



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 26th July 2026

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[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
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| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Herald Sun](#)** (page 12) reports that one of Australia's leading demographers, Mark McCrindle, says next month's Census could yield vital new insights to aid the fight against dementia.
- **[The Sunday Telegraph](#)** (page 32) reports that a new YouGov survey found almost half of Australians would be more likely to register for organ donation if they knew children could benefit from their donation, but 31 per cent of those surveyed were unaware children were waiting for transplants.
- **[The Sunday Times](#)** (page 15) reports that new research by the University of Sydney has revealed mental illness among young adults has increased nearly 13 per cent since 2007.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that the ALP has backed removing federal legal barriers preventing voluntary assisted dying consultations via telehealth and amended its national constitution to allow members a conscience vote on the issue.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (Online) reports that FSANZ has issued a warning to consumers after Yumbah Aquaculture Ltd - Yumbah Australian Greenlip Abalone 1kg, was found to be contaminated with neurotoxins.

MINISTER BUTLER

Medicare reforms bearing fruit in Bendigo

Bendigo Times, Other, 26/07/2026, Adam Carswell

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.

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What is really in your vape? Visiting UK expert sounds alarm

canberradaily.com.au, Other, 25/07/2026, Bernie Ryan

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. [...] According to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, people who require vapes with a higher nicotine concentration, and people under 18 years, need a prescription to access vapes, subject to state and territory arrangements, 2024.

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What went down on day two of Labor national conference

Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia, Other, 25/07/2026

Rank and file members were still calling on Labor to dump AUKUS from the party platform, despite \$4.6 billion being unveiled for submarine building in South Australia. [...] "The anti-Labor forces will always have the same policy prescriptions: anti-worker, anti-wage increases, hostile to Medicare, and determined to divide this country rather than unite it." - Health Minister Mark Butler on the threat of One Nation

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

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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DEPARTMENT

What is really in your vape? Visiting UK expert sounds alarm

canberradaily.com.au, Other, 25/07/2026, Bernie Ryan

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Census to help profile nation's worst killer

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 26/07/2026, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 12

Dementia deaths have surged almost 40 per cent over the past decade, with the disease now Australia's biggest killer. But next month's Census could yield vital new insights to aid the fight against it, one of the nation's leading demographers says.

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

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

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PRIMARY CARE

It's not low birth rates killing maternity wards

Sunday Territorian, General News, 26/07/2026, Brett Heffernan, Page 15

The Albanese government's \$10m for maternity at Darwin's public hospital comes on top of \$16m to compensate for failed private maternity services in Hobart and Gosford. It's a very expensive taxpayer Band-Aid that would not likely have been necessary had the government been engaged in the deepening crisis three years ago.

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Inside the neonatal refuge where staff carry panic buttons

Sun Herald, General News, 26/07/2026, Amber Schultz, Page 10

Dozens of young women, heavily pregnant or with babies in their arms, arrive at the Wiyanga House in Sydney's west every year facing homelessness. [...] Women and children affected by domestic violence make up one third of all people experiencing persistent homelessness in NSW and nationally, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data.

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Forget crypto: single motherhood is Pauline's get-rich-quick scheme

Sun Herald, General News, 26/07/2026, Jacqueline Maley, Page 16

Pauline Hanson's One Nation is a party that is built on blame, so it was only a matter of time until Hanson began parroting the tropes of coercive control that domestic violence victims have provoked their abuse, that it might be (and probably is) their own fault that people want to punch them, metaphorically or otherwise. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, men accounted for about four in five, or 79 per cent, of family violence offenders that police took action against in 2023-24.

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Swimming proven to ease chronic pain

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 26/07/2026, Page 19

Australian research has shown for the first time a swimming program can be clinically effective in reducing disability from chronic low back pain. The Macquarie University and University of Sydney EduSwim clinical trial found an eight-week individualised program of swimming and education, guided by a physiotherapist, improved function and pain significantly.

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A cherub record to cherish

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 26/07/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 26

Lyell McEwin Hospital is seeing a record baby boom buoyed by population growth in the region. The Northern Adelaide Local Health Network delivered 4007 babies, including 43 sets of twins, from 3964 women, in the 2025-26 financial year, beating its previous birthing record for any one year of 3800 babies, including 31 sets of twins, in 2021-22.

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Tell Will

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 26/07/2026, Will King, Page 44

[...] Bummer - Interesting and alarming data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare this week showing the number of healthcare workers who end up in hospital while at work, with assaults as a cause on the rise, and now second behind falls.

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'I want to look like Barbie'

Sunday Times, General News, 26/07/2026, Brooke Rolfe, Page 32

It's the radical "Barbie waist" cosmetic surgery that's all the rage with beauty-conscious social media influencers. But medical experts say "rib shaving" carries serious health risks, especially when performed overseas to lower the cost and avoid rigorous psychological screening.

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Tracking the cause of a morning headache

Sunday Times, General News, 26/07/2026, Kathleen Felton, Page 42

There are seven likely culprits behind the pain, writes Kathleen Felton Waking up to a throbbing headache is never a pleasant way to start the day, and head pain can frequently strike at this time.

About one in 13 people experiences recurring morning headaches, research suggests, with women and those between the ages of 45 and 64 more likely to have them.

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Osteoporosis shrank my mother's world. My broken arm was my first warning

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/07/2026, Selena Bartlett

When I woke up after surgery, I was sure my left fist was stuck in the air above me. [...] The latest national numbers from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) show that about 854,000 Australians had osteoporosis or osteopenia, last measured in 2022.

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Australian-led PCOS guideline an international first

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 25/07/2026, Cate Swannell

An Australian-led international and multidisciplinary collaboration of health professionals and consumers has produced the first international evidence-based guideline for the diagnosis and management of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) with an unprecedented international translation program, summarised today in a supplement published by the Medical Journal of Australia

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Drug free-for-all proposal for Melbourne in four years slammed, comparisons made to global city disaster stories

NEWS.com.au, Other, 25/07/2026, Rohan Smith

A major us city's disastrous drug rules created a "dystopian hell" and led Donald Trump to label it "war ravaged". It's now proposed for Melbourne by 2030.

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Sky News Live, News Night, 25/07/2026, Rhiannon Elston

The Australian Border Force has seized record amounts of illicit tobacco and vapes this year as part of a crackdown on organised crime.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Labor endorses voluntary assisted dying telehealth access in platform shift

ABC Online, Other, 25/07/2026, Clare Armstrong

A Labor push to lift the ban on accessing voluntary assisted dying through telehealth has triggered a warning about unintended consequences for both young and elderly vulnerable Australians. One advocacy group has welcomed the move at the ALP National Conference to reduce the barriers to end-of-life care, particularly for people in regional and remote areas, but the country's highest law officer has raised concerns about the risk of elder abuse.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 25/07/2026, Greg Jennett

Jennett is joined by ABC correspondent Jane Norman. Norman says a motion by Labor has been moved to change federal laws to allow telehealth consultations for end-of-life care for people seeking voluntary assisted dying. She notes that the motion was passed without a second motion, guaranteeing Labor MPs and Senators a conscience vote if the issue makes it into Federal Parliament.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Youth anxiety on the increase

Sunday Times, General News, 26/07/2026, Kirsty Lichtenstein, Page 15

New research has revealed mental illness among young adults has surged nearly 13 per cent since 2007. The findings, released by the University of Sydney, show the proportion of young Australians meeting the diagnostic criteria for anxiety, mood or substance-use disorders rose from 23.4 per cent in 2007 to 36.2 per cent in 2022.

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

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How does parent-child interaction therapy work? And who can use it?

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 25/07/2026

Children thrive when parents are warm and responsive to their needs, while also providing clear guidance and setting limits. This is known as authoritative parenting.

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IMMUNISATION

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

The letter that changed Rebecca's life after the loss of her child

Sun Herald, General News, 26/07/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 5

In her last six months of life, fouryear-old Brooklyn Wangmann put on a show every night. "She'd go and get herself dressed up. She had these little glitter heels in a few different colours.

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Organ donations: good intentions turn to apathy

Sun Herald, Editorials, 26/07/2026, Page 34

Brooklyn Wangmann was only four years old when she died on an operating table. When medical staff asked her parents about organ donation they did not think twice.

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Organ donation suffering

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 26/07/2026, Brendan Casey, Page 32

Misconceptions about organ donation continue to hold Australia back, as new data reveals a sharp generational gap on the lifesaving practice. A new YouGov survey found almost half of Australians would be more likely to register if they knew children could benefit from donation, yet 31 per cent of people were unaware children were waiting for transplants.

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

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In just one moment you can be a lifesaver

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 26/07/2026, Genevieve Holding, Page 9

A choice made in a moment of immense grief has given a second life to Tasmanian man Steve Brown. Mr Brown has been the lucky recipient of two kidneys throughout his life after developing chronic kidney disease in the 1990s.

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Highlighting equity and inequity in Australia's health system

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 26/07/2026, Virginia Barbour

Equity and inequity in Australia's health system are major themes in this latest issue of the MJA. From the beginning, when research is funded, through to how clinical guidelines are developed, how research is conducted, and, finally, in health outcomes, the articles in this issue explore gender and racial inequities from several angles, including what progress has been made, and where deficiencies remain.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

DNA study goes viral

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 26/07/2026, Page 27

Australian scientists have uncovered new insights into how cells regulate DNA methylation, a fundamental process that helps keep potentially harmful viral elements in our genome under control. The work may guide future therapeutic interventions for the treatment of cancer and other diseases.

Also reported by: [Sunday Territorian \(Darwin\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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Tech stroke of genius

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 26/07/2026, Page 31

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

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Bone to pick with fitness

Sunday Times, General News, 26/07/2026, Page 32

Exercise may have little to no effect on pain levels in people with osteoarthritis. A study led by researchers from the University of Sydney and the University of Melbourne found that while exercise may slightly improve physical function, there was no evidence that it improved people's quality of life.

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News briefs

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 25/07/2026, Cate Swannell

Researchers at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute have found that children from socially and economically disadvantaged families and neighbourhoods are more likely to have thicker carotid artery walls, which may indicate higher risk of heart attack and stroke in later life. The research, published in the Journal of the American Heart Association, analysed both family and neighbourhood socio-economic position data from 1477 Australian families.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

RFDS joins Mornington Island Aboriginal health organisation in Australian-first partnership

ABC Online, Other, 25/07/2026, Tim Little and Abbey Halter

After years of widening health gaps, a remote Gulf community has taken control of its own health care in an Australian-first move designed to improve lives and stem mounting youth suicides. Data released by Mornington Island Council shows nearly 40 per cent of the 1,200 residents in the Gulf of Carpentaria community of Mornington Island are living with one or more chronic diseases.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

It's not low birth rates killing maternity wards

Sunday Territorian, General News, 26/07/2026, Brett Heffernan, Page 15

The Albanese government's \$10m for maternity at Darwin's public hospital comes on top of \$16m to compensate for failed private maternity services in Hobart and Gosford. It's a very expensive taxpayer Band-Aid that would not likely have been necessary had the government been engaged in the deepening crisis three years ago.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Pharmacy by the numbers

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 25/07/2026

Here are some of the figures from the Pharmacy Board of Australia's March quarter registration data: 42,941 pharmacists held a professional registration in March 2026, a record high number. 36,588 held a general registration (up 356 on the December 2025 report).

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The medical workforce in 2025: what's in the numbers?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 25/07/2026

Key trends in Australian medical workforce supply include increasing overall supply levels and an increasing number of medical graduates, but also reduced workforce effort and a large cohort of doctors approaching traditional retirement age.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

There's a lack of proof to back up the peptides hype

Australian Financial Review, Other, 25/07/2026, Georgia Wyatt

The appeal of peptides is clear: the promise of a deeper tan, stronger erections, reduced body fat and rapid healing. Peptides are flooding social media feeds and are widely available through the online grey market for purchase by individuals.

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Popular weight-loss drugs linked to rare blindness risk

The New Daily, Other, 25/07/2026

Hundreds of thousands of Australians taking popular diabetes and weight-loss drugs have been warned to watch for changes to their vision after a rare but serious side effect was identified. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a warning that GLP-1-based drugs could be linked to 36 rare cases of an eye rare disorder called non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (NAION), which can cause permanent vision loss.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Warning for Aussie kids as UK bans energy drinks

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 26/07/2026, Harrison Finlay, Page 9

Parents are being warned of the hidden danger lurking in supermarket fridges, as health chiefs demand Australia emulate a landmark English ban on selling high-caffeine energy drinks to children. From April next year, legislation in England will prohibit sales in stores, online and through vending machines for any drink containing more than 150mg of caffeine per litre.

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

Food recall: Yumbah Australian Greenlip Abalone 1kg and Viet Meatballs Chinese Sausage pulled from shelves

West Australian, Other, 25/07/2026, Chloe Maher

Australia's food safety watchdog has issued a warning to consumers after a seafood product was found to be contaminated with neurotoxins. Food Standards Australia and New Zealand issued the alert on Friday after brevetoxin was discovered in Yumbah Aquaculture Ltd - Yumbah Australian Greenlip Abalone 1kg.

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AICIS

Herbicide banned in 70 countries to be pulled from sale in Australia by chemical maker

The Guardian, Other, 25/07/2026, Andrew Messenger

Syngenta, the producer of a herbicide banned in more than 70 countries and which has been linked to Parkinson's disease, will stop selling paraquat in Australia, saying new regulations has made it "commercially unviable". The decision to pull the product follows new restrictions on the highly poisonous chemical announced by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority in June.

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