program, under which a registered nurse employed by Ramsay Health Care works in public hospital EDs to coordinate the transfer of eligible and clinically suitable patients.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Every research dollar must count

Canberra Times, General News, 11/07/2026, Tim Ayres, Page 37

A century ago, Australian science was at an inflection point. Australia was, said the then-prime minister Stanley Melbourne Bruce, a land of "splendid opportunities" as well as "difficult problems". [...] The budget also provides an additional \$38 million per year ongoing from 2030-31 for CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness.

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Researchers discover new clue that helps explain severe COVID-19

SBS, Other, 10/07/2026, Josie Harvey

More than six years after COVID-19 triggered a global pandemic, scientists are still discovering new details about how the virus behaves inside the human body. Researchers from La Trobe University have uncovered a previously unknown pathway that allows SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, to infect immune cells, triggering a powerful inflammatory response that can lead to severe lung damage.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

From hotbox to hope: a new way of living

Weekend Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 11/07/2026, Paige Taylor, Page 1

Warumungu elder Norman Frank Jupurrurla and partner Serena Morton Nabanunga see their beautiful Tennant Creek house as more than mud bricks and steel. [...] The Australian Medical Association,

medical training colleges and peak Aboriginal organisations have been advocating for change in the design of remote houses as a way of reducing the burden of disease in remote Australia.

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

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'Poor quality housing' still an issue

Daily Liberal, General News, 11/07/2026, Ciara Bastow, Page 7

Where is the investment from the NSW Government in more quality lead-safe social housing for the Aboriginal families of Broken Hill whose children are adversely affected by lead? [...] According to the World Health Organisation, young children are particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning as they may absorb up to four to five times as much lead as adults from an ingested dose.

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50 years of Deadly at MBPH

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 11/07/2026, Denika Anderson, Page 16

In the courtyard of Mildura Base Public Hospital on Wednesday staff, patients, and community members came together to acknowledge NAIDOC Week. The event included a traditional dance performance as well as stories and poems from Barkindji elder Uncle Brian about his life and experiences.

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First Nations maternity care boosting health outcomes

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 11/07/2026, Page 18

Amid a sea of people visiting major hospitals for maternity care, being provided with culturally tailored midwifery felt like being offered a life raft for First Nations woman Sarah Bayliss. Ms Bayliss gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Jiraiya, seven months ago at Melbourne's Mercy Hospital for Women.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#).

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Research success for Zaro

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 11/07/2026, Emma Cam, Page 8

The Townsville Hospital and Health Service has marked NAIDOC Week with the appointment of its first permanent, full-time First Nations research co-ordinator. Proud Nywaigi, Manbarra, Juru, Duareb and South Sea Islander Mettassa Zaro has taken up the role at Townsville Institute of Health Research and Innovation.

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First Nations youth lead Australia's biggest anti-vaping movement

National Indigenous Times, Other, 10/07/2026, Phoebe Blogg

New results released for NAIDOC Week show the first national Aboriginal-led week of action on youth vaping reached young people at national scale, generating more than 38 million campaign impressions, 920,000 video views and over 42,000 click-throughs to quitting support and information, with schools across four states now asking for more. Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people told their health services they were tired of being lectured about vaping, so they flipped the script themselves.

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[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Police strained by hospital failings, independent review finds

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/07/2026, Bridget Clarke, Page 3

An independent police review showing Tasmanian police officers are spending significant time responding to mental health call-outs has cast fresh light on the state's embattled hospital system. It has also renewed calls for more funding for mental health prevention.

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'Forgotten' patient's 21 hours in hospital

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 11/07/2026, Lincoln Holmes, Page 3

A Geelong disability advocate spent nearly 21 hours at University Hospital Geelong before discharging herself, claiming she was left unregistered as a patient for hours, offered food she could not eat, and told the ultrasound that she had waited all day for would likely not occur until the next morning.

Marshall woman Justine Martin, 55, called triple-0 just after 6pm on Saturday after experiencing what she described as the worst pain of her life outside of childbirth.

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Taskforce established to 'eradicate violence' in NSW hospitals

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/07/2026, Jack Nivison

A new taskforce has been established with the sole aim of "eradicating violence" in NSW hospitals and making sure staff are safe in the wake of an increase in violent incidents at medical facilities across the state. In recent months, violent incidents at NSW hospitals have gained media attention, including the alleged bashing off a NSW Police chief inspector at Auburn Hospital, and the alleged hammer attack of a patient at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Psychiatrists demand review

Weekend Australian, General News, 11/07/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 2

The nation's psychiatry college will vote on whether to hold an independent review into its president's planned attendance at a political fundraising dinner after disgruntled members banded together to demand an extraordinary general meeting. Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists president Astha Tomar pulled out of the ALP election fundraising dinner that she was due to attend as a special guest with the president of the obstetrics college, Nisha Khot, after an uproar from concerned doctors.

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

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Union warns of health worker exodus

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 11/07/2026, Joseph Najjar, Page 2

Amanda Oates says allied health professionals are constantly burning out. The radiation therapist took part in a protest rally with several of her colleagues outside Bendigo Health on Thursday.

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'Once-in-a-lifetime' trip for Bathurst nursing students

Western Advocate, General News, 11/07/2026, Alise Gunning, Page 2

They've witnessed twins be born via caesarean, seen wounds fester as deep as bone, and observed patients piled on the floor of the emergency department. [...] For two weeks, Bathurst nursing students Isabel Schumacher and Matilda Young volunteered at the Effia Nkwanta Regional Hospital in Africa, caring for sick locals and immersing in community and culture.

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Should older workers still be expected to do night shifts?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 10/07/2026, Jonathan Rivett

I work in a hospital. Like many doctors of my generation I have spent decades participating in evening shifts, overnight on-call rosters and emergency call-backs. While I remain committed to patient care and to contributing fairly to the service, I have found that after-hours work has become progressively more taxing over the past several years.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Chia Saw: Perth Paediatrician accused of offending against own patients granted home detention bail

West Australian, Other, 10/07/2026, Jessica Evensen

A western suburbs paediatrician accused of offending against his own patients has been granted home detention bail despite being hit with more vile charges. [...] Mr Saw's medical registration was suspended by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency in May, meaning he cannot practise in Australia.

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

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Another new watchdog? Govt investigating ways to stop medical bill shock

Australian Doctor, Other, 10/07/2026, Ciara Seccombe

The Federal Government is investigating ways to crack down on doctors who are not transparent about fees, including another new watchdog or expanded powers for the Professional Services Review. Its public consultation on improving informed financial consent, published last week, says medical groups have strong policies that most doctors follow.

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AHPRA's first ACT criminal prosecution

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 10/07/2026, Megan Haggan

AHPRA has reminded health workers that it aims to prosecute those holding themselves out as registered health professionals when they are not. A woman who falsely claimed to be a psychologist

in a criminal trial before the ACT Supreme Court has been convicted and fined \$2000 following a successful prosecution by the regulator.

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[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

Deadly bird flu detected in local bird, suspected in seal

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/07/2026, Mike Foley, Page 6

The body of a fur seal is being tested for potential infection with H5N1 bird flu, as the first case of the deadly virus in a local species was confirmed in South Australia. The detection of bird flu in a local bird marks a dramatic escalation in the risk to Australian wildlife.

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

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Bird flu hits Australian seabirds

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/07/2026, Bridget Clarke, Page 5

H5 bird flu has been detected in an Australian seabird for the first time. The strain was found in a greater crested tern located in Robe in South Australia's Limestone Coast.

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

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WA wildlife carers lacking resources at frontline of state's bird flu response

ABC Online, Other, 10/07/2026, Madigan Landry

Volunteer wildlife carers say the West Australian government has let them down as they front the state's response to the deadly H5 bird flu, with a lack of protective clothing and funds putting them and animals at risk. There are currently eight confirmed cases of avian influenza in Australia, with the first case found in the state's Great Southern region.

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Ebola outbreak is 'fastest-growing ever' as 600 die

ABC Online, Other, 10/07/2026

The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo is the "fastest-growing" ever, African health authorities have said, as the World Health Organization said it had killed 600 people. Updated numbers issued by the UN health agency showed there have been 1,759 confirmed cases in DR Congo since the outbreak was declared in mid-May, including 600 confirmed deaths.

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NT diphtheria cases climb again as one patient from Tennant Creek remains 'critically unwell'

Northern Territory News, Other, 10/07/2026, Lottie Hood

Diphtheria is showing few signs of slowing down in the Northern Territory despite joint government efforts to control the national outbreak, with one Tennant Creek resident now fighting for life in intensive care. The outbreak of the previously eliminated infection in the NT has shocked the country, with cases spreading to Western Australia and South Australia.

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

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ABC News, ABC National News, 10/07/2026, Joe O'Brien

The deadly H5 strain of bird flu has been detected in an Australian seabird for the first time in Robe, SA, and authorities are assuming that the Australian bird mingled with migratory seabirds infected with the virus, but they are still describing it as an isolated incident. Anyone who sees a dead bird is urged to contact the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline.

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

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 10/07/2026, Stephanie Borys

Interview with bird flu expert Michelle Wille, on the detection of H5 in an Australian seabird in South Australia. Wille says there is only one case of an Australian bird being infected by the strain, but it's important for them to gather more data, as well as look at the viral genome sequence from the latest case to understand what has happened. She also notes that the impact of the virus has been catastrophic for wildlife, and if the virus were to become established in Australia, they would move and transition to a much more complex situation where they may be responding to mass mortality events.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 10/07/2026, Adam Steer

Interview with NT Health Department acting Chief Executive Susan Bowden. Steer says Australia and the Northern Territory have suffered the worst outbreak of diphtheria in living memory and the disease continues to have a significant impact in the territory. Bowden says a diphtheria patient is under intensive care in Alice Springs, whom she claims is getting the best possible care, and she also notes that even though there has been a small number of cases in the ICU, NT has had 262 cases of diphtheria.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 10/07/2026, Leon Delaney

The highly contagious H5 bird flu has been detected in a native Australian bird for the first time, bringing the country's total number of confirmed cases to 12. Federal Agriculture Minister Julie Collins says the bird was found in a coastal area of South Australia frequented by coastal seabirds.

Also reported by: [6PR \(Perth\)](#).

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ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 10/07/2026, Ryk Goddard

Goddard is joined by Steven White, ABC Radio Hobart. Goddard says the Tasmanian Government is creating a public awareness campaign about bird flu. He notes that people are urged not to approach sick or dead birds, and to report them to the Animal Emergency Disease Hotline on 1800 674 888.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Psychedelics market is mushrooming

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 11/07/2026, Michael Smith, Page 25

Once known as illegal party drugs, MDMA and psilocybin offer growing opportunities for investors.

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Recall for homeopathic cough and cold lozenges

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 10/07/2026

Key Sun has announced the recall of four batches of kids cough and cold lozenges due to "the risk of a small metal wire being present". A safety alert issued by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) noted the decision to recall the products came [...]

Canngaea fined for non-compliance

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 10/07/2026

Medicinal cannabis pharmaceutical wholesaler and sponsor Canngaea has been issued with infringement notices totalling \$59,400 by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The notices were issued for failing to comply with requests to provide information about the supply of therapeutic vaping goods, in alleged breach of conditions applicable to non-approved goods.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Breakfast, 10/07/2026, James Willis

Willis is joined by Channel 9 medical expert Dr Nick Coatsworth, on weight loss drugs. Willis says more than 25,000 Australian obesity patients rely on injections now, and there is a question about whether more weight loss drugs need to be added to the PBS. Coatsworth says weight loss drugs are a revolution, but people should not forget that they still have to maintain their diet and exercise, and the Federal Government has to remember that the number of people on PBS-funded drugs will explode if more weight loss drugs are added to the scheme, which will cost taxpayers a significant amount of money.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Safety recall made on Chickadees after rubber found in packets

The Australian, Other, 10/07/2026, David Hannant

An urgent safety recall has been issued on a popular chicken-flavoured snack after they were found to be contaminated with rubber. Food Standards Australia has issued a safety recall on certain batches of Snackbrands Chickadees.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Urgent recall issued by Snackbrands Australia for Chickadees packets due to rubber contamination

7News.com.au, Other, 10/07/2026, Bryce Luff

A snack is being recalled from retailers across the country because of rubber contamination. [...] An alert from Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) said it was triggered by the presence of rubber, which can cause illness or injury if consumed.

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[Back to Top](#)

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