



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 3rd August 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Age** (page 1) reports that the Therapeutic Goods Administration in 2024 was missing half its budgeted staff for monitoring adverse event alerts for medical devices, while warning at the time that it would see a ten-fold increase in alerts due to mandatory reporting changes. Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed that the TGA was allocated funding to support the increased reports.
- The **Canberra Times** (page 2) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has confirmed that the Federal Government would continue to pursue removing a private health rebate for Australians over 65.
- The **Herald Sun** (page 10) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has announced that a medication for stopping the progress of Grade 2 IDH mutant glioma, Voranigo, has been made available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. *Also reported by: [Canberra Times](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Channel 9](#)*
- **The ABC** (online) reports that disability lawyers have raised concerns that changes to the NDIS could see wait times for NDIS cases at the Administrative Review Tribunal increase. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said that the Federal Government had jointly committed \$4 billion to foundational funding alongside the states.

- [The ABC](#) (online) reports that a new Australian Institute of Health and Welfare study on miscarriage and pregnancy loss has found that one in three women in 2022 who had given birth had previously experienced at least one miscarriage, while one in 10 had experienced at least two.

MINISTER BUTLER

Ageing IT systems and staffing woes hamper medical regulator

Age, General News, 03/08/2026, Liam Mannix and Henrietta Cook, Page 1

The watchdog overseeing the safety and efficacy of hundreds of thousands of medical devices has drastically fewer staff than it predicted it would need to cope with an expected surge in reports of problems in hospitals. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the TGA had been allocated departmental funding for its adverse event system to cope with the increased load from hospital reporting.

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

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Cancer therapy finally on PBS

Herald Sun, General News, 03/08/2026, Nathan Schmidt, Page 10

The first new treatment in more than 20 years for sufferers of one of the most common types of brain cancer is now available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, less than two months after the death of pioneering researcher and cancer sufferer Richard Scolyer. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the disease was "deeply, deeply debilitating", with sufferers often facing seizures, cognitive changes and physical disability.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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Unions accuse health regulator of playing politics

Courier Mail, General News, 03/08/2026, Taylah Fellows, Page 2

Two Queensland health unions have condemned regulator AHPRA's adoption of a contested definition of anti-Semitism, arguing it is straying into political speech and should withdraw the move. [...] NPAA president Kara Thomas and AMP president Duncan Syme have written to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and AHPRA boss Justin Untersteiner, objecting to the decision and accusing AHPRA of politicising its role.

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Labor holding firm on seniors' health cover

Canberra Times, General News, 03/08/2026, Lucinda Garbutt-Young, Page 2

Labor will renew its fight to steer a controversial health insurance change through parliament as state governments and providers push back against the plan. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler yesterday acknowledged the government had made a difficult and unpopular decision, savings from which would help fund greater support for home care services for the elderly.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#).

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The issue exposing Labor division

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 03/08/2026, Michelle Grattan, Page 12

Anthony Albanese might have wanted to leave last week's ALP national conference in Adelaide with his unity message intact, but a schism has broken out over support for the use of telehealth in

voluntary assisted dying. [...] But on the other side of the argument is a weighty voice that of Health Minister Mark Butler.

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First brain cancer drug in 20 years to be listed on PBS

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/08/2026, Rob Harris

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, ending years in which patients had few options beyond surgery and regular scans to monitor tumour growth. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler hopes the new treatment can help provide patients with "precious time" in their fight against brain cancer.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [nine.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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Fears shared on Australia reaching bleak milestone in the spread of H5 bird flu

ABC Online, Other, 02/08/2026, Evelyn Leckie

Citizen scientists Johanna Williams and Susan Belperio have been witnessing dead birds wash up on their beloved Glenelg Beach since South Australia's harmful algal bloom began last year. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said officials were concerned about the increase in cases.

[Read More](#)

Fears NDIS tribunal delays will worsen as federal government tightens scheme

ABC Online, Other, 02/08/2026, Elise Kinsella

In the space of six months, Paula Dover's world completely changed. [...] Lawyers point to poor NDIS track record In April, NDIS Minister Mark Butler gave a landmark speech, outlining plans to massively cut the number of people on the NDIS and the scheme's cost to taxpayers.

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ABC, ABC News (Sunday), 02/08/2026, Bethanie Alderson

There are fears that Australia has reached a bleak milestone in the spread of H5 bird flu following the discovery of a large group of dead and sick birds off South Australia's coast on Friday. While Federal Health Minister Mark Butler insisted the Federal Government is prepared for the spread of the virus, bird experts are concerned about threatened native species.

Also reported by: [ABC \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC \(Darwin\)](#), [ABC \(Perth\)](#).

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Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 02/08/2026, Georgie Tunney

Australia's battle against H5 bird flu is intensifying, with South Australia still nervously waiting for the results from a suspected mass mortality event in wild birds. However, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler remains confident that Australia is very well prepared to manage the disease's impact.

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Channel 9, National Nine News (Sunday), 02/08/2026, Alicia Loxley

Australians battling rare cancers and chronic illnesses will have access to cheaper medicine from today, with several new treatments added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. The listings include the first new treatment in two decades for a rare, incurable brain cancer, reducing the cost from around \$2800 a month per script to just \$25, and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler claims this is going to give brain cancer patients new hope.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Seven Tasmania \(Hobart\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#).

News24, Sunday Agenda, 02/08/2026, Andrew Clennell

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, on the Federal Government's latest decision to cut private health insurance rebates for older Australians. Butler says the Federal Government is doing everything humanly possible to build an aged care system that gives Australians confidence that they are going to be cared for with the dignity that they deserve. He notes that every dollar that is raised through the change to the private health insurance rebate will go towards more aged care beds and aged care packages for older Australians.

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ABC Radio Sydney, 21:00 News (Weekend), 02/08/2026

The drug Voranago has been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for the first time and will now cost no more than \$25 per script. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the listing will save sufferers tens of thousands of dollars a month.

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ABC Radio Darwin , 12:00 News (Weekend), 02/08/2026

Since the deadly bird flu strain reached Australia in June, there have been 54 confirmed detections in wild seabirds, including 40 in South Australia. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says agriculture and environment ministers have met to formulate a national management plan.

Also reported by: [ABC NewsRadio \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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2GB, 19:00 News (Weekend), 02/08/2026

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is defending the Federal Government's plans to abolish private health insurance rebates for people over 65. Nearly two-fifths of policyholders surveyed by Redbridge say they will drop their private health cover, and state ministers are concerned that the plan will put more pressure on the public system.

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2SM, 12:00 News (Weekend), 02/08/2026

The Federal Government is about to list medicines for rare and debilitating diseases on the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says medicines used to treat thyroid cancer and Crohn's disease will be available soon.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Fears NDIS tribunal delays will worsen as federal government tightens scheme

ABC Online, Other, 02/08/2026, Elise Kinsella

In the space of six months, Paula Dover's world completely changed. [...] Lawyers point to poor NDIS track record In April, NDIS Minister Mark Butler gave a landmark speech, outlining plans to massively cut the number of people on the NDIS and the scheme's cost to taxpayers.

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MINISTER RAE

Pay rise for aged-care nurses amid dire worker shortage

Starts at 60, Other, 02/08/2026

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.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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DEPARTMENT

Top of their game

Canberra Times, General News, 03/08/2026, Miriam Webber, Page 1

The Canberra Times today begins a new three-part series exploring the most influential people operating in the federal public sector. [...] Described as a public service heavyweight who is well respected for his intellect, Blair Comley has seen the highs and lows of life at the top.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Council praised for handover on care

Border Mail, General News, 03/08/2026, Hana Humboldt, Page 4

A north East council's "well formulated" exit from aged care services has been praised by a regional home care provider. For Dovida Home Care operations manager Andrea O'Neill, it is a story she has seen time and time again.

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Pair make a difference in aged care

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 03/08/2026, Josh Mercer, Page 5

As Aged Care Employee Day nears, two of Townsville's dedicated aged care workers are looking at the most rewarding parts of working in the aged care industry. Ahead of Aged Care Employee Day on August 7, Moira Williams and Preet Pannu work and support seniors living at Carinity Fairfield Grange aged care home.

Reflections from the past

Shepparton News Online, Other, 02/08/2026, Riverine Herald

Co-ordination, co-operation and communication is basically the answer to irrigation, salinity and high water table problems along the Murray Valley. This was the message of practically all speakers at Wednesday's Irrigation Environment Survival Rally at Echuca.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Claims of NDIS abuse probed

Courier Mail, General News, 03/08/2026, Greg Stolz, Page 15

Regulators have launched dual investigations into claims an intellectually disabled Gold Coast woman was given unapproved medication, including long-term contraceptive injections, while living in an NDIS-funded share house. The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) are investigating serious allegations raised by the 28-year-old woman's mother, who is also her nominated health attorney responsible for making decisions related to her health.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Autism centre to re-open after three organisations team up

Canberra Times, Other, 02/08/2026, Megan Doherty

The John James Foundation has announced its plans to re-open the former AEIOU early-intervention autism centre in Garran. The foundation's chief executive officer Joe Roff said it was going to embark initially on a pilot program at the centre to ensure the facility was financially secure for the long term.

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PRIMARY CARE

Pharmacists ready to diagnose illness

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 03/08/2026, Shashi Baltutis, Page 4

Five-year-old Ted Baillie visited the doctor for an ear infection for the first time last year. But from 2027, children like Ted will be able to receive immediate diagnosis, treatment and medication for common conditions from their local pharmacy.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Problems in bed may be canary in the coal mine

Australian Financial Review, General News, 03/08/2026, Page 28

Men are more likely to get irritated or embarrassed than worried about their health when they struggle to get an erection.

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Expensive booze leading to illicit trade

Herald Sun, General News, 03/08/2026, Page 5

An increase in the alcohol tax risks making booze unaffordable and driving demand towards cheap and illicit alternatives, the peak body for Australia's spirits industry has warned. The alcohol excise is set to increase in line with inflation on Monday as part of a twiceyearly hike, taking the tax on spirits such as vodka, gin and rum to \$110.15 per litre.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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Drug trial key for alcoholics

Herald Sun, General News, 03/08/2026, Tayla Couacaud, Page 17

Drugs used for weight loss and diabetes may lower alcoholics' risk of being hospitalised, as researchers unlock how they affect the brain beyond appetite. Researchers from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health analysed data from more than 40,000 patients across the US suffering from alcoholism and found people using GLP-1 receptor agonists such as Semaglutide and Tirzepatide faced a lower risk of medical emergencies compared with patients given traditional treatments.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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\$1.3m a week lost

Ballarat Courier, General News, 03/08/2026, Michelle Smith, Page 1

Ballarat has a \$1.3 million a week poker machine habit as users pump more than \$187,000 a day into the electronic gaming machines. [...] And according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), people with gambling disorders lose an average of \$21,000 per year.

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Pregnancy loss more common than previously thought, study shows

ABC Online, Other, 02/08/2026

A new study has found pregnancy loss is common in Australia, but experts warn gaps in data may mean the unique needs of young people are not being addressed. A first-of-its-kind study on miscarriage and pregnancy loss, released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) on Wednesday, analysed data from five states and territories.

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Mental health patients say they left Canberra Hospital worse off

Canberra Times, Other, 02/08/2026, Kiara Angelini

Philip Cristallo was seeking a lifeline when he walked into the mental health unit at Canberra Hospital. [...] Advertisement 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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Expert issues dire warning as Australia's 'troubling' fertility rate falls to all-time low

Daily Mail UK, Other, 02/08/2026, Ashley Nickel

Australia's birth rate has dropped to its lowest level on record, with just 1.48 births recorded per woman. The Australian Bureau of Statistics last week released fertility data for 2024 and found the number of babies being born per woman has continued to drop.

[Read More](#)

Savannah was born via a surrogate and couldn't be more loved. But the system is far from perfect

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/08/2026, Jacqueline Maley

The baby was born in Cyprus in 2024, to a 24-year-old surrogate mother the court later dubbed "Ms Compton". The birth certificate was issued by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and it listed the biological father, who was one half of the Queensland couple who commissioned the pregnancy, as the legal father.

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Can testosterone improve your sex life and boost your mood – and what are the risks?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/08/2026, Madeleine Heffernan

It'll put a spring in your step, improve your sex life and lift your mood, its proponents claim. Testosterone is in demand – among both men and women –but not everyone is excited. "Muscle strength, mood, brain fog, cognition, general vitality, wellbeing, dementia – you name it, someone will have said that testosterone is the magical cure for that," says women's health general practitioner Dr Karina Severin. Patients "will be very, very insistent that that's what they want".

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The ultra-processed foods that can be part of a healthy diet

The Australian, Other, 02/08/2026, Jemma O'Hanlon

Ultra-processed foods may be dominating our diets, but beneath the doom and gloom there is hope. When we hear the term ultra-processed foods, it's often referring to those foods made in a factory, using a series of industrial processes that often contain additives and ingredients you wouldn't find in your home kitchen.

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

The Mercury, Other, 02/08/2026, Emma Cam

Gr 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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Perth parents hope for cure after daughter's rare diagnosis of CDLK5 deficiency disorder

West Australian, Other, 02/08/2026, Amy Cavender

For doting new parents Anna Pitman and Michael Leith, the first few weeks of daughter Adeline's life were blissfully ordinary. Their little girl was born happy and healthy without complication and they were home within a few days relishing parenthood.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Grandfather and grandson cycle 5,300km across Australia for motor neurone disease

ABC Online, Other, 02/08/2026, Brooke Chandler

After six weeks cycling through harsh headwinds and expansive deserts, Bob Montgomery, 82, and his grandson Tom Malcolm, 18, finally have a chance to catch their breath. The pair clocked close to 5,300 kilometres as they crossed the finish line on Sunday afternoon to the roaring applause of Mr Montgomery's local community of Bowral, in the NSW Southern Highlands.

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New plan to help men in regions

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 03/08/2026, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 4

When Darren Cruickshanks went to see his GP for blood test results, he expected to be told to exercise and stop eating KFC. [...] The median waiting time for rural prostatectomy patients was 60 days or more in 2024-25, compared to 50 days in the cities, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Australia prevents telehealth for voluntary assisted dying consults. Why, and could that change?

The Guardian, Other, 02/08/2026, Melissa Davey

Labor's national conference voted to repeal the ban but the PM fears it could undermine medical safeguards. We look at the debate shaping up Almost three years ago, Independent MP Kate Chaney pushed to amend federal laws that ban telecommunications services from being used to incite suicide, so that patients wishing to access voluntary assisted dying appointments could do so via telehealth.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Youth housing plea

Herald Sun, General News, 03/08/2026, Page 9

Victoria's new labor Premier Ben Carroll is being urged to commit to dedicated supported housing, for young people after data revealed that more than half of homeless youth accessing services ended up in emergency departments during mental health crises. The data, released by Melbourne City Mission, found that almost 60 per cent of those presentations involved self-harm, suicidal thoughts or attempted suicide, while about 17 per cent had attended four or more times.

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Young homeless in Victoria forced into hospital during mental health crisis, report finds

NEWS.com.au, Other, 03/08/2026, Nathan Schmidt

Whichever party wins at the Victorian election, advocates are urging they act to help the state's most vulnerable. Victoria's new Labor Premier Ben Carroll is being urged to commit to establishing dedicated supported housing for young people after new data revealed more than half of young people accessing homelessness services ended up in the ED when experiencing a mental health crisis.

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

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IMMUNISATION

Flu vax take-up concern

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 03/08/2026, Rachel Riley, Page 8

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.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Healthscope, landlords to meet amid break-up risk

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 03/08/2026, Colin Kruger, Page 24

Healthcare Boardroom veteran Helen Nugent, who is leading Healthscope's bid to become a not-for-profit, will meet the group's landlords this week to mend relationships and potentially broker a deal that would keep Australia's second-largest private hospital operator intact. Today, the well-respected director plans to meet the boss of landlord group Healthco, Sid Sharma, to end a stand-off that scuppered a plan announced in February after it was approved by Healthscope lenders to convert the group into a non-profit operation run by its current management team.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

2GB, Healthy Living, 02/08/2026, Dr Ross Walker

Interview with Dr Sarah Stephens. Walker says new research is suggesting that early cognitive decline can be altered or reversed to prevent Alzheimer's disease. Stephens states that the latest trial is currently undergoing peer review, but the recent results revealed that the group of people who had the precision medicine protocol improved in cognitive function significantly more than the group that had the standard of care.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Voices of support for Pearson plan

The Australian, General News, 03/08/2026, Page 1

Indigenous Australians Minister Malarndirri McCarthy is open to a radical shake-up of Aboriginal policy proposed by Cape York leader Noel Pearson, that would close down state departments and put responsibility for remote communities with the commonwealth. In a speech at the Garma festival after a three-year absence, Mr Pearson returned to the forefront of Aboriginal leadership with a striking policy vision that would see Canberra take work directly with communities on the ground instead of going through states.

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

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A record number of First Nations people died in NSW prison custody last year. Advocates fear this year will be worse

The Guardian, Other, 03/08/2026, Jordyn Beazley

First Nations advocates warn that prisons in New South Wales could exceed the record number of Indigenous deaths in custody set last year, after two men died this month. Matthew Roberts, a 27-year-old Bundjalung, Yaegl and Gamilaroi man and father of two young boys, took his life inside Lithgow correctional centre on 7 July after he was remanded in custody in March. Another First Nations man, 21, died a week later at Clarence correctional centre.

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Mobile lung screening unit brings cancer checks to Australia's remote Aboriginal communities

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 02/08/2026

The Northern Territory has the highest rates of lung cancer and smoking-related illness in Australia. For the first time, a mobile lung screening unit will travel to remote communities, bringing specialist care closer to those who need it most.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

No relevant coverage

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Service switch

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 03/08/2026, Brodie Everist and Ben Loughran, Page 1

A central Victorian council is exiting maternal and child health services, saying they will transition the service to the state government by the end of 2026. The City of Greater Bendigo has said local government was "no longer best suited" to providing the healthcare program and they would work closely with government staff to ensure a smooth handover.

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Family of young mother who died after missed UTI speak out for first time

ABC Online, Other, 02/08/2026, Victoria Pengilley

Gia Lam used to tell her friend Lily Tran what she would do when her son was old enough to start school. [...] The coroner found the midwife who discharged Gia "unreasonably failed to attach significance" to the smell noted in her chart and recommended the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia consider investigating her care.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Lomax to appeal conviction for behaving in offensive manner

Ballarat Courier, General News, 03/08/2026, Bryan Hoadley, Page 3

Former Ballarat dentist Ian Lomax, who booed at an Anzac Day dawn service alongside several prominent neo-Nazis, will appeal his conviction for behaving in an offensive manner. Lomax, 35, faced the County Court of Victoria on Friday, about two months after a magistrate found him guilty of the single charge and sentenced him to pay an \$800 fine.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Fears of first bird flu mass death

Canberra Times, General News, 03/08/2026, Aaron Bunch, Page 2

A mass mortality event, potentially triggered by bird flu, mirrors what's happened as the deadly disease spread overseas, environmental advocates warn. More than 80 dead and sick greater crested terns have been found at an island called Baudin Rock in South Australia.

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Bird flu detections rise

Herald Sun, General News, 03/08/2026, Page 3

A sixth case of bird flu has been detected in Victoria, taking the total number of confirmed or presumed cases to 62 nationwide. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on Sunday confirmed more cases of H5 bird flu in Australia.

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H5N1 bird flu outbreak escalates rapidly as SA investigates first suspected mass mortality

The Australian, Other, 02/08/2026, Jack Quail

More than 80 greater crested terns were found dead or sick near Robe, as confirmed H5N1 detections across Australia climbed to 62 just six weeks after the virus arrived. South Australian authorities have launched an investigation into the nation's first suspected mass mortality event linked to the H5N1 bird flu strain, as the impact of the virus rapidly escalates six weeks after it was first detected

Similar coverage reported by: [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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A mystery virus started killing horses. Then humans. Was this the moment our coronavirus era began?

The Guardian, Other, 03/08/2026, Michael Dulaney

The virus could have appeared in many places on the east coast, but it is a strange coincidence, in the light of later scientific discoveries, that it first became known in the Brisbane suburb of Hendra. The high school is named Aviation High, and the streets are bordered by the international airport and aerospace buildings to the east.

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Green light for asthma drug

Herald Sun, General News, 03/08/2026, Alexandra Feiam, Page 15

A newly registered asthma treatment has been given the green light by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), offering hope to about 200,000 Australians living with severe asthma. The treatment, Exdensur, acts as an extra maintenance therapy for those aged over 12 living with severe asthma and chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps.

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Australia outlaws nicotine pouches as millions flood across border illegally

7News.com.au, Other, 02/08/2026, James Carmody

They're being sold in ice cream shops and used in classrooms. Now the government has moved to ban the highly addictive products completely. [...] "We don't know if they're safe," Chris Bedford from the Therapeutic Goods Administration said.

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Unregulated peptides illegally sold on Facebook marketplace or distributed through Australia Post

ABC Online, Other, 02/08/2026

A drug dealer approaches his buyer, and in exchange for \$50 cash, hands over a pouch containing a vial and a single syringe. [...] Unapproved peptide products that are not included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods have not been evaluated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for safety, quality or effectiveness.

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Criminals exploit Australia Post to ship illegal tobacco across Queensland

The Courier Mail, Other, 02/08/2026, Andreas Nicola

Criminals are increasingly using social media and websites to sell illicit tobacco and skirt authorities by shipping their wares across South East Queensland through suburban post offices. [...] "This complements the Therapeutic Goods Administration action to deter and disrupt online supply of unlawful vaping goods, removing 8500 advertising posts and blocking nearly 400 websites since 1 January 2024."

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

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Evening News (Weekend), 02/08/2026, Meredith Sheehan

An ABC investigation has found Meta is failing to stop online dealers from using Facebook Marketplace to peddle illegal and dangerous peptides. The Therapeutic Goods Administration has vowed to crack down on sellers, but with many based in China, they could be fighting a losing battle.

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

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Geelong injecting room push

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03/08/2026, Olivia Conder, Page 1

Geelong is in the grip of a drug crisis after recording its highest number of fatal overdoses on record. The alarming figures have seen local community organisations, harm-reduction advocates, academics and the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association make a fresh push for a local medically supervised injecting facility.

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

Fifth-generation family farm at a standstill due to PFAS, sewage contamination

ABC Online, Other, 02/08/2026, Emily Smith

The future of Kate Tucker's family farm is as murky as its waterways, which are sullied with sewage from Tasmania's second-largest airport. The 160-hectare property outside Launceston was named The Springs for its ample water supply, which at one point was its greatest resource.

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