



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 24th July 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) | [Australian CDC](#) |
[Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)
| [AICIS](#)

LINKS

[Click here to view full print articles in this report](#)

[Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Daily Telegraph**](#) (page 15) reports that birth injuries are rising, with data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showing an almost 7 percentage point rise in the rate of women suffering a tear to their perineum during natural childbirth. In 2023, 82 per cent of births involved some form of tear, compared to just 75 per cent in 2014.
- The [**Herald Sun**](#) (page 11) reports that popular weight-loss and diabetes jabs may cause rare, irreversible cases of permanent blindness, Australia's medicine's regulator has warned. The Therapeutic Goods Administration said any GLP-1 patients who experience sudden vision loss including partial vision loss must stop their treatment and seek "urgent medical attention".
- The [**Armadale Examiner**](#) (page 4) reports that the Australian Medical Association has welcomed the federal government's plan to tighten access to nicotine pouches but says more needs to be done to stop the sale of unapproved products. Health Minister Mark Butler announced proposed changes that would prevent people from accessing unapproved nicotine pouches through the Special Access Scheme and the Authorised Prescriber Scheme.
- The [**West Australian**](#) (online) reports that a long-awaited voluntary assisted dying bill introduced in Northern Territory parliament has received a mixed response, with critics saying it sends euthanasia rights backwards. Under the bill only people with 12 months or less to live would have access to assisted dying, and doctors are barred from raising voluntary assisted dying with patients.

- [7News](#) (online) reports that Australia is in the grip of a healthcare affordability crisis with patients skipping appointments because of the cost. New data from Finder discovered that 27 per cent of those surveyed were billed unexpected medical costs despite having health insurance and 1.5 million Australians are cancelling their private cover.
- [Daily Telegraph Australia](#) (online) reports that Allied health workers at Victoria's public hospitals stopped work for three hours on Thursday after wage negotiations broke down, in a move they acknowledged could disrupt or even cancel elective procedures, scans and treatments.

MINISTER BUTLER

Medical Association backs pouch crackdown

Armadale Examiner, General News, 23/07/2026, Page 4

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) has welcomed the federal government's plan to tighten access to nicotine pouches but says more needs to be done to stop the sale of unapproved products. Health Minister Mark Butler announced proposed changes that would prevent people from accessing unapproved nicotine pouches through the Special Access Scheme and the Authorised Prescriber Scheme.

Also reported by: [Canning Examiner \(Perth\)](#).

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

Medicare reforms bearing fruit in Bendigo

Bendigo Times, General News, 24/07/2026, Adam Carswell, Page 13

The desired impact of the federal government's 2023-24 budget Medicare reforms appears to be gradually taking effect locally, with the rate of GP services bulk-billed in Bendigo climbing to 89 per cent from 68 per cent in October 2023. [...] Visiting the city recently, Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler said as well as more local residents being bulk-billed and more people saving on cheaper medicines, the reforms have seen the provision of more urgent care and upgraded mental health services.

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

NDIS changes

North West Star, General News, 23/07/2026, Ben Carr, Page 1

Disability service providers in Mount Isa are operating under a new controversial NDIS code designed to improve results for people requiring high-level care. The new registration requirements are part of the federal government's overhaul of the NDIS, announced in April by Health Minister Mark Butler.

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

What's really in your vape? Visiting UK expert sounds alarm

Canberra Weekly, General News, 23/07/2026, Bernie Ryan, Page 30

The sight of people holding something to their mouth and puffing out plumes of smoke is something we have become used to. [...] Mark Butler, issued a press release with some encouraging news.

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

More students in allied health fields to get Commonwealth prac placement payments

WEB Region Canberra, Other, 23/07/2026, Chris Johnson

Commonwealth paid practical placements are being extended to university students in 10 frontline allied health fields of study. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said expanding paid prac to more healthcare professions will not only help to build the health workforce, but also strengthen Medicare.

Also reported by: [PS News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Helipad high point reached in Shellharbour Hospital development

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 23/07/2026, Glen Humphries

The new Shellharbour Hospital has reached a high point - literally. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was pleased the project "is on track to deliver new and expanded health services for the Illawarra-Shoalhaven communities".

[Read More](#)

Paid prac for students – another plus for Clare

Future Campus, Other, 23/07/2026, Stephen Matchett

The Government's decision to extend paid practical placements to students in 10 allied health programs has been widely welcomed. [...] Mr Clare and Health Minister Mark Butler were quick to be in pics with grateful students yesterday and university lobbies and professional associations were out early endorsing the extension.

[Read More](#)

Rising Stars battle for cash prize

Pharma In Focus, Other, 23/07/2026

Four finalists are in the running for the Associations of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI) 2026 Rising Star Award, sponsored by CSL. [...] The Rising Star Award winner will be announced by Health Minister Mark Butler at the AAMRI dinner at Parliament House next month.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Drive, 23/07/2026, Clinton Maynard

Maynard discusses the Federal Government's planned removal of the higher private health insurance rebate for people aged over 65, highlighting one listener's estimate that their annual premium will increase by \$2500 to about \$8900. He says the change aims to save \$1 billion a year for aged care and will affect around 3 million Australians. He criticises Health Minister Mark Butler, noting that the government expects 44,000 people to leave private health insurance.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Central Coast, Breakfast, 23/07/2026, Scott Levi

Thousands of Australians who rely on medication to treat multiple Sclerosis will continue to receive said drugs under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Health Minister Mark Butler confirms that the drug will remain subsidised.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

New mental health centre opens

The Federal Government is expanding access to free mental health care on the Central Coast, with the new Medicare Mental Health Centre at Tuggerah now officially open. Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Member for Dobell Emma McBride announced the opening on July 20.

Also reported by: [Coast Community News \(Online\)](#).

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

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Tasmanian childcare sector receives boost from pay rises and new scholarships

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/07/2026, David Killick

Tasmanian childcare workers have secured a federally funded 15 per cent pay rise, worth up to \$410 a week, as the state government launches a \$4.5m scholarship program. [...] Assistant Minister for Women Rebecca White said a 15 per cent pay increase for early education and childcare workers would lift their average pay packet by between \$225 and \$410.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Dan a whizz at getting his message across

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/07/2026, Page 28

When nature calls, don't hold it any longer because you've gotta go! That's the message Labor MP Dan Repacholi preached on social media this week.

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

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Free help for autistic youth

Cairns Post, General News, 24/07/2026, Rosalee Chapman, Page 4

Autism Queensland will be offering a new free program to assist young autistic people and their families in Cairns and the Far North. The Owning My Future service, funded by the Australian government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, is aimed at helping autistic people aged nine to 25 plan for and navigate life changes including changing schools, seeking employment, and building independence.

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

Strengthening access to healthcare in the Wimmera

Buloke Times, General News, 23/07/2026, Page 5

East Wimmera communities are set to benefit from improved access to primary healthcare after funding was secured from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing for Phase 2 of the Wimmera Thin Markets project. The project is being delivered in partnership between Murray Primary Health Network (PHN), Western Victoria PHN, Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) and East Wimmera Health Service, who are working together to implement an innovative model of care designed for rural communities facing healthcare workforce challenges.

Tens of billions invested every year in the NDIS and other programs hasn't helped close the youth disability gap

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/07/2026, Karen Grace Prince

Young Australians with disability are no closer to equality than they were in 2001 – despite the NDIS now costing more than \$50bn a year, Flinders University research reveals. [...] A spokesman from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said the NDIS is "one component of Australia's broader disability support system".

[Read More](#)

Despite claims smoking has made a comeback, just 5.6% of Australians now smoke daily

Medicine Today, Other, 23/07/2026, Becky Freeman and Michelle Jongenelis

Have you noticed more smoking on screens lately? [...] Michelle Jongenelis has received relevant competitive grants and funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council, VicHealth, Healthway, and the Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

[Read More](#)

Med students 'devastated and confused' over prac payment expansion

The Medical Republic, Other, 23/07/2026, Alyssa Talakovski

With medicine left out of the paid placement expansion, the Australian Medical Students Association says 'the fair go stops at the doors of medical school'. [...] According to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's own medical workforce report, by 2048, Australia will have a deficit of more than 12,800 full-time equivalent specialist doctors.

[Read More](#)

Conspiracy theory No 436: Assignment of Benefit's real purpose

Health Services Daily, Other, 23/07/2026, Jeremy Knibbs

Assignment of Benefit was a poorly conceived idea that could never work in practice. [...] After a wave of pressure from the AMA and the RACGP, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) backed down: verbal consent would remain acceptable in all settings for another 12 months, pushing the real deadline to 30 June 2027.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise 5AM News, 23/07/2026, Edwina Bartholomew

Miscarriage affects 300 Australian families every day, and a new national campaign is encouraging more conversations on pregnancy loss. It comes as a new campaign called "Miscarriage Matters", goes nationwide and is backed by doctors, encouraging more open conversations.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 23/07/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Rachel Ficus, Director of Bereavement Services, Red Nose Australia. Compere says the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing has launched "Miscarriage Matters", which is a new education and awareness program designed to help Australians better understand miscarriage and early pregnancy loss. Ficus points out that there has been an 80% reduction in sudden infant death syndrome [SIDS] across the country in the last 40 years.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Challenges and opportunities in an ageing world

Population ageing is a success story. We are living longer, healthier and more active lives.

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

It really does take a village: the support networks carers can't do without

The Guardian, Other, 23/07/2026

The right networks can help carers in the sandwich generation feel less alone – and give families more options down the track. Life in the sandwich generation – caring for ageing parents while raising dependent children – can change quickly; there might be times when a child needs more support, a parent's health takes a turn for the worse, or work pressures intensify.

[Read More](#)

Access to speech pathology is becoming an aged care issue we can no longer ignore

HelloCare, Other, 23/07/2026, Jakob Neeland

The Federal Government's decision to expand paid practical placements to allied health students, including those studying speech pathology, is an urgently needed investment in Australia's future health workforce. For too long, unpaid placements have created a financial barrier for students pursuing careers in professions already experiencing critical workforce shortages.

[Read More](#)

Nearly half of dementia cases could be avoided. Here's how

HelloCare, Other, 23/07/2026, Jakob Neeland

An estimated 446,500 Australians are living with dementia in 2026. Without major breakthroughs in prevention or treatment, that figure is expected to exceed 800,000 by 2054 and surpass one million by 2065.

[Read More](#)

WHO updates cognitive decline, dementia guidance

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/07/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The updated guidelines reinforce that dementia risk reduction should be integrated into broader brain health, healthy ageing and noncommunicable disease strategies, WHO mental health specialist Katrin Seeher tells AAA. The World Health Organisation has published its updated guidelines on cognitive decline and dementia.

[Read More](#)

Prac payments extended to allied health students

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/07/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Peak bodies and politicians are celebrating the expansion of the scheme, but AHPA CEO Bronwyn Morris-Donovan tells AAA the aged care sector may not see the benefits for five or more years. Allied health students across 10 disciplines are celebrating the news that they will soon be included in the Commonwealth Prac Payment scheme.

[Read More](#)

WA aged care leaders call for decade-long reform plan

Aged Care Inside, Other, 23/07/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Western Australia could face a shortage of up to 2,800 residential aged care beds by 2030, according to a new report from a coalition of the state's largest aged care providers. Advance Ageing WA, which represents seven major providers, has released its inaugural Green Paper, From Rights to Reality, outlining a series of reforms it says are needed to prepare the sector for growing demand as the state's ageing population continues to expand.

[Read More](#)

Frailty linked to earlier dementia diagnoses

Community Care Review, Other, 23/07/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

While the study found frailty could be an early marker for dementia risk, Dr David Ward said the encouraging news is that frailty is often preventable and treatable. Frailty could be an important clinical marker in diagnosing and potentially treating dementia, a University of Queensland-led study shows, with researchers finding older adults living with frailty are diagnosed with dementia two to three years earlier than those who are less frail.

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 23/07/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Silvana Martignago, CEO, Probus South Pacific. Martignago discusses the importance of social connection in reducing loneliness, citing WHO guidelines that show socially engaged older people are less likely to experience loneliness, anxiety, and depression. She says Probus South Pacific's 1300 clubs across Australia assist retirees and semi-retirees in making social connections through member-run activities and encourages people to join.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Mareeba disability employment agency closes, upsetting families, community

ABC Online, Other, 23/07/2026, Charlie Mckillop and Conor-Byrne

Far North Queensland families of children with disabilities are devastated a supported-employment program will end, while locals who raised funds for the facility are angry because they fear it will be sold. Nationwide disability service provider Endeavour Foundation plans to close Mareeba Business Solutions (MBS), which finds manufacturing or farm work for almost 20 people with special needs.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Birth injuries on the rise

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/07/2026, Olivia Shying, Page 25

Women giving birth at hospitals in the Nepean-Blue Mountains region are suffering severe tearing more than anywhere else in NSW, while women in the Sydney Local Health District recorded the highest rate of surgical incisions during labour. A five-week investigation by The Daily Telegraph can reveal the rates of tears varying from small grazes to lacerations that require surgery at more than 100 hospitals and 24 health districts across the country.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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

How telehealth is fuelling a surge in ADHD scripts in a business model that benefits the rich

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 23/07/2026

Seeing a psychiatrist via telehealth became easier from January. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare figures show ADHD medication dispensing rose roughly eleven-fold between 2004-05 and 2023-24.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Call to drop voluntary assisted dying age

Launceston Examiner, General News, 24/07/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 2

Legal advocacy body Community Legal Centres Tasmania (CLCT) has called for the age threshold for voluntary assisted dying to be dropped from 18 down to 12 years. The proposal has been put to an independent review of the state's voluntary assisted dying laws, which started earlier this year and five years after the laws passed through Parliament.

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

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

Mixed response as territory pursues assisted dying laws

West Australian, Other, 23/07/2026, Robyn Wuth

A territory that once led the world on euthanasia is now the only jurisdiction in Australia still to legalise it. However a long-awaited voluntary assisted dying bill introduced in Northern Territory parliament has received a mixed response, with critics saying it sends euthanasia rights backwards.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 23/07/2026, Michael Thomson

Louisa Irvine, a 35-year-old paramedic and mother of three, was diagnosed with bowel cancer that had spread following endometriosis surgery after experiencing abdominal pain, bloating, and nausea for 6-12 months prior to diagnosis, and she is urging Australians to have persistent symptoms investigated earlier. Oncologist Dr Prasad Cooray says Australia has the developed world's highest rate of early-onset bowel cancer, with 99 per cent of cases treatable if detected early but fewer than half diagnosed on time.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 23/07/2026, Adam Steer

The Northern Territory Government has introduced voluntary assisted dying legislation to Parliament, which would legalise it if passed in August. The bill includes a gag clause preventing medical professionals from initiating discussions about euthanasia with terminally ill patients, which Attorney-General Marie-Clare Boothby says is intended to protect patients from coercion.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 23/07/2026, Emma Crowe

The Northern Territory Government has introduced its Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill to Parliament, 30 years after voluntary assisted dying was introduced and later banned in the Territory. Voluntary euthanasia advocate Dr Philip Nitschke welcomes the legislation's introduction but opposes a clause preventing doctors from raising voluntary assisted dying with patients, saying it is unworkable.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

IMMUNISATION

Channel 9, Nine News, 23/07/2026, Michael Thomson

WA Department of Health and Perth Children's Hospital Infectious Diseases Head Professor Chris Blyth is urging people to receive the free influenza vaccine before the end of the month after 36,502 flu cases were recorded in WA in 2025 and more than 4000 cases have been recorded so far this winter. Professor Blyth describes influenza as a serious illness and dispels common myths about the disease and vaccination, such as that the vaccine causes flu, that last year's vaccination is still effective, and that healthy or young people do not require vaccination.

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

ABC News, ABC National News, 23/07/2026, Joe O'Brien

A container of outdoor insect repellent was accidentally opened while staff were checking a patient's belongings in the emergency department at Flinders Medical Centre, exposing staff to the chemical and resulting in 11 staff members requiring treatment. One staff member was admitted in a stable condition after previously being in a serious condition, according to SA Health CEO Robyn Lawrence. Following the incident, Flinders Medical Centre closed 12 emergency department beds and diverted some ambulance arrivals to other hospitals, including the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 23/07/2026, Max Futchter and Sarah Greenhalgh

New Finder data indicates healthcare affordability pressures are leading many Australians to delay or forgo care, with one in five delaying GP visits due to cost, one in five attending emergency departments because they cannot afford a GP, and 27 per cent facing unexpected medical costs despite having private health insurance. Dental care, GP visits, physiotherapy, optical care, skin checks and specialist scans are the most commonly skipped services, while 1.5 million Australians have cancelled their private health insurance and a further 4 per cent plan to do so.

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

New stroke risk tech

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/07/2026, Page 16

Australian scientists have helped develop an artery-on-a-chip that can replicate a patient's specific blood vessel structure and blood flow dynamics. The University of Sydney researchers suggest the shape of vessels and local blood flow disturbances are more important determinants of whether someone will have a stroke than blood vessel narrowing alone.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

'Inevitable' Code Yellow lifts as industry calls for more help

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/07/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 3

The fifth Code Yellow to be called this year at Royal Darwin and Palmerston Regional hospitals that had health staff asking when the Territory will finally get a "functional health system" has lifted. The declaration was made on Wednesday night last week due to increasing pressures on the emergency department and general admissions.

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

New data shows Australians are skipping medical appointments due to cost

7News.com.au, Other, 23/07/2026, Jackie Quist

'Everything is all adding up and it is really, really pushing us to the limits.' Australia is in the grip of a healthcare affordability crisis with patients skipping appointments because of the cost.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Pharmacists care upskilling a shot in the arm for Tasmanians

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/07/2026, Alison Foletta, Page 15

Around 40 pharmacists are hard at work studying to expand their skills at University of Tasmania. This week community pharmacists have come to Launceston from across Tasmania for an intensive study with experts from James Cook University in order to increase their scope as primary healthcare to assess and manage more common health conditions, including ear infections, reflux, rhinitis, shingles, eczema and wound care.

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

Victoria hospital allied health workers strike over pay dispute

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/07/2026, Sarah Booth

In the second industrial dispute to hit the government on Thursday, more than a thousand key public hospital staff walked off the job. Allied health workers at Victoria's public hospitals stopped work for three hours on Thursday after wage negotiations broke down, in a move they acknowledged could disrupt or even cancel elective procedures, scans and treatments.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Hundreds of NT nurses and midwives report abuse and death threats at work

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/07/2026, Lottie Hood

Violence against NT health staff has become so common that a new campaign has been launched as

hundreds of nurses and midwives report feeling unsafe at work. In April, confronting stories of death and rape threats made towards nurses and midwives at Royal Darwin Hospital were spotlighted by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation NT (ANMF NT).

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Assaults on health workers double as emergency violence surges

Canberra Times, Other, 23/07/2026

According to data compiled by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in the decade to the current financial year the rate of health professionals admitted to hospital due to workplace assault almost doubled. Assault now stands as the second leading cause of injury hospitalisation for these workers, accounting for 15 per cent of cases.

[Read More](#)

PSA welcomes Paid Prac expansion for pharmacy students

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 23/07/2026

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), the peak national body for Australia's 42,000 pharmacists, has welcomed today's announcement that pharmacy students will be included in the Federal Government's expansion of its Prac Payment Program. Pharmacy students undertaking compulsory placements as part of their degree will be eligible for financial support effective from 1 July 2027, following tireless advocacy efforts from the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association.

[Read More](#)

Paid placements for student pharmacists from June 2027

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 23/07/2026

The Federal Government has announced student paramedics and those studying physiotherapy and occupational therapy, clinical psychology, pharmacy, podiatry, speech pathology, audiology, radiography and rehab therapies will become eligible for the Commonwealth Prac Payment of around \$338 a week from 1 June 2027. It follows a sustained HSU campaign for more allied health students to be included in the scheme after many were excluded from the professions covered when it was first designed.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 23/07/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with ACT Independent Senator David Pocock. Pocock welcomes the expansion of the Federal Government's Prac Payment scheme, but points out that medical students and many psychology students remain excluded, despite presenting a 40,000-signature petition to Parliament calling for broader eligibility. He says the exclusions are a budget decision, argues the payments are means-tested and intended to help students complete their degrees, and calls for the scheme to extend to all allied health and medical students.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 23/07/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Dr Kyle Hoath, President, AMA WA Branch. Hoath discusses unpaid clinical placements, saying medical students should receive placement payments because they complete three years of full-time placements and many struggle financially after having to stop paid work. He says the AMA WA Branch will continue advocating for medical students to be included in the Federal Government's placement payment scheme, stating some students leave with their medical degrees because they cannot afford to continue.

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

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PBS listing stalled: Medicines Australia

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 23/07/2026, Megan Haggan

Australian patients are missing out on three-quarters of new drugs, according to Medicines Australia. The organisation has released a new report, "Bitter Pill: How Australian patients are missing out on the latest medical breakthroughs," in which it highlights that Australia has approved only a quarter of medicines launched globally over the last decade.

[Read More](#)

3AW, Drive, 23/07/2026, Jacqui Felgate

Interview with Liz de Somer, CEO, Medicines Australia. De Somer discusses access to innovative medicines through the PBS, stating that only 25 per cent of medicines launched globally over the last decade are subsidised due to declining investment and an assessment system that she claims has not been updated in 30 years. She urges the Federal Government to invest in innovative medicines and implement proposed PBS assessment reforms, citing examples such as those for schizophrenia, migraine, cancer, haemophilia, narcolepsy, lymphoma, dermatitis, Crohn's disease, and the meningococcal B vaccine.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Pharmacists warned on telehealth weight pill scripts

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/07/2026

As oral versions of blockbuster weight loss drugs loom on the horizon, a legal expert has warned that an expected rapid uptake by Australians reticent to use injectables could increase scrutiny of online prescribing platforms, particularly around patient assessments, verification processes and clinical decision-making.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

Measles surge dramatically in California among children and young adults

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 23/07/2026, Rong-Gong Lin II

Measles cases have doubled in California so far this year compared to last year — and 2026 is barely half over. California has confirmed 52 measles cases in the first 6½ months of the year; that's more than double the 25 cases reported in all of 2025.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Grieving mum on a nang crusade

Herald Sun, General News, 24/07/2026, Craig Dunlop Brendan Kearns, Page 6

The grieving mother of a young actor who died after inhaling "nangs" has demanded the national medicines regulator ban the gas from sale to the general public, in a move estimated to save hundreds of lives. [...] A copy of Ms Reaby's application to the TGA details how nitrous oxide has proven difficult for law enforcement to control, because "one substance is both a heavily-regulated medicine, a specialist industrial gas, a lightly regulated foodstuff, and an illegal (but very difficult to police) illicit drug".

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

'Fat jab' risk to vision

Herald Sun, General News, 24/07/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 11

Popular weight-loss and diabetes jabs may cause rare, irreversible cases of permanent blindness, Australia's medicine's regulator has warned. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration said any GLP-1 patients who experience sudden vision loss including partial vision loss must stop treatment and seek "urgent medical attention".

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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

New warning for Ozempic, Wegovy and Mounjaro over serious eye disorder including blindness

7News.com.au, Other, 23/07/2026, Katharina Loesche

Australians taking popular weight-loss and diabetes medicines are being urged to watch for sudden vision loss after a new safety warning linked the drugs to a rare eye disorder. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) says the condition, known as non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (NAION), can cause permanent vision impairment and, in some cases, blindness.

[Read More](#)

Eye health warning for weight loss drugs

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 23/07/2026, Megan Haggan

The TGA has issued an alert for products in the GLP-1 RA class of medicines, warning they could cause a severe eye disorder in users. Product warnings across the class of medicines have been updated due to the potential for these medicines to cause the rare but severe eye disorder, non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy.

[Read More](#)

Vaporiser saw children suffer 'third-degree burns': report

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 23/07/2026, Kate Cowling

A major masthead's investigation found a pharmacy-sold vaporiser had been linked to dozens of adverse events, including serious burns. A vaporiser that was sold in certain pharmacies – Euky Bear's warm steam vaporiser – has been associated in 55 reports to the regulator in the past five years, with two describing third-degree burns.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 23/07/2026, Brenton Ragless

TGA has issued product warnings that GLP-1 weight loss and diabetes medicines may cause a rare eye condition that impairs blood flow to the optic nerve. Patients are advised to seek urgent medical attention if they experience sudden, irreversible vision loss.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 23/07/2026, Natalie Forrest

The family of three-year-old Elsie Avery, who has diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), is urging the government to fund a personalised DNA-based vaccine treatment after SA Health deemed her

ineligible for compassionate access. The treatment would cost the family \$400,000, prompting a fundraising campaign, with Rare Cancers Australia calling for more treatment opportunities for people with rare cancers.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

What might the proposed leafy green, berry and melon food safety legislation mean for Tasmanian growers?

ABC Online, Other, 23/07/2026, David Reilly and Ella Kennedy

Some Tasmanian fruit and vegetable growers are concerned that new proposed food safety regulations will subject them to onerous paperwork, costs and annual inspections. The second draft of the proposed legislation, which aims to bring Tasmania in line with national standards, is open for public comment until July 30, 2026.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.
See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

