



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 13th July 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that the NSW government is facing criticism for its plans to reduce infrastructure spending, with a lack of new hospital projects in the June budget being of particular concern due to projected population growth and demand.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that an analysis commissioned by peak body Birth Trauma Australia has estimated the economic impact of birth injuries in Australia at \$17.5 billion in 2023-24, including \$1.4 billion in health system costs.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 3) reports that Tasmania's hospital outpatient waiting list has reached a record 77,670 patients, a rise of over 10 per cent in six months.
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 5) reports that Labor Party members are calling for Health Minister Mark Butler to legislate a soon-to-be-adopted party policy that would cap fee increases for specialist doctors.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 9) reports that the TGA has issued safety alerts relating to more than a dozen "sexual enhancement supplements" in the past two weeks after laboratory testing determined that they contained undeclared prescription-only medicines.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that the Grattan Institute has issued a report recommending an overhaul of Australia's pharmacy policy to better serve patients rather than pharmacy owners. Health

MINISTER BUTLER

Labor Left pushes for hard cap on specialist doctor fees

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/07/2026, Ronald Mizen and Michael Smith, Page 5

Fee increases for specialist doctors would be capped under a new policy rank-and-file Labor members are urging Health Minister Mark Butler to make law and which is being backed by private health insurers.

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

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Trans issues test media's blind spot

The Australian, Media, 13/07/2026, Chris Mitchell, Page 20

The political left's embrace of the transsexual lobby has done more to damage trust in governments and the media than any other identity politics fad. [...] Lane told this column that while Victoria remained behind the curve on global reassessment of gender-affirming care and puberty blockers, at least federal Health Minister Mark Butler had early last year referred issues from Dr Cass to the National Health and Medical Research Council.

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

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Pharmacy lobby preventing Australians from buying cheaper medicines, Grattan Institute says

ABC Online, Other, 12/07/2026, Paige Cockburn

Australians are missing out on cheaper medicines due to backroom deals by one of the country's most powerful lobby groups, according to a new report. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler would not be drawn on whether the government would consider the report's recommendations.

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Report urges end of pharmacy agreements protecting profits

WEB OZ Arab Media, Other, 12/07/2026

A Grattan Institute report says the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has negotiated deals that keep medicine prices and pharmacy profits high while limiting transparency and competition. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler would not be drawn on whether the government will consider the report's recommendations, saying the current agreement involved engagement with stakeholder organisations.

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SBS, World News Australia (Sunday), 12/07/2026, Janice Petersen

About 10,000 people could lose access to Ocrevus and Kesimpta for the treatment of multiple sclerosis, and while they are currently available on the PBS, a decision is looming on whether they'll continue to be subsidised. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has previously stated he wants to see both drugs remain on the PBS, but it's an uncertain time for those relying on the drug as they wait until a final decision is made.

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hit104.7 Canberra, 11:00 News (Weekend), 12/07/2026

A national campaign by the Federal Government is set to encourage Australians to test for bowel cancer. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says more than 90% of cases can be successfully treated if the disease is detected early.

Similar coverage reported by: [GOLD 1323 \(Adelaide\)](#), [KIIS 102.3 \(Adelaide\)](#), [KIIS 101.1 \(Melbourne\)](#), [GOLD 96FM \(Perth\)](#).

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DEPARTMENT

Surge in redundancies

Canberra Times, General News, 13/07/2026, Ray Athwal, Page 1

The education department's voluntary redundancies nearly tripled in the last year, with staff exits rising to 92 departures compared to 34 the previous financial year. [...] The health department recorded a minor decrease, processing nine separation packages compared to 10 the previous year and 13 in 2023-24.

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Family's battle to save beloved son

Courier Mail, General News, 13/07/2026, Tayla Couacaud, Page 12

A Queensland family is locked in a heartbreaking race against the clock to access lifesaving medical treatment for their seven-year-old son battling an aggressive form of cancer. [...] A department of health spokesman said the Australian government could not compel a pharmaceutical company to apply for funding for therapies.

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

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Autism hub a 'global leader'

Star Weekly, Other, 12/07/2026

La Trobe University will establish a new national autism research and knowledge translation hub which aims to improve the lives of Autistic people across Australia. [...] The Hub will receive \$11.1 million over three years from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, while La Trobe will contribute an additional \$3.8 million.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

\$120m project begins

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/07/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 11

After years of planning and spending millions of dollars, Christian Homes Tasmania, has finally turned the first sod on a \$120m aged care development it says will ease a crisis in the sector. About 150 construction workers will be employed on Pinnacle Village at Kingston over the next two years.

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Revealed: impact of aged care bed block

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/07/2026, Gabriel Fowler, Page 1

The number of older patients stranded in hospitals waiting on residential aged care or support at home has doubled in just under a decade. And the average wait for those patients in Hunter hospitals has blown out to an average of 20 days.

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Dorothy's aged care home charged \$52 a day for Foxtel, wine and newspapers that were no use to her. She wasn't alone

The Guardian, Other, 13/07/2026, Melissa Davey

Jeff Gilling was surprised when he looked at the contract for the aged care home his mother, Dorothy, was about to enter. Contained within it was a \$52 daily fee for Foxtel, outings, newspapers and a choice of wines.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Autism-specific school grows as parents eye options

Age, General News, 13/07/2026, Alex Crowe, Page 2

Families of children with autism will be afforded more choice for educating their kids, after winning a years-long battle to grow an autismspecific school in Melbourne's north-west. Niddrie Autistic School has acquired an additional campus in Keilor East, offering families the chance to continue educating children beyond year 3 outside mainstream settings.

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PRIMARY CARE

'Dehumanising': Vanessa doubts she will give birth again

The Australian, General News, 13/07/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

Giving birth was the worst experience of Vanessa Blazey's life. [...] It also wants expanded access to relevant Medicare-funded post-natal services, support and clinical programs through the first 12 months post-partum, including strengthening existing MBS items to deliver more consistent care and improve data.

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'Dispense with the pharmacy status quo'

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 13/07/2026, Penny Timms, Page 5

Supermarkets should be allowed to dispense prescription medications to help break the pharmacy lobby group's stranglehold and boost competition, even if some rural chemists struggle, a report on the sector recommends. In Future Pharmacy: A Better Deal for Patients and Taxpayers, the Grattan Institute public policy think tank argues that the way pharmacies are owned and operated benefits owners rather than consumers. It sets out reforms it believes would result in better value for everyday people.

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Pharmacy Guild's backdoor deals must end: Grattan

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/07/2026, Michael Smith, Page 5

The powerful Pharmacy Guild of Australia has come under fire in a new report that says patients and the federal government are paying the country's 6000 community pharmacists too much for dispensing medicines under opaque pricing deals.

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

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Patients and taxpayers deserve a better deal at the chemist

Australian Financial Review, Other, 12/07/2026, Peter Breadon and Molly Chapman

Pharmacists are among the most trusted professionals in the country. But the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, which represents pharmacy owners, has used that trust to build something else: a reputation as one of Canberra's most powerful lobby groups.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Alcohol vow 'broken'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/07/2026, Lauren Novak, Page 14

Domestic violence survivors fear the government will abandon a promise to restrict home delivery of alcohol, which it pledged would happen "immediately" after the state election. A royal commission last year recommended the government limit online sale of alcohol overnight and impose a two-hour delivery delay to provide a buffer for victims trapped in households where drinking was exacerbating violence.

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Doctors warning on plant

Northern Territory News, General News, 13/07/2026, Page 6

Senior Darwin doctors campaigning against a Middle Arm gas precinct twice warned governments about Inpex's Ichthys LNG plant - flagging their concerns over 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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How one woman's decade-long journey with palliative care redefines 'a good death'

The Australian, Other, 12/07/2026, Stephen Lunn

A decade after her devastating diagnosis, Jodie Clarkson is about to celebrate her son reaching adulthood. She has had years of palliative care support but for others it's a lottery. [...] In its report last year on the issue, Palliative Care Australia points to the most recent available Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data that finds just 38 per cent of people who died from a progressive illness, and therefore would likely benefit from palliative care, accessed specialist palliative care services.

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Snip happy: five men on their choice to get a vasectomy

The Guardian, Other, 13/07/2026, Katie Cunningham

Vasectomy numbers are rising in Australia. So what's at play when men make the big decision – and how do they feel afterwards?

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One Nation MP Barnaby Joyce declares tobacco excise is 'subsidising the mafia' and a 'fool's errand' if it continues

Sky News Australia, Other, 12/07/2026, Laurence Karacsony

Barnaby Joyce has announced a One Nation government would wind back the excise on tobacco products, declaring it a "fool's errand" as it is "subsidising the mafia". Australian Bureau of Statistics data released in June found nicotine consumption increased almost 40 per cent between 2017 and 2025, despite population growth of only 14 per cent over the same period.

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Australians live longer than previous decades but spend more years in poorer health

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 13/07/2026, Lauren Ball

A new snapshot of the nation's health, released today by the Australian Institute Health and Welfare, shows Australians are living longer than in previous decades. [...] More recent Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data show life expectancy has since recovered, reaching 81.6 years for men and 85.5 years for women.

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2GB, Healthy Living, 12/07/2026, Dr Tanveer Ahmed

Interview with Dr Nadia Badawi. Badawi says cytomegalovirus, when acquired during pregnancy, is the leading infectious cause of childhood disability, including hearing loss, developmental delay, and some cases of cerebral palsy. She also notes that they have launched a campaign to educate pregnant women about CMV, and the Cerebral Palsy Alliance has spent millions of dollars putting up resources free for women if they go to their website.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Lara helps slam diabetes myths

Herald Sun, General News, 13/07/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 6

An Australian basketballer bound for the Commonwealth Games has opened up about living with type 1 diabetes in a bid to challenge misconceptions about the condition. Lara McSpadden, who will represent Australia in 3x3 basketball in Glasgow this month, was diagnosed with the autoimmune disease aged seven. McSpadden, 25, said diabetes meant she has to make "hundreds of extra decisions every day", particularly during training and competition.

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Winter a testing time for people with cancer

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/07/2026, Alison Lai, Page 17

I love winter in Tasmania. [...] But at Cancer Council Tasmania, I am reminded every day that for people affected by cancer, winter is more than woolly socks and chilly mornings.

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Tiny surgery makes a huge difference

West Australian, General News, 13/07/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 12

Ryder Taylor and his family's life used to be ruled by fear as he would drop to the ground from seizures up to 50 times a day. But through a groundbreaking brain surgery, performed in the southern hemisphere for the first time, the 19-year-old has been free of his debilitating seizures.

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

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Whole new ball game

Ballarat Courier, General News, 13/07/2026, Michelle Smith, Page 1

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.

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How a dad's mission could help cure a deadly cancer

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 12/07/2026, Evan Morgan

After losing his daughter Amy to an incurable, aggressive brain stem cancer, Ren Pedersen has dedicated his life to funding research. His Million Dollar Mission now supports groundbreaking Australian work bringing a potential childhood cancer cure closer

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Quality guidelines needed for prevention and diagnosis of vaginal and vulvar cancers

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 13/07/2026, Tracey DiSipio and Ambika Aul Susan Jordan

National standards for quality and equitable care are needed to improve diagnosis and prevention of these rare cancers. The five-year relative survival rate for vaginal and vulvar cancers (53% and 74%, respectively) are much lower than for more common women's cancers such as breast (93%) and endometrial (84%) cancers.

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Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 12/07/2026, Georgie Tunny

Diabetes is considered one of Australia's most urgent health priorities with roughly 2 million people diagnosed across the country. As National Diabetes Week begins, a few prominent athletes are sharing their own battles with a chronic condition to challenge common misconceptions.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Can the pill affect your mental health? Young woman says mood swings were too much to bear

ABC Online, Other, 12/07/2026, Michelle Wakim

At 15, Georgia struggled to manage her periods. "I was experiencing really bad cramps, constant period pain and wasn't able to stand most of the time," she says.

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2GB, Weekends, 12/07/2026, Trent Nikolic

Interview with University of Sydney Health and Policy at Brain and Mind Centre Co-Director Professor

Ian Hickie. Morrison says new data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has revealed that mental disorders among young people aged 16 to 24 have increased dramatically, while anxiety and depression are the leading causes for females, and suicide and self-inflicted injuries are the leading causes of disease burden for young men. Hickie states that healthcare for older Australians is getting better, but younger people are still being dominated by mental health problems, and Australia has not yet built public health systems that support struggling younger Australians and make a difference.

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IMMUNISATION

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Second chance at life

Launceston Examiner, General News, 13/07/2026, Saree Salter, Page 1

Mark Brewer's life was turned upside down about three decades ago when he was diagnosed with cardiac sarcoidosis - an inflammatory disease affecting his heart function. But fortunately, the gift of life saved the then otherwise fit and healthy 32-year-old.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Time to catch up on some shut-eye

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/07/2026, Euan Black, Page 33

Sleep debt is not an ever-accumulating sum that needs repayment in full.

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How to eat your way to a better night's sleep

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/07/2026, Lindsey Bever, Page 16

A cup of camomile tea. [...] A growing body of research suggests that consistency with certain diets, particularly those built around lean proteins, fruits and vegetables, whole grains, nuts and seeds, and dairy can have a positive effect on sleep quality and duration.

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

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'Indefatigable' legend Richard Scolyer mourned

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/07/2026, Jack Nivison, Page 7

Professor Richard Scolyer has been remembered as a man with "massive energy" by former colleagues who are working to set up a new cancer research position in his name. Ahead of Professor Scolyer's state memorial, Chris O'Brien Lifehouse the cancer hospital where he received surgery has announced a new brain cancer research position in his name.

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2GB, Healthy Living, 12/07/2026, Tanveer Ahmed

Ahmed says scientists are developing multi-cancer early detection, or MCED, where a single blood

sample looks for DNA from tumours, and this test can potentially detect more than 50 different cancers, including some like pancreatic and ovarian cancer that currently have no routine screening tests. He states that Australia is already world-leading in terms of cancer screening, and MCED testing could be part of the National Screening Program soon.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Education, health hit as budget squeezed

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/07/2026, Max Maddison and Matt Wade, Page 1

The Minns government will halve spending on health infrastructure as a percentage of the state's economic output until the end of the decade, with education capital expenditure also taking a hit as Treasurer Daniel Mookhey grapples with rising debt servicing costs. [...] A NSW Health report in 2022 warned activity across the health system would nearly double in the decade to 2031 if recent trends in disease and demand continue.

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Patients stuck for 14 months on outpatient list

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/07/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 3

Nearly 78,000 Tasmanians are on hospital outpatient waiting lists, a record high, and up more than 10 per cent in six months, Labor says. But the government says it has an outpatient transformation project underway to meet growing demand.

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

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Leader hesitates on extra hospital funds

Border Mail, General News, 13/07/2026, Chelsea Wilson, Page 6

A potential change of state government in November may not change much when it comes to the Albury-Wodonga hospital redevelopment. Opposition Leader Jess Wilson was hesitant to commit any more money to the \$558 million hospital redevelopment while visiting Wodonga on July 8.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Victory claim in kids gender treatment fight

The Australian, General News, 13/07/2026, Michael McKenna, Page 3

Child psychiatrist Jillian Spencer is claiming victory in a three-year fight with Queensland Health that led to her suspension for challenging gender-affirming medical treatment for children. [...] Dr Spencer was told this year that the Health Ombudsman had referred a complaint against her to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency after a notification that a social media post had "criticised gender-affirming care and encouraged followers to petition against it".

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

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Very physical examination

West Australian, General News, 13/07/2026, Cain Andrews, Page 10

Shocking vision has emerged of a security guard grabbing a hospital patient by the throat to forcibly restrain him at Kalgoorlie Health Campus. The footage taken inside the regional hospital's emergency department on May 31 shows one of two security workers present grab hold of the man by his neck before he is shoved on to a couch.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Online sex pills warning

Herald Sun, General News, 13/07/2026, Page 9

Australians are being warned about a range of online "sexual enhancement supplements" after testing found they contained hidden prescription medicines that could cause dangerous side-effects, particularly for people with heart disease or those taking blood pressure medications. In the past two weeks, the Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued three safety alerts of more than a dozen products marketed as natural, herbal or honey-based sexual enhancement supplements.

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

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Consequences, impulsivity and the new wonder drugs

West Australian, General News, 13/07/2026, Andrew Miller, Page 13

Drugs, like computers, can be great tools - it all depends on what you use them for. [...] With oral versions of semaglutide and orforglipron already under evaluation by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration, the prediction for 2027 is that these will go off like hot cakes - though your cakes might not be so hot any more.

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