



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 27th July 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The ABC** (online) leads widespread coverage reporting that the Australian Labor National conference has passed a motion to call for voluntary assisted dying appointments to be allowed through telehealth services. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese did not give his support to the motion. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Canberra Times](#), [The Guardian](#) and [News.com.au](#)*
- The **Hobart Mercury** (page 1) reports that the University of Tasmania's Menzies Institute for Medical Research is undertaking research to help improve the accuracy of blood pressure measurements in GP clinics.
- **The Australian** (page 3) reports that human trials will begin for a drug that helps MND patients produce proteins necessary for motor neuron cells and muscles to communicate.
- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 11) reports that RMIT University research has found that male construction workers die by suicide at a rate of 25.7 per 100,000, nearly double the rate of the average employed male.
- **The ABC** (online) reports that social media-driven misinformation is responsible for an increasing number of parents refusing to give their infant's vitamin K supplements, according to Australian Medical Association president Danielle McMullen.

MINISTER BUTLER

‘Game-changing’ treatment giving hope for 35yo mum after terminal cancer diagnosis

NEWS.com.au, Other, 26/07/2026, Alexandra Feiam

An Afghanistan veteran and nurse, who was diagnosed with an aggressive and terminal cancer, has become the first Australian to undergo a "game-changing" treatment. [...] So Graham-Bowman applied for the federal government's Medical Treatment Overseas Program, which is overseen by Health Minister Mark Butler.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Broome Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 9, 60 Minutes, 26/07/2026, Peter Overton

Afghanistan veteran Kaela Graham-Bowman was diagnosed with synovial sarcoma, the rarest of rare types of cancer, but she is now defying the odds as she becomes the first Australian to be treated in the US, following Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's funding approval for her treatment through the Federal Government's Medical Treatment Program. As Kaela thanks Butler for giving cancer patients a pathway, the Federal Health Minister also announced that the US Food and Drug Administration has given final approval this week to make a life-saving drug accessible for cancer patients.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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DEPARTMENT

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

What brain experts do to stay sharp as they get older

Australian Financial Review, General News, 27/07/2026, Sophie Goddard, Page 28

Dementia prevention From mental training to daily supplements, there are science-backed tools that can be used to help protect memory and keep your grey matter happy, writes Sophie Goddard.

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Aged care decisions are too important to make without knowing the cost

Newcastle Herald, Other, 27/07/2026

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: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Family calls for aged care system overhaul after struggling to find facility for mother with dementia

ABC Online, Other, 26/07/2026, Adrienne Francis

Valma Cupitt is the cherished matriarch of four generations of her family. But when the 86-year-old's husband and primary carer, Darryl, unexpectedly died in September last year, that family was plunged into crisis. "It was a crash course for everybody to learn about the aged [care] system [and] to even learn how far Val's condition had progressed," Val's son-in-law Bernard Sheville said.

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Restricted eating hours may reduce cognitive decline in older age, researchers find

The Guardian, Other, 26/07/2026

Confining mealtimes and snacks to a nine-hour window and avoiding food for four hours before bed may help stave off cognitive decline in older age, researchers say. A pilot study of older women living with overweight or obesity found hints of improvement in mental skills among those who ate within the restricted period compared with those who spread their meals over a longer time.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Proving doubters wrong by helping those with disabilities to get on the road

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 26/07/2026, Maryam Sulaiman

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) driving instructor Linda Roesler was named the most outstanding NDIS/disability driving instructor in the country as part of the 2026 Enablement Awards held in Sydney on Friday, July 24. It is the fourth time Ms Roesler has received the award as she continues her work as a solo instructor in the Riverina, providing a much-needed service.

PRIMARY CARE

Fight for new laws after mums lost

Canberra Times, General News, 27/07/2026, Carla Mascarenhas, Page 13

For two weeks, Elysia Roberts didn't know her mother had died alone in her home - a tragedy she believes could have been prevented if medical clinics were legally required to follow up when high-risk patients failed to show up. Roberts' stepmother died two years later in 2025 in similar circumstances and she's now calling on the Victorian state government, through a Legislative Council petition, to make welfare checks mandatory for highrisk patients who miss medical appointments.

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More Australian parents refusing vitamin K for newborns amidst online misinformation

ABC Online, Other, 26/07/2026

More Australian parents are refusing to give their babies vitamin K at birth because of misinformation peddled by influencers, experts say. [...] "Unfortunately, social media misinformation is likely the leading cause of parents and families being concerned or having questions," Australian Medical Association president Danielle McMullen said.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Gold Coast mum turns to Facebook to fall pregnant amid Australia's sperm donor shortage

7News.com.au, Other, 26/07/2026, Smita Kunvarji

Gold Coast mum Brooke Withington had always dreamed of having a big family but finding another partner wasn't part of her vision. Already a single mum to four children from previous relationships, the 31-year-old was not looking for a relationship.

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The UK reckons with 'toxic' levels of birth trauma, as NSW government moves on recommendations

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 27/07/2026, Becca Whitehead

Women in England are at their highest risk of suffering a serious injury while giving birth since records began in 2020, according to two recent inquiries into the NHS. In Australia, one in three women and birthing people experience birth trauma.

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Move, sleep, switch off: why the whole day matters for young Australians

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 27/07/2026, Mosharop Hossian

Australia already has clear guidance on children's daily movement, recreational screen time and sleep. Using national data collected from Australian children over ten years, our analysis suggests the next step is practical: making healthy routines easier at home, at school and in the consulting room.

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ABC News, ABC Evening News (Weekend), 26/07/2026, Meredith

Sheehan

Vitamin K is now the subject of anti-vaccine campaigns and misinformation being spread online, and increasing numbers of parents are refusing to give their babies the said vitamin, which reduces the risk of severe bleeding. Vitamin K has been routinely used in Australia since the 1960s, with only one instance of a potential allergic reaction.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

PM opposed to VAD telehealth consultations

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 27/07/2026, Thomas Henry, Page 4

Anthony Albanese has personally pushed back on the adoption of telehealth appointments for consultations on voluntary assisted dying, despite Labor delegates carrying a motion to overturn the ban during national conference. Party members passed a motion during the 50th ALP national conference to "remove the barriers" for Australians seeking advice on voluntary euthanasia through mobile and video calls, though also enshrined the right to a conscience vote to avoid factional divisions on the issue.

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

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Albanese defensive over exclusive ALP fundraising dinner

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 27/07/2026, Matthew Knott, Page 5

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has defended attending private fundraising functions with wealthy donors after it was revealed he dined with a businessman whose father was accused of deceiving authorities to funnel money from China into Australian bank accounts. After presiding over a remarkably disciplined Labor national conference, where a rare debate emerged over telehealth consultations for patients considering euthanasia, Albanese said he believed those wanting to end their lives should meet a doctor in person before making the decision.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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I don't think someone should die via telehealth

Daily Telegraph, General News, 27/07/2026, Jessica Wang, Page 9

Allowing patients to access voluntary assisted dying via telehealth would "undermine" the program and increase the "potential for misuse", Anthony Albanese says, despite a push from states to overturn a legal technicality which disadvantages rural patients. It comes after Labor's national conference agreed to allow a conscience vote on laws to allow patients to use phone or internet appointments to access voluntary assisted dying (VAD), which means MPs would not be bound to caucus solidarity.

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

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Exercise in hip pain

Northern Territory News, General News, 27/07/2026, Page 9

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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Labor could face conscience vote

Canberra Times, General News, 27/07/2026, Andrew Brown and Samantha Lock, Page 9

Labor could be forced into a conscience vote on euthanasia laws within a month despite the prime minister opposing a move to open up voluntary assisted dying to telehealth sessions. Anthony

Albanese said he supported voluntary assisted dying access, but believed any discussions about the end-of-life measure should be conducted with health professionals face-to-face.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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Anthony Albanese personally opposed to Labor's push on telehealth voluntary assisted dying

ABC Online, Other, 26/07/2026, Clare Armstrong

A Labor push to allow Australians to access voluntary assisted dying through telehealth does not have the personal support of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who fears it would undermine the system. Mr Albanese is in favour of voluntary euthanasia but said he was "yet to be convinced" allowing people to consult with doctors via phone or video about the process was the right move.

Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Mail UK \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Organ donation after Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD)

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 26/07/2026, Robert Fedele

The man nurse Jessica Amsden was speaking with was dying. Motor neurone disease (MND) had taken his mobility and ability to breathe – but not his willingness to help others. "He just kept coming back to, 'If it's going to help someone, that's exactly what I want to do'."

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

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 27/07/2026, Sarah Norris and Gail Garvey

In Australia, every newborn baby is offered a screening test for 34 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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Asthma experts explain key asthma topics in quick updates

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 27/07/2026, Tim Jones and Debbie Rigby

The National Asthma Council Australia has published a series of short topic updates prepared with panels of asthma experts, to help primary care clinicians follow national guidelines in the Australian Asthma Handbook. More than 1 in 10 Australians have asthma, and it is the leading cause of disease burden in children aged 1–9 years.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 26/07/2026, Greg Jennett and Johanna Nicholson

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese says he's personally opposed to allowing telehealth access to voluntary assisted dying after Labor Party delegates this week backed having a conscience vote on the issue.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Social media addictive for kids, Reddit admits

Australian Financial Review, General News, 27/07/2026, Paul Karp, Page 4

Reddit has argued that social media should be given back to Australian children aged under 16,

despite conceding there is a credible risk that they can become addicted.

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Building tools to save our tradies

Daily Telegraph, General News, 27/07/2026, Kylie Lang, Page 11

Tradies are taking their own lives at almost twice the rate of other employed Australian men, with one dying every two days. They are also six times more likely to die by suicide than in a site accident. The shocking figures come as construction industry peers rally around their mates to try to stem the tide of suicide.

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

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Accused left hospital

Courier Mail, General News, 27/07/2026, Greg Mclean and Shayla Bulloch, Page 5

A man allegedly armed with multiple knives who was shot by police in Cairns left hospital just five hours earlier after being detained the previous night over a mental health episode. But during the tense shooting on Saturday, an innocent woman was also shot as three police officers fired multiple rounds when the man allegedly refused to drop his weapons.

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

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It's vital we help our tradies to reach out

Courier Mail, Editorials, 27/07/2026, Page 20

Every second day, an Australian construction worker takes his own life, dying by suicide at almost twice the rate of other employed men. Our tradies are now six times more likely to die by suicide than in workplace accidents.

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Perinatal mental health care demand rises as families continue to fall through the cracks

The Australian, Other, 26/07/2026, Andrew Hedgman

A young mother's suicide 25 years ago forced Australia to confront a crisis too many parents still endure alone, and fresh data suggests silence, stigma and missed chances for help remain deeply entrenched. As Gidget Foundation Australia marks its 25th anniversary, the organisation said the country had made major strides in recognising perinatal depression and anxiety, but too many expectant and new parents still fall through the cracks.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Twenty-five years ago a young Aussie mum took her own life. It sparked an entire movement about perinatal depression

7News.com.au, Other, 26/07/2026, Libby Bowditch

'To anyone looking in from the outside, Louise seemed to have it all.' The death of a young mother 25 years ago who I knew affectionately as 'Gidget' changed the way Australia thinks about perinatal depression and anxiety.

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IMMUNISATION

Take a jab at needle fear

Herald Sun, General News, 27/07/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 15

An Australian-first project on one of healthcare's biggest phobias would prevent trauma and protect the long-term health of young hospital patients, a top Melbourne institute says. A fear of needles might seem insignificant to the other challenges facing patients at the Royal Children's Hospital, but it can have a real impact on kids' experience and their future care.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Organ donors give two mums a second chance

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 27/07/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 14

Natalie Busby and Rani Tulsi share a love of motherhood and gratitude to donors who helped them return to full family life. Both women, who were on dialysis, received donated kidneys this year, transplanted at the Royal Adelaide Hospital with post transplant care at Flinders Medical Centre.

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Call for all to get tested

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/07/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 3

Tasmanians are being urged to get tested for hepatitis which they can carry for decades without knowing putting their liver health at risk. Cameron Brown of the Tasmanian Council of AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases (TasCAHRD) said data showed 2896 Tasmanians had hepatitis B and C in 2023.

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Young Australians urged to register as organ donors amid 'sharp' generational gap

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 26/07/2026, Brendan Casey

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: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

AI passing the sniff test with digital nostrils

Australian Financial Review, General News, 27/07/2026, Greg Bearup, Page 6

First it came for the jobs of humans, and now it's targeting our best mates – artificial intelligence is nosing in on the once secure turf of canines, the airport sniffers, the truffle-hunters and the cadaver dogs.

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New MND drug targets vital protein link

The Australian, General News, 27/07/2026, Shaun Lintern, Page 3

Human trials are to begin for a drug that could treat almost every person diagnosed with motor neurone disease. Scientists at University College London developed the drug, which helps the body to produce a protein necessary for communication between motor neurone cells and muscles.

How new technology will help BP readings

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/07/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 1

In a bid to reduce the rates of cardiovascular disease, a project led by the University of Tasmania's Menzies Institute for Medical Research is aiming to improve the accuracy of blood pressure measurements taken by GPs. It will see the rollout of automated office blood pressure (AOBP) measurement across 40 GP clinics and 6000 patients in Tasmania and interstate.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Health chief confirms no diphtheria connection in three-year-old's death

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 26/07/2026, Camden Smith

NT Health has said that the death this month of a three-year-old child in the Barkly region was not diphtheria-related. The NT news reported on July 13 that the family of a three-year-old boy in Canteen Creek believed the death was linked to the respiratory disease.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Victoria's Coalition asked to justify differences between regional hospital election pledges

ABC Online, Other, 26/07/2026, Wade Stephens

The scale and cost of health service upgrades for regional communities at opposite ends of the state may vary greatly, if the Coalition is successful at this year's state election. The Victorian Liberal and National parties this week committed to fund a new \$850 million hospital in Drouin, in West Gippsland, if elected in November.

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'Critical' ramping leaves Bendigo and Ballarat without ambulance coverage

Ballarat Courier, Other, 26/07/2026, Ben Silvester

Ramping at Ballarat Base Hospital was so serious overnight on July 23 and 24 that crews were drawn in from the wider region, leaving all of western Victoria between Ballarat and Horsham without ambulance coverage. Bendigo Hospital was forced to declare "code black" ambulance emergencies on several occasions in the past week, with crews waiting up to 4.5 hours to unload patients.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Melbourne nurse who replaced cancer patients' morphine with water struck off after years of 'appalling' drug thefts

Daily Mail UK, Other, 27/07/2026, Madeleine Damo

A Melbourne nurse who stole liquid morphine intended for cancer patients and replaced it with water has had her registration cancelled over her 'appalling' and 'brazen' conduct. [...] The Nursing and

Midwifery Board of Australia referred the matter to VCAT in July 2023 after a six-year investigation, with the Tribunal ultimately finding that Scriven had engaged in professional misconduct.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Inside the unlikely dream life of two Nhulunbuy doctors and why more should consider it

Northern Territory News, Other, 26/07/2026, Lottie Hood

More than 1,000km from Darwin, former Sydneysider Mallee Lambert said he has found the life most people start medicine looking for. "You want your work to be worthwhile and to contribute," he said.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Testosterone's big moment is based on junk science

Australian Financial Review, General News, 27/07/2026, Euan Black, Page 29

The chief of war in the United States, Pete Hegseth, reckons jacking up soldiers' testosterone levels will make them fiercer fighters.

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Missed the date? Lose the shop!

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 26/07/2026

Option deadlines are a pharmacy's greatest risk, writes Stephanie McGrath For any retail pharmacist, the lease of your premises is one of your most valuable business assets, right alongside your PBS approval. Yet, in the day-to-day rush of managing dispensary workflows, 60-day dispensing changes, and staff rosters, the lease option exercise window frequently falls through

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Australia approved funding for genomic testing in blood cancers. So why do so many patients still have to pay out of pocket?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 27/07/2026, Piers Blombury, Alice Robinson and Edward Cliff

When a patient is suspected of having leukaemia, lymphoma, or another blood cancer, their treating haematologist must urgently determine which type of cancer they have and choose the most appropriate therapy. Next-generation sequencing (NGS), which reads thousands of genetic mutations from a tumour sample, plays a critical role in accurate diagnosis and guiding therapy targeted to the specific genetic underpinnings of the tumour.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

First H5 bird flu case confirmed on SA metro beach

ABC Online, Other, 26/07/2026, Evelyn Leckie

A greater crested tern was found near Robe on South Australia's Limestone Coast, while another greater crested tern was found at a beach ramp near the Semaphore Surf Life Saving Club, north-west of Adelaide. Acting Australian chief veterinary officer Sam Hamilton said there have now been 20 confirmed or presumed positive detections of H5 bird flu in Australia.

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

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ABC News, ABC Evening News (Weekend), 26/07/2026, Meredith Sheehan

The CSIRO has confirmed that two native birds found dead on separate beaches in South Australia have tested positive for the H5 strain of bird flu. The number of confirmed or presumed positive detections in Australia is now 20.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

There's a lack of proof to back up hype for getting on peptides

Australian Financial Review, General News, 27/07/2026, Georgia Wyatt, Page 31

There is promising evidence in rodent studies, and anecdotally some patients are converts, but the core issue is the lack of clinical trials in humans.

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Millions of people are losing weight using GLP-1s. How do the drugs affect their love lives?

The Guardian, Other, 26/07/2026, Mridula Amin

For Jennifer, obesity was the obvious culprit for most of her problems. The litigation attorney told herself it was the reason why she wasn't being invited to parties, and why she and her husband struggled with physical intimacy in their otherwise "solid" marriage.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

Warning for Aussie kids as UK bans energy drinks

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/07/2026, Harrison Finlay, Page 6

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: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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Tasmanian crop swaps face shutdown over proposed food safety red tape

The Mercury, Other, 26/07/2026, Elise Kaine

Tasmania's proposed food safety regulations have sparked a community backlash, threatening to bury backyard growers in red tape for simply sharing excess produce with neighbours. A vibrant tradition of community crop swapping is under threat across Tasmania as incoming food safety regulations threaten to bury backyard growers in administrative red tape.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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AICIS

Mobile lab detects harmful chemicals

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/07/2026, Aris Schuler-Shah, Page 12

Tasmanian communities living with the uncertainty of PFAS contamination can now find out whether their soil and waterways are polluted by harmful "forever chemicals" within hours thanks to a mobile lab developed by the University of Tasmania. The breakthrough reduces current wait times for results from more than 10 days to just six hours.

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