



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 28th July 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Melbourne Insider** reports that three finalists have been named ahead of the Health Minister's Award for Nursing Trailblazers 2026, with the winner to be announced by the Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler at the National Nursing Forum in Melbourne on 5 August.
- **The Courier Mail (page 1)** reports that Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service chief executive Peter Gillies has warned an all-staff town hall that the budget situation facing the organisation was "grim", and that they will have to closely manage patient demand due to their latest budget unusually including no extra funds for growth.
- **The Ballarat Courier (page 3)** reports that ramping at Ballarat Base Hospital was so serious overnight on July 23 and 24 that crews were called in from the wider region, leaving all of western Victoria between Ballarat and Horsham without ambulance coverage, with the Victorian Ambulance Union saying Ballarat and Bendigo have also been left without ambulance coverage in the past week.
- **The Daily Telegraph** reports that 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, introducing automated machines that take blood pressure readings without a doctor in the room.

- [Adelaide Advertiser \(page 1\)](#) reports that a report from the South Australian Salaried Medical Officers Association to SafeWork SA has claimed that Gawler Hospital doctors are being bullied by nurses and undermined by management. *Also reported by:* [ABC Online](#)
- [ABC Online](#) reports that an eight-month Four Corners investigation has revealed that laboratory testing of hundreds of items across major brands found some products had been adulterated or didn't match their label.

MINISTER BUTLER

Relief for MS community

Mountain Views Mail - Healesville, General News, 28/07/2026, Oliver Winn, Page 9

Life-changing multiple sclerosis medications will remain subsidised, sending a sigh of relief throughout those in the Yarra Valley living with the chronic neurological condition. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed MS medications Ocrevus, Kesimpta and Lemtrada would stay on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), keeping costs at \$25 and \$7.70 for concession card holders.

Also reported by: [Ranges Trader Mail \(Melbourne\)](#), [Mount Evelyn Mail \(Mount Evelyn\)](#).

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

The Courier Mail, Other, 27/07/2026, 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: [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

The Zap: all the health and aged care news, plus key consultations not to miss

Croakey, Other, 27/07/2026, Melissa Sweet

Three prominent medical organisations have joined forces in urging governments to do more to prevent young people ending up in the criminal justice system, including through raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 years nationally. [...] On 23 July, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler announced the scheme would be expanded to cover clinical psychology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, paramedicine, radiography, pharmacy, rehabilitation therapies, audiology, and podiatry.

[Read More](#)

Nursing trailblazers finalists named

Melbourne Insider, Other, 27/07/2026, Amelia Hartley

Three nursing trailblazers finalists have been named ahead of the Health Minister's Award for Nursing Trailblazers 2026, with the winner to be announced in Melbourne on 5th August. [...] The recipient will be announced by the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, at the National Nursing Forum in Melbourne.

[Read More](#)

Three nurse innovators named as finalists for the 2026 Health Minister's Award for Nursing Trailblazers

Oz News Today, Other, 27/07/2026

The Australian College of Nursing The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) has named three finalists for the Health Minister's Award for Nursing Trailblazers 2026, recognising nurse-led innovations that are delivering measurable improvements in health outcomes for communities across Australia. [...] The

Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, will announce the recipient of the Health Minister's Award for Nursing Trailblazers 2026 on 5 August at the National Nursing Forum in Melbourne.

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Local students in line for paid prac boost

The New England Times, Other, 27/07/2026, Lia Edwards

Health students studying at the University of New England and the University of Newcastle's Tamworth campus are among those set to benefit from the Federal Government expanding paid prac to ten more courses from 1 July 2027. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler said the change would help students training for professions in high demand, including in regional areas.

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Brisbane-based health body calls for GST reform

WEB InQueensland, Other, 27/07/2026

Brisbane's peak body for exercise physiologists is calling for the Federal Government to overhaul charges in the industry. [...] ESSA is calling on federal Health Minister Mark Butler to add exercise physiology to the list of GST-exempt health services.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 27/07/2026, Jessica Harmsen

People in Broken Hill who rely on hearing aids are worried they could be waiting in silence for weeks after Hearing Australia stopped offering daily appointments due to staff going on extended leave and an inability to secure a local replacement. Meanwhile, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who oversees Hearing Australia, is confident Broken Hill won't be disadvantaged long-term.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 27/07/2026, Yvonne Yong

A Commonwealth-owned audiology provider is reducing its face-to-face services in an outback community, causing frustration in the town.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 27/07/2026, James Glenday and Catherine Murphy

A Commonwealth-owned audiology provider is reducing its face-to-face services in Broken Hill. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is confident that Broken Hill won't be disadvantaged in the long term.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

Aged care costs leave older Australians dying waiting for care: inquiry

The Senior, Other, 27/07/2026, Phoebe Loomes

Older people are being driven to desperation by rising aged care costs, as a parliamentary inquiry hears Australians have died while waiting for care. [...] The government promised to overhaul the

controversial algorithm assessment tool in July , with Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae telling the ABC a new appeal mechanism would be implemented.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Would you tick-a-box for organ donation on your drivers license?

ABC Online, Other, 27/07/2026, Sally Sara

What would it take for you to register to become an organ donor? If it was as easy as ticking a box on a driver's licence form, 1 in 5 Australians -- who are currently not registered to donate -- would. [...]

GUEST: Rebecca White, Assistant Minister for Health and Ageing

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The ultimate gift of life

Alfred Health, Other, 27/07/2026

For Olivia and her family, it was a conversation they shared long before tragedy struck that made an incredibly difficult time just a little bit easier. [...] Rebecca White MP, Olivia and her mother Gail, two transplant recipients and Organ and Tissue Authority Chief Executive Lucinda Barry AM to officially launch DonateLife Week 2026.

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LA FM, 16:00 News, 27/07/2026

Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White is encouraging Tasmanians to register as organ and tissue donors for this year's DonateLife Week.

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SEA FM , Breakfast, 27/07/2026, Ben Lawrence

Tasmanians are being encouraged to register as organ and tissue donors for this year's DonateLife Week. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White says one person can save multiple lives.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 27/07/2026, Sally Sara

Pre-recorded interview with Assistant Minister for Health Rebecca White. Compere says today is the start of DonateLife Week, encouraging the public to become tissue and organ donors. White says data shows that a lot of people want to register as organ donors, however, since they have moved away from driver's licence as a requirement, a lot of people assume they are still registered, but they are not.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

DEPARTMENT

Hearing aid users fear being left in silence after Broken Hill services cut

ABC Online, Other, 27/07/2026, Oliver Brown , Patrick Reincke and Sarah McConnell

Before Kym Files bought his first hearing aid set, he was "practically housebound" due to his deteriorating hearing. The 68-year-old's hearing had been getting worse for decades, but despite his wife and children urging him to seek help, he was worried about the cost and the stigma of getting old. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said the government recognised the importance of hearing services in supporting communication, independence and social connection.

[Read More](#)

Addressing the theatre and critical care nursing workforce shortage in Australia

HealthTimes, Other, 27/07/2026

Australia's nursing workforce is under sustained, well-documented pressure, and it is not projected to ease on its own. The federal Department of Health and Aged Care's own Nursing Supply and Demand Study 2023 to 2035 forecasts a national undersupply of 70,707 full-time equivalent nurses by 2035 if nothing changes, with demand nationally rising from 334,873 FTE in 2023 to 493,282 FTE by 2035 while supply only reaches 422,575 FTE over the same period.

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MJA Podcasts 2025 Episode 20: Australia's new Lung cancer screening program

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

Australia has its first new cancer screening programme in 20 years, this time for lung cancer. Today we'll be discussing this new programme in depth as well as the role of primary care and the supports available in delivering the programme. [...] Professor Milch is also Medical Advisor to the Australian Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing on cancer screening policy.

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McCabe steps up as MA calls in the experts

MedNews, Other, 27/07/2026, Megan Brodie

Senior Department of Health, Disability and Ageing bureaucrat Daniel McCabe has stepped...

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Youth mental disorders have surged by more than 50 per cent in 15 years

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, Other, 27/07/2026, Eva Kolimar

Mental disorders among young adults have surged dramatically over the past decade and a half, with new research revealing that the proportion of young Australians meeting the diagnostic criteria for anxiety, mood, or substance disorders rose from 23.4 per cent to 36.2 per cent between 2007 and 2022. [...] The research received support from the NHMRC, the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, Headspace, and the Australian Government Research Training Program.

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RACGP orders department back to drawing board on MHR changes

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/07/2026, Holly Payne

My Health Record reforms will only be useful if they (a) have patient buy-in and (b) don't suck to use. The plan to increase the availability of information in My Health Record via event summaries will lead to "frustration" and "underutilisation" in primary care, the RACGP warns. In its submission to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's consultation on sharing medicines-related information to

My Health Record by default, the college of GPs said the reforms "must support the coordinating role of general practice".

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New guidance on peptide prescribing in the works

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/07/2026, Holly Payne

As the United States prepares to widen public access to the drugs, Australia continues to take a cautious approach. The Medical Board of Australia says it is working on new guidance for prescribing off-label, unapproved, and compounded medicines in the wake of the peptide boom, even as other countries move to loosen restrictions.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Union shock: McManus, O'Neil to quit ACTU

The Australian, General News, 28/07/2026, Ewin Hannan, Page 1

Actu secretary Sally McManus and ACTU president Michele O'Neil have surprised union leaders by revealing they will resign, with the duo hailing their success in securing four dozen new rights for workers under the Albanese government and rebuilding union membership after years of decline. Their decision paves the way for a new generation of leaders at the ACTU, with union officials on Monday speculating that Australian Manufacturing Workers Union national secretary Steve Murphy, Australian Education Union president Correna Haythorpe and Community and Public Sector Union national secretary Melissa Donnelly were among contenders to succeed Ms McManus and Ms O'Neil at the ACTU.

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'Eating window' dementia risk hope

The Australian, General News, 28/07/2026, Kaya Burgess, Page 3

Restricting your eating to a ninehour window each day and stopping all consumption four hours before you go to bedcould be linked with a reduced risk of developing dementia for overweight women, researchers have said. Results from a small randomised clinical trial were presented on Sunday to the annual meeting of the American Society of Nutrition in Maryland, looking at whether "time-restricted eating", a form of intermittent fasting, could have any impact on dementia risk.

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Vexed question of hormone treatment to stave off dementia

Age, General News, 28/07/2026, Wendy Tuohy, Page 14

Michelle Peate should have a big advantage when confronting the question of when, if, and what hormones to take as she moves into perimenopause. The expert in decisions around reproductive health is well-informed about what women may experience years before their last period, but the 46-year-old is still confused when it comes to the trending issue of hormone replacement.

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Fast lane to lower risk of dementia

Herald Sun, General News, 28/07/2026, Page 15

Restricting your eating to a nine-hour window each dayand stopping all consumption four hours before you go to bed could be linked with a reduced risk of developing dementia for overweight women, researchers have said. Results from a small randomised clinical trial were presented on Sunday to the annual meeting of the American Society of Nutrition in Maryland, looking at whether "time-restricted eating", a form of intermittent fasting, could have an impact on dementia risk.

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Census to help profile nation's worst killer

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.

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

Canberra Times, 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: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Do you have to complete the 2026 Census? What happens if you don't?

SBS, Other, 27/07/2026, Yasmine Alwakal

The 2026 Census is compulsory for everyone in Australia on Tuesday 11 August. The questionnaire is in English but translators and interpreters are available for non-English speakers.

[Read More](#)

The patient who loves buying lettuce for his daughter-in-law – and what his case teaches us about shared decision-making in medicine

The Guardian, Other, 28/07/2026, Ranjana Srivastava

Weeks before major surgery, a patient cancels his appointment with our geriatric oncology service, declaring it unnecessary. An astute nurse convinces him otherwise.

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I used to judge people who put their parents into aged care. Then dementia made me one of them

HelloCare, Other, 27/07/2026, Jakob Neeland

Almost a decade of writing about aged care in Australia has taught me that no two families arrive at the decision to seek residential care the same way, but almost all of them carry the same thing afterwards: guilt. I used to think I understood that guilt from a professional distance.

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Calls grow for simpler aged care access as families face complex system

Your Life Choices, Other, 27/07/2026, Abegail Abrugar

When a loved one suddenly needs more care, families often have little time to prepare for the decisions ahead. Many discover that finding the right support is far more complicated than expected.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Driven to prove doubters wrong and make a difference

Daily Advertiser, General News, 28/07/2026, Maryam Sulaiman, Page 3

A Wagga driving teacher is helping to give freedom, confidence and sometimes life back to people with disabilities. 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.

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Program connects families with early intervention health services in community hubs, daycares

ABC Online, Other, 27/07/2026, Lottie Twyford

An early childhood intervention initiative in south Brisbane is helping parents identify developmental concerns in young children. The Thriving and On Track (TOTs) program has helped parents to remove the "burden" of access to getting support for their children.

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Care withdrawn: Govt ends fostering contract

Shepparton News Online, Other, 27/07/2026, Eamon Kurta

A decision by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice to terminate its foster care contract with CareSouth from 2027 may see the service leave Deniliquin. Families who are registered with the organisation have been advised of the decision but, as yet, details on what it will mean for the children in CareSouth care is unknown.

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Some disabled workers can legally be paid \$3.31 an hour. Here's how to reform a system built for a different era

The Conversation, Other, 27/07/2026

Disabled people employed in specialist disability workplaces – what used to be called sheltered workshops but today are more often called Australian disability enterprises – can be paid sub-minimum wages as low as \$8.32 under the relevant award, the Supported Employment Services Award.

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Mandarin Talks: Care economy reform that's built to last

The Mandarin, Other, 27/07/2026, Mandarin Staff

This webinar will examine the role government agencies play at each stage, and the judgment calls – informed by a stewardship mindset – that will help keep important reforms on track. Aged care, the NDIS and Australia's other care systems are being remade at an unprecedented pace and scale, driven by royal commission mandates, budgetary pressures and a shared recognition that the status quo was untenable.

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PRIMARY CARE

Grim year for health on Coast

Courier Mail, General News, 28/07/2026, Hayden Johnson, Page 1

The head of the Sunshine Coast's public health system has warned they have to closely manage patient demand as their latest budget unusually includes no extra funds for growth. Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service chief executive Peter Gillies used an alstaff town hall to warn that the budget situation facing the organisation was "grim".

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

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No ambo coverage amid 'critical' ramping

Ballarat Courier, General News, 28/07/2026, Ben Silvester, Page 3

Both Ballarat and Bendigo have been left without ambulance coverage in the past week as ramping at both cities' major hospitals hit critical levels, the Victorian Ambulance Union says. 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.

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Coroner clears hospital

Cairns Post, General News, 28/07/2026, Rosalee Chapman, Page 5

Baby died natural causes A coroner has found the death of a newborn girl at Atherton Hospital was a result of natural causes and was not "preventable".

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Kara finds a school lifeline

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 28/07/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 1

A Mildura family say they will be forever indebted for the generosity and kindness shown to them after their daughter and sister suffered a life-threatening medical condition that required immediate intervention. Kara Grobler was rushed to the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne with a collapsed lung as the family, who recently arrived in Mildura from South Africa, faced mounting medical expenses for the procedures to keep the teenager alive.

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Mother demands answers after baby's death

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/07/2026

A Queensland mother has told of the heartbreaking loss of her baby boy after being forced to wait several hours for a caesarean section at Ipswich Hospital.

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'Your postcode should not determine survival': Mayor's plea amid healthcare crisis

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/07/2026, Brendan Gullifer

Imagine suffering a stroke then having to drive 120km for care. For a small community in the state's south, that's an everyday reality.

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

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Murdoch Uni wants vet students included in Commonwealth Prac Payment program

ABC Online, Other, 27/07/2026, Kate Forrester and Annie Brown

For Gemima Rahman, completing her studies as a vet meant relocating more than 1,500km from Port Hedland to Perth. Now in her postgraduate studies, the 24-year-old is specialising in large animals.

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Allied health workforce stares down shortages

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/07/2026, Danielle Kutchel

Allied health and aged care provider peak bodies discuss pressures on the frontline as reablement takes hold and how to address the challenges. Reablement has become a critical focus in aged care but there are concerns over whether the allied health workforce can keep up with demand.

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VAD legislation 'was never intended to prevent legitimate clinical care'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/07/2026, Megan Haggan

As the Prime Minister puts forth his own views on Voluntary Assisted Dying, pharmacists have welcomed the reintroduction of legislation to allow telehealth involvement Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has welcomed the reintroduction of legislation to amend the Commonwealth Criminal Code to allow telehealth consultations for voluntary assisted dying (VAD).

Pharmacy ready to support pain patients: Twomey

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/07/2026

Expanding pharmacists' scope of practice could improve access to care for chronic pain sufferers, the Guild's president says. Pharmacists have the capacity to play a greater role in breaking barriers to care for patients living with chronic pain, Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president, Professor Trent Twomey believes.

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National Pain Week: Patients urged to work with their GP to manage pain and avoid dependency

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/07/2026

Australians living with persistent pain are being encouraged to work closely with their GP to find the right treatment plan, with the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) highlighting the importance of holistic care and early support to prevent medicine-related harm.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Selfless decision gave teen her dream

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/07/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Luka-angel Cairns always wanted to be a dancer. "That was my biggest dream, but I couldn't do it with my failing heart," Ms Cairns said.

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Mark Speakman labelled her a bully; now this anti-abortion activist is donating to the NSW Liberals

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/07/2026, Michael McGowan

The NSW Liberals received a donation from an anti-abortion activist who was accused of "brazen bullying" and attempting the "Americanisation of NSW politics" by former party leader Mark Speakman. The \$2000 donation from strident anti-abortion activist and campaigner Joanna Howe was made at one of a series of political fundraisers the NSW Liberal Party has held with firebrand federal Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price since September.

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Automated blood pressure checks to be offered to thousands in GP clinics

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/07/2026, Sue Bailey

Automated machines that take blood pressure readings without a doctor in the room could transform how GPs detect Australia's biggest silent killer. 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.

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

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Tips on treating and avoiding lower back pain

ABC Online, Other, 28/07/2026

Lower backpain affects an estimated 80% of people over some point in their lives. The good news?

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Paired kidney donations to expand the living donor pool: the Western Australian experience

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

On average, patients with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) live 10 years longer if they receive a kidney transplant than if they remain on dialysis. Falling per-capita deceased organ-donor numbers and longer kidney transplant waiting lists in Australia have increased the emphasis on live kidney donation for these patients.

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Territory mum to run first full marathon years after life-changing kidney transplant

The Mercury, Other, 27/07/2026, Ryan Kirley

A Territory mum and kidney transplant recipient, who once feared she would never live normally again, plans to run her first full marathon in Melbourne just four years after surgery. Just four years after receiving a life changing kidney transplant, 51-year-old Joanne Bathern plans to run her first full marathon in Melbourne aiming to raise awareness for kidney disease.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Access to essential medicines shouldn't depend on profit margins

The New Daily, Other, 27/07/2026

Australia's access to pharmacies is uneven and below the international average. A new study has found that Australia has, on average, 2.22 pharmacies for every 10,000 people.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 27/07/2026, Brenton Ragless

More people in SA register to donate their organs than anywhere else in Australia, but the number drops when it's time to give consent. This Donate Life Week, South Australians are being urged to have those difficult conversations with their families so they are prepared for when the time may come.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 27/07/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service Co-State Medical Director Michael O'Leary. O'Leary says Australians can sign up as organ and tissue donors via the DonateLife website. He also states that those who want to sign up can bring their Medicare card.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#).

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

We're 'near bottom of world' on access to rare disease treatments

The Australian, General News, 28/07/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

Father of three Craig Lucanus never thought he would find himself having to fundraise to pay for cancer treatment. The 70-year-old has a rare form of pancreatic cancer and the drug helping keep him alive is not approved or publicly reimbursed in Australia.

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PM's fine line on VAD via phone

Herald Sun, General News, 28/07/2026, Ellen Ransley, Page 10

Advocates have warned Prime Minister Anthony Albanese against being a mouthpiece for church

leaders, after he pushed back on allowing telehealth for voluntary assisted dying. A divided Labor national conference voted in favour of removing barriers to VAD but unanimously granted MPs a conscience vote if it comes to the party room, however Mr Albanese suggested it was not a priority of his government.

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

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Hidden virus that no one talks about

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/07/2026, Taylor Penny, Page 12

A 31-year-old woman who tested positive to a strain of the human papillomavirus (HPV) not covered by the important vaccination she received as a teenager said there were no symptoms other than a cold and she wasn't very sexually active. Courtney Walshe is bravely sharing how she was diagnosed with HPV during a routine pap smear five years ago.

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Raising awareness for mum

Shepparton News, General News, 28/07/2026, Brynne Timewell, Page 1

For Mitch Heggert skipping a few beers is nothing compared to what his mum's been through. "You don't get a golden ticket if you've got cancer."

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Dad Mark Millar lucky to be alive after aggressive prostate cancer diagnosis

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/07/2026, talkUrl coralComments

A dad with "no symptoms whatsoever" was told his undetected prostate cancer would have killed him, with new data showing too many regional men are not as fortunate. When Mark Millar's GP flagged a slight abnormality in a routine blood test, the Torquay retiree never imagined it would change his life forever.

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How a sore toe or yellow nail could signal heart disease or cancer

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/07/2026, Peta Bee

Have you ever had a sore big toe? Or looked at your toenails and wondered what's wrong with them?

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

The root of happiness

Herald Sun, General News, 28/07/2026, Page 9

Living in neighbourhoods with greater tree canopy may help protect people against depression in older age, research has discovered. The UNSW Sydney Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing study followed more than 1000 older Australians for up to 12 years and found people who lived in areas with greater tree canopy had fewer depressive symptoms over time.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Extreme weather's mental health risk

Cairns Post, General News, 28/07/2026, Page 8

Extreme weather events may have a greater mental health impact on people with existing mental illness. The University of Melbourne research found that the increase in psychological distress after an

extreme weather event was about four times higher in people with pre-existing mental illness than those without, and they also had greater odds of moderate or severe mental disorders.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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IMMUNISATION

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Research on needle phobia

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 28/07/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 3

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.

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The National Health and Medical Research Council celebrates its 90th anniversary

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

This year marks the 90th anniversary of Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council. From its official inception in the 1930s, the NHMRC has had a rich history from protecting Australia from diseases like polio and tuberculosis to making sure it backs high quality research that is ethical, rigorous and focused on community benefit.

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“Don't underestimate COVID”

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/07/2026

New research investigating the ongoing impact of the COVID pandemic has found that an estimated 5-10% of Australians, and one in six medically vulnerable people (16.6%), reported persistent symptoms consistent with a diagnosis of long COVID. Long COVID is a multi-system illness characterised by persistent symptoms, such as fatigue, breathing.

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Aussies keen on prevention

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/07/2026

New research by NAB Health has revealed that Australians want to be healthier and they know how, but cost and access are getting in the way. One of the main findings of the Health Insights Report (Part 2) 2025/26 was the very high level of personal accountability Australians feel for.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Overcrowded housing linked to Northern Territory diphtheria outbreak, researchers say

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/07/2026, Natasha Clark

A diphtheria outbreak has swept through the Northern Territory, infecting 131 people and likely claiming one life. Researchers say overcrowded homes and poor skin health are fuelling the spread.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Doctors slow clock on Perth Radiological deal

The Australian, Business News, 28/07/2026, Bridget Carter, Page 14

The auction for Western Australia's largest diagnostic imaging provider Perth Radiological may remain in advanced discussions with a number of parties, but the process has hit a hurdle. DataRoom understands that the doctors that control a significant portion of the business are playing hardball over talks with parties, thought to be Bain Capital and Pacific Equity Partners, that are in the final stages.

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

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Burnout stalks caring professions

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/07/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 3

Two-thirds of nurses and midwives in NSW often consider leaving the industry, while almost half have already started looking for alternative work, a damning new report has found. Clinicians in the femaledominated industry are struggling to balance unpredictable, highintensity shift work with the demands of parenting, according to University of Sydney analysis released today.

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Nurses bullying doctors

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/07/2026, Darren Chaitman, Page 1

Gawler Hospital doctors are being bullied by nurses and undermined by management, a union report has alleged. As well, it is claimed junior doctors are assigned up to 50 patients at a time.

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Nurses 'silenced' by employer while waiting months for promised backpay

The Border Mail, Other, 27/07/2026, Chelsea Wilson

Southern Riverina nurses have been left waiting months for thousands of dollars of backpay to be released by their employer. About 100 Mercy Health nurses and midwives in Albury and Young were told they wouldn't receive up to a year's worth of backpay until September 2026.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Doctors' union raises behavioural concerns about nurses' conduct at SA health service

ABC Online, Other, 27/07/2026, Daniel Keane and Kathryn Bermingham

A patient's clinical care plan was allegedly blocked by a health service manager against the advice of specialists at a facility north of Adelaide, a report by the South Australian doctors' union claims. The report by the SA Salaried Medical Officers Association (SASMOA) documents a litany of concerns about workplace culture at Gawler Health Service, including alleged "bullying, harassment and disrespectful behaviours from various nursing staff".

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'Prospects are grim': Force medical colleges to prioritise graduates from Australian unis for training, students tell govt

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/07/2026, Ciara Seccombe

The NSWMSC says the UK's new laws prioritising domestic graduates have slashed competition for training posts. Medical students are demanding that the Federal Government force medical colleges to prioritise graduates of Australian universities for registrar positions to fix the specialist training bottleneck.

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Doctor claims 'malicious agenda' over pandemic conduct

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/07/2026, Megan Haggan

AHPRA confiscated an ivermectin script from a pharmacy in a case where a doctor's prescribing during the Covid pandemic came under scrutiny. The doctor's registration to practise medicine was suspended by the Medical Council of NSW in October 2021, the Civil and Administrative Tribunal NSW has heard.

[Read More](#)

'People don't go to work to be assaulted...'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/07/2026

The issue of safety in pharmacy is starting to gather attention, with credentialed pharmacists calling for something to be done to reduce their risk of harm while performing home medicines reviews, writes Megan Haggan. Credentialed pharmacists say something needs to be done to reduce their risk of harm while performing home medicines reviews— often with

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Emergency nurses experience hidden form of psychological harm

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 27/07/2026

Emergency nurses are experiencing a hidden form of psychological harm that is contributing to burnout, workforce shortages and impacting patient care, according to researchers. A scoping review led by Murdoch University Lecturer and PhD candidate Clare Walters in the School of Nursing at Murdoch University, examined a decade of international research into moral distress among emergency department nurses, identified consistent patterns that are affecting nurses across healthcare systems.

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Mandatory reports of concerns about the health, performance and conduct of health practitioners

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

A first step towards understanding how Australia's notifiable conduct law is working. Abstract Objective: To describe the frequency and characteristics of mandatory reports about the health, competence and

conduct of registered health practitioners in Australia.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

One Nation is worried about PBS drugs sold on the black market. But how big an issue is this?

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 27/07/2026

One Nation is concerned about subsidised, prescription medicines being sold on the black market, one of several examples of what it says are Medicare "rorts". We've known for years that some types of medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) can be misused this way.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Bird flu: Darling Downs could be at critical risk

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 28/07/2026, Erin Blond, Page 3

The first suspected positive case of H5 bird flu in Queensland has washed up on the shores of Moreton Island, raising urgent questions for agricultural hubs across the state. For the Darling Downs region, which produces roughly 85 per cent of Australia's eggs, an outbreak of avian influenza could prove catastrophic to local farms, supply chains, and the broader economy.

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'Can't stop it spreading': Aussie poultry industry on alert as bird flu jumps from migrant species

Daily Mail UK, Other, 27/07/2026

A deadly bird flu outbreak may have reached a significant turning point with a string of suspected cases detected in a native species. The poultry industry is on alert after seven sick greater crested terns were found in South Australia 's southeast, sparking fears of a local transmission.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 27/07/2026, Peter Overton

The bird flu crisis has intensified tonight with seven new suspected cases in South Australia, and the SA Government admitted that there's a high chance the local poultry industry will be impacted. If the cases are confirmed by the CSIRO, it will bring Australia's bird flu tally to 27.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#)

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Are pharmacists losing the information war?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 27/07/2026, Jorgia Burke

With vaccination rates dropping across the board, including an increasing number of parents refusing the life-saving Vitamin K injection for newborns, the information pharmacists provide has never mattered more. Four pharmacist influencers join one of PSA26's most timely panels to unpack what the profession is up against – and how to fight back. [...] 'The same [body], the TGA, is setting those safety standards and recommendations,' she added.

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4BC, Afternoons, 27/07/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners President Dr Michael Wright, on pharmacies experiencing a shortage in asthma medications. Wright states that the Therapeutic Goods Administration has announced that there is currently a shortage of Ventolin nebulas, but he states that people who have asthma do not need to worry too much because they can still use the Ventolin puffer. He also concedes that there have been distribution issues of several medications since the COVID era, and he says the TGA is looking at alternative routes for people who might need them.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Mars to reinstate skittled leader

The Australian, Business News, 28/07/2026, Duncan Evans, Page 19

Confectionery giant Mars Australia has been forced to reinstate a veteran leader of its Skittles team after an accidental peppermint exposure sparked fears of food contamination and ended with a brutal sacking. The mishap happened at the company's Asquith factory in Sydney in October when a forklift driver punctured a huge 850kg carton containing a 480kg batch of peppermint mints, with the tynes cutting through the packaging.

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

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The shocking investigation into food labels

ABC Online, Other, 28/07/2026

When you pick up a product at the supermarket, you trust what's written on the label. So, when it says an ingredient was sourced in Australia, why wouldn't you believe it? [...] So you've got the Food Standards Australia and New Zealand, which sets the rules.

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From eggs to seafood, spices and spirits, testing reveals truth behind labels

ABC Online, Other, 27/07/2026

Australians could be paying for food that is not what it claims to be. A Four Corners investigation has uncovered products whose labels did not match independent scientific testing, raising serious questions about the integrity of Australia's food supply. [...] Food regulator Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) sets the standards, state and territory regulators and councils enforce them, the federal agriculture department checks imported food, and the ACCC can take action over false or misleading claims under consumer law.

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Testing shows misleading food labels rife in supermarkets

ABC Online, Other, 27/07/2026, Adele Ferguson

An eight-month Four Corners investigation has raised serious questions about whether Australians can trust the labels on everyday supermarket goods. Extensive laboratory testing of hundreds of items across major brands found some products had been adulterated or didn't match their label.

[Read More](#)

ABC, Four Corners, 27/07/2026, Adele Ferguson

Source Certain, a leading forensic laboratory that has worked with the FBI, Scotland Yard, Interpol and the Australian Federal Police, has revealed that Leggo's, owned by Simplot and one of Australia's biggest tomato brands, and Australia's two major supermarkets, Coles and Aldi, are selling products that claimed to be from Australia or Italy, but are actually sourced from Xinjiang, a region known for its use of forced labour. It can be recalled that the Food Standards Australia New Zealand, the Australian Council of Local Government, the Federal Agriculture Department, and the ACCC are tasked with regulating food products and protecting Australians from immediate risks, but none of them is clearly responsible for detecting food fraud.

Also reported by: [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 27/07/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Correct Food Systems food safety expert Gary Kennedy, on revelations that some tomato products did not match the country of origin claimed on their labels. An audio clip of Four Corners reporter Adele Ferguson is played, where she stated that over 221 processed tomato products from 39 brands, including tomato paste, passata and diced tomato, were analysed by Source Certain, revealing that the tomato products were from Xinjiang, a region in China known for its use of forced labour. Kennedy discusses how forensic food testing is carried out, stating that the tomato products were tested for radioisotopes and every single product has different tests down to the molecular level.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 27/07/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with dietitian Themis Chryssidis, on calls for Australia to ban caffeinated drinks for under-16s. Chryssidis says Australians are consuming caffeine in several different food products and drinks, but he notes that caffeine is not a good thing for young Australians because it can impact their sleep health and increase their anxiety. He also says it is challenging for Food Standards Australia and New Zealand and general government authorities to keep up with what's happening, and he concedes that nothing has happened in terms of cracking down and regulating energy drinks.

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AICIS

ABC, ABC News, 27/07/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

New data shows that construction workers in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane have been exposed to excessive levels of silica dust while working on major infrastructure projects such as the Cross River Rail. Occupational hygienist Kate Cole has pressed NSW Parliament to compel contractors and the

regulator to release 104,000 pages of air monitoring results for eight years of tunnelling across 12 projects.

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