



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 8th July 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 6) reports that pharmaceutical companies have swamped the PBS with submissions for more favourable price deals for new drugs as patients are forced to wait for access to therapies that are stuck in limbo. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has made it clear he does not want to see the medications removed from the PBS.
- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 19) reports that expectant mothers in the Hunter Valley face a long journey to the hospital in the critical moments before birth because a \$138 million hospital renovation underway does not include a single birthing suite. With no dedicated maternity services at Cessnock Hospital, and none in the works despite the major upgrades, mums-to-be in the town have to make the 25km trek to Maitland.
- The **Daily Telegraph Australia** (online) reports that health officials are keeping a close eye on a spike in syphilis cases in Tasmania, as sexual health clinicians raise concerns about low public awareness of the sexually transmitted infection. Public Health Services has recently distributed posters to health care providers to promote STI testing, while the Department of Health is also using social media to advocate safe sex.
- **ABC Online** reports that Queensland mental health community organisations fear inadequate funding from the state government may lead to services being cut and longer wait times. Eating Disorders Queensland chief executive Belinda Chelius said the Brisbane organisation had seen

a 60 per cent increase in demand since 2022, but a funding shortfall would put the NGO's budget into deficit.

- The **Border Mail** (page 2) reports that Aspire Support Services, one of the region's largest disability support services, will decrease its offerings after budget cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and cease operations of its lifestyle and learning day programs from August 28.
- **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 15) reports that an analysis of more than 15,000 First Nations children assessed by Hearing Australia found the rate of preventable ear disease is double that of First Nations children in metropolitan, regional and rural areas, with almost half the children under the age of six living in remote locations likely to have middle ear disease.

MINISTER BUTLER

Drug cost dispute hits PBS approvals

The Australian, General News, 08/07/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 6

Pharmaceutical companies have swamped the nation's medicines regulator with submissions for more favourable price deals for new drugs as patients are forced to wait for access to therapies that are stuck in limbo. [...] MS patients are lobbying hard for ongoing access to the medicines and federal Health Minister Mark Butler has made it clear he does not want to see the medications removed from the PBS.

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

Diversion disappointment for Mid North mothers

Plains Producer, General News, 08/07/2026, Harry Mead, Page 6

As birthing services are diverted from Jamestown and Crystal Brook to Port Pirie, local mums fear the move could have significant health repercussions if it becomes permanent. [...] Member for Grey Tom Venning MP formally challenged the State Labor Government and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler MP, demanding an intervention and a long-term strategy to address the critical shortage of regional obstetricians and midwives.

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

Federal Health Minister questioned on Launceston hospital overcrowding and palliative care funding

ABC Online, Other, 07/07/2026, Leon Compton and Steven White

At around 11pm on July 6, Tasmania branch secretary of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Emily Shepherd visited the Launceston General Hospital to find the hospital overflowing. [...] On Tasmania Mornings, Emily asks Federal Health Minister Mark Butler his take on the situation, and why both state and federal government funding has been pulled from the Comprehensive Palliative Care and Aged Care program.

[Read More](#)

Launceston General Hospital emergency department overflowing, nurses union says

MSN Australia, Other, 07/07/2026

The Launceston General Hospital's (LGH) emergency department was overflowing with more than 70 patients on Monday night, according to Tasmania's nurses' union. [...] While visiting an aged care facility in Launceston today, federal Health Minister Mark Butler told reporters he has heard about issues at the LGH for far too long.

[Read More](#)

New location for Penrith's Urgent Care Clinic

The Western Weekender, Other, 07/07/2026, emily chate

Penrith Medicare Urgent Care Clinic is now operating at a new location with extended hours. [...] "The

Penrith Medicare Urgent Care Clinic will continue to support locals seven days a week from the new location, for extended hours and most importantly patients will be bulk billed," Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

Federal Government urged to improve access to a critical medication safety service

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

In a recent media article , Health Minister Mark Butler stressed the importance of reforms to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme to ensure "affordable, reliable access to medicines for all Australians". Access to medicines drives both equity and economic strength, he said.

[Read More](#)

One year on, lung cancer screening is proving itself valuable

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/07/2026, Mariella Attard

Almost 100,000 people have participated in Australia's national lung cancer screening program since its launch in July 2025, with 285 joining the program every day on average, according to federal health minister Mark Butler. Early data insights from the National Lung Cancer Screening Program suggested that around 2% of results were very suspicious and required urgent review, 3% were suspicious, 1% were probably benign and required follow-up in six months, 4% had a benign appearance, 86% were negative, and 4% were indeterminate/incomplete.

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DoHDA 'sneakily' updates NDIS reforms impact analysis with substantive changes

Health Services Daily, Other, 07/07/2026, Cate Swannell

The quietly published updated analysis shows far more participants will be impacted by cuts to the social capacity and capability program and that far fewer providers are a fraud risk than first suggested. The credibility of the federal government's narrative about NDIS reforms has been undercut by an update to its own impact analysis, which the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has "sneakily" published.

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New laws give RNs the power to prescribe PBS medicines

Nursing Review, Other, 07/07/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Registered nurses will be able to prescribe Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines for the first time after parliament passed landmark legislation expanding the profession's scope of practice. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the legislation represented a significant milestone for both the profession and patients.

[Read More](#)

Just in case they didn't get the message, Mark Butler has reminded them of the Government's view

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 07/07/2026

Health Minister Mark Butler has said the government is not attempting to price two recently listed medicines at the same level as old-patent treatments, and has reminded officials and the PBAC that he expects them to remain on the PBS.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 07/07/2026, Guy Stayner

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says Tasmania will receive an extra \$700m in hospital funding over the next five years, as he and her state counterpart, Bridget Archer, clash over who is responsible for fixing Tasmania's broken healthcare system. Butler says the Rockliff Government must pay attention to fixing Launceston General Hospital's issues with patient flow systems and staffing. On the other hand,

Archer is urging the Commonwealth to boost Tasmania's aged care funding to ease bedblocking in hospitals.

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Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 07/07/2026, Kim Millar

The Federal and Tasmanian Health Ministers clashed over who is responsible for fixing the state's broken healthcare system after Launceston General Hospital went over capacity on Monday night. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation claims that of the 70 emergency patients, 40 were not allocated a bed and 28 had to wait over an hour for admission. State Health Minister Bridget Archer urges the Federal Government to take further action, but her federal counterpart, Mark Butler, says the LGH and the Rockliff Government need to depend on each other more.

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WIN Hobart, WIN News, 07/07/2026, Bruce Roberts

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is urging the Tasmanian Government to fix patient flow and staffing issues at Launceston General Hospital amid Monday night's emergency department overcrowding. Despite clashing with the Federal Government over a \$700m health budget cut, State Health Minister Bridget Archer vows to advocate for support from Canberra.

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

Interview with Health Minister Mark Butler about 1400 Tasmanians who have been served with funded Palliative care support and the whole set-up now being gone. Butler points out that what they have done is incorporate Palliative care for the first time into the aged care system. He states that the new support-at-home system.

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River FM, Marnie & Campo Breakfast Show, 07/07/2026, Marnie and Campo

A national campaign is encouraging younger Australians to get themselves screened for bowel cancer. Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler says we need more people to actually return the kits.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

DoHDA 'sneakily' updates NDIS reforms impact analysis with substantive changes

Health Services Daily, Other, 07/07/2026, Cate Swannell

The quietly published updated analysis shows far more participants will be impacted by cuts to the social capacity and capability program and that far fewer providers are a fraud risk than first suggested. The credibility of the federal government's narrative about NDIS reforms has been undercut by an update to its own impact analysis, which the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has "sneakily" published.

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MINISTER RAE

U-turn on program welcome, but major concerns remain

Newcastle Herald, General News, 08/07/2026, Catherine Henry, Page 16

The federal government has bowed to pressure and done a partial U-turn on key aspects of its Support at Home Program. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said that, for complex cases, the system would be modified to allow for some human oversight.

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Govt responds to First Nations aged care report after 18-month wait

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

The Federal Government has released its response to the Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner's report, delivered in December 2024. The 108-page report Transforming Aged Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island People , was written by inaugural Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner Andrea Kelly , based on her consultations with more than 1,000 people. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has recognised the work as a "landmark report".

[Read More](#)

Permanent First Nations aged care commissioner an important step for Elders

National Indigenous Times, Other, 07/07/2026, Dechlan Brennan

The peak body for Victorian Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations has welcomed the federal government's move to establish a permanent aged care advocate for First Nations people, labelling it a significant step towards ensuring older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a stronger voice in the sector. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae last week said the commissioner would help address longstanding inequities experienced by First Nations people in the aged care system.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Mental health stigma still widespread

Glasshouse Country News, General News, 07/07/2026, Page 21

The National Mental Health Commission, in partnership with SANE Australia, has released the Commission's first National Stigma and Discrimination Report Card. The Report Card was launched by the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, the Hon Emma McBride on July 1, 2026.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Calvary Hospital sees baby boom after \$6 million maternity ward

Catholic Health Australia, Other, 07/07/2026

Calvary Lenah Valley Hospital in Tasmania has officially celebrated its newly renovated maternity ward with an official opening by Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White and State Health Minister Bridget Archer, alongside Calvary's leadership. Marking the milestone with a plaque unveiling, the ambitious redevelopment has nearly doubled the hospital's birthing capacity and secured the future of maternity care for Hobart families.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

DEPARTMENT

Session empowers older people

Warragul & Drouin Gazette, General News, 07/07/2026, Page 6

A recent information session provided an opportunity for local seniors to have their questions answered and take away practical advice for navigating the aged care sector. [...] The session included speakers from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Services Australia, Elder Rights Australia and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

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Concern as meds advice line cut

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 07/07/2026, Page 1

The Federal Government has announced it is shutting down the Consumer Medicines Line - also known as the adverse medicine events line - from 30 Jul, suggesting patients see a pharmacist or GP, or request a home medicines review. While acknowledging it has provided a valuable service to Australians since it was founded in 2002, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing stated "there is now a wide range of trusted and high-quality supports available to help people safely and confidently manage their medicines".

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

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DoHDA warning around digital scribe safety

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/07/2026, Helen Tobler

Digital scribes have little oversight and bring risks around patient safety, data security, informed consent and quality assurance, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has warned. In a heavily redacted document obtained under Freedom of Information laws by Guardian Australia, DoHDA warns of concerns around the security of data stored outside Australia and whether clinicians and patients understand the risks and limitations of AI scribes.

[Read More](#)

Department continues to update assignment of benefit guidance

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

Almost one week on from what was meant to be the go-live date, doctors still have questions about assignment of benefit changes. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has clarified that, while only GPs can create an enduring assignment of benefit agreement with a patient, the new verbal consent arrangements extend to all providers.

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DoHDA 'sneakily' updates NDIS reforms impact analysis with substantive changes

Health Services Daily, Other, 07/07/2026, Cate Swannell

The quietly published updated analysis shows far more participants will be impacted by cuts to the social capacity and capability program and that far fewer providers are a fraud risk than first suggested. The credibility of the federal government's narrative about NDIS reforms has been undercut by an update to its own impact analysis, which the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has "sneakily" published.

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Assignment of Medicare benefits changes from 1 July 2026

cesphn.org.au, Other, 07/07/2026, Rosy Mobbs

Assignment of benefit is the process where a patient agrees for their Medicare benefit to be paid

directly to the provider as full payment for the service, meaning the patient has no out-of-pocket cost for that service. [...] The Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has published frequently asked questions to help medical practitioners, administrative staff in medical practices and hospitals, and software vendors understand and meet their obligations when claiming bulk billing under Medicare.

[Read More](#)

Immunisation update – 8 July 2026

cesphn.org.au, Other, 07/07/2026, Rosy Mobbs

The Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) has introduced new 'due' and 'overdue' rules to support recent NIP changes. Adults who have previously received a pneumococcal vaccination (i.e. Prevenar 13 and Pneumovax 23) will appear as 'due' in the AIR for a 21-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Capvaxive) 12 months after their most recent vaccination.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Operator acquires Perth hospital to convert to aged care

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

WA aged care provider Brightwater Care Group is set to expand its residential care capacity with new aged care beds. The Not For Profit operator has acquired Attadale Rehabilitation Hospital from Ramsay Health Care and will convert the facility, in Melville, 12km south of the Perth CBD, into a 39-bed aged care home providing permanent residential aged care and transitional care.

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Aged care regulator pays thousands for emotional intelligence training

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

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) has commissioned PD (Personal Development) Unit Trust to conduct 'Emotional Intelligence Training' at a cost to taxpayers of \$17,325. The contract ran from 12 May 2026 until 30 June 2026 and was awarded through a competitive tender.

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Illawarra health boss exits to help rescue 1350 patients stranded in NSW hospitals

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 07/07/2026, Nadine Morton

The woman who steered the region through COVID, led change after the and fought to help aged care patients stuck in hospital is leaving the region's top health job. Margot Mains has been chief executive of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District since 2014, and is now moving into a new role tackling one of the biggest issues facing NSW Health.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Programs to shut after cuts to NDIS budget

Border Mail, General News, 08/07/2026, Chelsea Wilson, Page 2

One of the region's largest disability support services will decrease its offerings after budget cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Aspire Support Services will cease operation of its lifestyle and learning day programs from August 28.

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Ex NT National Disability Insurance Agency complex needs assistant director Kingsley Ebelebe's alleged \$5m fraud case returns to Darwin Local Court

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

For years a Darwin father was entrusted to care for the Territory's most vulnerable people, instead investigators allege he was defrauding the national disability system to the tune of \$5m. Over 20 weeks prosecutors and defence have worked through the extensive digital and document footprint of former NT National Disability Insurance Agency complex needs assistant director Kingsley Ovuakporieroro Ebelebe.

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

[Read More](#)

'It affected my whole life': Ellie's NDIS fight reaches Parliament House

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 07/07/2026, Benjamin Palmer

"It affected my whole life." Mudgee's 2026 Young Citizen of the Year has taken her own experience with the NDIS to Parliament House in a righteous quest for change.

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

[Read More](#)

How to stop fraudsters tricking disabled people out of their NDIS funding

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 07/07/2026, Mona Nikidehaghani

Fraud has been on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) radar for years. Now, a new parliamentary report has made 12 recommendations aimed at stopping criminals, dishonest providers and other "bad actors" from exploiting the scheme.

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PRIMARY CARE

Driven to despair as upgrade fails mums

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/07/2026, Amy Ziniak, Page 19

Expectant mums in the Hunter Valley face a long dash to hospital in the critical moments before birth because a \$138m hospital renovation underway does not include a single birthing suite. With no dedicated maternity services at Cessnock Hospital, and none in the works despite the major upgrades, mums-to-be in the town have to make the 25km trek to Maitland, while those living further out face a much longer trip.

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PharmX renews NDSS deal

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

Pharmacy technology provider signs two-year extension to its NDSS agreement. Pharmacists will continue to have access to National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) supplies through PharmX's ordering platform, with the company announcing the renewal of its "long-standing exclusive agreement".

[Read More](#)

RACGP-commissioned review confirms pharmacist prescribing improves access to care

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 07/07/2026

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia says a review commissioned by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has confirmed the most important finding for patients: pharmacist prescribing improves access to treatment. "The RACGP commissioned this review seeking to examine

pharmacist prescribing and, despite its narrow scope and acknowledged limitations, the strongest conclusion is that pharmacist prescribing improves access to medicines and care," Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Vice President Simon Blacker said.

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New pharmacist code of ethics reinforces patient-centred care, says Guild

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 07/07/2026

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed the release of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) updated Code of Ethics for Pharmacists, a document the Guild says reinforces the profession's commitment to safe, high-quality, patient-centred care. The Guild says it has actively supported the Code's development to ensure it reflects the realities of modern community pharmacy practice, as well as the increasingly prominent role pharmacists play in delivering accessible, frontline healthcare.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Queensland's new 'jail for bail breach' law sparks 'systemic collapse' fears

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 07/07/2026, Andrew McKaysmith

Queensland has declared war on youth crime with a 'breach bail, go to jail' mandate – but with just 382 beds statewide, there may be nowhere left to put them. [...] The Youth detention population in Australia 2025 report, published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), also shows adults in Queensland youth detention plummeted from an average of 22.8 a night in the June quarter 2024 to 3.5 in the June quarter 2025.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Funding to help sock it to MND

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/07/2026, Nick Clark, Page 5

Wynyard man Chris Symonds fronted a Tasmanian government announcement of new funding for Motor Neurone Disease this week wearing odd socks. Why?

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

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Determined push to close cancer care gap

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 08/07/2026, Emma Cam, Page 6

A North Queensland mother of four was forced to leave her children and relocate to Brisbane for six months after being diagnosed with a cancer which had no treatment options in regional Queensland. Kirwan mum Lisa Thomson was diagnosed with Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia following a routine blood test in 2021, requiring her to travel south for a donor stem cell transplant.

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

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Voluntary Assisted Dying for dementia the most common enquiry

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

A petition handed to the Queensland Government has sparked debate about Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) for people living with dementia. In May, the family of Queensland farmer Rod Keys submitted a petition to Queensland Government showing community support for making VAD available to people with incurable, progressive and terminal diseases, such as dementia.

[Read More](#)

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

A new study from Edith Cowan University suggests eating different vegetables can help reduce the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. Researchers, including Assoc Prof Therese O'Sullivan, say one serving of the right vegetables per day is enough. The study suggests eating legumes like beans, lentils, chickpeas, and peas for protein and fibre, while cruciferous vegetables like broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts contain compounds that improve blood sugar control.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Queensland mental health services at risk from 'huge' funding shortfall

ABC Online, Other, 07/07/2026, Sarah Richards

Queensland mental health community organisations fear inadequate funding from the state government may lead to services being cut and longer wait times. Eating Disorders Queensland provides services to individuals and families impacted by eating disorders at no cost.

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IMMUNISATION

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

3AW, Drive, 07/07/2026, Shane McInnes

Interview with Quit Victoria manager Sabine Ostrowski, raising concerns over how big tobacco companies positively portray tobacco and nicotine on social media to attract a new generation of smokers. Ostrowski notes that despite national smoking rates remaining stable at 8.6%, there is a noticeable increase in marketing ploys, such as nicotine pouch brands sponsoring Formula One teams, to normalise smoking once again. To combat this, she outlines Quit's new 'Every Vape' campaign, which explicitly outlines the immediate health harms of vaping.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

‘Regulatory uncertainty’ hinders telepharmacy uptake

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

Financial constraints, workload and privacy concerns also contribute to lack of adoption by community pharmacies, new Australian study finds. Regulatory uncertainty, including ambiguous licensing requirements, liability concerns and inconsistent policies for digital prescriptions and reimbursements,

was the most commonly cited barrier identified in a new study on telepharmacy adoption in community pharmacies.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Half 'have middle ear disease'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/07/2026, Page 15

Half of First Nations children under the age of six living in remote locations are likely to have middle ear disease, a damning new report from Hearing Australia has found. An analysis of more than 15,000 First Nations children assessed by Hearing Australia found the rate of preventable ear disease is double that of First Nations children in metropolitan, regional and rural areas.

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Conspiracy of silence over Indigenous violence

West Australian, General News, 08/07/2026, Jessica Page, Page 13

Decision making in politics often moves at a snail's pace, but Roger Cook followed his gut to act quickly and set a higher standard when he ordered the removal of Nicky Winmar's statue from the grass outside Optus Stadium. The edict was issued within hours of Neil Elvis Winmar's conviction, for dragging a woman by her hair, pushing her into a wall and slamming her head against a door four times.

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

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GRAMS set to receive almost \$2 million in State Govt funding to bolster child development, paediatric care

West Australian, Other, 07/07/2026, Imogen Wilson

Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service is set to receive almost \$2 million in State Government funding to further bolster child development, access to services and paediatric care in the Mid West. GRAMS chief executive Deborah Woods said the \$1.95m grant would go a long way in tackling childhood development in the Mid West.

[Read More](#)

Cultural safety isn't a buzzword – it's vital to First Nations health care

Nursing Review, Other, 07/07/2026, Hayley Jackson and Helen Milroy

Experts say cultural safety is not achieved through awareness training alone but through systemic changes in how healthcare is designed and delivered. First Nations people in Australia have worse health and a lower life expectancy than other Australians.

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

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Ramping rise but ALP says it's good

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/07/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 5

Ramping rocketed in June compared to May but the government hailed it as good news - by comparing it to June last year. New data shows ramping soared from 3958 hours in May to 4770 hours in June, continuing an unbroken run where it has remained above the last full month of the former Liberal government of 1522 hours, despite Labor's core election pledge to "fix ramping."

Union: Hospital can't handle casualty event

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/07/2026, David Killick, Page 2

Launceston General Hospital's emergency department was swamped by demand on Monday night, raising questions about how the facility could deal with a major incident. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation state secretary Emily Shepherd said the ED was overflowing with over 70 patients, 40 unallocated to a bed and 28 awaiting admission.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Lunchbreak rally over pay, workloads

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 08/07/2026, Olivia Conder, Page 11

Allied health workers rallied outside Geelong hospital on Thursday, calling for better pay and working conditions. About 50 healthcare professionals dressed in blue stood shoulder to shoulder on the corner of Bellarine and Ryrie streets.

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

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LGH staff have another 'chaotic and unsafe' night at work

Launceston Examiner, General News, 08/07/2026, Saree Salter, Page 4

It was another chaotic 24 hours at the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) overnight, the union claims. Union members working at the LGH called on the The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) for assistance overnight on Monday, July 6, during a "chaotic and unsafe" 24 hours.

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SA nurses urged to support new enterprise agreement

Nursing Review, Other, 07/07/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The South Australian Branch of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF SA) is recommending its members vote "yes" to a new enterprise agreement, saying the proposed deal delivers significant gains. The offer includes wage increases of 16 per cent over three years, as well as a range of industrial improvements and workplace protections negotiated during bargaining with the State Government.

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ABC Northern Tasmania, Drive, 07/07/2026, Sunshine Wood

Interview with Australian Medical Association Tasmania president Dr Meg Creely, describing Monday night's overcrowding at the Launceston General Hospital as a result of over a decade of systemic failures. Dr Creely says she agrees with Health Minister Bridget Archer that bedblocking occurs when emergency patients can't transition to acute wards because they lack pathways to either aged care or community support. She clarifies that urgent care clinics will not resolve this crisis, as they cater to minor injuries and not the complex needs of elderly patients.

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3AW, Drive, 07/07/2026, Shane McInnes

Interview with Victorian Ambulance Union secretary Danny Hill, confirming that some Code 1 emergency vehicles dispatched across Melbourne take 45 minutes to respond due to severe localised shortages. Despite ambulance ramping remaining the top problem in regional hubs like Ballarat, Bendigo, and Geelong, Hill says a bigger problem is the risk-averse Triple Zero dispatch system that often prioritises non-life-threatening calls. He also points out Ambulance Victoria's capacity to process only up to 180 paramedic graduates annually despite over 800 paramedics graduating every year.

Interview continues on: [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

AHA to manage CSO funding

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/07/2026

Australian Healthcare Associates (AHA) has been reappointed as the Administration Agency for the Community Service Obligation (CSO) Funding Pool, under the First Pharmaceutical Wholesaler Agreement (PWA), until Jun 2029. Designed to ensure that all Australians have ongoing and timely access to the full range of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines.

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

Researchers from RMIT University, MIT, and Harvard Medical School are developing a tiny mRNA patch that can be used as a needle-free alternative to vaccines. RMIT researcher Brendan Dyett says the new technology will allow for faster distribution of vaccines, especially among children.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Australian drug to treat Ebola

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 08/07/2026, Sam Irvine, Page 17

A little-known Melbourne biotech company has been backed by the Ugandan government to use its experimental antiviral drug to treat patients infected with Ebola during the country's deadly outbreak.

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

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Tasmanian syphilis cases rise as public health officials monitor spike in

sexually transmitted infection

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/07/2026, Rob Inglis

Health officials are keeping a close eye on a spike in syphilis cases in Tasmania, as sexual health clinicians raise concerns about low public awareness of the sexually transmitted infection. Syphilis can be easily cured with penicillin, but if left untreated it can lead to a variety of neurological problems including hearing loss and visual disturbances.

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

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Australian poultry industry remains alert as more positive H5N1 cases detected across the country

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 07/07/2026, Georgia Campion

WA's \$5 billion poultry industry remains cautious as more cases of a highly infectious bird flu continue to be detected across Australia. Since June 19, WA has recorded five positive cases of H5N1 in areas stretching from Esperance to the Perth metro area.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Bruise cream is launched

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 08/07/2026, Page 16

Two Geelong sisters have launched Australia's first TGA-listed antiseptic bruise cream designed for cosmetic procedure recovery. Registered nurse Samantha Pomeranz and nurse practitioner Ashleigh Robinson are the sibling duo behind Arnicare Australia, a Geelong-founded post-procedure skincare brand.

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Dr Boreham's Crucible: Avecho trial breakthrough the right medicine for sector

The Australian, Other, 07/07/2026, Tim Boreham

CEO Dr Paul Gavin says he hasn't slept in weeks, "which is ironic given we're running a phase III insomnia trial". [...] The pivotal, 519-patient local trial is aimed at winning Therapeutic Goods Administration approval as an over-the-counter pharmacy medication.

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

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What are peptides? And why am I hearing so much about them?

The New Daily, Other, 07/07/2026, Samuel Cornell and Timothy Piatkowski

Peptide may not yet be the 2026 Oxford Word of the Year, but it must surely be in the running. From your friendly neighbourhood influencer, to the gym bros, injectable peptides have been all over social media and are now making mainstream news when things go horribly wrong.

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TGA fines unapproved botox importer

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/07/2026, Ajp Staff

Regulator issues infringement notices totalling \$11,880 to a registered nurse for alleged unlawful importation of unapproved cosmetic injectables. Health practitioners and businesses must understand their obligations under the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989, before importing unapproved products, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) warns.

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Unapproved SARMs underdosed

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has warned consumers that Eagle Research Lab branded selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMs) pose a serious risk to health and should not be taken.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Star ratings review: Doctors demand rule change as system misses target

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

With older Australians struggling to afford nutritious food while living on the age pension, doctors have called on the Albanese government to force reluctant manufacturers to adopt the Health Star Rating system. "Health Star Ratings give older Australians a straightforward way to assess the nutritional quality of their food , supporting confident, informed choices," Dr Danielle McMullen, president of the Australian Medical Association (AMA), told The Senior.

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AICIS

Huon Aquaculture antibiotic use sparks calls to shut down freshwater farms

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/07/2026, Elise Kaine

Calls are growing for freshwater salmon farms to be legislated as strictly as marine operations following a new report that found antibiotic residue in wild fish, sediment, and the Derwent River after a mass mortality event at a salmon hatchery earlier this year. The report revealed that in January, Huon Aquaculture applied 51.7 kilograms of the broad-spectrum antibiotic oxytetracycline (OTC) at its Meadowbank Hatchery, located approximately 20 kilometres upstream from New Norfolk on the Derwent River.

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

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