



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 2nd August 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that doctor's are warning that dozens of multi-million-dollar urgent care clinics established throughout Victoria are doing "absolutely nothing" to ease pressure on hospitals, with the clinics also threatening the viability of GP practices. Health Minister Mark Butler said doctors had embraced the clinics and the government had been told they were having a positive impact on emergency departments.
- **[The Sun Herald \(page 6\)](#)** reports that Australians with a rare and incurable form of brain cancer will gain subsidised access to Vorasidenib - a new treatment for the disease - with the drug being listed on the PBS. Health Minister Mark Butler said "We know being diagnosed with a serious health condition is distressing for people and their families," and "We don't want them to be further stressed by worrying about how to pay for their medication, that's why we invest in making these medicines available on our PBS."
- **[The Sun Herald \(page 6\)](#)** reports that the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne has confirmed a clinical trial based on Professor Richard Scolyer's experimental glioblastoma treatment is opening for newly diagnosed patients.
- **[The Sunday Herald Sun \(page 20\)](#)** reports that a number of elderly Victorians have come forward to detail their experiences of being unable to contact ambulance services following the death of a 98-year-old Hoppers Crossing woman on Friday.

- [**The Sunday Canberra Times \(page 4\)**](#) reports that Canberra Hospital's Adult Mental Health Unit has been accused of failing to provide adequate care for patients, with allegations of poor record keeping, premature discharging of patients and the incorrect administering of sedatives.
- [**The Sunday Canberra Times \(page 8\)**](#) reports that enrolled nurses in aged care will receive a pay rise from August 1, a decision backed by the Federal Government and supported by Aged Care Minister Sam Rae.
- [**The Sunday Mail Adelaide \(page 3\)**](#) reports that the SA hospital doctors' union has criticised SA Health's response to the Coroner's recommendations following three patient deaths during ramping events.
- [**The Sunday Territorian \(page 3\)**](#) reports that the NT's Royal Darwin and Palmerston Regional hospitals have recorded their sixth code yellow for the year amid a surge in ED admissions.

MINISTER BUTLER

PBS listing for drug to combat rare tumours

Sun Herald, General News, 02/08/2026, Rob Harris, Page 6

Australians diagnosed with a rare and incurable form of brain cancer will gain subsidised access to the first new treatment for the disease in more than two decades. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the listing represented the first new treatment for the rare brain cancer in 20 years.

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

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Doctors pan urgent care clinics

Sunday Age, General News, 02/08/2026, Melissa Cunningham and Henrietta Cook, Page 1

Dozens of multi-million-dollar urgent care clinics set up around Victoria and touted by politicians as a silver bullet for the state's healthcare crisis are doing "absolutely nothing" to ease pressure on overstretched hospitals, while threatening the viability of GP practices, doctors warn. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said doctors had embraced the urgent care clinics and the government had been told they were having a positive impact on emergency departments.

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

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Untested, 'unsafe' supplements flood Australia via import loophole

The Australian, Other, 01/08/2026, Penny Timms

Most Australians who jump online for vitamins, peptides and anti-ageing products have no idea some sellers are exploiting a legal weakness. [...] However, federal Health Minister Mark Butler recently flagged his intention to close loopholes in the Special Access Scheme and Authorised Provider Scheme to prevent people buying unapproved nicotine pouches.

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UK High Court clears the way for puberty blocker trial to proceed

OUTinPerth, Other, 01/08/2026, Graeme Watson

The UK's High Court has rejected an application for a judicial review into a planned trial of puberty blockers for young people experiencing gender dysphoria. [...] Australia's federal Health Minister Mark Butler has also commissioned a national review.

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The GP gender pay gap, once and for all

The Medical Republic, Other, 01/08/2026, Louise Stone

Women GPs continue to experience other gender-based personal and professional disadvantages. [...] Recently, federal health minister Mark Butler was asked about " Medicare Misogyny ", and commented that recent Medicare changes had helped to get things " just about right ".

A reluctant Albanese is under pressure over telehealth for VAD

The New Daily, Other, 31/07/2026

At last week's Labor conference, which was totally under the Prime Minister's thumb, only one issue was contested on the floor – support for the use of telehealth in voluntary assisted dying care. [...] But on the other side of the argument is a weighty voice – that of Health Minister Mark Butler.

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Aussie-first Alzheimer's blood test announced

Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia, Other, 01/08/2026

A groundbreaking new blood test could transform Alzheimer's diagnosis in Australia by detecting the disease decades before symptoms begin. [...] 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.

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Channel 7, Seven News (Weekend), 01/08/2026, Karina Carvalho and Mike Amor

Former AFL player Anthony Rocca, who has been battling follicular lymphoma, has welcomed the Federal Government's listing of the cancer drug Minjuvi on the PBS. Health Minister Mark Butler said the listing will provide new hope for patients, with the treatment previously costing up to \$120,000 a year.

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Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 01/08/2026, Georgie Tunny

The PBS has listed Retevmo, a breakthrough treatment for rare thyroid cancer, reducing the cost of the life-changing drug for patients from more than \$8000 per script to no more than \$25. Health Minister Mark Butler said the listing will make the targeted therapy more accessible, while new Medicare arrangements will also provide free genetic testing for eligible patients.

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Seven Tasmania, Nightly News (Saturday), 01/08/2026

Protect Our NDIS Alliance Tasmania has rallied in Hobart against the Federal Government's proposed \$38b in savings from the NDIS. The group says the reforms could harm people who rely on the program, while Health Minister Mark Butler says the changes are needed to protect and strengthen the NDIS.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

Aged-care nurses' pay rise

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 02/08/2026, Page 8

Aged-care nurses are receiving another pay rise as the sector struggles with chronic workforce shortages. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the government had backed aged-care nurses through five consecutive wage rises.

Also reported by: [Sunday Times \(Perth\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Wam News Online \(Online\)](#)

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Channel 7, Seven News (Weekend), 01/08/2026, Samantha Heathwood

The Federal Government has announced another pay rise for aged care nurses in a bid to retain workers in the sector. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the increase recognises the value of aged care workers, with registered nurses now earning \$36,000 more a year than in 2022. The sector is expected to need an additional 120,000 workers over the next decade.

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Channel 9, Nine News (Saturday), 01/08/2026

The government has announced another pay rise for aged care nurses, with Aged Care Minister Sam Rae saying the fifth increase in four years recognises the value of their work. Acting Prime Minister Richard Marles said staff turnover has fallen by 30% following the wage increases, while economists warned that low job mobility across the workforce reflects growing concerns among workers about changing jobs.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Heads up for hubs in SEQ

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 02/08/2026, Rachel Riley, Page 13

South East Queensland hubs will have their federal funding more than tripled as demand for support surges. [...] Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Assistant Minister Emma McBride, who visited the Woolloongabba hub last week, said: "Today's announcement will mean more young people can access co-ordinated, personalised support close to home, regardless of the challenges they are facing."

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Family of tragic Hunter Valley 12-year-old sets the record straight on her final days

Adelaide Now, Other, 01/08/2026, Eleanor Wicklund

The family of a 12-year-old girl who tragically took her own life has spoken out to dispel rumours that bullying contributed to the incident. [...] Hunter MP Dan Repacholi re-shared a viral video of the tribute on social media, sharing his deep sadness over the tragedy.

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DEPARTMENT

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

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PRIMARY CARE

More than prescribing: why the future belongs to the 'pharmacist practitioner'

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 01/08/2026, Jonathan Bradley

Pharmacists are on the verge of a major acceleration in their scope of practice, but a shift in perspective is needed first, delegates heard at a panel discussion held on day two of PSA26. Kate Gunthorpe MPS, Deputy Chief Pharmacist for TerryWhite Chemmart, who was among the first cohort of pharmacist graduates to expand their scope into prescribing medicines, believes prescribing pharmacists should consider themselves as 'pharmacist practitioners' – a shift in language she considers to be critical to capturing their broader role.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Mental health patients left 'worse off'

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 02/08/2026, Kiara Angelini, Page 4

Philip Cristallo was seeking a lifeline when he walked into the mental health unit at Canberra Hospital. [...] About one in eight acute mental health patients in the ACT are readmitted to hospital within 28 days of being discharged, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's most recent data.

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Language barriers putting patients at risk of medicine harm, report finds

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 01/08/2026, Chloe Hava

Language barriers are putting culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Australians at heightened risk of medicine-related harm, a new PSA report has found. A refugee teenager handed another patient's antidepressant prescription, doubling his dose while believing it was acne medicine.

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Kylie Swords was told she was 'too young' to have cancer... then doctors discovered a lump almost two years later

Daily Mail UK, Other, 01/08/2026, Burney Wong

Sydney mother who survived bowel cancer has described visiting multiple doctors and challenging claims she was too young for the disease before finally receiving a life-changing diagnosis. [...] Rising

rates of bowel and thyroid cancer have largely driven the increase in diagnoses among those in their 30s, according to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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Parents honour little 'family hero' by launching walk for others grieving infant loss

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/08/2026, Emma Cam

Grieving parents, whose infant son died from one of the world's rarest genetic conditions, will mark the first anniversary of his death by hosting a charity walk to support other families facing pregnancy and infant loss. [...] Every day in Australia, six babies are stillborn and another two die within their first 28 days of life, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Out-of-control martial artist bashes nurse

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 01/08/2026

One of the scariest moments of Frances Rice's decades working in healthcare was a martial artist withdrawing from drugs taking swings at nurses in the trauma ward. [...] Assault-related hospitalisations among healthcare and social assistance workers stood at 49 in the 2015/16 year and have jumped to 126 in 2024/25, the latest Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Scolyer's legacy: Trial treatment offers brain cancer patients hope

Sun Herald, General News, 02/08/2026, Garry Maddox, Page 6

There is new hope for brain cancer patients with an Australian clinical trial based on Professor Richard Scolyer's experimental treatment opening for newly diagnosed patients. Just weeks after the former Australian of the Year's death, which came three years after he was diagnosed with a highly aggressive glioblastoma, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne has confirmed the trial has started in this country.

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Telehealth bans are denying dying patients a peaceful, pain-free end

Sun Herald, General News, 02/08/2026, Peter Fitzsimons, Page 29

Dr Deb Ibbotson is one of Australia's foremost advocates for voluntary assisted dying to be available by telehealth. Her practice is in Emu Park in central Queensland.

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The sounds of anxiety

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 02/08/2026, Matilda McDermott, Page 24

Eating, breathing and tapping away at a keyboard are part of everyday life. But for some people with a disorder, those sounds can ignite a fight-or-flight reaction.

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Aust cancer researcher nears personalised immunotherapy

Daily Mail UK, Other, 01/08/2026

It's been just over a year since Ines Pires da Silva was recognised as one of Australia's leading women in science. Yet in hindsight, the award seems to have marked not the culmination of her work but the beginning of what could be her most significant career phase.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

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IMMUNISATION

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Healthy 'sweet' put to the test

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 02/08/2026, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 19

Artificial sweeteners are not all made equal, and South Australian researchers are setting out to prove it. Adelaide University researchers are investigating how different, popular low-calorie sweeteners affect the body's glucose regulation systems and metabolism.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

'Left bleeding on floor'

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 02/08/2026, Euan Kennedy, Page 20

Frail elderly Victorians are waiting hours alone after suffering painful falls or serious medical emergencies at home as an ambulance crisis grips regional communities. Multiple elderly Victorians and their families have come forward to the Sunday Herald Sun, warning that the death of a 98-year-old Hoppers Crossing woman who waited three hours for paramedics on Friday, was not an isolated tragedy.

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Doctors savage tent ED remarks

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 02/08/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 3

The hospital doctors' union has savaged SA Health over its response to the Coroner's recommendations following three deaths after the patients were ramped. These include claims "tents"

could be used in parking areas as de facto EDs so ambulances can leave a claim SA Health told the Sunday Mail they have ruled out.

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Labor labouring to birth regional birthing services

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Editorials, 02/08/2026, Page 65

Resumption of birthing services at Crystal Brook and Jamestown hospitals this weekend gives the state government a little breathing space without resolving the continuing chronic workforce shortage. When the services halted in mid-June because of a lack of midwives, the government nominated July 31 as the earliest it hoped to resume services, so the resumptions stifle the immediate political pressure.

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Sixth code yellow this year hits major hospitals amid ED surge

Sunday Territorian, General News, 02/08/2026, Thomas McLean, Page 3

A code yellow has been called at Royal Darwin and Palmerston Regional hospitals amid a surge in emergency department patients, urgent surgeries and general medical admissions. A high number of patients with "complex care needs" who require long hospital stays are also affecting bed capacity and patient flow, NT Health said on Friday.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Pay rise for aged-care nurses amid dire worker shortage

Daily Mail UK, Other, 01/08/2026

Aged-care nurses are receiving another pay rise as the sector struggles with chronic workforce shortages. The government has announced enrolled nurses in aged care will receive an extra \$8000 in their annual income packets from August 1 - the final stage of a Fair Work Commission decision.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Therapy couch to bedroom

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 02/08/2026, Lucy Rutherford, Page 9

A female psychologist has been banned after inviting a "profoundly vulnerable" patient to live with her and then beginning a sexual relationship with him. In a judgment published online, the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal disqualified Dr Catherine Alice Soukoulis from applying to be re-registered as a health practitioner for two years.

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AHPRA defends embrace of anti-Semitism definition in two-hour Royal Commission hearing

Australian Doctor, Other, 01/08/2026, Ciara Seccombe

AHPRA will not ditch its contested anti-Semitism definition to guide investigations, but it has admitted it still has no clear idea how it will use the definition to assess doctors and other health workers accused of misconduct. The watchdog has been under criticism since adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition in June, with doctor and nurse groups fearing it could be "weaponised" to silence health workers criticising Israel and the Gaza war.

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Psych involved patients in BDSM kink

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 01/08/2026

A Queensland psychologist has been banned from practice for at least years after it was found he repeatedly engaged in sexual misconduct, including BDSM, with patients. The former health practitioner, with almost 20 years' experience, was brought before the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal by the Health Ombudsman this month after his fetishised sexual relationships with patients were uncovered.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Concern on vax take-up for flu

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 02/08/2026, Rachel Riley, Page 12

The number of influenza cases being detected across the state each week has doubled in just a month, with less than a third of Queenslanders vaccinated against the contagious illness. While the 12,058 overall number cases detected so far is lower than usual for this time of year, flu cases have been surging since early July as the state government prepares for a late season roll-up of sleeves at its Ekka pop-up clinic.

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Accidental lab find could beat diseases

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 02/08/2026, Page 21

An unexpected observation by a University of Queensland researcher could lead to a new treatment for deadly infectious diseases. UQ neuroscientist and biochemist Merja Joensuu discovered a disruption in a pathway that human viruses rely on to spread from one cell to the next.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

'No oversight': Dental aligners leave trail of woe

Sun Herald, General News, 02/08/2026, Liam Mannix and Henrietta Cook, Page 10

All Reanah Ford wanted was straight teeth. She had long felt self-conscious about her two front teeth, a feeling worsened by a social feed full of smiling influencers with straight, gleaming white teeth. [...] " The aligners had the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) tick of approval required for medical devices.

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

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Why is Angus Taylor turning the Coalition into Pauline Hanson's party?

Canberra Times, Other, 01/08/2026

Angus Taylor recently unleashed a closed-door attack on the Australian Public Service during a small-business forum in Logan, Queensland. [...] He said nothing about defunding the National Indigenous Australians Agency, the Special Broadcasting Service or the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

No plan for tonnes of asbestos waste

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 02/08/2026, Alex White, Page 4

Waste industry insiders warn the state government's housing blitz in inner city suburbs will unleash a toxic time bomb, with thousands of tonnes of asbestos to be removed and no clear plan to stop it being dumped illegally. The Labor government's ambitious plan to demolish homes in 60 activity centres near train stations to make way for high-density housing will generate an unprecedented amount of hazardous construction waste that no plan has been put in place to handle.

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