



TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 16th July 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 7\)](#)** reports that Aged Care Inspector-General Natalie Siegel-Brown has used her last official address at the National Press Club on Wednesday to warn that the \$40bn aged care sector was geared towards "funding crises", and the real problem was not a lack of money but a lack of value.
- **[The Guardian](#)** reports that almost 145,000 Australians receiving support for autism on the national disability insurance scheme (NDIS) are expected to be removed by the end of the decade as the Federal Government moves ahead with plans to narrow the focus of the "diluted" \$52bn scheme, coming after repeated warnings from NDIS Minister Mark Butler that the scheme is only intended for people with "significant and permanent disability".
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 11\)](#)** reports that disclosure logs from the peak body for the pharmaceutical industry, Medicines Australia, have revealed Australian doctors are receiving thousands of dollars in payments from pharmaceutical companies to attend overseas conferences, sit on advisory boards and speak at educational meetings.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 3\)](#)** reports that health experts are warning that weak regulations are allowing a booming illicit cigarette market to target young people and could lead to more smoking-related deaths, urging governments to urgently close a loophole in Australia's tobacco retail laws,

- [The Daily Telegraph \(page 3\)](#) and [Sydney Morning Herald \(page 9\)](#) lead coverage reporting that national healthcare chain Partnered Health is continuing to investigate a major cyber security breach that occurred on June 23. Services Australia is aware of the breach, and has placed additional monitoring on the active Medicare cards of affected patients.
- [The Sydney Morning Herald \(page 3\)](#) reports that leading optometry companies are being accused of putting profits over patient care after internal documents and private messages revealed senior management at Specsavers and OPSM threatened pay cuts or performance reviews if optometrists failed to sell enough glasses to meet KPIs.

MINISTER BUTLER

Parting shot over aged-care reform

The Australian, General News, 16/07/2026, Elizabeth Pike, Page 7

Australia's aged care watchdog has used one of her last public speeches in the job to send a final warning to the Albanese government about its landmark overhaul of the Aged Care Act, saying Labor had the "bravery" to change the law but is failing to follow through on reform. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler in April estimated the government would need to open a new aged care home "every three days" for the next 20 years to meet growing demand.

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

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Aged care watchdog slams Labor reform plan

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/07/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 6

Australia's outgoing aged care watchdog has warned the rollout of Labor's new system is deterring old people from getting care at home, which will worsen the country's budget troubles by pushing people into residential aged care sooner than necessary. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has previously said one of the greatest barriers to getting more home care packages online was limited workforce capacity.

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

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'We're potentially going to run out of space'

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 16/07/2026, Brodie Everist, Page 1

Cold nights and cost of living are driving Bendigo's homeless to the city's annual winter shelter amid widespread high demand on services. [...] In fact, Bendigo has seen such a rise - second only to Solomon in the Northern Territory - that Health Minister Mark Butler was in Bendigo on Tuesday, July 14 to spruik their \$8 billion investment in zero out-of-pocket costs for medical consultations.

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'Frankly, jaw-dropping': Bendigo (almost) tops the list for this money saver

Bendigo Advertiser, Other, 15/07/2026, Brodie Everist

Dr Sajjad Muhammad is happy, and says his patients should be happy too. Login or signup to continue reading There was a time when his Eaglehawk clinic almost stopped bulk-billing - where doctors directly charge the government for medical services - because the rebate was frozen. [...] In fact, Bendigo has seen such a rise - second only to Solomon in the Northern Territory - that Health Minister Mark Butler was in Bendigo on Tuesday, July 14 to spruik their \$8 billion investment in zero out-of-pocket costs for medical consultations.

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Parliament push

Islander, General News, 16/07/2026, Dani Brown, Page 1

American River teacher and mother-of-two Emma Bell has taken her fight for better research and testing into bowel cancer in young Australians to Canberra. Last year, at age 42, Emma was diagnosed

with stage three bowel cancer - but not without a long and persistent fight to get tested first.

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Almost 145,000 Australians will lose support for autism under NDIS reforms, documents reveal

The Guardian, Other, 16/07/2026, Sarah Basford Canales

Almost 145,000 Australians receiving support for autism on the national disability insurance scheme (NDIS) are expected to be removed by the end of the decade, internal estimates show, as the federal government moves ahead with plans to narrow the focus of the "diluted" \$52bn scheme toward those with significant and complex needs. [...] The NDIS minister, Mark Butler, has repeatedly said the scheme is only intended for people with "significant and permanent disability".

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One year on, lung cancer screening is proving itself valuable

Allergy and Respiratory Republic, Other, 15/07/2026, Mariella Attard

Although it could be doing better, according to an Australian expert. Almost 100,000 people have participated in Australia's national lung cancer screening program since its launch in July 2025, with 285 joining the program every day on average, according to federal health minister Mark Butler.

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Roche GM takes tough line on Aussie TV

Pharma In Focus, Other, 15/07/2026

Roche Australia General Manager Nic Horridge appeared on ABC TV last night branding a Government-requested price cut for the company's MS drug as "unrealistic" and "unreasonable" and warned it threatens the sustainability of business models that allow innovative medicines to reach Australia. [...] With public pressure mounting, Health Minister Mark Butler has made it clear he wants the drugs to remain on the PBS - but has fallen short of using his ministerial powers to overrule the price cut.

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MP behind bulk-billing letters singled out for praise

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/07/2026

One of the Federal MPs who wrote to local clinics urging them to bulk bill has received a glowing ministerial endorsement – but not all GPs are impressed. The letters to local clinics encouraging them to change their billing practices were the subject of controversy. [...] In the regional Victorian city of Bendigo on Tuesday, Minister Mark Butler repeatedly applauded Federal member Lisa Chesters and her efforts to drive up bulk billing in the electorate.

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GPs left carrying the load when referrals stall

The Medical Republic, Other, 15/07/2026, Alyssa Talakovski

Nearly half of GPs manage complex care while patients wait for non-GP specialists, says Avant survey. Long wait times and navigating referral pathways are key barriers to GP-referred care, according to the first national analysis of GP referral decision-making and patient attitudes towards referrals. [...] Dr Parsons said this research would help Avant advocate for its members and had already been presented at a recent Parliament House roundtable in Canberra, attended by Minister Mark Butler.

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Nurses' union says Tasmania's health system in "disarray" as Launceston hospital hits critical capacity

WEB Pulse Tasmania, Other, 15/07/2026

Tasmania's nursing union says the state's health system is in "disarray", claiming the Launceston General Hospital can no longer safely meet patient needs. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) lodged an urgent application with the Tasmanian Industrial Commission on Tuesday after what it described as a week of chaos across the system. [...] Speaking in Launceston

last week, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said he had been hearing the same stories about the LGH "for far too long".

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WIN Hobart, WIN News, 15/07/2026, Bruce Roberts

The Launceston General Hospital reached critical capacity after sustained high demand, with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation saying the hospital has been operating at critical capacity for more than four weeks and calling for immediate measures to improve patient access and flow. Tasmania Health Minister Bridget Archer attributed the pressure to seasonal demand and delays opening a facility for patients no longer requiring hospital care and announced a 20-bed temporary off-site facility at the Launceston Health Hub, while Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Tasmanian Government needed to improve patient flow, staffing and recruitment and noted the Commonwealth is providing \$910 million in funding over five years.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

New NDIS phone line, First Nations Connect

Leader - Barossa Valley, General News, 15/07/2026, Page 32

As of Thursday last week, First Nations people seeking NDIS help can now call a new phone line, established to provide a more culturally respectful, tailored experience with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). The community has told the NDIA they would like to talk to call centre staff who understand identity and community life, respect cultural values, and explain the [...] Minister for the NDIS, Senator Jenny McAllister said: "We are listening to First Nations participants and communities, to ensure they get the help they need."

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MINISTER RAE

Flaws in aged-care reform laid bare by \$1800 crutches

Moree Champion, Other, 15/07/2026

Flaws in a government overhaul of the nation's aged-care system are harming older Australians while failing to rein in rising costs, warns the woman who oversees safety in the sector. [...] A spokesman for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae disputed Ms Siegel-Brown's claims, saying the government had transformed the state of residential aged care.

Also reported by: [Muswellbrook Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [Narooma News \(Online\)](#), [Sound Telegraph \(Online\)](#).

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\$50 Crutches, \$1,800 Bill: How a Simple Mobility Aid Exposes a Costly Flaw in Aged Care Reform

Starts at 60, Other, 16/07/2026

A pensioner's gp told her plainly what she needed: a \$50 pair of crutches to stay safely mobile. What should have been a straightforward purchase instead became a three-month ordeal that cost taxpayers \$1,800 – a case now being held up as proof that Australia's overhauled aged care system is failing the very people it was designed to protect. [...] A spokesman for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae disputed Ms Siegel-Brown's characterisation, saying the government's reforms had transformed residential aged care for the better.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Question Time with Australia's Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White

Australasian Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 24

Rebecca White, the Federal Member for Lyons, serves in Australia's Albanese Government as Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health and Assistant Minister for Women. After 15 years in the Tasmanian Parliament including seven as Opposition Leader she now represents one of the state's largest regional electorates on the national stage.

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ABC, ABC News, 15/07/2026, Guy Stayner

News Pablo Vinales, abc News, Canberra. More than 110,000 Tasmanians will vote in different electorates as part of sweeping changes handed down by the Australian Electoral Commission. [...] If they look like they do right now, it will leave some high-profile Tasmanian politicians like Rebecca White Erica Betts, Josh Willey, Dean Winter and Rosalie Woodruff, with some big decisions to make on where they run in the future.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Australia's community pharmacies flagged as key to improving men's health outcomes

Australasian Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 14

Community pharmacies are uniquely positioned to make an even greater impact on men's health outcomes, with health leaders highlighting that everyday conversations with pharmacists can unlock earlier intervention and support stronger long-term care. [...] Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi MP said many men delay seeking help until problems escalate.

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Concern that internationally trained GPs were targeted in leaflet drop

The Medical Republic, Other, 15/07/2026, Holly Payne

A federal MP has drawn a connection between racist comments levelled at overseas-trained doctors and anti-immigration flyers. A racist leaflet dropped into letterboxes in the NSW town of Kurri Kurri has sparked a renewed push for more protections for GPs and doctors in private practice who may be subject to patient aggression. The leaflet, which Hunter MP Dan Repacholi described on Facebook as "disgusting", advertised a "remigration" rally and made specific reference to migrants from South Asia.

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Special Envoy for Men's Health, MP Dan Repacholi, used the latest Healthier Illawarra Men podcast to urge Illawarra men to book an annual health check. He said increasing the proportion of Australian men who visit a GP each year by 10 per cent could save thousands of lives.

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DEPARTMENT

Interim GP service offers hope for town

North Queensland Register, General News, 16/07/2026, Judith Maizey, Page 6

After being without a GP clinic for seven months in Clermont, an interim solution has been found and, according to one business owner, it is better than what they had. Within seven weeks, Clermont residents will have access to local GP services under what's called "an interim stabilisation arrangement" where the Royal Flying Doctor Service will deliver care.

Also reported by: [Queensland Country Life \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Australia is not yet harnessing the full potential of biosimilar medicines

Australasian Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 38

Australia is at a pivotal moment for biosimilar medicines Following the 202627 Federal Budget, consultation is set to begin in July on options to support faster access to biologic medicines and whether biosimilar medicines should be the default for treatment-naive patients." This consultation matters because, despite years of availability and strong global evidence, Australia is still not realising the full value of biosimilar medicines. [...] Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

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GPs lose special dispensation to write PBS adrenaline scripts

Allergy and Respiratory Republic, Other, 15/07/2026, Holly Payne

This decision means more rural Australians will die from anaphylaxis, GPs warn. The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee has reportedly ended long-standing arrangements allowing GPs with special dispensation to initiate PBS-eligible adrenaline prescriptions for their anaphylactic patients. [...] ARR contacted the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing for confirmation of and comment on the PBAC decision but did not hear back before deadline.

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Talking reform? Stop counting procedures, start asking patients

Health Services Daily, Other, 15/07/2026, Andrew Sando

If we listened to what patients are experiencing, at scale, we can move from measuring success on volume to what matters most – the value care brings to patients' lives. Australians are rational, if not discerning buyers. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's fresh batch of reforms look promising , and is another chance to shift focus from more dollars and services towards what actually lifts patient value and our sector.

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One million older Aussies miss out on RSV protection

Medianet, Other, 15/07/2026

RSV cases in Australia have surpassed both influenza and COVID-19 this winter, with over 83,000 cases recorded. Only 722,530 eligible older Australians have received the free RSV vaccine compared to 1.76 million who have had their flu shot, representing a significant immunisation gap. [...] Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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In a rare interview, Liz Hefren-Webb has explained what consumers should expect as standard care in residential aged care and what services may attract additional fees.

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/07/2026, Caroline Egan

Appearing on ABC Radio National's The Conversation Hour on Monday (13 July), the Commissioner said the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) wants to ensure residents understand their fees and charges, and that consumers receive the services they pay for.

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MPIR hits 14-year high: what it means for aged care operators

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/07/2026, Caroline Egan

The Maximum Permissible Interest Rate (MPIR) has reached its highest level in 14 years, reshaping how aged care providers can charge for accommodation. Retired StewartBrown Partner Grant Corderoy says the MPIR's increase to 8.43% in the September 2026 quarter – its highest level since 2012 – may give residential aged care operators a small fillip to earnings, but not enough to materially improve financial sustainability. [...] The MPIR is determined by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing using a formula linked to the 90-day average yield on Australian Government 10-year Treasury bonds, plus a margin specified in legislation.

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Think residential aged care is not properly funded?

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/07/2026, Caroline Egan

Residential aged care operators now have an opportunity to help shape the future of the sector. The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) is seeking feedback from providers on the framework it will use to assess the costs of residential aged care

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

The grim solution to an over-80 death curve

The Australian, General News, 16/07/2026, Bernard Salt, Page 21

The great wealth transfer is the idea that the accumulated wealth (including housing) of the Baby Boomer generation will transfer to their mostly Millennial children at some point in the future. Boomer wags, of course, respond to this idea by suggesting they intend spending their kids inheritance.

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Brain decline drug hope

Herald Sun, General News, 16/07/2026, Page 13

An experimental drug for Alzheimer's disease could stop dementia before symptoms even start, with trials under way in Britain on the "gamechanging" therapy. The preventive treatment Trontinemab is being tested on 1600 high-risk patients who are not experiencing symptoms, the Telegraph UK reported.

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'Critical' bed capacity fuels health funds row

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/07/2026, Alison Foletta, Page 4

Just three beds were available at the Launceston General Hospital on Tuesday evening, but the state's health minister has assured Tasmanians there are well-established protocols to deal with surge demand. The revelation came as the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) called out four weeks of ongoing critical capacity at Launceston General Hospital.

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The two Alexes of Ouyen

Australasian Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 1

In the Mallee town of Ouyen in Victoria, Australia, where GP continuity has all but vanished and access to care depends on who's still standing, two pharmacists have quietly built a service holding the community together. At 47 Oke Street, Alex One and Alex Two are redefining what rural pharmacy can be.

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Pharmacist prescribing could save Australia more than AUD 1-billion a year

Australasian Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 21

Community pharmacists could save Australia's health system more than AUD 1-billion a year and free up more than 10 million GP appointments if nationally consistent rules for pharmacist prescribing are introduced. A report called Rewriting the Script prepared by HTANALYSTS, an Australian healthcare consultancy, has found pharmacist prescribing in Australia could prevent some 30,000 hospitalisations each year, largely by improving access to early treatment.

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Anna Theophilos: Redefining what vaccination leadership looks like in community pharmacy

Australasian Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 60

For pharmacist and vaccination leader Anna Theophilos, immunisation is not simply a seasonal service. It is one of the most important public health opportunities community pharmacy has ever been given.

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Siegel-Brown reiterates need to prioritise early intervention

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 15/07/2026

Natalie Siegel-Brown recognises the good intent behind the new Act, but warns the reform rollout has, in some cases, caused harm to older people. In her last public appearance as the Inspector-General of Aged Care, Natalie Siegel-Brown has addressed the National Press Club with a warning that in some cases, "the way aged care reform is being implemented is causing harm.

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Department publishes updated CHSP Manual

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 15/07/2026

Not announcing the retention of CHSP as a separate program in the updated manual was a 'missed opportunity', Paul Sadler tells AAA. The Department of Health, Disability and Aged Care has released version four of the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) 2025–27 Manual

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Dementia becomes Australia's leading cause of death

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 15/07/2026

Australians are living longer, but the growing burden of chronic disease, mental ill-health and rising barriers to accessing healthcare are placing increasing pressure on the nation's health system, a new report has revealed. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) Australia's health 2026 report, released this month, provides a comprehensive snapshot of the nation's health, highlighting significant gains alongside persistent challenges and inequalities.

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The shocking \$1800 dollar bill for a pair of crutches in aged care fail

Canberra Times, Other, 15/07/2026, Phoebe Loomes

Exorbitant fee escalation and a complex and confusing web of approvals in aged care is hurting older Australians, with the system on a crash course to failure. But outgoing watchdog has urged those waiting for support to keep the faith.

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Siegel-Brown warns aged care reform causing harm

Community Care Review, Other, 15/07/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

As she prepares to depart from the Inspector-General of Aged Care role, Natalie Siegel-Brown has left a clear directive that the reform rollout and budget need to have a greater focus on early intervention. In her last public appearance as the Inspector-General of Aged Care, Natalie Siegel-Brown has addressed the National Press Club with a warning that in some cases, "the way aged care reform is being implemented is causing harm.

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CHSP future remains vague in updated manual

Community Care Review, Other, 15/07/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The manual's continued reference to CHSP transitioning into SaH no earlier than 1 July 2027 was a 'missed opportunity' for the government to announce its retention as a separate program, Paul Sadler tells CCR The Department of Health, Disability and Aged Care has released version four of the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) 2025–27 Manual

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The 'Tea and Toast' epidemic: How families can support ageing loved ones to stay nourished

HelloCare, Other, 15/07/2026, Jakob Neeland

It often starts small. A parent who insists they're "not very hungry these days", or says they're happy with "just a cup of tea and some toast" because it's easier.

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94% of aged care professionals say Support at Home has made things worse

HelloCare, Other, 15/07/2026, Jakob Neeland

Eight months after the Support at Home program and the new Aged Care Act came into effect on 1 November 2025, a stark verdict has emerged from those on the front line of delivering care. At the Ageing Australia Queensland Conference, an anonymous poll of about 150 aged care managers and professionals revealed that 94 per cent believed the new system had made outcomes worse for older people compared with the Home Care Packages program it replaced.

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AIN charged over alleged sexual assault of aged care resident

HelloCare, Other, 15/07/2026, Jakob Neeland

An assistant nurse has been charged over the alleged sexual assault of a cognitively impaired resident at a northern New South Wales aged care home, with the accused refused bail ahead of a court appearance later this year. Police allege the offences occurred between November 2023 and February 2024 at a residential aged care facility in the Clarence Valley region, near Grafton.

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Is aged care affordable housing? Arcare says yes

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/07/2026, Caroline Egan

Arcare has secured fast-tracked approval for a new Melbourne aged care home after arguing residential aged care qualifies as affordable housing. Arcare Aged Care , a subsidiary of family-owned builder Knowles Group, has received approval to build a 133-bed, three-storey aged care home at 724-728 Whitehouse Road, Mitcham , 20km east of Melbourne's CBD.

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Aged care dignity of risk in the spotlight after couple go missing

A couple's 32-hour disappearance from a Melbourne aged care home has raised important questions for the sector. Respite care residents Colin, 89, and Claudette, 83, left Ryman Healthcare's Nellie Melba Retirement Village in Wheelers Hill, 22km southeast of Melbourne's CBD, at 11.

[Read More](#)

Nurse charged with sexual assault of patient at Clarence Valley aged care facility

Your Life Choices, Other, 15/07/2026

An assistant nurse has been charged after allegedly sexually assaulting a cognitively impaired patient at an aged care facility in northern NSW. Dylan Bowring was charged with aggravated sex assault of a victim with cognitive impairment, aggravated sexual touching of another person, and aggravated carry out sexual act with another.

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2CC, Breakfast, 15/07/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Nigel McPaul, General Manager of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Development, Dementia Australia. McPaul discusses the 2026 Diversity Small Grants Program, providing grants up to \$30,000 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally diverse organisations to implement community-led dementia awareness and stigma reduction initiatives, with applications closing on 5 August. He also says that research consistently shows that dementia rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are three to five times higher than those in the general Australian population and that at least 28 per cent of people with dementia in Australia were born in a non-English-speaking country.

Interview continues on: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#), [2CC \(Canberra\)](#), [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 15/07/2026, Leon Compton

Interview with Corumbene Care CEO Alison Standen and COTA Tasmania CEO Brigid Wilkinson. Standen and Wilkinson discuss planning for ageing, access to aged care, and challenges navigating Australia's aged care system. Standen says many people seek aged care only in crisis, highlights the complexity of accessing services, and says early planning, including legal arrangements such as enduring guardianship or power of attorney, helps people navigate care and transition when needs change. Wilkinson says people should understand the aged care system and prepare legal and financial arrangements early but notes people cannot access aged care services until they have an assessed need and service availability remains a barrier in parts of Tasmania.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

No relevant coverage

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PRIMARY CARE

NSW Labor governs for unions, brings second-rate services

Australian Financial Review, General News, 16/07/2026, Pru Goward, Page 31

As Premier Chris Minns has given into public sector unions on wages, it's no wonder there's less money for caseworkers to identify more children at risk. The principles of sound public administration are universal.

Big optometry model adds to eyewear strain

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 16/07/2026, Page 18

Optometry in Australia, once the realm of independent practices and small partnerships, is now concentrated in a few large chains including Specsavers, OPSM, Bupa Optical, Bailey Nelson and Oscar Wylee that employ 75 per cent of practising optometrists. Some working for the corporations claim their employers prioritise profits over health, and say they are being pressured to hit sales targets, rush consultations and, in peak spending periods, turn away people with eye infections and more serious conditions.

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GP clinics' cyber hit

Herald Sun, General News, 16/07/2026, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 1

An unknown number of patients from at least six Victorian GP clinics may have had their medical records stolen in a cyberattack. Health-care chain Partnered Health says it is "still investigating" the three-week-old breach, after first becoming aware that a "malicious actor" had accessed sensitive information, including patient files, on June 23.

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Doctors rake in thousands in pharma payments

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/07/2026, Ashleigh Gleeson, Page 11

Australian doctors are receiving thousands of dollars in payments from pharmaceutical companies to attend overseas conferences, sit on advisory boards and speak at educational meetings, with one endocrinologist pocketing \$100,000 last year. The Daily Telegraph analysed disclosure logs from the peak body for the pharmaceutical industry, Medicines Australia, to reveal examples of more than 40 specialists receiving upwards of \$30,000.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Players' concern comes to a head

Courier Mail, Sport, 16/07/2026, Jay Clark, Page 45

AFL players are more concerned than ever before about the long-term effects of concussion. A record 82 per cent of players have reported "high levels" of concern about the devastating consequences of brain injuries in a new AFL Players' Association survey.

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

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Private hospital to close

Canberra Times, General News, 16/07/2026, Jasper Lindell, Page 1

A private hospital in Canberra's inner south is set to close after its operator decided the facility was no longer financially viable, in a fresh sign of the pressure on the private health sector.

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Virus peak not over yet in the west as RSV soars

West Australian, General News, 16/07/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 10

A winter spike in respiratory syncytial virus has medical authorities now fearing WA's cases could outnumber the record amount of infections in 2025. There have been almost 5100 cases of RSV this year on the back of a massive spike in recent weeks, with more than 2900 of those infections recorded in June and July.

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Seven-day discharge introduced

Ballarat Courier, General News, 16/07/2026, Michelle Smith, Page 1

Ballarat's hospital patients who are ready to leave hospital will no longer spend extra time on a ward just because it's a weekend. More patients will now be discharged on Saturdays and Sundays, with the supports needed to recover at home, as seven-day discharge is introduced to help reduce pressure on Ballarat Base Hospital's emergency department.

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Housing to deliver savings for hospital

Border Mail, General News, 16/07/2026, Chelsea Wilson, Page 4

Pre-fabricated accommodation for out-of-town hospital workers has opened with promises it will save money for other services. The Albury Wodonga key health worker's accommodation was officially opened by the Minister for Regional Development Kristy McBain on Tuesday.

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Hospital ambo ramping risk

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/07/2026, Lincoln Holmes, Page 7

Ambulances faced hours of ramping outside Geelong hospital on Tuesday night, with the union warning the community is at risk as paramedics are "unable to get to emergency patients".

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

LGH at 'crisis point'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 16/07/2026, Annika Rhoades , Page 1

A nurse at the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) has said they are seeing "unprecedented" scenes, with patients being admitted into corridors and storerooms of non-emergency wards already over capacity. The nurse said the hospital was "chock-a-block", with a 26th patient being looked after in the corridor of an acute ward with a capacity for only 25 patients.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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

'Miracle' man returns to thank hospital

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/07/2026, Cameron Bates, Page 6

Three years after a horror holiday fall left him fighting for life, Sydney man Denis Savill has returned to Townsville University Hospital to thank the medical staff who saved him. Mr Savill, now 85 and almost fully recovered, visited the hospital with wife Anne in an emotional meeting with the ICU team who cared for him after he suffered serious brain trauma in Port Douglas in August 2023.

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

South West Healthcare staff walk out amid stalemate

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 16/07/2026, Ben Silvester and William Stanley, Page 3

Key healthcare staff at South West Healthcare walked off the job as they escalated industrial action against the Victorian government on Wednesday, July 15, 2026. This marks the second strike in recent weeks as the same staff performed a for 24-hour stoppage on June 16.

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

Allan government rejects review's call to dismiss troubled health board

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/07/2026, Sarah Booth

The state government has dismissed calls to sack an inner-city community health board accused of serious governance failures, rejecting the recommendation from an independent review. Listen to this article Victoria's first sobering up centre to open in Collingwood

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

[Read More](#)

Push to boost regional health workforce as student program returns to

Cairns

Northern Territory News, Other, 15/07/2026, Catherine Duffy

Rural communities facing health workforce shortages have received a boost as 21 students completed hands-on placements across Cairns and surrounding regions. A health program aimed at increasing staff in rural and regional communities has returned to Cairns for its second year.

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

[Read More](#)

Local pharmacy loss lamented

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/07/2026, Megan Haggan

A prominent journalist and commentator asks: "Do we genuinely think anyone from the Grattan Institute has ever been in a supermarket?" Journalist, academic and Nine Media columnist Jenna Price has slammed the Grattan Report's suggestion that pharmacies be permitted to locate inside supermarkets, saying that she has already lost the personal service she enjoyed at

[Read More](#)

Patient details exposed in medical centres cyberattack

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 15/07/2026, Farid Farid

Thousands of medical records and patient information stored with a giant healthcare provider have been breached in a cyberattack. Partnered Health, owned by private equity firm Quadrant, said 21 clinics across several cities including Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra have been affected by the breach on June 23.

[Read More](#)

Getting started on ownership

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/07/2026

For many pharmacy students, interns and early career pharmacists, pharmacy ownership can feel like a distant career goal. However, understanding the pathway early can help shape important career decisions and open doors to future opportunities, said pharmacy business broker Natalie Sirianni (pictured), as she shared some insights on ownership at.

[Read More](#)

TWC investing to strengthen retail

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/07/2026

Terrywhite Chemmart (twc) yesterday unveiled a major retail investment agenda focused on strengthening front-of-shop performance and creating more connected, convenient and valuable customer experiences across its network. The announcement was made at its annual supplier forum in Melbourne, where over 300 supplier partners gathered to hear how TWC is investing.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Experts warn tobacco 'oversupply' will lead to more deaths

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/07/2026, Thomas Sargeant and Jessica Wang, Page 3

Health experts are urging governments to urgently close a loophole in Australia's tobacco retail laws, warning weak regulations are allowing a booming illicit cigarette market to target young people and could lead to more smoking-related deaths. University of Sydney professor of public health Becky Freeman has sounded the alarm on Australia's retail tobacco laws, which she says "don't make any sense", allowing illicit markets to flourish inside the nation's more than 40,000 tobacco retailers.

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

Tobacco store fined \$380,000 for selling thousands of illegal vapes and

cigarettes

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 15/07/2026, Zachary Probert

In a Queensland first, a Western Downs tobacco store was fined under harsher penalties with the government's crackdown on illegal vapes and tobacco. Dalby Tobacco Group had a plea of guilty entered in their absence in Dalby Magistrates Court on July 14 for seven charges that related to the promotion and supply of illicit tobacco, vapes and other smoking products.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today , 15/07/2026, Sarah Abo and Tom Steinfort

A health warning has been issued for Queenslanders using illegal peptides with shared needles. Hepatitis Queensland is concerned this could increase hepatitis B and C cases, leading to a rise in liver cancer across the state.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today , 15/07/2026, Sarah Abo and Tom Steinfort

Interview with Dr James Broatch, Victoria University researcher. Broatch discusses how regular exercise may improve the brain's waste-clearance (glymphatic) system, saying consistent physical activity alongside good sleep supports brain health. He says dementia is now the biggest killer in Australia, has no cure, and that lifestyle measures, including exercise, good sleep hygiene, and nutrition, help reduce the risk of age-related brain decline.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Murderer makeover

Herald Sun, General News, 16/07/2026, Page 1

A convicted murderer previously approved for IVF treatment while behind bars has been given the green light to receive taxpayer-funded Ozempic jabs and plastic surgery while in prison. The Herald Sun can reveal Alicia Schiller, who murdered her housemate over \$50 during a drug-fuelled rage, is accessing the popular weight-loss injections while serving her 16-year sentence.

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Inside the chronic condition impacting many in Dubbo

Daily Liberal, General News, 16/07/2026, Dugald Saunders, Page 3

Every five minutes, someone in Australia is diagnosed with diabetes - a condition where there is too much glucose in the blood because the body can't make insulin, isn't producing enough insulin or can't effectively use the insulin it does make. It's a serious and chronic condition which can affect the entire body, and while there is currently no cure, it is possible to lead an enjoyable life by learning about the condition and effectively managing it.

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

Major grant funds human trials for cancer therapy that cured solid tumours in mice

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/07/2026, Robyn Riley

A breakthrough cancer therapy developed by Melbourne researchers that has shown an almost 100 per cent cure rate treating solid tumours in mice — without toxic side-effects — will now be tested in humans thanks to a \$17.7m grant. Called precision-guided munition Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, it was designed by

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

[Read More](#)

New mum discovers 'huge brain tumour' after suffering seizure weeks after difficult birth

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/07/2026, Lucy Callander

A Frankston mum has credited her newborn baby with saving her life after his difficult birth led to the discovery of a large tumour that had gone undetected for years. Frankston mum Rosie Carter was struggling to recover from an emergency caesarean before a midnight seizure revealed a "huge brain tumour" hiding for years.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Muscles' role in diabetes

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/07/2026, Page 8

Diabetes risk is about more than just body weight or obesity, with muscle health also likely playing a big role. A Curtin University-led study found people with both excess body fat and poor muscle health a condition known as sarcopenic obesity were more than 3 times as likely to develop type 2 diabetes than people with healthy body composition.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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Radiologist shortage crisis forces Wesley Breast Clinic to turn away patients

Cairns Post, Other, 16/07/2026, Jackie Sinnerton

Patients of one of the state's busiest breast screening clinics are being turned away from their cancer checks due to a shortage of radiologists. The Wesley Breast Clinic in Brisbane sees tens of thousands of women each year, and the services are in big demand from patients across Queensland as it provides same day results unlike other providers.

[Read More](#)

Breakthrough treatment could reshape diabetes care

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 15/07/2026, Chloe Hava

As of 2026, more than 145,000 Australians live with type 1 diabetes – representing around 10% of all diabetes cases in Australia. For more than a century, type 1 diabetes has been managed only after symptoms appear, when insulin-producing cells have already been destroyed.

[Read More](#)

'I was five weeks postpartum when I felt something fall out. My body is still paying the price.'

Mamamia, Other, 15/07/2026

Six years after delivering her first child, Ali Minichiello is still dealing with life-altering injuries. Forceps were used during her labour and five weeks later she felt something fall out as she was walking.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 15/07/2026, Peter Mitchell

Australia's first paediatric hypertension guidelines, developed by Edith Cowan University and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, recommend blood pressure screening for all children between seven and eight years of age, with Hypertension Australia calling for a national screening program. Childhood obesity is identified as the main driver of hypertension in children, which affects one in 11 Australian children, while the guidelines aim to support earlier detection and intervention.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 15/07/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry

A small Italian-led study found that people who had suffered a serious heart attack had high levels of microplastics and nanoplastics in their blood, suggesting a link between microplastics and heart disease. Australian experts said the amount of microplastics in the body is difficult to measure.

Channel 9, Nine News, 15/07/2026, Alicia Loxley

A 74-year-old man with advanced prostate cancer has become the first patient in Australia to receive an experimental radioactive drug developed by TLX as part of a 20-patient trial at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, where participants also receive hormone-blocking medication. Professor Louise Emmett said the trial uses scans and blood biomarkers to guide treatment intensity, with results expected by the end of the year and the potential for expansion if successful.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 15/07/2026, Adam Steer

Interview with Deanne Minniecon, Group Executive for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement, Diabetes Australia. Minniecon discusses Diabetes Week, urging greater awareness and support for people living with diabetes while highlighting her experience caring for her father with type 2 diabetes. She says around two million Australians live with diagnosed or undiagnosed diabetes, encourages regular health checks and risk assessments, and calls on Australians to share their experiences to reduce stigma and improve support.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 15/07/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Dr Michael Wright, President, RACGP. Wright discusses the July 2026 ophthalmology edition of the Australian Journal of General Practice, stating that GPs play a key role in detecting and managing eye conditions, identifying signs of broader diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular illness, and directing patients to appropriate care. He also says the RACGP has raised concerns about pharmacist prescribing, citing reviews by the Sachs Institute and the Grattan Institute that, he says, do not find strong evidence supporting the policy.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, 15/07/2026, Joel Rheinberger

Interview with Dr Roland McCallum, Staff Specialist in Endocrinology, Royal Hobart Hospital. McCallum discusses why Tasmania is a diabetes hotspot, saying higher rates are linked to factors including genetics, socioeconomic disadvantage and historically reduced access to medical and specialist care, particularly in the north and north-west. He says type 2 diabetes is strongly influenced by genetics rather than personal blame and highlights continuous glucose monitors and insulin pumps as transformative for type 1 diabetes while noting access remains limited for many adults in Australia.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

The cost of birth trauma

ABC Online, Other, 16/07/2026

One in three Australian women describe their births as traumatic. Long labours, health scares, emergency interventions, feeling ignored, and lasting physical and psychological injuries can turn what's meant to be one of life's biggest moments into something deeply distressing.

[Read More](#)

Australia grapples with child psychiatrist shortage as experts warn of consequences

ABC Online, Other, 15/07/2026

Experts are warning younger children are presenting with increasingly complex mental health needs as a new report predicts a nationwide shortfall of child and adolescent psychiatrists. Australia is projected to be short at least 230 full-time child psychiatrists in two years, with WA recording one of the country's biggest shortfalls.

[Read More](#)

Sydney hobby clubs tackling loneliness and creating community

ABC Online, Other, 15/07/2026

At a local pub in Sydney's inner west, a long table is stacked with colourful scrapbooking supplies and is abuzz with creative ideas from keen crafters. Natasha Mcnauff is behind a fortnightly scrapbooking club in Newtown, aimed at creating a community space through a shared love for craft.

[Read More](#)

Art class uses creativity to paint different picture of mental health

ABC Online, Other, 15/07/2026

In an art studio in Newcastle, New South Wales, Halo is hand-making beads out of clay. It might seem like a simple task, but it would have been impossible for the 23-year-old just four years ago due to mental illness.

[Read More](#)

6PR, Afternoons, 15/07/2026, Tod Johnston

Interview with Bailey Seamer, who will embark on the Wandering Minds West Coast Expedition, which begins on 24 July. Seamer discusses the Wandering Minds West Coast Expedition, saying she walks about 5000km from Kalumburu to Albany to promote mental health awareness and raise funds for the Black Dog Institute. She says the expedition includes free mental health presentations and workshops for communities across WA, with her psychiatric assistance dog, Rusty, accompanying her on the journey.

Interview continues on: [6PR \(Perth\)](#).

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IMMUNISATION

Not flu or Covid: viruses hit hard

The Australian, General News, 16/07/2026, Jackson Barnes, Page 6

Australians are being warned to brace for a sickly end to winter, with people falling ill to record cases of highly infectious viruses. Health officials on Wednesday revealed there had already been 83,000 cases of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) recorded across the country this year, outnumbering both influenza and Covid-19.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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

More than a million older Australians unprotected against RSV

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 15/07/2026

More than a million older Australians who received their flu vaccine this year remain unprotected against RSV, despite the virus now circulating more widely than influenza or COVID-19, according to a new report. A significant coverage gap The Mid-Winter RSV Report Card by the Immunisation Foundation of Australia (IFA) has found that "just 722,530 Australians aged 75 years and over have received the free RSV vaccine this year, compared to 1.

[Read More](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 15/07/2026, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Interview with Dr Diana Lawrence, Executive Director of Medical Services, Southern Adelaide Local Health Network. Lawrence says the specialised service, established in 2024 through a time-limited research grant, continues after positive evaluation outcomes, with referrals temporarily paused while a sustainable staffing and funding model is finalised. She says referrals are expected to resume in August, 28 referrals are waiting, and funding is guaranteed for the next 12 months while longer-term sustainability is developed.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

New drug shows sepsis promise

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/07/2026

Researchers from The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health have made two major discoveries that could significantly transform how sepsis-related brain dysfunction is detected and treated. The team first confirmed a link between sepsis-related brain dysfunction and elevated intracranial pressure – widespread inflammation can make the brain swell and.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 15/07/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry

Researchers at QIMR Berghofer in Brisbane tested a new malaria treatment that blocks an enzyme the parasite needs to survive, aiming to address the reduced effectiveness of current drugs against a disease that causes more than 280 million cases each year. In a Phase 1 trial, a single dose began clearing infected cells within as little as two hours, with scientists hoping the fast-acting compound could lead to a one-shot therapy.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 15/07/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with EB Research Partnership CEO Michael Hund and AusHealth CEO Dr Justin Coombs. Hund and Coombs discuss research partnerships to improve treatment and pursue a cure for epidermolysis bullosa (EB), including collaboration with AusHealth, the University of Adelaide and SMART CRC. Hund says EB Research Partnership uses a venture philanthropy model to fund and accelerate research, supports more than 50 clinical trials and curative research, and partners with Australian organisations to advance treatments and a cure for EB. Coombs says the partnership focuses on developing phage therapy at the University of Adelaide to help control infections in people with EB as a potential alternative to bleach baths while curative research continues.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Aboriginal leaders confront federal inquiry with stories of daily racism and abuse

Adelaide Now, Other, 15/07/2026, Zizi Averill

Two Yuendumu grandfathers who lost loved ones in custody are set to give evidence as a federal

racism inquiry hears Aboriginal Territorians face daily discrimination at shops, online and in their communities. Two Yuendumu grandfathers who lost loved ones in custody are set to give evidence as a federal racism inquiry hears Aboriginal Territorians face daily discrimination at shops, online and in their communities.

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

[Read More](#)

First Nations people face racism in hospitals. They told us one thing makes a difference

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 15/07/2026

We know First Nations people encounter frequent and pervasive racism in every facet of their daily lives. But since the Voice referendum, these experiences have increased significantly – including in health care.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

ABC News, News Breakfast, 15/07/2026, James Glenday and Emma Reballato

Tasmania Health Secretary Dale Webster has urged people to avoid Launceston General Hospital unless it is an emergency, saying the hospital has only three beds available amid high demand. Last week, the state's nursing union said the emergency department was overflowing and described conditions as chaotic and unsafe.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 15/07/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Steve Whan, Member for Monaro. Whan discusses reports that some NSW residents have trouble accessing ACT health services, saying he raised a specific case with ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith's office, which confirmed that Queanbeyan and Googong residents can access the relevant Canberra facility and helped resolve the matter. He says NSW and the ACT have a cross-border health agreement under which NSW funds treatment for its residents in ACT hospitals and invites constituents experiencing access issues to contact his electorate office so individual cases can be pursued.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 15/07/2026, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter

Interview with Tasmania Health Minister Bridget Archer. Archer discusses pressure on the Launceston General Hospital emergency department, saying winter demand remains high and urging people with non-emergency conditions to use options such as GPs, urgent care clinics or Healthdirect where appropriate. She says the Tasmanian Government signs a lease with the Launceston Health Hub for 20 beds for long-stay older patients awaiting aged care or NDIS support, and calls on the Federal Government to work with the state on aged care and primary care responsibilities.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Union cans nurse research because of 'trans distress'

The Australian, General News, 16/07/2026, Stephen Rice, Page 1

Australia's nurses union has retracted and apologised for an article in its official journal that accurately summarised the research on suicide in transgender people, following complaints by the union's "LGBTQIA+ reference group" that the paper was causing "significant distress to the transgender community". The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation expressed its "sincere regret" for publishing the article, which outlined a number of long-term studies challenging the narrative that the risk of suicide increases dramatically if trans children and teens are not provided with gender-affirming medical treatment.

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

Accurate research beats ideology

The Australian, Editorials, 16/07/2026, Page 10

Australia's major nurses union, with 350,000 members, should not have apologised for publishing an article in its journal that accurately summarised research on suicide in transgender people. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation removed the article from its journal online and apologised that members would receive a copy in their letterboxes, Stephen Rice reports.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Optometry giants put profits above patients

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/07/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 3

Optometrists are being pressured to hit sales targets, rush consults and turn away clinical appointments during peak spending periods at multimillion-dollar optometry chains that their employees say prioritise profits over health. Internal documents and private messages reveal senior management at Specsavers and OPSM threatened pay cuts or performance reviews if optometrists failed to sell enough glasses to meet KPIs.

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

Farewell for lifelong carer

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/07/2026, Greta Lannen, Page 16

Kerry Dmytrenko spent her life dedicated to the care of people. As a long-time oncology and palliative care nurse practitioner, she strived for better care and outcomes for her patients, and even in her final weeks was only concerned about how her death and its timing would affect her family and friends.

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

Former northern suburbs GP Aremu Apena disqualified for two years after inappropriate relationship with patient over several years

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/07/2026, Lucy Rutherford

A former GP has been banned from practising after a patient accused him of grooming her over years, in a "persistent violation" of boundaries. In a judgment published online, the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal disqualified Aremu Apena, 59, from applying to be re-registered as a health practitioner for two years after engaging in professional misconduct.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Health union demands urgent relocation from 'infested' Casuarina health centre

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/07/2026, Fia Walsh

The Health Services Union has demanded the NT government urgently relocate all health services from a mould-infested Darwin clinic, where patient equipment and children's toys are affected. The Health Services Union is calling on the Northern Territory government to urgently relocate all health

services from the Casuarina Plaza due to persistent mould growing on walls, desks, clinical equipment and children's toys.

[Read More](#)

Sunshine Coast Health boosts workforce to 7704 staff amid rising demand

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 15/07/2026, Mia Ludwig

Sunshine Coast Health is closing in on 8000 full-time positions as new data reveals a surge in frontline staff driven by population growth and ageing demand. New numbers have revealed growth in the Sunshine Coast's health sector, as the region's system nears 8000 full-time positions.

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

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 15/07/2026, James Glenday and Emma Reballato

A new report predicts Australia will face a nationwide shortfall of more than 200 full-time child and adolescent psychiatrists by 2028. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists says workforce gaps across Australia are preventing children from receiving early mental health intervention.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

On a lung and a prayer: \$300m man risked it all

Australian Financial Review, General News, 16/07/2026, Michael Smith, Page 8

Andreas Fouras never wavered in his belief in a technology he stumbled upon while studying airflow in wind tunnels [...]

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Connecting with care: The 10 sessions shaping Australia's Pharmacy Connect 2026

Australasian Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 30

Pharmacy Connect is just around the corner and Convenor Dr Kos Sclavos AM has identified the 10 sessions he believes will define this year's conference program. They're shaped by the theme Connecting with Care and the sector's accelerating shift towards full scope practice.

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

LGBTQIA+ pharmacist builds on her family's legacy

Australasian Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2026, Miranda Cook, Page 40

Despite following in her pharmacist father's footsteps, Jen Manning is determined to make her own mark on Australia's community pharmacy sector. Miranda Cook asked her what that looked like in practice.

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How to fact-check false health claims before they go viral

ABC Online, Other, 15/07/2026, Rami Al

From covid-19 vaccine rumours and fake cures to claims that global elites secretly control public health decisions, health misinformation has repeatedly spread through Pacific communities, often faster than the facts. In this episode, we explore why these narratives take hold and the real-world harm they can cause.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Patient medical records stolen in cyberattack

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/07/2026, Daniel Lo Surdo, Page 9

An Australian healthcare provider has been hit by a cyberattack that has stolen personal information from 21 clinics in its national network, including test results, consultation notes and Medicare details. Partnered Health yesterday notified patients of the cyberattack, more than three weeks after becoming aware that a "malicious actor" accessed its data.

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

Medical records in data breach

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/07/2026, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 3

An unknown number of patients at more than 20 GP clinics across the country are at risk of their medical records being published after they were stolen in a cyber attack. Healthcare chain Partnered Health says it is "still investigating" the three-week-old breach, after first becoming aware that a "malicious actor" had accessed sensitive information, including patient files, on June 23.

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

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Our pandemic resistance takes tern for worse

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/07/2026, Dr Eric Woehler, Page 16

The detection of bird flu in an unexpected species means extra caution is needed as spring breeding season nears The detection of the H5N1 HPAI virus in a greater crested tern in South Australia is the second phase of the bird flu pandemic on Australia's shores.

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

WA records an eighth confirmed bird flu case

West Australian, General News, 16/07/2026, Bethany Hiatt, Page 4

Another giant petrel found dead on a WA beach has been confirmed as the State's eighth case of H5 bird flu Testing at CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness this week upgraded the detection of suspected bird flu to "presumed positive" in a dead giant petrel found at Lancelin Beach, north of Perth. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development said that even though testing was unable to fully determine the specific H5 bird flu strain likely due to the poor quality of the sample taken from a decomposed carcass it would be treated as a positive case.

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

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It has never been so easy to donate and save a life

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/07/2026, Dr Sarah Kleinman, Page 15

I have had the privilege of working in many areas of medicine in my career, but the vast majority of my formative professional years were spent in areas related to critical care and trauma. This means that I have had to prescribe more than one blood transfusion in my time and I have seen the product save

lives in a variety of settings from people fighting cancer, to women with post-partum haemorrhages to people who have had nasty accidents and beyond.

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

ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 15/07/2026, Steve Austin

Interview with Dr Yudish Kumar Soonarane, public health physician, West Moreton Public Health Unit. Soonarane discusses Qld's influenza season, saying flu cases are lower than at the same time last year but the season is not over and urging people who are not vaccinated to get a free flu vaccine. He says flu and RSV cases can increase as people spend more time indoors during winter, recommends vaccination, hand hygiene, staying home when unwell and wearing a mask if going out sick, and notes that free RSV immunisation is available for eligible groups in Australia and Qld.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Self-test for chlamydia and gonorrhoea suspended by TGA over false-negative concerns

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/07/2026, Ciara Seccombe

The TGA has suspended the registration of Australia's only self-test for gonorrhoea and chlamydia after independent testing raised concerns about false negatives. The TGA said it was aware of patients who had received a negative result using the TouchBio chlamydia and gonorrhoea self-test, which relies on self-collected vaginal swabs, but had subsequently tested positive using other methods.

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TGA hits pharmacy with \$99k in fines

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/07/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued five infringement notices totalling \$99,000 to Accacia Pharmacy Pty Ltd in relation to alleged breaches of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989. The regulator announced that the fines were paid in June 2026, with the TGA warning that "the

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TGA suspends chlamydia and gonorrhoea self test

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/07/2026

The Australian-first device has been suspended for six months after independent testing raised concerns of false negative results. The suspension is now in place until 17 December 2026. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has suspended Australia's only self-test for chlamydia and gonorrhoea following concerns over false negative results.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 15/07/2026, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

APVMA is seeking to reassure Australians that berries are safe to eat following concerns over a proposal to increase the permitted residue limit for the pesticide isocycloseram on berry crops, with Pesticide Action Australia calling for PFAS to be removed from the food supply. The APVMA says the proposed limit is safe and supported by scientific testing, while the National Farmers Federation warned misinformation could harm the berry industry, and University of Newcastle Professor Ravi Naidu advised that washing berries reduces pesticide residues.

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