



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 19th July 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sun Herald \(page 4\)](#)** reports that a University of Wollongong researcher has used a super-efficient, lo-fi form of AI to determine if a mosquito is harmless or carrying a disease based on the sound they make.
- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane \(page 7\)](#)** reports that AMA Queensland has warned hospitals with embed AI technology in their healthcare systems must take full responsibility for any harms caused and not doctors.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that research from the Women and Infants Research Foundation in WA is attempting to assist premature babies with underdeveloped lungs and skin by developing an artificial placenta providing babies access to nutrients and oxygen in the same way they would in the uterus.

MINISTER BUTLER

Holes blown in smoking spin

Sunday Herald Sun, Editorials, 19/07/2026, Page 64

The federal government's approach to tackling smoking is, despite the figures released last week, still failing badly. [...] On Friday, federal Health Minister Mark Butler was talking up the survey figures on smoking rates, arguing the Albanese government's strategy of pricing people out of legitimate cigarettes through higher excise taxes was working.

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Albanese issues Opposition a One Nation 'test' at launch of Islamophobia report response

SBS, Other, 18/07/2026, Abhas Parajuli, Jack Revell and Zacharias Szumer

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has issued a "test" to Opposition leader Angus Taylor, saying he should rule out any future political deals with One Nation. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has also questioned the validity of Hanson's NDIS claims, while Greens senator Sarah Hanson-Young described her as the "most un-Australian politician in parliament".

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Pauline Hanson's high-end summer Eurotrip draws heat

Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia, Other, 18/07/2026

One Nation leader Pauline Hanson has raised eyebrows after being spotted attending a fashion show in Italy following talks with a controversial right-wing podcaster. [...] Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler said he was loath to respond to the podcast because Robinson was a convicted criminal who'd been disowned by leading figures on the right.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

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DEPARTMENT

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Before you choose the care, make sure to count the cost

Sunday Telegraph, Business News, 19/07/2026, Noel Whittaker, Page 74

One of the biggest financial decisions many Australians will ever make is choosing aged care. Yet thousands of families make that decision without first understanding what it will cost.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Territorian \(Darwin\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Times \(Perth\)](#).

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Record wait for an aged care bed

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 19/07/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 11

Patients stuck in metropolitan public hospitals waiting weeks or months for a residential aged care home placement has hit a new record of 448. The latest weekly figures show this includes a record 116 elderly people needing a memory support unit.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

No relevant coverage

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PRIMARY CARE

Chronic disease 'tsunami in west'

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 19/07/2026, Kaitlyn Hudson-O'Farrell, Page 32

Western Sydney is in the grips of a growing doctor drought, as practitioners go bush or into specialist medicine instead. Southwest Sydney's Dr Ken McCroary claims his area is struggling to retain a new generation of doctors, as GPs opt for the higher pay of specialist medicine or incentive payments to work in regional communities.

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Doctors 'not to blame in AI fails'

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 19/07/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 7

Hospitals that embed AI technology into their healthcare systems must take full responsibility for any harms caused with no blame on doctors, warns the state's peak medical body. "Doctors must be able to trust the technology they are using, otherwise they will not adopt it," Australian Medical Association Queensland president Erica Gannon said.

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

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GP clinic's shock closure

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 19/07/2026, Andrew Hough, Page 5

A popular regional medical clinic will shut after a state government lease row despite a debt of more than \$100,000 being waived. The Murraylands Medical Centre, at Taillem Bend, 100km southeast of Adelaide, has been renting its GP rooms from the government since 2018.

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'Unacceptable': Mould found on kids' toys at clinic

Sunday Territorian, General News, 19/07/2026, Fia Walsh, Page 3

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. The union's NT branch raised serious concerns in a letter sent to the Public Employment Commissioner Nicole Hurwood last week.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Full health risks still unknown

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 19/07/2026, Remy Varga, Page 19

Teenagers who vape risk damaging their lung and heart health, developing cancer and suffering from disrupted sleep, experts have warned, after a special investigation revealed what's really inside black market e-cigarettes. Independent testing commissioned by this masthead found extremely high levels of the highly addictive chemical nicotine in vapes, as well as flavouring compounds to make the vapes taste sweet.

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Illegal tobacco trade a killer

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 19/07/2026, Page 68

Over the next five years, the federal government stands to lose as much as \$12bn from its bottom line because of the booming illegal tobacco and vape market. Shockingly, about 80 per cent of Australians who smoke are now consuming illegal cigarettes and vapes, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' latest report.

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First Nations deaths fall

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 19/07/2026, Page 13

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' cancer outcomes are improving. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data shows that both the incidence of cancer and mortality rates from it are declining.

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Obesity is a work setback

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 19/07/2026, Page 20

Being obese makes you more likely to be unemployed. University of York research suggests that obesity's true impact on employment is more than twice what was previously thought.

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Threat of processed food rises

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 19/07/2026, Page 5

Ultra-processed foods (UPFs) could be driving a quarter of heart disease cases and deaths, damning new research claims. Foods such as crisps, biscuits and bacon have previously been linked to poor health and diseases such as type 2 diabetes, obesity and even dementia.

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

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Smoking out of puff

Sunday Times, General News, 19/07/2026, Page 30

Smoking in Australia has fallen to a historic low. Just 5.6 per cent of Australians aged 14 and over smoked daily last year, well ahead of Australia's target of 10 per cent or fewer adults smoking by 2025.

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The bloke who couldn't look away

Sunday Canberra Times, Relax, 19/07/2026, Page 17

Stan Ghys isn't a social activist or charity worker. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported that more than 350 homeless people each day are turned away from homelessness services that are overwhelmed - 36 per cent are facing financial difficulties with the increased cost of living, 40 per cent are trying to escape domestic and family violence, 25 per cent are suffering from relationship breakdowns or inappropriate dwelling conditions and about 10 per cent are experiencing mental health, substance use or other health issues.

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More Australians under 40 are being diagnosed with cancer than ever before - as experts reveal the possible causes

Daily Mail UK, Other, 18/07/2026, Burney Wong

Australians under 40 are being diagnosed with cancer more than ever before, with experts pointing to lifestyle and diet changes as potential factors. Rising rates of bowel and thyroid cancer have largely driven the increase in diagnoses among those in their 30s, according to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) this week. The figures show the number of cases grew from 121 to about 135 per 100,000 people in that age group between 2000 and 2025.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Young Australians with bowel cancer say doctors are missing the warning signs

ABC Online, Other, 18/07/2026, Roxanne Fitzgerald

Georgie Cauchi had all the symptoms of bowel cancer, but still aged in her 20s, doctors kept telling her she was too young, leaving the cancer to spread silently through her body. She was struggling to get out of bed, had constant pain and had seen blood in her stool, but over the next several years those symptoms were repeatedly dismissed as haemorrhoids or irritable bowel syndrome.

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Diabetic foot amputations: finally, time to act

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/07/2026, Cate Swannell

Australia's least known major health problem – diabetic foot disease – costs the health care system \$1.6 billion a year, has mortality rates worse than many cancers, and by 2012 estimates, claims an amputated limb every 2 hours, according to the authors of a Perspective published today by the Medical Journal of Australia

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Why young people are swapping therapy for cheap Lime bike rides

NEWS.com.au, Other, 18/07/2026, Gabriela Amoils

If you've spent any time on TikTok or Reddit lately, you've likely stumbled across a new genre of urban romanticism. The videos all follow a similar format: a first-person POV shot of handlebars, the glowing green frame of a Lime bike, and a backdrop of Sydney's most iconic skylines.

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IMMUNISATION

One Nation's Malcolm Roberts falsely claimed COVID-19 vaccines caused miscarriages

ABC Online, Other, 18/07/2026, Clare Armstrong

One Nation senator Malcolm Roberts claimed half of pregnant women vaccinated against COVID-19 experienced a miscarriage in contradiction of medical evidence. The Queensland senator faced criticism this week for his past controversial comments, including about debunked conspiracy theories, as the party's popularity placed more attention on Pauline Hanson's parliamentary team.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Perth medical researchers working on artificial placentas for premature babies

ABC Online, Other, 18/07/2026, Emma Wynne

For babies born way too early, the challenges are huge. Their lungs are not well developed, their skin is very fragile and they are far from ready to face the outside world.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Australian Medical Association NT President John Zorbas calls closure of 300-room homeless shelter 'madness', warning of impacts on Royal Darwin Hospital discharge plans

Northern Territory News, Other, 18/07/2026, Zizi Averill

Territory doctors have called a 90-day deadline for more than 400 people to be evicted from Top End shelter "madness", warning that the closure would put even greater pressure on a hospital system already in crisis. On Monday Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation and Mission Australia were told by the NT Government that the service had just 90 days to vacate its short-stay accommodation at Batten Road in Marrara, leaving 383 people living at YiSSA — including 145 children — in limbo.

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How to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples benefit from newborn DNA screening

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 18/07/2026

In Australia, every newborn baby is offered a screening test for serious but treatable conditions (or groups of conditions), such as cystic fibrosis and spinal muscular atrophy. The test uses a small blood sample taken from the baby's heel.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Stop blame game, urges new AMA boss

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 19/07/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 11

The new president of the AMA in Tasmania wants an end to the blame between governments over the health crisis saying patients are "stuck in the middle" and staff are stretched beyond capacity. Dr Meg Creely wants Tasmania to trial a single funding model for healthcare.

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Victoria Plains adds voice to campaigns

Local Government Focus, General News, 01/07/2026, Page 13

The Shire of Victoria Plains has taken its advocacy for better regional health outcomes to Canberra, joining local governments from across Australia in a united call for reforms that improve access to doctors and allied health services in regional communities. The advocacy builds on a formal Council decision to support the policy positions of the Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance and call for greater recognition of the challenges faced by rural communities in accessing primary healthcare.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

The Big Five

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 18/07/2026, Amanda Bryan

What are the five biggest financial mistakes that doctors make ... and how can you avoid them? If you could take a sneak peek at the financial arrangements of Australia's doctors, you'd probably find some common threads.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Perth pharmacist sacked after illegally dispensing herself a cocktail of drugs

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 18/07/2026, Rebecca Peppiatt

A Perth pharmacist has faced disciplinary action after she was caught dispensing herself a cocktail of strong painkillers and anxiety medication without a prescription. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA) investigated Latter and on Friday the Tribunal upheld the Pharmacy Board's recommendation to impose disciplinary action, suspending her from practice for 10 months.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

New AI technology ready to combat 'deadly' mosquitoes

Sun Herald, General News, 19/07/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 4

To some it's just annoying, but to others it marks the chilling call of the world's deadliest creature: the buzz of a mosquito. In an effort to slash the extraordinary death toll wreaked by the insects, a University of Wollongong researcher has harnessed a super-efficient, lo-fi form of AI that can discern a disease-carrying mosquito from a harmless one by tuning in to this buzz.

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No respite on winter virus

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 19/07/2026, Alex White and Brad Crouch, Page 30

Victoria is facing a surge in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases with infections jumping 8 per cent in just two weeks and health authorities warning the worst is yet to come. RSV, a highly contagious virus that infects the lungs and airways, is now being diagnosed at similar rates to influenza, figures from the Health Department reveal.

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Surge in deadly virus

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 19/07/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 20

Respiratory syncytial virus continues to surge and is now South Australia's leading notifiable infectious disease above the flu and Covid-19. There have been 3649 cases of the potentially life-threatening virus notified so far this year, compared to 2194 flu cases and 3627 Covid-19 cases.

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

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The iron lung is gone, polio isn't: Why we must not forget the disease we've spent centuries trying to erase

7News.com.au, Other, 18/07/2026, Aimee Edwards

Experts hope Martha Lillard's story will remind a generation why vaccines matter. The death of one of the last known people to rely on an iron lung has marked the end of an extraordinary chapter in medical history.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Regulator's rubber stamp hides device failures

Sun Herald, General News, 19/07/2026, Page 6

The married couple were at home when the emergency call arrived last November. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) states all medical devices approved in Australia are backed by clinical evidence proving they are safe and perform as intended but it never assessed CellaED's clinical evidence.

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

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Vapes have dirty nicotine secrets

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 19/07/2026, Remy Varga, Page 12

The level of nicotine contained in black market vapes varies alarmingly between devices with a special investigation revealing some contain the equivalent of 625 cigarettes. [...] The VAPO e-cigarette had nicotine levels of 24.63 mg/ml, despite the label marketing the vape as 20 mg/ml, in breach of rules set by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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

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Not doing so well

Sunday Times, General News, 19/07/2026, Caleb Runciman, Page 13

A WA Health bureaucrat has been promoting health and wellness products to her 44,000 social media followers, prompting a review by the department. [...] A Therapeutic Goods Administration spokesperson, also commenting generally and not on Ms Keeffe's online activity, said social media posts promoting health products needed to comply with laws outlined in the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code.

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

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Peptides: the allure of a quick fix despite the risks and scams

The Australian, Other, 18/07/2026, Penny Timms

He knows they likely contain heavy metals, might make him sick, and could be used in a financial sting. [...] Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration worries about unapproved peptides being marketed to vulnerable people and the injury they're causing.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Threat of processed food rises

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 19/07/2026, Page 5

Ultra-processed foods (UPFs) could be driving a quarter of heart disease cases and deaths, damning new research claims. Foods such as crisps, biscuits and bacon have previously been linked to poor health and diseases such as type 2 diabetes, obesity and even dementia.

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

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