



TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 30th July 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports that Australians with the earliest signs of Alzheimer's disease will have the opportunity to delay the disease's progression decades before symptoms emerge, as the groundbreaking pTau217 blood and biomarker tests are made available at the new Asia-Pacific Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer's Diagnosis in Randwick, launched by Health Minister Mark Butler. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Courier Mail](#)
- **The Australian** (page 7) reports that a 39-year-old Darwin woman has been charged with using her position as a public servant to defraud the NDIS of millions of dollars. A joint federal and territory police task force arrested the Lee Point woman, alleging she used her position with the Department of Children and Families to refer "vulnerable members of the community" to an NDIS business she co-owned. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph Australia](#), [ABC Online](#)
- The **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 8) reports that the NDIA rejected more than 4000 claims from NDIS middlemen in just nine months because they requested funding for services that were never delivered. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the government wanted to ensure the plan-management market was delivering good outcomes for participants.
- The **Sydney Morning Herald** (online) reports that a Queensland researcher's accidental discovery of viral pathways could lead to a new inhibition treatment for common viruses, with the potential to disrupt some of the world's deadliest viral infections, including Ebola and hantavirus.

- **Daily Telegraph Australia** (online) reports that Australian doctors are increasingly turning to artificial intelligence scribes for note taking, raising concerns for the safety and privacy of vulnerable patients. It has triggered worries potential productivity benefits are being placed ahead of ensuring patients receive safe, accurate and confidential medical advice and treatments. *Also reported by: West Australian, 7News*
- **The Courier Mail** (online) reports that more than 50 Aboriginal children across Western NSW have received life-changing ear, nose and throat surgery through a collaborative outreach initiative aimed at reducing longstanding barriers to specialist healthcare. The program provided 51 First Nations children from public waiting lists in Orange and Dubbo with access to the vital surgeries.
- The **Hobart Mercury** (page 10) reports that a new report shows a broken food regulation system that puts industry interest ahead of Australians' health. The Food for Health Alliance report made 40 recommendations aimed at improving health, such as mandatory added sugar labelling and warning labels on alcohol, but only three recommendations have been fully implemented. *Also reported by: ABC Online*
- **The West Australian** (online) reports that a new study from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reveals that miscarriage and pregnancy loss could be more common than previously thought, with data showing that out of those who gave birth in 2022, three in 10 previously experienced at least one miscarriage, and one in 10 had two or more losses. *Also reported by: ABC News*
- The **Herald Sun** (page 1) reports that an investigation found that three aged care residents in Victoria died "entirely preventable" deaths after staff gave them other residents' medications and in two cases delayed calling emergency services. The coroner warned residents continued to be at risk until systemic issues in the aged care sector were fixed.
- **Daily Telegraph Australia** (online) reports that living tissue will be donated to a biobank to research a rapid increase of bowel cancer in young Australians as records reveal a 200 per cent increase in the past two decades, believed to be caused by "new exposures" related to modern living. University of the Sunshine Coast will establish the human tissue biobank as part of a \$2.5 million research project investigating the "alarming increase" in bowel cancer among younger Australians.
- **The Age** (page 2) reports that Victorian doctors are set to take industrial action across public hospitals from as early next week over their fight for better pay and conditions. Members of the doctors' union have voted overwhelmingly in favour of protected action including potential strikes paving the way for their first industrial action in two decades. *Also reported by: Herald Sun*

MINISTER BUTLER

Alzheimer's blood test to revolutionise care

The Australian, General News, 30/07/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Australians with the earliest signs of Alzheimer's disease will have the opportunity to delay the disease's progression decades before symptoms emerge as groundbreaking blood and biomarker tests are made available at a new specialist centre for Alzheimer's disease diagnosis. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler will launch the Sydney-based centre a partnership between Neuroscience Research Australia and Roche Diagnostics Australia on Thursday.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online).

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Alzheimer's blood test gives the gift of time

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/07/2026, Rachel Rasker and Kate Aubusson, Page 3

Australians will soon have access to the first diagnostic blood test for Alzheimer's disease that researchers say will transform early detection, treatment and potentially prevention. [...] Today Health Minister Mark Butler opens the Asia-Pacific Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer's Diagnosis in

Randwick, capable of running the pTau217 test in 18 minutes, as well as processing other biomarkers linked to Alzheimer's disease.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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New test spots Alzheimer's 20 years early

Courier Mail, General News, 30/07/2026, Andrew Hedgman and Lillian Saleh, Page 13

Sydney will become the front line of earlier Alzheimer's detection with an Australian-first blood test that can deliver results in as little as 18 minutes and identify disease-related changes up to 20 years before symptoms appear. The breakthrough will be formally announced today with the launch of the Asia-Pacific Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer's disease Diagnosis at NeuRA by Federal Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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From band aids to blueprint

Riverine Grazier, General News, 29/07/2026, Kimberly Grabham, Page 1

A cohort of nine committed volunteers, and a dynamic new manager have vastly improved Haydays, propelling it into modern times, and casting amazing plans for an idyllic future. [...] Haydays missed out on a Commonwealth aged care capital funding round twice before Lisa wrote directly to the Hon Mark Butler, the federal Minister for Health and Ageing.

Also reported by: [thegrazier.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Paid prac expands to more health courses

Naracoorte Community News, General News, 29/07/2027, Page 2

Students across the Limestone Coast training for frontline health careers are set to receive a financial boost under a new federal government initiative aimed at easing cost-of-living pressures while helping build Australia's future healthcare workforce. [...] Health and Ageing minister Mark Butler said the expansion would strengthen Australia's healthcare workforce while helping students complete their qualifications.

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RACGP warns against 'Robodebt-style' repeat

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/07/2026, Alyssa Talakovski and Helen Tobler

The RACGP "cannot endorse" plans to allow AI use in compliance checks unless amendments are made to the upcoming health insurance bill, its new submission says. [...] While health minister Mark Butler has promised a seamless transition to the new framework without reapplication, Dr Wright said further work would be needed to determine whether the legislation would truly be seamless or if it would impose an additional administrative burden.

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OT sector celebrates student prac payment

Freedom2Live, Other, 29/07/2026, Heidi Bain

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced at the Labor National Conference in Adelaide last week that students studying occupational therapy will be eligible to receive payments for their practical placements as part of their studies, from 1 July 2027. [...] Read more from the associations that championed the advocacy campaigns that pushed for the change: Occupational Therapy Australia and Allied Health Professionals Australia, and the associated statement from Mark Butler, Minister for Disability and the NDIS.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Labor cracks down on NDIS middlemen's dodgy claims

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/07/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 8

The agency that runs the National Disability Insurance Scheme rejected more than 4000 claims from NDIS middlemen in just nine months because they requested funding for services that were never delivered. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the government wanted to ensure the plan-management market was delivering good outcomes for participants.

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

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MINISTER RAE

73 new aged care beds for the Illawarra, but not a 'silver bullet' solution

PS News, Other, 29/07/2026, Keeli Dyson

Six aged care facilities in the Illawarra will share in nearly \$26 million to increase the region's supply of beds, with hopes the expansion projects and initiatives will improve ongoing challenges in the sector. [...] "When we looked across the country at the places where we were having the biggest challenges in terms of bringing on new aged care beds, the Illawarra was one of those places that we identified," Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae said.

Also reported by: [Region Illawarra \(Online\)](#).

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WAVE FM, 09:00 News, 29/07/2026

Six Illawarra aged care sites will share almost \$26 million in Federal Government funding. Federal Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, says they are planning to supply more aged care beds.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 29/07/2026, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Interview with Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride. Compere mentions that there will be two new mental health services in the southern suburbs of Adelaide. McBride announces that there will be a new Medicare Mental Health centre for people in the southern suburbs of Adelaide. She explains that a Medicare Mental Health Centre would mean that patients would be able to walk in without an appointment and without a referral.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Choose to give the gift of life

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/07/2026, Rebecca White, Page 12

I have been the minister responsible for Australia's DonateLife program for the past year. [...] Rebecca White is the federal Health and Aged Care Assistant Minister.

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

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Outback Radio 2WEB, 14:05 Local News, 29/07/2026

During DonateLife Week, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White urged Far West residents to register as organ and tissue donors. The appeal comes as 2000 Australians remain on transplant waiting lists, and 14,000 people are on dialysis due to kidney failure.

Also reported by: [Outback Radio 2WEB \(Bourke\)](#).

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Eastside Radio 89.7FM, Drive , 29/07/2026, Alan Field

Interview with Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White. White discusses organ donation registration, highlighting that increasing registered donors from 35 to 50 per cent of the population could save 200 more lives each year. She says people can register through the DonateLife website or the Medicare app.

Interview continues on: [Eastside Radio 89.7FM \(Sydney\)](#).

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LA FM, Breakfast, 29/07/2026, Belinda King

Interview with Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Indigenous Health and Women, Rebecca White. White discusses better support for women who are going through menopausal stages, wherein they will be provided with better advice on the matter through expanded menopause and perimenopause services.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Health bid success

North Central News, General News, 29/07/2026, Alex Gretgrix, Page 1

St Arnaud residents will soon have a coordinated, multidisciplinary model of primary healthcare in the form of a new health hub. [...] The funding was secured from the Federal Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing for Phase 2 of the Wimmera Thin Markets project.

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Does the Health Dept know how many aged care beds it funds?

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/07/2026, Caroline Egan

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is asking all residential aged care operators to complete a census. The Census will contain a number of questions about aged care accommodation , with the aim of building a national database of aged care bed capacity.

[Read More](#)

\$1.36bn rural training reboot

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/07/2026, Amanda Sheppeard

Canberra has rebooted its \$1.36 billion rural health training program, replacing placement targets with

a tougher test – whether universities can show their graduates actually go on to build medical careers in regional, rural and remote Australia. [...] In the grant documents, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing says the reforms will strengthen universities' role in addressing local and national workforce needs, by shifting the program to an outcomes-focused model and replacing outdated requirements with measures tied to rural workforce outcomes.

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Why psychology education must evolve with the profession

Campus Review, Other, 29/07/2026, Kylie Henderson

Recent debates over psychology training have become dominated by one question: should we change the qualification pathway? [...] By 2038, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing projects demand for psychological services will outstrip supply by a staggering 96.6 per cent.

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Australia risks becoming 'hostage to geopolitics' over healthcare AI

Allergy and Respiratory Republic, Other, 29/07/2026, Cate Swannell

Australia risks becoming a "hostage to geopolitics" if it allows artificial intelligence systems that are controlled overseas to become embedded in the foundations of our healthcare system, according to the nation's peak healthcare AI alliance. [...] He said ownership should ideally sit with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, working with the new Office of AI announced by the Prime Minister last week.

Also reported by: [Oncology Republic \(Online\)](#).

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Aged care sector navigating AI, robots and new frameworks

Catholic Leader, Other, 29/07/2026, Kymberlee Gomes

Queensland's ageing population is growing, and with advancements in technology and medicine, providers are now turning their attention to at-home support. [...] Between 2017 and 2025, the number of people using home care rose 307 per cent, from 71,900 to 293,000, according to GEN, which is operated by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and funded by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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Thriving Kids pushes ahead

Freedom2Live, Other, 29/07/2026, Heidi Bain

The NDIS changes to how children with developmental needs will be supported from January 2027, moving out from under the NDIS banner and into non-government organisations (NGOs) via Thriving Kids, remain on track. The next stage of the process is due to begin in October 2026.

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New eLearning tools available

Community Care Review, Other, 29/07/2026

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has published three new eLearning resources to help providers and their workforces meet the requirements of the Aged Care Act 2024. The new resources form part of Module 3: Embedding rights in practice.

[Read More](#)

GP clinics face fines for making false PIP claims

Health Services Daily, Other, 29/07/2026, Helen Tobler

At a Senate hearing today, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing representatives also faced questioning over automated decision-making flagged under the Health Insurance Amendment Act.

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Deadly drug mix

Herald Sun, General News, 30/07/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Medication mix-ups killed three Victorians in aged care homes, prompting a coroner to urge for national reforms to better protect the elderly. An investigation found that three aged care residents died "entirely preventable" deaths after staff gave them other residents' medications and in two cases delayed calling triple-0.

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

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Five fees, one room: How aged care costs are actually calculated

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 29/07/2026, Rachel Lane

When people start looking at residential aged care, the first number they find is the Refundable Accommodation Deposit (RAD). It's the figure advertised on aged care websites, listed in brochures and often used to compare one home with another.

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Senate Inquiry: Support at Home sends operators into deficit

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/07/2026, Caroline Egan

Nine months after Support at Home was introduced, Monday's Senate Inquiry hearing in Brisbane heard of a system still under significant strain. Providers spoke of financial pressures, growing complexity and higher consumer costs are undermining the reforms to home care.

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Flinders tool looks beyond clinical recovery outcomes

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/07/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Researchers are developing a quality-of-life measurement tool for older Australians receiving rehabilitation services to enable consistency across health and aged care settings. The quality-of-life measurement tool used in the National Aged Care Quality Indicator Program is now being tested and refined for use with older Australians receiving subacute care, such as rehabilitation services after illness or injury, to improve transitions to home or care.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 29/07/2026, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter

Interview with Julie Ratcliffe, Professor of Health Economics, Flinders University. Ratcliffe discusses the new quality-of-life tool for older Australians that is currently being tested in the health system, which was developed through consultations with older individuals and is already implemented nationally in aged care. She says the project is evaluating the tool's use among older patients in areas such as rehabilitation and transition care, with research currently underway in South Australia and Victoria ahead of potential wider adoption.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 29/07/2026, Leon Compton

Interview with Professor Jane Alty, neurologist, Royal Hobart Hospital. Alty discusses the TAS Test team's AI-based computer test developed with the University of Tasmania to detect subtle movement changes linked to future dementia risk earlier. She says the test measures hand movements, speech sounds and thinking tasks, with Alty noting that earlier risk identification can support preventive measures and access to care.

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Woman charged in '\$18m NDIS plot'

The Australian, General News, 30/07/2026, Alexandra Feiam, Page 7

A Darwin woman has been charged over an alleged abuse of public office to facilitate corrupt conduct involving more than \$18m from the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Northern Territory police and the federal Fraud Fusion Taskforce arrested a 39-year-old woman from Lee Point on Tuesday at the Hilton in Darwin.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Closure painful for mum and daughter

Canberra Times, General News, 30/07/2026, Steve Evans, Page 3

Guilt and love both tumble together in the mind of Sally Madelly when she talks about her daughter, Shani, who has a mental disability. "The reason she is disabled is because I am a severe epileptic," the mother said in a flood of tears.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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Department of Children and Families worker Ifunanya Genevine Ebelebe makes bail bid after \$18m NDIS fraud allegations

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/07/2026, Zizi Averill

A Darwin mother-of-four trusted to work with highly vulnerable Territory children has claimed she was a minor player in her husband's alleged seven-year, \$18m disability embezzlement plot. On Wednesday Ex-Department of Children and Families worker Ifunanya Genevine Ebelebe appeared in Darwin Local Court charged with five offences linked to an alleged multi-million dollar disability corruption plot.

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

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Darwin public servant charged with multi-million-dollar fraud of NDIS

ABC Online, Other, 29/07/2026, Tilda Colling, Grace Atta and Olivana Lathouris

A 39-year-old Darwin woman has been charged with using her position as a public servant to defraud the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) of millions of dollars. Yesterday, a joint federal and territory police task force arrested Lee Point woman Genevine Ifunanya Ebelebe, alleging she used her position with the Department of Children and Families to refer "vulnerable members of the community" to an NDIS business she co-owned.

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PRIMARY CARE

Surge in AI scribes in GP clinics sparks major privacy concerns

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/07/2026, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis

Patient privacy is being put at risk by the use of unregulated artificial intelligence-enabled scribes in GP consultations and psychology sessions, a new report has found. In a new paper titled 'Off the Record: AI Scribes in Australian Healthcare', Australian human rights organisation Digital Rights Watch found "patients are not being adequately informed or protected" when it comes to the use of the devices and software in clinical settings.

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

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Doctors' AI usage raising privacy and safety concerns

Australian doctors are increasingly turning to artificial intelligence scribes for note taking, raising concerns for the safety and privacy of vulnerable patients. It has triggered worries potential productivity benefits are being placed ahead of ensuring patients receive safe, accurate and confidential medical advice and treatments.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Patient privacy fears as half of Aussie GPs use AI technology to record consultations

7News.com.au, Other, 30/07/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Fresh concerns have emerged about artificial intelligence listening in on medical appointments, with warnings that patient privacy is not being adequately protected. AI has become like an assistant to doctors, listening to consultations and writing detailed medical notes in seconds.

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What's changed in food allergy prevention?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/07/2026, Leanne Philpott

The advice on food allergy prevention has shifted from avoidance to exposure. With recent updates to ASCIA's Infant Feeding for Food Allergy Prevention Guideline, pharmacists have a key role in helping families understand the latest evidence.

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Patients say yes to collaborative prescribing

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/07/2026

Recent research investigating patient perspectives and experiences of collaborative pharmacist prescribing in hospital inpatient settings has found that almost all respondents trusted pharmacists' expertise and ability to prescribe. Patients also reported greater involvement in medicine decisions compared to those who received doctor prescribing.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 29/07/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

The Australian Medical Association says AI medical scribes are improving efficiency by generating consultation notes while doctors retain responsibility for reviewing accuracy and making clinical decisions. A Digital Rights Watch report has raised concerns about patient privacy, data rights and access to care as more than half of GPs use the technology, prompting calls for stronger protections and regulation.

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POPULATION HEALTH

First national data on pregnancy loss reveals info gaps

West Australian, Other, 29/07/2026, Emily Woods

Pregnancy loss is common, but Australia is not capturing enough data on its prevalence, a breakthrough study reveals. Among those who gave birth in 2022, three in 10 previously experienced at least one miscarriage, and one in 10 had two or more, an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report found.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 29/07/2026, James Glenday and Emma

Rebellato

A new study from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reveals that miscarriage and pregnancy loss could be more common than previously thought, as one in three pregnancies could end in a loss. People who needed assist in regards to this are encouraged to contact Red Nose Australia.

Also reported by: [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#).

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ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 29/07/2026, Emma Crowe

Interview with Dr Jim Hungerford, CEO, Butterfly Foundation. Hungerford discusses the rising prevalence of eating disorders among Australian men, particularly young males, with 365,000 men estimated to be living with the condition. He highlights that pressures to be lean and muscular, including those from social media, are contributing to harmful behaviours and that fewer than one in ten men seek needed support.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 29/07/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with child health expert Mandy Sacher, founder of Wholesome Child. Sacher discusses concerns about McDonald's Red Bull Dragonberry Energiser and Red Bull Peach Boost Energiser drinks, citing their caffeine content and high sugar levels. She says energy drinks can affect children's concentration, sleep, anxiety levels and physical health and highlights concerns about the lack of restrictions on children purchasing them in Australia.

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

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Severe asthma hope

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 30/07/2026, Page 12

A new treatment option is available for Australians living with severe asthma and chronic rhinosinusitis. Exdensur (depemokimab) is the first anti-IL-5 biologic approved in Australia that is administered once every six months for eligible patients.

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Scientists launch biobank to probe why 'modern living' is fuelling cancer spike

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/07/2026

Living tissue will be donated to a biobank to research a rapid increase of bowel cancer in young Australians as records reveal a 200 per cent increase in the past two decades, believed to be caused by "new exposures" related to modern living. University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) will establish the human tissue biobank as part of a \$2.5m research project investigating the "alarming increase" in bowel cancer among younger Australians.

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

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High breast density makes cancer harder to see on a mammogram, but it's not always reported to patients

ABC Online, Other, 29/07/2026, Georgia Roberts

When Kate Clark's breast started leaking fluid, which she says was the colour of Fanta, she knew there was something wrong with her body. She booked in for a mammogram and ultrasound in Canberra, and although both those tests came back negative for breast cancer, she felt she knew her body better.

COVID lockdown effects still linger

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/07/2026

Sleep problems and anxiety driven by COVID lockdowns still affect many people, regardless of whether they had contracted the disease, with new research suggesting that they may also be contributing to fatigue symptoms in those with long COVID.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 29/07/2026, Brenton Ragless

The University of the Sunshine Coast has launched a \$2.5 million biobank project to investigate the causes of rising bowel cancer rates among younger Australians by analysing tissue samples from local patients. Researchers, led by UniSC Cancer Biologist Dr Lochlan Fennell, will study potential links to modern environmental exposures, including antibiotic use and microplastics, to improve understanding and treatment of the disease.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Migrant mental health on youth agenda

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 30/07/2026, Binusha Pathirana, Page 21

Cultura Geelong's Multicultural Youth Council has proposed a powerful bill to the Legislative Assembly chamber at this year's Victorian Youth Parliament, aiming to reform mental health resources for multicultural young people. While evidence continues to emerge that young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds are at higher risk of experiencing mental health challenges, the youth council members emphasise the lack of sufficient support to address them.

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Adult ADHD battlelines drawn as medication spikes: Is it a 'lifesaver' or performance enhancement?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/07/2026, Susie O'Brien and Nieve Walton

Adults with ADHD are defending their "exhausting" condition as medical experts dismiss a spike in cases and medication rates as little more than lifestyle enhancements. A new analysis of ADHD in adults- which now affects more than two per cent of the Australian population – attributes a sharp increase in cases to influencers and celebrities, university students seeking better grades and attention-depleted young adults hooked on social media.

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

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Channel 9, Nine News, 29/07/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry

Cairns Hospital CEO Leena Singh defended the hospital's treatment of 28-year-old Richard Allen Tom, who was admitted for a mental health assessment after an incident in Cairns CBD and was released less than 24 hours before being shot by police. A 50-year-old female bystander was also accidentally shot during the incident, with an investigation underway.

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IMMUNISATION

Why are people dying to avoid vaccinations?

Transparency statement: I have no medical qualifications. The purpose of this column is to encourage you to discuss vaccination concerns with your GP or a pharmacist.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Costing lives and billions: call to act on hepatitis

West Australian, Other, 29/07/2026, Allanah Sciberras and Callum Godde

Vicki Bagnara delayed receiving treatment for a silent disease for a decade after witnessing her partner's traumatic death. Shrouded in uncertainty and facing mounting stigma, she felt isolated while her hepatitis C worsened with each passing day.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 10, 10 News, 29/07/2026, Kate Freebairn

While studying a rare genetic disorder, researchers at the University of Queensland discovered a potential antiviral treatment for viruses such as COVID-19 and RSV. Dr Merja Joensuu led the study. The early-stage treatment aims to disrupt viral spread and could have applications for diseases like Ebola and Hantavirus.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Accidental Brisbane discovery could disrupt common and deadly viruses

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 29/07/2026, Courtney Kruk

A Queensland researcher's accidental discovery could lead to a new treatment for common viruses, with the potential to disrupt some of the world's deadliest viral infections, including Ebola and hantavirus. University of Queensland neuroscientist and biochemist Dr Merja Joensuu was researching the neurological pathways of children affected by hereditary spastic paraplegia, a group of rare genetic disorders, when she made the breakthrough.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Life-changing surgery blitz ends agonising wait for dozens of First Nations children in Western NSW

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/07/2026, Dane Millerd

More than 50 Aboriginal children across Western NSW have received life-changing ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery through a collaborative outreach initiative aimed at reducing longstanding barriers to specialist healthcare. The program provided 51 First Nations children from public waiting lists in Orange and Dubbo with access to vital surgery, helping address conditions that can affect hearing, speech, learning and overall wellbeing.

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

[Read More](#)

Indigenous-led early hearing checks help rural children stay on track

National Indigenous Times, Other, 29/07/2026, Joseph Guenzler

Early intervention teams are delivering hearing screenings to children at rural schools across Queensland's North Burnett region to identify health concerns before they affect learning and development. Two teams of Indigenous health workers from Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service are visiting schools across the area.

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Three-year agreement targets better health in Far North communities

National Indigenous Times, Other, 29/07/2026, Joseph Guenzler

A new partnership between Community Enterprise Queensland and the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service is set to support healthier choices in Torres Strait, Northern Peninsula Area and Cape York communities. Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ) and the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service (TCHHS) have signed a three-year Heads of Agreement focused on improving social, economic, health and wellbeing outcomes.

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SBS, World News Australia, 29/07/2026, Janice Petersen

Apunipima Cape York Health Council Deputy Chair Thomas Hudson told an inquiry in Cairns that Indigenous communities in Cape York face unequal access to life-saving health services, with health council workers citing poorer mental health, mistrust in government services and inadequate medical care. The inquiry into racism, hate and violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will conclude its Cairns hearings before moving to the Torres Strait.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Hospital queue chaos

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/07/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 12

Chaotic scenes are unfolding at Flinders Medical Centre's emergency department with average wait times blowing out beyond 11 hours. Southern Adelaide's flagship hospital has had about 15 ambulances ramped during the night, say people waiting to be seen.

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

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Channel 7, Seven News, 29/07/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

SA Health plans to extend its council lease for the temporary roadside treatment pods at the Women's and Children's Hospital, which were originally installed as COVID isolation units and are now used to treat children. SA Health Minister Blair Boyer says the pods have increased the hospital's capacity to provide treatment spaces. The Opposition questions their continued use and calls for a more suitable long-term plan.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Channel 9, A Current Affair, 29/07/2026, Allison Langdon

Rare Rh disease continues to affect babies, with Erin and Chris's daughter Jean dying days after birth following complications linked to maternal antibodies. Professor Ian Wicks and his team at the Walter

and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI) are developing synthetic anti-D to address global shortages of donor-derived antibodies, with human trials being pursued.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 29/07/2026, Graeme Goodings

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's new analysis found that nearly one in three women who gave birth in 2022 had previously experienced at least one miscarriage, with 10 per cent having had two or more. AIHW's Deanna Eldridge says the data highlights the prevalence of pregnancy loss.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Teachers and doctors ramp up pressure for pay deals with fresh strike threats

Age, General News, 30/07/2026, Caroline Schelle and Henrietta Cook, Page 2

Two of the state's labour unions are flexing their muscle against the newly minted premier, with public school teachers and public doctors threatening industrial action immediately after Ben Carroll's elevation to the top job. Ben Carroll's failure as education minister to secure a deal with the state's powerful teachers' union could haunt his premiership, with the union's left faction set to meet late yesterday to push for another strike, just weeks after 20,000 teachers walked off the job and took to the streets of Melbourne last Thursday.

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

Fatigued Vic docs losing patience

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 30/07/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 13

Victorian doctors are set to take industrial action across public hospitals from as early next week over their fight for better pay and conditions. Members of the doctors' union have voted overwhelmingly in favour of protected action including potential strikes paving the way for their first industrial action in two decades.

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

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

Health worker attacks up

West Australian, General News, 30/07/2026, Claire Sadler and Duncan Murray, Page 3

The number of Australian healthcare workers admitted to hospital due to an assault has more than doubled in the past decade. Assault has become the second most common cause of workplace injury for health care workers with 126 assault-related hospitalisations in 2024/25 - an increase from 49 in 2015/16.

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

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Relief as more health students receive 'life changing' payment

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 30/07/2026, Carla Hancock, Page 6

Bendigo medical student Chelsea McIntosh will no longer have to manage the juggling act of completing her practical placements without any of the pay that's needed to meet the cost involved. Studying paramedicine at La Trobe University in Bendigo, she said "it's just impossible" to support yourself if you're not in the financial position to do so while out on placements.

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Government expands student payments for allied health but medical students are left out

A decision to expand the Commonwealth Prac Payment scheme to include students in 10 allied health disciplines has been welcomed as a major boost for regional Australia, but one federal MP says more work is still needed. The announcement means university students studying courses such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, paramedicine and pharmacy will be eligible to receive \$338.60 a week while undertaking mandatory clinical placements.

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

[Read More](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 29/07/2026, Janice Petersen

The Australasian Jewish Medical Foundation's Dr Adam Gordon has warned against political advocacy in healthcare and antisemitic online content, saying patient welfare should remain the priority where trust and safety concerns arise. The group is calling for a nationwide ban on medical practitioners and health staff wearing political symbols, including flag pins.

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3AW, Drive, 29/07/2026, Jacqui Felgate

Interview with Dr Stephanie Davies, Chair, AMA Victoria Doctors Subdivision. Davies discusses Victorian public hospital doctors endorsing industrial action for the first time in 20 years, citing concerns about working conditions and unfilled shifts. She says the planned staged action across Victorian public hospitals aims to improve conditions while ensuring patient safety is not compromised.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 29/07/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Dr Michelle Wille, Outreach Coordinator, WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza. Wille discusses the significance of local H5N1 avian influenza transmission among greater crested terns in South Australia, pointing out that it represents a shift from detections in pelagic seabirds to transmission in Australian wildlife. She says surveillance is still necessary to determine where the virus is present and how it is spreading, but she also notes that the poultry industry is taking biosecurity measures seriously.

Interview continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#). [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Non-compliant packages costs supplement brand

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/07/2026

Supplement brand pays \$19,800 fine for allegedly not meeting child-resistant packaging requirement. Sydney-based nutrition supplement firm, Cellife Health Care, has been issued with an infringement notice by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in relation to alleged non-compliance with the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989.

[Read More](#)

Salbutamol nebules shortage prompts call to revisit asthma guidelines

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 29/07/2026

The National Asthma Council Australia has issued an update on an ongoing shortage of salbutamol 2.5mg nebules, urging health professionals to use the disruption as a prompt to reinforce updated asthma management guidelines. Clinical Associate Professor Debbie Rigby, Clinical Executive Lead National Asthma Council, says GSK has advised of a current supply shortage of Ventolin Nebules (salbutamol sulfate) 5mg/2.5ml and 2.5mg/2.5ml inhalation solution ampoules.

[Read More](#)

New drug for severe asthma

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/07/2026

GSK Australia has announced the registration of Exdensur (depemokimab) by the TGA, providing Australian healthcare professionals with a new treatment option for eligible patients living with severe eosinophilic asthma (SEA) and chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps (CRSwNP).

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 29/07/2026, Max Fletcher and Sarah Greenhalgh

Users of weight loss drugs, including Ozempic, Wegovy and Mounjaro, have reported symptoms described as skin sensitivity, tingling, and severe pain, with some cases affecting daily activities. TGA has recorded 13 suspected cases of the condition linked to these medications since 2024.

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

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

'Prioritising profit': Australians regularly prescribed medicinal cannabis with very high THC levels

The Guardian, Other, 29/07/2026, Melissa Davey

Doctors are commonly prescribing high-dose medicinal cannabis containing up to four times the concentration of THC tested in clinical trials, a review has found. Researchers from Monash University evaluated the available evidence for the efficacy and safety of higher THC potency medicinal cannabis products, in line with those being prescribed in Australia.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Health takes back seat to industry

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/07/2026, Page 10

A new report shows a broken food regulation system that puts industry interest ahead of Australians' health. The Food for Health Alliance report assesses Australian governments' action on food labelling reforms recommended in a 2011 review.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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Food industry insiders sound alarm over Australia's broken food labelling system

ABC Online, Other, 29/07/2026, Adele Ferguson , Chris Gillett and Madi Chwasta

Ever wondered why it's so hard to stop at eating just one potato chip, one piece of chocolate or one piece of fried chicken? Former food technologist Min Sheen Tan said that's no accident.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 29/07/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Mark Lawrence, Professor of Public Health Nutrition at Deakin University and former board member of Food Standards Australia New Zealand. Lawrence discusses concerns about the Health Star Rating system, saying its algorithm can be manipulated by ultra-processed food manufacturers to achieve higher ratings. He believes that the key issue is the system's design, not whether it is mandatory, and cites warning labels used in Canada, Chile, and Brazil as an example of an alternative approach.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 29/07/2026, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter

Interview with Burnie Mayor Teeny Brumby. Brumby discusses Burnie City Council's implementation of the existing four-strike contamination process for the regional FOGO service, mentioning that it is part of a contract signed by seven North West councils in 2022. She says the process addresses repeated contamination of food and garden waste bins, which can raise processing costs and affect ratepayers.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 29/07/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Mark Lawrence, Professor of Public Health Nutrition, Deakin University. Compere says food industry insiders have told a Four Corners investigation that Australian shoppers are being deceived by marketing and labelling that's aiming to make ultra-processed foods appear healthier. Lawrence believes that the whole Health Star Rating has been a bit of a marketing tool for ultra-processed foods.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 29/07/2026, Leon Delaney

Delaney is joined by Blumers Personal Injury Lawyers's Chris Gribble. Gribble discusses food fraud and labelling issues in Australia, pointing out that products like spices, fish, and other foods may not always match their labels. He says that while Australia focuses on food safety testing, it falls behind in addressing food fraud.

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