



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 14th July 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** reports that a new report by the Grattan Institute alleges that Australian taxpayers are paying inflated prices for medicines due to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (PGA) holding influence over the sector. PGA national vice president Simon Blacker rejected the claims, highlighting the organisation's work with the Federal Government to reduce the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme general co-payment to \$25 in January 2026.
- **[Local Ipswich News](#)** reports that the Federal Government will invest more than \$19 million to establish a national social connections network to allow autistic Australians more opportunities to connect with others in safe, welcoming and inclusive environments.
- **[The Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the now-retired executive director of the Victorian Health Building Authority, Stephen King, has claimed that the Victorian State Labor government intervened in taxpayer-funded hospital build projects to pressure public servants to sack a company that had attracted the disapproval of the CFMEU.
- **[The Age \(page 11\)](#)** reports that an Australia-first program will seek to address the inequity in First Nations cancer rates by improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in cancer clinical trials through community-led, culturally safe approaches.
- **[West Australian \(page 14\)](#)** reports that the WA State Administrative Tribunal has found Dr Saumitra Sekhar Seal guilty of unprofessional conduct, after the Medical Board of Australia

brought forward allegations involving three female patients between 2014 and 2019 while working at a western suburbs medical centre.

- **ABC Online** reports a sick northern giant petrel found on a Noosa beach has been taken to a local wildlife rescue and tested for H5 avian influenza following recent outbreaks in Australia. Biosecurity Queensland is currently processing the test, with results expected in one to two weeks.

MINISTER BUTLER

Tributes for 'brightest star' and a hero dad

The Nightly, General News, 13/07/2026, Jack Nivison and Alexandra Feiam, Page 11

A pioneering pathologist who died too soon has been remembered for adding years to the lives of others through his melanoma research. [...] Other notable political figures to attend the memorial included Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Health Minister Mark Butler, Opposition Leader Angus Taylor, NSW governor Margaret Beazley, NSW Deputy Premier Pru Goward and former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull and his wife former Sydney lord mayor Lucy Turnbull.

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Every moment treasured with marvel of medicine

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/07/2026, Garry Maddox, Page 4

Legacy comes in many forms. At Professor Richard Scolyer's emotional state memorial service at Sydney Opera House yesterday, it was clear that his bright, articulate children are as much a part of the former Australian of the Year's legacy as his outstanding achievements in pathology, medical research and cancer treatment. [...] Albanese, who announced a \$5.9 million grant to establish the Richard Scolyer Chair in Brain Cancer Research at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse last year, was joined at the service by ministers Jim Chalmers, Mark Butler and Jason Clare, Opposition Leader Angus Taylor and NSW Governor Margaret Beazley.

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

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Denholm panel slams Labor changes to R&D tax incentives

Australian Financial Review, Other, 13/07/2026, Ronald Mizen

The Robyn Denholm-led panel chosen to review Australia's innovation system has slammed the Albanese government's changes to research and development tax incentives as two leading biotech companies warned they would smash cashflow and force them to look [...]

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'Patients miss out': calls for reform to pharmacies

Canberra Times, Other, 13/07/2026, Ethan James

Doctors and general practitioners have called for urgent reforms after a report accused the pharmacy sector of putting profit over patients. A review by the Grattan Institute concluded the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, which represents about 70 per cent of community pharmacies, unduly lobbies the federal government. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler did not directly answer when asked if the federal government would consider the recommendations.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Telegraph \(Seymour\) \(Online\)](#), [Busselton Dunsborough Times \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Countryman \(Online\)](#).

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Haley takes health concept to Canberra

cvnews.com.au, Other, 13/07/2026, Rodney Stevens

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.

The price of the medication keeping Michelle's disease in check could skyrocket

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 13/07/2026, Natalie Croxon

The cost of the medication that Michelle Taylor uses to manage her multiple sclerosis could jump from \$7 a month to more than \$30,000 a year if the federal government decides to stop subsidising it. Kesimpta and another medication used to treat MS, Ocrevus, could be delisted from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) after their manufacturers refused a request from the to significantly cut the cost of the drugs. [...] The company said it was working with Health Minister Mark Butler to maintain the medication's PBS listing.

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Disability advocates welcome extension after 'ridiculous and disrespectful' NDIS inquiry

MSN Australia, Other, 13/07/2026

Disability advocates have welcomed a pause to a bill paving the way for the biggest-ever cuts to the NDIS, after a "ridiculous and disrespectful" Senate inquiry into the proposed overhaul of the scheme was given an eight-week extension. [...] Federal minister Mark Butler has previously said a 12-month delay on the NDIS bill would see \$17 billion in savings lost.

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“One of our brightest stars”: Aussie hero farewelled at state memorial

OverSixty, Other, 13/07/2026, Rizna Mutmainah

Thousands of mourners have gathered at the Sydney Opera House for the state memorial for former Australian of the Year Richard Scolyer on Monday. The pioneering cancer researcher died on June 7 at the age of 59, following a three-year battle with brain cancer. [...] General Sam Mostyn, Treasurer Jim Chalmers, Health Minister Mark Butler, Opposition Leader Angus Taylor and Grace Tame were among the high-profile figures in attendance at the memorial service.

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Channel 9, Today , 13/07/2026, Sarah Abo and Tom Steinfort

Panel discussion with Health Minister Mark Butler and Chief Political Correspondent for Nine Papers, Paul Sikkal, about One Nation leader Pauline Hanson falling from the polls for the first time in four months. Butler points out that the result of the recent polls shows that One Nation might feel like a useful outlet for grievance and frustration. He adds that there's currently a lot of frustration out there in the community given the wave of pressure that households are experiencing over the last several years.

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4CC, Breakfast with Hammo, 13/07/2026, Barry "Hammo" Hamilton

A national campaign is encouraging younger Australians to get screened for bowel cancer, as it has claimed 100 lives a week. Health Minister Mark Butler says they need more people to return the bowel cancer kits and deliver the results.

Also reported by: [4RO \(Rockhampton\)](#).

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ABC NewsRadio, Mornings, 13/07/2026, Katherine Gregory

A new report by the Grattan Institute says the Pharmacy Guild of Australia is calling the shots on the price of medication leading to unjustified fees for patients, while the Pharmacy Guild refutes any claims it's not focused on the needs of patients. In a statement, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the Federal Government has already delivered significant cost medicines.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

\$19m boost aims to help autistic Australians build new connections

Local Ipswich News, Other, 13/07/2026

Autistic Australians will soon have more opportunities to connect with others in safe, welcoming and inclusive environments, with the Federal Government investing more than \$19 million to establish a national social connections network. The four-year investment, delivered through the National Autism Strategy 2025-2031, will fund Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) to develop and coordinate the nationwide program in partnership with autistic-led organisations and people with lived experience. Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Senator Jenny McAllister, said everyone deserved the opportunity to feel connected to their community.

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MINISTER RAE

Aged-care algorithm under fire as Senate backs reform

Cap Coast Today, General News, 11/07/2026, Michelle Landry, Page 16

There was some hopeful news from towards the end of the two weeks of Parliamentary sitting in Canberra which finished on Thursday, 2 July. [...] Then because of this pressure, suddenly in the House of Representatives the Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae suddenly announces that IAT decisions could be changed, in so called extenuating circumstances.

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\$311m for third SaH thin markets grant round

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 13/07/2026

Providers delivering services in rural and remote areas, delivering specialised services or delivering culturally responsive services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have until November to apply. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said grants like these are helping more care to be delivered into communities and are helping support providers in thin markets "to deliver the care our loved ones deserve."

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Register now for ADPHA's landmark 50th medicines Management Conference

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2026, Page 16

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) is preparing to celebrate a major milestone, with Early Bird registrations now open for the 50th Medicines Management conference (MM2026). Taking place at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre from 22-24 October 2026, MM2026 will bring together pharmacy leaders, researchers, practitioners and technicians from across Australia and beyond under the theme 'Limitless'. [...] Opening the conference will be Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Emma McBride MP, alongside an inspiring keynote line-up that includes award-winning speaker and leadership coach Dr Gemma Munro and television presenter, cancer survivor and resilience advocate Barry Du Bois.

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Food manufacturing hub officially open

The Federal Government has officially launched the Food Manufacturing Innovation Hub at Ourimbah. The new state-of-the-art facility will support local food and beverage businesses to scale up from small-batch production. [...] Member for Dobell Emma McBride said the hub demonstrated the Government's investment in local jobs, supporting local businesses and helping the region continue to grow.

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DEPARTMENT

Boosting RSV vaccine uptake in older Australians

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2026, Page 12

A simple prompt from a GP, pharmacist, or immunisation provider could be the key to respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine uptake among older Australians, according to new survey findings released during RSV Awareness Week (7-13 June). [...] Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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Education department outlines surge in redundancies

Canberra Times, Other, 13/07/2026, Ray Athwal

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. A collation of departmental data reveals the scale and cost of the staff departures in 2025-26, as to cope with tightening operational budgets.

Also reported by: [Batemans Bay Post \(Online\)](#).

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How to Apply for Aged Care: Navigating ACAT Assessments in Shepparton

Shepparton News Online, Other, 13/07/2026, Annie Barrow

To access any government-subsidised aged care service in Australia—whether it is an in-home care package, respite care, or a permanent place in a residential nursing home—you must first undergo an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) assessment. [...] For broad policy information regarding aged care legislation and standard reforms in Australia, refer to the Department of Health and Aged Care Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) What does ACAT stand for?

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Expressions of Interest: DFSV Assist Program

cesphn.org.au, Other, 13/07/2026, Sarah D Arcy

Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network (CESPHN) welcomes general practices to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in the DFSV Assist program. DFSV Assist is funded by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing as part of the Improving Health System Responses to Family and Domestic Violence initiative.

New service meets youth mental health needs

Warragul & Drouin Gazette, Other, 13/07/2026, Warragul Drouin

A desperate need for youth mental health services in West Gippsland will be met with Federal Government funding for a headspace outreach service. [...] Gippsland Primary Health Network (Gippsland PHN) is working with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and headspace to design and implement a service model that best meets the needs of young people in the Baw Baw local government area.

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Session empowers older people

Warragul & Drouin Gazette, Other, 13/07/2026, Warragul Drouin

A recent information session provided an opportunity for local seniors to have their questions answered and take away practical advice for navigating the aged care sector. Held at the Warragul Uniting Church, the information session was designed to empower older people with information as they explore aged care options. The session included speakers from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Services Australia, Elder Rights Australia and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Conversation Hour, 13/07/2026, Mary Gearin

Interview with Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner Liz Heffron-Webb. Heffron-Webb says there are much stronger protections for older people under the new Aged Care Act, and they are engaged with aged care providers where they think their behaviour doesn't match what's required under the standards. She also says they are looking into a wide variety of complaints about pricing and transparency of contracts to ensure that people are aware of what they are paying for, and people can visit the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing website to check the Residential Care Service List, which outlines what should be part of standard care.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

WFH right is wrong for jobs

Herald Sun, Editorials, 14/07/2026, Page 20

The Allan government's ill-considered work from home laws will poison the ground for new business growth and send jobs and investment interstate.

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TAFE for free but trainees drop off

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/07/2026, Page 4

More than 814,000 Australians have enrolled in Labor's Free TAFE scheme since its launch in 2023, but apprentice and trainee numbers keep falling, separate official figures reveal. The taxpayer-funded program has attracted more than 814,000 enrolments since it began, with 258,000 course completions and a surge in construction-related enrolments, new data released by the federal government shows.

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Terrywhite Chemmart pharmacist of the year 2026

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2026, Page 41

TerryWhite Chemmart has named Anna Theophilos of TerryWhite Chemmart Surrey Hills in Victoria as its Pharmacist of the Year 2026, recognising her outstanding leadership in vaccination, preventative health and public health advocacy. Announced at the 2026 TerryWhite Chemmart MasterClass Awards,

the recognition celebrates pharmacists who are helping shape the future of community pharmacy through clinical excellence, innovation and patient-centred care.

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Smart monitoring helps tram network cut water use by 70%

Sustainability Matters, General News, 30/06/2026, Page 12

Yarra Trams cut water use at its New Preston Depot by almost 70%, saving 6.6 million litres of water a year, enough to fill 20 E-class trams after joining the Water Smart program. The savings come after Yarra Valley Water installed data loggers at the depot as part of the Victorian Government's program.

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Bed block data a national concern as figures climb and patients wait longer

Newcastle Herald, Other, 13/07/2026, Gabriel Fowler

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 for has blown out to an average of 20 days.

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WA govt invests \$20m in transition pilot

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 13/07/2026

The TCP@Home+ pilot aims to support older Western Australians to better transition from hospital to home by providing wearable alert devices and access to nursing, personal care and allied health support. The Western Australian government is investing \$20.3 million over four years into a new pilot that will see 240 older Western Australians each year receive round-the-clock monitoring and wellbeing checks from the comfort of their homes.

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Funding opens for WA Seniors Week activities

Australian Seniors News, Other, 13/07/2026

The Seniors Week Community Grants Program focuses on initiatives that recognise and celebrate older Western Australians for their contribution to the community offering activities that encourage active and age-friendly living. It is open to local governments, registered not-for-profit organisations, and community groups across Western Australia to celebrate Seniors Week, which runs from 8-15 November 2026.

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Dementia Australia, ACON launch LGBT+ resource hub

Community Care Review, Other, 13/07/2026

The hub brings together resources, guides, community stories, advice on finding affirming doctors and guidance on how to navigate aged care. Dementia Australia has partnered with LGBT+ health organisation ACON to launch a dedicated online hub for LGBT+ people, their families, carers and communities who are impacted by dementia.

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From “silos” to seamless healthcare: bringing hospitals and GPs back together again

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

Linda Mann, a Sydney GP, proposes ways of potentially enhancing patient care and reducing hospital stays, without increasing overall healthcare costs. Her suggested solutions include making it simpler for all healthcare practitioners involved in caring for the same patient to share (rather than not share) all patient information by applying the information technology of today (rather than tomorrow).

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I just feel so lucky: how Ron Brewster beat the broken home care

system

The Senior, Other, 13/07/2026, Phoebe Loomes

A new survey has revealed many people navigating the government's Support at Home system find it frustrating and difficult to manage, but Ron Brewster is bucking the trend. Based in a Cherrybrook retirement village, Brewster receives government-funded aged care in his home and has found a way to make the system work for him.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Labor must keep going on tax

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/07/2026, Melissa Bray, Page 30

There is a big list of changes Australia needs to tackle, including company tax, pricing natural resource extraction and dealing with the shrinking GST base. Two months have passed since the budget and there are three things we learnt from it.

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The joy of travel is for everyone

Canberra Times, Supplements, 13/07/2026, Ruth Lewis, Page 20

For a person living with a disability, travel can be daunting. But everyone deserves a break.

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Cuts to NDIS create an uncertain future

Border Mail, General News, 14/07/2026, Chelsea Wilson, Page 5

Clients of a disability service reducing its programs are worried more changes will come as NDIS cuts loom. Rutherglen's Jordan Barkley has been attending day programs at Aspire Support Services three days a week for three years, allowing her to discover her passion for tenpin bowling and create genuine friendships with staff and other participants.

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Hybrid mission

Prime Mover, General News, 01/07/2026, Page 40

Alinea is a not-for profit organisation dedicated to supporting elderly individuals and people with disabilities in the Western Australian community. Hino Hybrid Electric trucks play a central role in the operations.

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Adelaide NDIS worker Brett Luscombe charged with exploitation after alleged sexual abuse at care facility

7News.com.au, Other, 13/07/2026, Deanna Williams

Brett Luscombe remains out on bail but is banned from contacting the alleged victim. An NDIS support worker has had his identity revealed after appearing in court on allegations he abused a woman in his care on several occasions.

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NDIS cuts threaten blind bowler's dream of representing Australia

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2026, Will Corbett

West Australian athlete Serge Asquer hopes to represent Australia at the blind bowls championship next year but cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) could dash his dreams. Asquer, from Mount Barker in the state's Great Southern region, picked up lawn bowls seven years ago after losing his vision due to hydroxychloroquine, a medication used to treat rheumatoid arthritis.

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How this apartment building offers affordable rentals with no subsidy

Australian Financial Review, Other, 12/07/2026, Michael Bleby

A new privately funded build-to-rent development in Melbourne's eastern suburbs includes 33 affordable units that it has made available to qualifying tenants at below-market rates without requiring a public subsidy.

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This autism-specific school is growing as parents demand options outside the mainstream

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/07/2026, Alex Crowe

Families of children with autism will be afforded more choice for educating their kids after winning a years-long battle to grow an autism-specific 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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New operator offers options for 110 families after Aspire program cuts

The Border Mail, Other, 13/07/2026, Chelsea Wilson

A large disability service provider will take over a more than \$4 million purpose-built building after Aspire Support Services made the shock decision to wind up its day programs. From August 29, Kirinari will step into the Hoffmann Centre in Thurgoona after Aspire Support Services announced it would no longer be offering learning and lifestyle day programs.

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Channel 10, 10 News: Lunchtime, 13/07/2026, Angela Bishop

Families caring for young adults with severe autism claim they have been let down by the NDIS. Queensland parents Kerry-Ann and Jason Morell hope the recent NDIS funding cuts will help families like theirs by focusing on people with high needs.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

Perth hospital picks up bad vibrations from gym next door

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/07/2026, Jesinta Burton, Page 5

A Perth hospital is feuding with a neighbouring gym over vibrations from music and dropped weights that it claims are powerful enough to dislodge files from shelves and a fixture from the wall, and could force surgeries to be cancelled.

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Allan trails One Nation

The Australian, General News, 14/07/2026, Anthony Galloway, Page 1

Victorian Labor MPs are privately questioning how Premier Jacinta Allan can revive the government's fortunes ahead of Nov-ember's state election as they brace for fresh polling showing Labor remains on course for defeat. A poll of 6500 Victorians found One Nation leading both major parties with 27 per cent, ahead of Labor and the Coalition on 26 per cent.

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

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Strings pulled in hospital rebuild

A senior official who oversaw the redevelopment of a Victorian hospital says the state Labor government intervened in the taxpayerfunded project to pressure public servants to sack a company that had attracted the disapproval of the CFMEU.

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'Secret' IVF option for spare embryos

Age, General News, 14/07/2026, Sassica Francis-Bruce, Page 15

Of those who have undergone IVF successfully, some are fortunate enough to have extra embryos to store for future use. But with that luck, a significant issue can arise.

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Health system asleep at wheel heading for a cliff

Herald Sun, General News, 14/07/2026, Shannon Deery, Page 21

If you thought the state's roads were bad, check out the health system. Both have become tragic symptoms of the same disease deferred investment, budget pressures and an Allan government unable to keep pace with the basic responsibilities of governing.

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Charity flying for sick kids

Courier Mail, General News, 14/07/2026, Kyle Rode, Page 7

Little Wings has celebrated three years of flying sick children and their families from rural Queensland to life-saving equipment in Brisbane. The charity works to give rural families access to metro hospitals and relieve financial pressure.

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Mayor defends planning rules after stoush

Border Mail, General News, 14/07/2026, Anthony Bunn, Page 7

The mayor of Greater Hume Shire has defended her council's planning regime after drama over the future of a Henty allied health hub due to a housing plan. Lea Parker was commenting following physiotherapist Claire Lawson's threat to close her Olympic Highway business after Friday July 10.

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Tech delivers more bite

Cairns Post, General News, 14/07/2026, Catherine Duffy, Page 9

Far North dental patients won't have to wait til they're long in the tooth to receive vital treatment, thanks to a donated \$19,000 printer.

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Keyes quits as head of hospital

Cairns Post, General News, 14/07/2026, Emma Cam and Daniel Shirkie, Page 12

THHS CEO Kieran Keyes has stepped down as chief executive of the Townsville Hospital and Health Service. In an internal memo seen by the Townsville Bulletin, Townsville Hospital and Health Board chairman Tony Mooney said he accepted the resignation with regret.

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Powerful pharmacy lobby using secret deals to inflate medicine prices, report claims

The Australian, Other, 13/07/2026, Cameron Micallef

Australians are paying more for medicines because a powerful lobby group has locked patients and public evidence out of negotiations, it is claimed. New modelling released by the Grattan Institute suggested pharmacies are cashing in to the tune of nearly \$3bn in annual dispensing charges, with lack of competition and limited incentives to discount prices costing consumers.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern](#)

[Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Record 78,000 Tasmanians stuck on outpatient waiting lists after 10 per cent spike

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 13/07/2026, Sue Bailey

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.

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CCTV shows moment Kalgoorlie Health Campus security grab patient by throat during code black incident

7News.com.au, Other, 13/07/2026, Jerrie Demasi

A police investigation is underway and two security guards have been stood down. A hospital patient has been grabbed by the throat during a violent takedown involving two security guards.

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SA coroner calls for changes after man died while paramedic waited outside

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2026

A paramedic who chose not to force entry to a house, despite being told a man was inside and needed medical attention, had "a flawed understanding" of his powers to enter the property, an inquest finds. South Australia's State Coroner David Whittle handed down his findings on Monday into the death of 64-year-old David Low, who had heart complications along with a number of health issues including diabetes and morbid obesity, on February 25, 2020.

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Poll: Does pharmacy need a shakeup?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/07/2026, Megan Haggan

The Grattan Institute has made six recommendations which it says will address "bad governance" in the pharmacy sector. The Institute's latest report, "Future Pharmacy: A better deal for patients and taxpayers," makes six recommendations. Recommendation one is to "Restore independent community pharmacy policy".

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Pharmacy held 'hostage' by ownership, location rules: new report

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/07/2026, Megan Haggan

The Pharmacy Guild says that a new report by the Grattan Institute ignores a "fundamental reality" about the nature of the pharmacy sector. The Grattan Institute has released a new report, "Future Pharmacy: A better deal for patients and taxpayers," in which it makes six recommendations including removing the pharmacy location and ownership rules, and

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Could community pharmacies play a greater role in infectious disease care?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 13/07/2026, Chloe Hava

Emerging models are focusing on HIV, viral hepatitis and STI care in community pharmacy settings. From long-acting injectable HIV therapies to hepatitis C testing, new models of care are creating opportunities for pharmacists to expand their impact.

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Public funding of large-scale clinical trials in Australia

Failure to provide public funding for clinical trials may come at a high cost to the community in the long term. Large-scale morbidity–mortality trials have become fundamental to the evaluation of most new drugs intended for long-term administration. Such trials have the unique ability to determine the net balance of positive and negative outcomes from the long-term use of drugs and allow consumers to feel confident that long-term therapy is safe in otherwise healthy individuals.

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One week left for nominations for next RACGP president

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 13/07/2026

Eligible GPs are urged to get their nominations in soon. A new RACGP president will officially take over the role at the college's Annual General Meeting in November.

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'Held hostage': Grattan Institute calls for pharmacy overhaul

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 13/07/2026

A damning report is urging sweeping reform, including \$80 million for general practice-integrated pharmacists, scrapping of location restrictions, and an end to 'backroom deals'. The Pharmacy Guild's impact on policy has been strongly criticised in a new report.

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Independent review calls for evidence-first pharmacy reform to improve patient care and reduce waste

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 13/07/2026

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has urged the Federal Government to act on a major independent review of community pharmacy, saying its recommendations would improve patient care, deliver better value for taxpayers, and strengthen collaboration across the health system.

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One Nation says photo ID will help stop Medicare 'rorts'. Here's why that's wrong

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 13/07/2026

One Nation leader Pauline Hanson says Medicare is being "rorted" by up to A\$3 billion a year, and that "a lot of this could be prevented" by requiring photo ID on Medicare cards. But where did this \$3 billion figure come from?

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Unfair fees and low competition: why the pharmacy sector needs a shake up

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 13/07/2026

The average Australian visits a community pharmacy times a year – more than any other health service. Pharmacies will only get more important as Australia's population gets older and sicker, and more scripts are dispensed.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 13/07/2026, James Glenday and Emma Reballato

Interview with Dr Danielle McMullen, President, AMA, about the number of RSV and flu cases in the country. McMullen says they are seeing, in terms of reported illnesses like RSV and flu, constrained numbers this year, however, that is not what the community is telling them. She states that as a GP, she's seeing lots of people with common colds and RSV, being laid down for days on end, up to a week off work, and it's leaving people feeling pretty ordinary.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Timely approach tackles our ticking health bomb

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/07/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 10

A unique Tasmanian study is examining what it takes to motivate people to walk and improve their health. As part of the 12-week Watch Study, St Lukes is providing a free Garmin smartwatch to 250 members in a collaboration between the UTAS Human-Activity Behaviour Intervention & Transformation (HABIT) lab and health technology company HealthCare Software.

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Ozempic-style weight loss pill could be headed to Australia with cheaper price and no injections

7News.com.au, Other, 13/07/2026, Aimee Edwards

The pill contains the same active ingredient as the popular injectable alternative and could cost as little as a cup of coffee. Australia could soon have a cheaper, needle-free alternative to Ozempic, with a weight-loss pill tipped for approval by Christmas in shake-up for obesity treatment.

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Small and achievable ways to drink less alcohol

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2026, Kellie Scott

Alcohol is so ingrained in Australian culture that it can be hard to drink less, even when you want to. But increasingly people are cutting back, explains Amy Pennay, associate professor and deputy director of La Trobe University's Centre for Alcohol Policy Research.

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Coke and fries back on the menu? Pharmacist-turned-doctor calls out upselling

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/07/2026, Heather Saxena

Dr Mustafa Dhahir, a registered pharmacist and doctor, says he is concerned about the upselling of complementary medicines in pharmacy. Fifteen years ago, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia agreed to a deal where pharmacists' computers would promote Blackmores supplements when patients filled scripts for certain drugs — the so-called 'Coke and fries' scandal.

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Working from home linked to obesity, according to RMIT study

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 13/07/2026, Frank Chung

As debate once again heats up over working from home, a new Australian study has confirmed everyone's worst fears.

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

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Doctor reveals the key to a healthy second half of your life

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 13/07/2026, Dr Ginna Mansberg

These small lifestyle changes in midlife can dramatically increase your longevity and reduce your risk of certain diseases. If midlife has taught us anything, it's that small, well-chosen changes can deliver outsized rewards.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Australia banned vape ads more than two years ago – so why are they

still all over social media?

The Guardian, Other, 14/07/2026, Achol Arok

Illegal vape sellers have turned to social media to promote nicotine-filled products, with experts calling for a crackdown including stronger penalties for the platforms. Guardian Australia has identified a network of posts across TikTok, Instagram and YouTube promoting the sale of illegal products to Australian audiences.

[Read More](#)

New tool targets sarcopenia

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/07/2026

A new survey of Australian health professionals shows that while most clinicians recognise sarcopenia as part of their clinical responsibility, routine screening remains limited in everyday practice. Sarcopenia, which is muscle loss usually associated with ageing, affects around one in five Australians aged over 60, and is closely linked to.

[Read More](#)

Former AFP detective blames policy failure for illegal tobacco surge, calls enforcement a 'drop in the ocean'

Sky News Australia, Other, 13/07/2026

Former Australian Federal Police detective Rohan Pike has taken aim at the government's strategy for addressing the surge in illegal cigarette sales, arguing that its focus on enforcement is only a "drop in the ocean".

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Scolyer memorial reveals final message

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/07/2026, Alex Mitchell, Page 3

Pioneering pathologist and former Australian of the Year Richard Scolyer has been remembered for adding years to the lives of others through his melanoma research even as he battled the cancer that prematurely ended his life.

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Bright star a 'medical revolutionary'

The Australian, General News, 14/07/2026, Page 3

Richard Scolyer was 'a quirky man of courage' who gave so much to science Richard Scolyer has been remembered as a quirky, curious and caring man and a world-renowned scientist who had a breathtakingly daggy dress sense and an unmatched zest for life.

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Research project hopes to close the cancer gap

Age, General News, 14/07/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 11

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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'Indefatigable' legend Richard Scolyer mourned

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/07/2026, Jack Nivison, Page 9

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.

Late professor had 'passion and purpose'

Canberra Times, General News, 14/07/2026, Alex Mitchell, Page 7

A pioneering pathologist who died too soon has been remembered for adding years to the lives of others through his melanoma research. The 2024 Australian of the Year Richard Scolyer, who died aged 59 on June 7, was farewelled at a moving state memorial service at the Sydney Opera House yesterday, which included a performance by Midnight Oil's Peter Garrett.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#)

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Researcher taking on brain cancer

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 14/07/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 9

While in treatment as a young cancer patient, Kiarn Roughley made friends who were fighting brain cancer. Many of them died as a result of the disease.

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Tasmanian man with rare cancer faces \$7500 monthly bill for lifesaving drug

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/07/2026, Genevieve Holding

Tasmanian Brenden Lane's specialists have recommended a drug that could save his life – but without PBS listing, he must find \$7500 every month to access it.

[Read More](#)

Two-time cancer survivor Molly Croft raises \$2 million for sarcoma research

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 13/07/2026

Molly Croft nearly didn't make it to her 20th birthday – now the two-time cancer survivor has raised more than \$2 million to fight the disease that claimed many of her friends.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Recovery starts with connection

Shepparton News, General News, 14/07/2026, Page 18

Each week, Samantha Lewis shares her insights on various topics, from exploring new health trends to reimagining personal growth. I've had a lot of conversations over the past few months with people who lost everything in the January fires.

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

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/07/2026, Page 10

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.

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Budget boosts Healthy Heads initiatives

Prime Mover, General News, 01/07/2026, Page 12

The Federal Government has committed new funding through the Federal Budget to expand mental

health and wellbeing support across Australia's transport and logistics sector, with Healthy Heads in Trucks & Sheds (HHTS) set to significantly scale its frontline programs. Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King, said the investment would help deliver practical support to workers across the country.

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IMMUNISATION

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Health Check: Immutep shares bounce on revived lung cancer treatment hopes

The Australian, Other, 13/07/2026, Tim Boreham

Immutep and its investors are confident the company can salvage something from its cancelled lung cancer program. Immutep shares surge up to 30% on further news about its 'failed' non-small cell lung cancer program Orthocell leads early bird quarterly reporters

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

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Alzheimer's drug doesn't dig deep

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/07/2026

An autopsy on a patient who received the Alzheimer's drug aducanumab has shown better clearance of amyloid in the top layers of the brain compared to the deep layers. The drug was thought to work by removing beta-amyloid, one of the hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease (AD).

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Salaries, workforce show signs of stabilising

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/07/2026

After several years of rapid change, the pharmacy workforce landscape is showing signs of stabilisation, Raven's Recruitment GM Heidi Dariz shared at the Pharmacy Careers Summit last Fri. "As we move through 2026 and beyond, the profession appears to be entering a period of greater workforce stability," Dariz said, citing.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

NT psychologist launches 'game changing' tool to deepen connection with First Nations clients

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/07/2026, Lottie Hood

A Territory psychologist has launched a "game changing" tool for non-Indigenous health professionals to better help and connect with First Nations clients and it is already attracting nationwide attention. Over her years of working with trauma victims, Darwin-based psychologist and PhD candidate, Tammy Hatherill, saw a knowledge gap in her line of work.

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

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Benalla's NAIDOC Week family fun day embraced by community

Shepparton News Online, Other, 13/07/2026

"It was absolutely fabulous to see so many children and adults enjoying this year's event," Benalla Health's Aboriginal liaison officer Jordyn Atkinson said. Ms Atkinson was the emcee of the event which saw more than 100 children and young people engaged in games, art, music and flag raising.

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A culture of ill health: public health or Aboriginality?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 13/07/2026, Chelsea J Bond

My career in Indigenous health was first ignited in my teenage years as part of an overall desire to "work among my own people". At that point in my life, I never really felt "Aboriginal", owing, in part, to my being of "mixed descent", light-skinned and having been raised in a predominantly white neighbourhood in an urban area.

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The upsurge of interest in Indigenous health in the 1950s and 1960s.

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

Mention is made in the article of the campaign waged by the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders concerning the exclusion of Queensland Aboriginal patients with tuberculosis from the generous allowance paid to other TB patients This campaign was successful.

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Trachoma in Australia

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

Australia is the only developed country in the world where blinding trachoma still exists Trachoma is a disease that has been with us from antiquity. It is discussed in ancient Egyptian texts written on papyrus and in even

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Weight Loss Medication Marketing and First Nations People: Disease Awareness or Corporate Profit?

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

The growing popularity of glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) has driven off-label prescriptions and supply shortages, raising equity concerns for First Nations peoples disproportionately affected by diabetes. Pharmaceutical companies have simultaneously accelerated their marketing through disease-awareness campaigns, sponsored events and telehealth models, with many campaigns prominently featuring women of colour, including First Nations women.

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Cultural safety in healthcare is not 'ideological' – it is saving lives

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 13/07/2026

Introduced under urgency this month, the government's latest proposed law change would increase the health minister's powers to interfere in the work of medical registration authorities. The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Amendment Bill aims to "align health workforce regulation with patient needs and government priorities".

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nurses union slams controversial new antisemitism definition

Herald Sun, General News, 14/07/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 4

The nurses union has slammed the watchdog that investigates healthcare workers for adopting a controversial antisemitism definition in a move set to reignite fierce debate over its use. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) announced last month it would use the new definition, which critics say conflates criticism of Israel with antisemitism, to help assess complaints.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

No gloves during genital exams

West Australian, General News, 14/07/2026, Jessica Evensen, Page 14

A western suburbs doctor inappropriately touched several patients whilst conducting intimate examinations and carrying out pap smears, a tribunal has ruled. The State Administrative Tribunal this week ruled that Dr Saumitra Sekhar Seal engaged in unprofessional conduct, after the Medical Board of Australia brought forward allegations involving three female patients between 2014 and 2019 while working at a western suburbs medical centre.

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

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Advice offered for patients of surgeon

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 14/07/2026, Sophia Baker and Andrew Thomson, Page 3

A Warrnambool law firm has taken the unusual step of offering to provide legal advice about options to surgical patients. It comes after The Standard exclusively revealed a surgeon who worked at Hamilton Base Hospital during 2025 had been referred to Australia's health regulator following a surgical complication.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

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SA doctor banned for inappropriate relationship with patient who accused him of 'grooming' her

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2026

A former Adelaide doctor has been banned from practising medicine in Australia for at least two years after a patient accused him of "grooming" her over a period of almost four years. The South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT) handed down a judgement in May after the Medical Board of South Australia referred a complaint to it that the doctor had engaged in professional misconduct by engaging in a relationship with a patient.

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Payroll tax for Victoria's GPs to go under Coalition

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 13/07/2026

The RACGP is urging other parties to follow suit after the state's Opposition pledged to scrap the tax if elected. The Victorian Coalition has pledged to scrap payroll tax for the state's GPs if elected this November.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Fears death linked to diphtheria

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/07/2026, Camden Smith, Page 10

The family of a three-year-old boy who died in a remote Northern Territory community last week believe the cause of his death was diphtheria, with officials now investigating. The NT Coronor is investigating the death of the infant overnight last Thursday in Canteen Creek, about 270km south east of Tennant Creek The death came as a Tennant Creek man, believed to be aged in his 30s, was admitted to hospital in Alice Springs last week in a critical condition with diphtheria.

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Queensland wildlife rescuers prepare for bird flu after sick giant petrel found at Noosa

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2026, Jessica Ross and Kaitlyn Sawrey

As crowds flocked to Noosa Main Beach to make the most of the winter sunshine over the weekend, Will Watson was on an entirely different mission. The wildlife rescuer's hazmat suit in Queensland's holiday hotspot drew plenty of attention, but his focus was on a northern giant petrel lying on the sand.

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Dead petrel at Horrocks presumed positive for bird flu, with nation looking at possible 'wildlife pandemic'

West Australian, Other, 13/07/2026, Sally Q Davies

A petrel found dead on Horrocks Beach is a presumed positive H5 bird flu case, with further testing unable to definitively determine the deadly strain through viral sequencing.

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Famously in-sync twins caught up in bird flu outbreak as possible H5N1 case found in Queensland

7News.com.au, Other, 13/07/2026, Sarah Keszler

The first possible case of bird flu has been detected in Queensland thanks to a pair of world-famous animal rescuers, with experts awaiting test results to confirm the H5N1 avian influenza. Identical twin sisters Bridgette and Paula Powers, owners of Twinnies Pelican and Seabird Rescue, gained viral fame around the world in 2025 after appearing in a TV news segment in which they provided in-sync accounts of a carjacking they'd witnessed.

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ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 13/07/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Authorities are praising community detection efforts days after the first confirmed H5 bird flu infection in an Australian bird, with Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Beth Cookson saying monitoring the spread remains the top focus. The total number of detections now stands at 13.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Medtech Ceretas fast-tracks IPO

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 14/07/2026, Page 14

University of Queensland spin-out Ceretas could be trading on the local bourse as early as next week after its initial public offering fetched strong demand.

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

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Online sex pills warning

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 14/07/2026, Page 3

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: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Shaping pharmacy education and training

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2026, Bronwyn Clark, Page 14

The healthcare landscape is shifting fast, and with this shift comes the question: how should today's pharmacy graduates be distinguished? Some imagine a future where graduates emerge holding a 'Dr' title, prescriber-ready, practising at expanded scope from day one.

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You don't have to feel alone!

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/07/2026, Page 18

From Pharmacists' Support Services pharmacists supporting pharmacists. Working as a pharmacist brings many pressures and at times can be stressful.

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With AI, we have returned to a world of two competing superpowers

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2026, By Alan Kohler

When it comes to AI, Australia is a spectator at a UFC cage fight between the United States and China, except the spectators at this event are all inside the cage with the combatants, not safely in the stands. China is flooding the world with cheap, very capable AI models, trying to destroy the business models of the leading US companies. [...] Australia is definitely NOT building something like the Therapeutic

Goods Administration that controls the release of drugs based on data about safety and efficacy from three sets of randomised trials.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Record revenue for Orthocell as collagen products sales rise and international rollout advances

West Australian, Other, 13/07/2026, Rebecca Le May

Regenerative medicine company Orthocell has booked record revenue on the back of rising adoption of its flagship product, a collagen wrap used in nerve repair. The Perth-based firm reported its highest ever quarterly revenue of \$3.8 million for the three months to June 30 on Monday and also its best full-year revenue of \$13.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Popular kids' snack Chickadees recalled nationwide after shock find

NEWS.com.au, Other, 13/07/2026, Josephine Quattrocchi

A lunchbox staple has been pulled from shelves nationwide after several pack sizes were found to be contaminated. Popular lunchbox snack Chickadees have been pulled from shelves after rubber was found inside several pack sizes.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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