



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 12th July 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sun Herald](#)** (page 2) reports that NSW has witnessed a sharp rise in influenza notifications in the first week of July, with health authorities warning that cases may not peak until after the winter school holidays.
- **[The Sunday Mail Adelaide](#)** (page 3) reports that Cancer Australia's 10-year patient strategy blueprint, commissioned by Health Minister Mark Butler, has recommended the establishment of two proton beam therapy units in Australia amid rising demand.
- **[The Sunday Telegraph](#)** (page 5) reports that a patient ended up in intensive care with serious burns after an operation went wrong at NSW's Manning Base Hospital, amid staff warnings about the dangers posed to patients by under-resourcing at the facility.
- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)** (page 6) reports that a Queensland survivor of medical workplace harassment has claimed that the medical sector is failing to protect trainees, with junior doctors still too afraid to make complaints when facing abuse or harassment by senior clinicians.
- **[The Sunday Age](#)** (page 8) reports that the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' Roundtable Birth Report, due Monday, will propose various care upgrades to reduce the risk of birth trauma.

- [The Sun Herald](#) (page 12) reports that an Australia-first research program aims to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in cancer clinical trials via community-led, culturally safe approaches.

MINISTER BUTLER

Build cancer bunker in SA

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/07/2026, Andrew Hough, Page 3

South Australia could play a central role in providing world-leading cancer therapy for sick patients in the state's most expensive commercial building, official advice has urged. [...] The Cancer Australia blueprint, which federal Health Minister Mark Butler commissioned, details various options but has a preference for units in SA and NSW.

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

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

PMOS sufferers push for Ozempic-style drugs to be subsidised on PBS

The Mercury, Other, 11/07/2026, Bridget Clarke

After years of failed treatments, a PMOS sufferer says a diabetes drug has done what nothing else could – and she wants the government to step in to make it cheaper. [...] Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White acknowledged that while many women living with the condition were looking for affordable treatment options, there were currently no plans to list GLP-1 medications for its treatment on the PBS.

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

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Mental health stigma still widespread

The Sentinel News, Other, 11/07/2026

The National Mental Health Commission, in partnership with SANE Australia, has released the Commission's first National Stigma and Discrimination Report Card. The Report Card was launched by the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, the Hon Emma McBride on July 1, 2026.

Also reported by: [Glasshouse Country & Maleny News \(Online\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

'We can't just sit around and admire the problem': Plan to reduce birth trauma

Sunday Age, General News, 12/07/2026, Wendy Tuohy, Page 8

Medicare-funded pelvic floor checks for all new mothers, coordinated medical follow-up for the first year and subsidised pelvic physiotherapy to reduce long-term damage are among the changes obstetricians are calling for to reduce birth trauma. [...] The extra services recommended by RANZCOG had not yet been costed, Khot said, but "I plan to take this to the [federal] Health Department: if we're serious about women's health we can't just sit around and admire the problem."

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DoHDA misses the point on NDIS reform obfuscation, again

Health Services Daily, Other, 11/07/2026, Cate Swannell

Bad communication or bad policy? Does it even matter anymore? [...] Which, oddly enough, is also a pretty good soundtrack to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's handling of the NDIS reforms.

[Read More](#)

Radio National, Country Breakfast, 11/07/2026, Edwina Farley

Report by ABC Radio reporter Tayla Larsen. Food Standards Australia New Zealand has rejected an application to sell Moringa oleifera as a food or food ingredient after being unable to establish whether it was safe, but TGA-registered pharmaceuticals containing it are still available, and Somerset region grower Gary Duffy is leading an appeal to reverse the decision. A spokesperson from the federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said the rejection was not open to FSANZ or the minister to review or suspend, and advised Duffy that a new application would be welcomed.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

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PRIMARY CARE

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POPULATION HEALTH

Why the government won't cut excise to combat illicit tobacco

Sunday Age, General News, 12/07/2026, Shane Wright , Page 2

Deep cuts in excise would be unlikely to stop the illicit tobacco trade, the nation's tobacco tsar has warned, with evidence that everything from the cost of living to Reserve Bank interest rate rises and rings of organised criminals are making the battle very difficult. Amber Shuhya, the illicit tobacco and e-cigarette commissioner, told a conference of economists last week that even effectively abolishing excise would do little as the criminal trade could still make a profit selling illegal cigarettes at \$5 a pack.

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

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Shout it loud

Sun Herald, Sunday Life, 12/07/2026, Page 12

Menopause - and perimenopause, the lead-up phase that can last anywhere from months to years - has become a hot topic. In May, the federal government launched an awareness campaign to educate women and men about the symptoms of these stages of life, which can begin any time from a woman's late 30s, and can be confusing.

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

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'Safer' alcohol a myth

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/07/2026, Page 22

Canned cocktails and hard seltzers are being chosen by health-conscious young people as a safer way to consume alcohol, but new Australian research reveals these products are almost universally ultra-processed. Researchers say this potentially gives consumers a false sense of security and undermines recent declines in alcohol consumption among young people.

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NT doctors' fears over Inpex pollution and cancer risk sent to government in 2024

Northern Territory News, Other, 11/07/2026, Lottie Hood

Senior Darwin doctors campaigning against the Middle Arm gas precinct twice warned governments about Inpex's Ichthys LNG plant — flagging potential cancer, birth defect and pregnancy risks with federal authorities in 2023. The same warning was then repeated to the NT government in 2024.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Long lives, chronic pain

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/07/2026, Page 23

Health outcomes in Australia continue to improve and remain high by global standards, but chronic conditions and mental health conditions are increasingly affecting Australians. A new Australian

Institute of Health and Welfare report shows Australians are living longer, with life expectancy at birth 81.1 years for males and 85.1 years for females born between 2022 and 2024.

Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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A decade of agony from misdiagnosis

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/07/2026, Karen Grace Prince, Page 31

For more than a decade, former nurse Meghann Koopman thought she was battling Crohn's disease. Instead, the Mount Gambier mother of three had stage 4 deep-infiltrating endometriosis silently wrapping around her bowel, bladder and pelvic organs a diagnosis that has left her constantly fatigued and 70 per cent bedridden.

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Instaglam! Proud to be social about her diabetes

Sunday Times, General News, 12/07/2026, Brooke Rolfe, Page 13

Lucy helps herself and others with health posts In an online world overrun by trendy beauty and fitness influencers, Lucy Woods is offering something totally different, yet invaluable, to social media.

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

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Mahlie's mission

Sunday Examiner, General News, 12/07/2026, Saree Salter, Page 1

Sleepless nights and constant fear have become a part of this mother's everyday life since the birth of her fourth child. Dannielle Murfet from Beauty Point said her two year-old, Mahlie, suffers 10 to 20 seizures per day, but in the past that number was as high as 52.

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The everyday sounds that are a nightmare for people like Ben

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/07/2026, Courtney Kruk

Ben Lamberton can't recall exactly when he began to experience misophonia, but one distinct memory comes to mind. "[It was] around late childhood, going on teenage years," explains Lamberton, a masters of audiology student at the University of Queensland.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Self-rating apps a bad look as users obsess over flaws

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 12/07/2026, Taylor Penny and Aris Schuler-Shah, Page 32

Psychologists say a growing influx of looksmaxxing apps are causing young people to "obsess" over their looks, warning it may be a "slippery slope" to eating disorders, cosmetic surgery and steroid use. There are at least 26 apps available on Google Play and the Apple Store that offer to rate a person's appearance based on their photo.

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

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IMMUNISATION

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Loving mum's bid to help her brave boy beat the odds

Sunday Times, General News, 12/07/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 1

Five months into her pregnancy, Jasmin French realised the baby inside her would have the odds stacked against him. At her 20-week pregnancy scan, she and her partner were told to prepare for the worst - their little one had problems.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

The pill linked to cancer

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 12/07/2026, Page 12

Thousands of women who opt for four common contraceptives over other forms of birth control may be at higher risk of brain tumours, concerning research has revealed. Studies have long suggested there may be a link between hormonal birth control and the risk of developing certain cancers including breast, brain and ovarian.

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

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Help from experience

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/07/2026, Page 13

Those with lived experience working in the drug, alcohol and mental health fields are having the biggest cutthrough with those seeking help, a major new research paper has found. "They can identify with clients in ways others can't," UNSW's Professor Loren Brener said.

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Degrees of distress

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/07/2026, Page 29

Sustained extreme heat is linked to an increased risk of heading to the hospital for issues relating to mental health. Researchers including Monash University scientists looked at hospitalisation records across the globe, covering more than 2.6 million admissions and nearly two decades.

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Keeping a close AI on your health

Sunday Times, General News, 12/07/2026, Angela Pownall, Page 26

Move over Dr Google, more people are now turning to generative AI artificial intelligence capable of generating original content in response to user prompts to get information about their health or symptoms. One in 10 Australians has used ChatGPT to answer health-related questions, research has found.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Research project hopes to close Indigenous cancer gap

When Amanda Hall's young granddaughter Aaliyah was diagnosed with cancer, she was given just over two months to live. No clinical trials were available, but clinicians suggested a biopsy.

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Artist's spec-tacular vision for culture

Sunday Territorian, General News, 12/07/2026, Fia Walsh, Page 3

A Pitjantjatjara woman is sharing her culture and supporting Indigenous eye health with a limited edition collection of glasses rolling out across Australia. Atipalku Intjalki, an artist at Ernabella Arts in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankun yjtjara (APY) lands, has launched her collection with Specsavers to mark their 15 year partnership with the Fred Hollows Foundation.

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

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Health service Bega Garbiringu opens doors to remind people where help can be found

West Australian, Other, 11/07/2026, Isabella Davis

Health service Bega Garbiringu opened its doors on Thursday as part of its NAIDOC Week celebrations and to remind people where they can find help if they need it. Manager Dena Rundle said it was important for the community to be aware of the support services accessible through Bega.

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

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Broken Hill mother exposed to lead as a child fights same battle with her children

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2026

At the age of 29, Baylee Stokes is still suffering the health fallout from being exposed to lead as a child. The Indigenous woman struggles with learning difficulties and other developmental delays, which are typical of exposure to lead.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Patient burned in OR fire

Sunday Telegraph, Edition Changes, 12/07/2026, Madeleine Bower, Page 5

A woman was left in intensive care with serious facial burns after a routine operation went horribly wrong at a major regional hospital. In another example of the crisis facing the state's regional hospitals, The Sunday Telegraph can reveal a woman in her 60s attended Manning Base Hospital on the mid north coast in January for a simple non-invasive operation under local anaesthetic.

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Easing hospital strain

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/07/2026, Page 6

Additional urgent care beds, expanded services for older patients and a new \$850,000 public awareness campaign are the tools the government will wield to ease pressure on emergency departments this winter. The Where To Get Care campaign, launching Sunday, will help South Australians understand how and where to access healthcare, during the winter months, when demand on hospitals traditionally increases.

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Calls grow for mental health funding as hospital delays stretch

Tasmania Police

The Mercury, Other, 11/07/2026, Bridget Clarke

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

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Gross anatomy: Abused junior docs suffer in violence

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 12/07/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 6

Junior doctors who are sexually abused or harassed by senior clinicians are too afraid to speak up and have no path to justice, a Queensland Health cancer doctor has warned. Dominique Lee, who is the only known junior doctor in the country whose complaint led to a criminal conviction against their senior consultant and mentor a decade ago, claims that in 2026 the medical world lags behind all other industries in how they protect trainees.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Nurse's ban over drugs

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/07/2026, Lucy Rutherford, Page 29

A nurse has been banned from practising after she took multiple prescription drugs from work before giving "far-fetched" explanations that she flushed them down the toilet. In a judgment published online, the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal disqualified Sara Jayne Murphy from applying to be re-registered as a health practitioner for three years after engaging in professional misconduct.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

'Things are about to kick off': NSW flu cases spike

Sun Herald, General News, 12/07/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 2

Flu cases in NSW have reached their highest level this year, as NSW Health authorities say they don't expect cases to peak until after the winter school holidays. The latest NSW respiratory surveillance report revealed a 43.1 per cent increase in influenza notifications in the week ending July 4, with more than 3000 cases reported.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Rib surgery a bone of contention

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/07/2026, Karen Grace Prince, Page 13

Influencers travelling to Bali for controversial "rib-recontouring" surgery banned in Australia may be doing so at great cost to their health, medical experts are warning. [...] "The reason that device is not being used here is because it hasn't been approved by the TGA (Therapeutic Goods Administration)," she said.

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

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Safety recall on rubbery chicken

Sunday Times, General News, 12/07/2026, Page 27

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 recall on specific batches of Snackbrands' Chickadees.

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