



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 4th August 2026

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 13) reports that a landmark agreement between The Migrant Agency and the Indian state of Kerala will see registered nurses trained to Australian standards to fill gaps in Australia's aged care workforce, while a second agreement focuses on upskilling personal care workers across India to the equivalent of a Cert III Aged Care.
- **[Australian Ageing Agenda](#)** (online) reports that Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae has welcomed the latest increase to award wages for aged care nurses. *Also reported by:* [HelloCare](#)
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that Australian Medical Association has called for an immediate overhaul of the Northern Territory's \$335 million health IT system, which they say has caused a range of issues in delivering surgical services.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 3) reports that 23 per cent of Australians surveyed said they had gone without medical treatment in the past 12 months because of the cost.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 3) reports that staff at the Royal Adelaide Hospital have raised concerns that caring for patients in corridors to tackle ambulance gridlock is becoming "normalised". *Also reported by:* [ABC Online](#), [Channel 7](#)

- [The Illawarra Mercury](#) (page 1) reports that a University of Sydney survey of more than 2,000 nurses and midwives across NSW found that 48 per cent said they had started looking for an alternative occupation, citing overwhelming workloads as a major factor.

MINISTER BUTLER

State ministers warn that cutting senior health rebates will backfire on public hospitals

HelloCare, Other, 03/08/2026, Jakob Neeland

State health ministers from New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania have publicly criticised the Albanese Government's plan to scrap higher private health insurance rebates for Australians aged 65 and over, warning the change will place extra pressure on already stretched public hospital systems. [...] Tasmanian Health Minister Bridget Archer has written to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler asking him to reconsider the policy, calling it deeply concerning and "yet another cost shift from the Commonwealth to the states".

[Read More](#)

PHI rebate bill pits Treasury against actuaries and the states

Insurance Business Australia, Other, 03/08/2026, Roxanne Libatique

A bill currently before parliament that would remove age-based private health insurance (PHI) subsidies for approximately 3.2 million Australians is generating a direct conflict between government projections, commissioned actuarial analysis, and industry modelling – with outcomes that matter significantly for fund pricing, broker retention, and public hospital demand. The Private Health Insurance Amendment (Modernising the Private Health Insurance Rebate) Bill 2026 was introduced into Parliament by Health Minister Mark Butler on June 25.

[Read More](#)

Homebirth insurance rules could cut access from 2027

Melbourne Insider, Other, 03/08/2026, Amelia Hartley

Homebirth insurance rules from 1 January 2027 could make professionally attended homebirth unavailable in parts of Australia, especially in rural and regional communities. [...] Maternity Consumer Network urged Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and the Australian Government to extend the exemption beyond 31 December 2026.

[Read More](#)

Albanese government announces \$18.1 Million for LGBTIQ+ health programs

OUTinPerth, Other, 03/08/2026

The Albanese Government is investing more than \$18.1 million to support projects aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ Australians. [...] "Every Australian deserves health care that is safe, accessible, respectful and free from judgement," Health Minister Mark Butler said when announcing the funding.

[Read More](#)

Blood test breakthrough could transform Alzheimer's fight, but experts urge caution

OverSixty, Other, 03/08/2026, Damien Pelletier

A new blood test that detects changes linked to Alzheimer's disease could soon make diagnosis far simpler, potentially reducing the process to a routine test rather than invasive or costly procedures [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration-approved test will now undergo further clinical trials at the newly opened Asia-Pacific Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease Diagnosis in Sydney, officially launched on Thursday by Health Minister Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

Exercise tax a missed chance to reduce healthcare burden

WEB Newsreel, Other, 03/08/2026, Emma Beckman

The GST on exercise physiology – an emerging and misunderstood field when the tax was introduced in 2000 – creates an unlevel playing field in allied health, penalising Australians who require prescribed exercise. [...] ESSA is calling for the Minister for Health, the Honourable Mark Butler MP, to table a determination in parliament to add exercise physiology to the list of GST-exempt health services.

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BAY FM, 08:00 News, 03/08/2026

A National Register of Child Abusers could be created to better protect kids in childcare. Health Minister Mark Butler says it will be considered.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Afternoons, 03/08/2026, Katherine Feeney

Interview with OurFutures Institute Head of Partnerships Anthea Jirgens. Jirgens says the University of Sydney's Matilda Centre has developed anti-vaping programs and clinical trials for tackling the dangers of vaping. She notes that the Commonwealth Government and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler have funded their anti-vaping program for every school in Australia, which is built on the social influence model, and she also says it is their most effective way to change the attitudes and behaviour of young people.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

ABC North West Qld, Breakfast, 03/08/2026, Zara Margolis

The Federal Government is pushing ahead with major changes to the NDIS, arguing the scheme needs to refocus on the people. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister says Thriving Kids offers an incredibly exciting opportunity, as it's a programme designed to offer services to children and families.

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MINISTER RAE

Final nurse pay boost in effect

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 03/08/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The 1 August pay boost marks the fifth increase to award wages for aged care nurses since the start of the Fair Work Commission's work value case. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said the government is proud to have backed aged care nurses through the five wage increases to ensure "the payslip they take home reflects the incredible contribution they make keeping our loved ones safe and healthy."

[Read More](#)

Aged care nurses receive final pay rise of Labor's \$18 billion wage overhaul

HelloCare, Other, 03/08/2026, Jakob Neeland

Aged care nurses across Australia have received another pay rise, marking the fifth and final wage increase delivered under the Albanese Government's response to the Fair Work Commission's landmark Aged Care Work Value Case. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said the increases were about recognising the value of aged care nursing while strengthening the sector for the future.

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Bearing a loss

The Monthly, General News, 01/08/2026, Hannah Bambra, Page 46

When Tia (not her real name) discovered she was pregnant for the first time, she was elated. [...] The federal assistant minister for women, Rebecca White, says supporting the health and wellbeing of women and families remains a key government priority, despite being state-led.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Bearing a loss

The Monthly, General News, 01/08/2026, Hannah Bambra, Page 46

When Tia (not her real name) discovered she was pregnant for the first time, she was elated. [...] The federal assistant minister for women, Rebecca White, says supporting the health and wellbeing of women and families remains a key government priority, despite being state-led.

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Uniting NSW.ACT Wins Campaign Category TechDiversity Awards

B & T Online, Other, 03/08/2026

Uniting NSW.ACT won the Campaign of the Year trophy at the 2026 TechDiversity Awards in Sydney, with B&T on the ground to hand over the trophy. [...] Government Category: My QuitBuddy Free Digital Support for Quitting Smoking and Vaping Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, with Miroma Project Factory.

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PHI rebate bill pits Treasury against actuaries and the states

Insurance Business Australia, Other, 03/08/2026, Roxanne Libatique

A bill currently before parliament that would remove age-based private health insurance (PHI) subsidies for approximately 3.2 million Australians is generating a direct conflict between government projections, commissioned actuarial analysis, and industry modelling – with outcomes that matter significantly for fund pricing, broker retention, and public hospital demand. The Private Health Insurance Amendment (Modernising the Private Health Insurance Rebate) Bill 2026 was introduced into Parliament by Health Minister Mark Butler on June 25.

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TechDiversity Awards name 2026 winners

Pulse+IT, Other, 03/08/2026

Indigenous digital skills programs, virtual reality medical training and an AI assistant developed with frontline care workers are among the winners of the 2026 TechDiversity Awards. [...] Government Category: My QuitBuddy: Free Digital Support for Quitting Smoking and Vaping Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, with Miroma Project Factory.

[Read More](#)

Digital pathology requests now portable between Australia's largest private providers

Talking HealthTech, Other, 03/08/2026

Patients with digital pathology requests from Australia's three largest private pathology providers will soon be able to easily use their e-referral at any participating collection centre thanks to a new interoperable capability created by Magentus. [...] The standard was developed through an open, consensus-driven process involving diagnostic providers, software vendors, government agencies, clinical bodies, and domain experts — coordinated by the Australian Digital Health Agency, the Department of Health and Aged Care, CSIRO, and HL7 Australia.

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Exercise tax a missed chance to reduce healthcare burden

WEB Newsreel, Other, 03/08/2026, Emma Beckman

The GST on exercise physiology – an emerging and misunderstood field when the tax was introduced in 2000 – creates an unlevel playing field in allied health, penalising Australians who require prescribed exercise. [...] ESSA is calling for the Minister for Health, the Honourable Mark Butler MP, to table a determination in parliament to add exercise physiology to the list of GST-exempt health services.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aussie aged care fix? Get it India

Herald Sun, General News, 04/08/2026, Julie Cross, Page 17

Australia's aged-care system is so broken that providers are being forced to find workers overseas, with one business fast-tracking nurses and carers and their families from India. The landmark deal between Australia's The Migrant Agency and the state of Kerala, in India, will see registered nurses trained to Australian standards and brought in to fill gaps.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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Coronial inquest looks into Covid and neglect deaths at St Basil's Home for the Aged

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/08/2026, Aneeka Simonis

St Basil's Home for the Aged failed at the very first hurdle when it detected its first case of coronavirus, a court has heard. What transpired was a catastrophic outbreak killing 50 residents – 45 from COVID-19 and another five from neglect in Australia's deadliest aged care outbreak.

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

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Regulator cracking down on late reports

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 03/08/2026

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission has announced in its latest bulletin that it intends to

take action against providers who repeatedly submit their Quarterly Financial Report late. The commission warns that financial reporting is a mandatory obligation under the Aged Care Rules and that by submitting the QFR after the statutory deadline, providers are not complying with their obligations.

[Read More](#)

Reforms fall short of intentions

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 03/08/2026, Sandra Hills

Benetas has successfully navigated the first nine months since the introduction of the new Aged Care Act , with a focus on minimising the impact to residents and clients, continuous improvement and supporting our team to navigate the complexity of the changes. While the legislation was needed, the implementation has not yet matched its aim of improved outcomes for Australian seniors.

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Regis Aged Care latest to expand home care through acquisition

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/08/2026, Caroline Egan

ASX-listed Regis Aged Care has announced this morning (Monday 3 August 2026) that it has entered into a binding agreement to acquire the home care operations of Royal Freemasons Homes of Victoria. With approximately 480 clients, the acquisition is expected to increase Regis' home care revenue by more than \$10 million, taking its annualised home care revenue to approximately \$50 million.

[Read More](#)

Thousands of Western Australians living in retirement villages will gain stronger financial protections from 1 September.

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/08/2026, Ian Horswill

The first stage of the Cook Government 's retirement village reforms introduces a number of major changes. The most significant reform requires operators to pay resident' exit entitlements within 12 months of them leaving a village.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 03/08/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Council on the Ageing CEO Miranda Starke. Goodings says almost 30,000 older South Australians applied for the Federal Government's expanded Seniors Card since the eligibility was widened on 1 July. Starke states that Australians over 60 are now eligible for the Seniors Card, which she also says was something that the Council on the Ageing advocated for at the last election.

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

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

No relevant coverage

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PRIMARY CARE

No ramping record, but the Opposition says Labor has nothing to boast about

West Australian, Other, 03/08/2026, Jessica Page

Health Minister Meredith Hammat said she is "pleased" ramping figures in July were better than last year's record, but won't claim the job is done. The Opposition insisted 5,924 hours clocked up of

ambulances, and patients, stranded outside hospital emergency departments was nothing to boast about it - despite being more than 1000 hours less than last July's 7,011 hours.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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Dead people booked for operations in NT public hospitals due to Acacia failings

ABC Online, Other, 03/08/2026, Jack Hislop

Dead people are being booked for operations in the Northern Territory's public hospitals due to failures of a \$335 million health IT system, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) says. The peak body for doctors has revealed the latest issue for the troubled Acacia patient record system in its second submission to a parliamentary inquiry.

[Read More](#)

Minister instructs Queensland Health to review fertility guidance after women's treatments disrupted

ABC Online, Other, 03/08/2026, Emma Johnson

Queensland's health minister has instructed the state's health department to review its fertility clinic guidance after several women were told they could not proceed with their treatments. It follows ABC reporting of a lesbian couple who were informed they were no longer the same family under Queensland Health guidelines and told they may not be able to conceive using the same sperm donor.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Hole lot of delay strife

Herald Sun, General News, 04/08/2026, Page 3

Millions of Australians are putting their health at risk by delaying or avoiding medical treatment because they simply can't afford it. Finder research reveals Aussies are putting off everything from skin screenings to mental health support due to money pressures.

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

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Stimulants, cocaine fuel drug deaths

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/08/2026, Page 7

Drug-induced deaths and hospitalisations in Australia have risen, with the trend driven by increased harms from amphetamine-type stimulants and cocaine, new data shows. Latest annual reporting by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre shows more than 2000 deaths in 2024 from drug overdoses.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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When kids are scared of the doctor, let Teddy go first

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 04/08/2026, Belinda Dean, Page 10

Health care environments can be stressful for children, but pediatric health experts say there is a simple, playful tool that can turn that fear into curiosity, and even fun: medical play. Medical play has been proven to reduce children's fear and anxiety around medical treatments as well as fostering trust, comfort and coping.

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Grog tax a bootleg bonanza

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/08/2026, Page 6

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 today as part of a twice-yearly hike, taking the tax on spirits such as vodka, gin and rum to \$110.15 per litre.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Shocking video of patient assaulting nurse prompts union call for safer conditions

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 03/08/2026, Dominique Tassell

Footage of a registered nurse being attacked by a patient in the foyer of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in 2024 has gone viral, prompting the nurses union to call for safer working conditions. [...] "With national figures recently released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showing assault in the workplace has now climbed from the fourth to the second leading cause of hospitalisations for injuries among healthcare workers, we reiterate more needs to be done to protect our nurses.

[Read More](#)

Ballarat's \$1.3 million a week poker machine habit revealed in new data

Ballarat Courier, Other, 03/08/2026, Michelle Smith

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 \$21,000 per year.

[Read More](#)

Why the census won't ask about intersex variations, and the reason it should

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 03/08/2026, Xavier Mills and Sal Clark

On Tuesday August the Australian census will ask specific questions about gender identity and sexual orientation for the first time. It will also amend the previous wording about a person's sex, which conflated sex and gender, to "sex recorded at birth".

[Read More](#)

For the first time, the census will ask your sexual orientation. My new study shows why it matters

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 03/08/2026, Karinna Saxby

When Australians complete the census on August 11, they'll face a new question that's been a long time coming. For the first time, people aged 16 and over will be asked about their sexual orientation – whether they identify as straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, asexual or use another term.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Truck to find lung cancer

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2026, Rachel Riley, Page 16

A revolutionary medical rig that can read breath and scan lungs with artificial intelligence is hitting Queensland roads to tackle one of the nation's deadliest cancers. The custom-built lung cancer research truck will bring lifesaving early detection tests to regional communities, starting with a deployment across South West Queensland.

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

Dying patients 'trapped'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 04/08/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 1

Regional bed-bound Tasmanians are being stranded without access to Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD), legal and medical bodies say. Community Legal Centres Tasmania policy officer Ben Bartl said while nearly a quarter of Australians used telehealth in recent years, terminally ill patients are legally barred from using phone, email, or video consultations for VAD services, due to a Federal Court judgment.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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Wee need a kidney test

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 04/08/2026, Page 8

Kidney Health Australia has gone all in on toilet humour for a serious cause, launching a national media campaign called Taking The P***. The organisation is calling on Australians to ask their GP for a urine test as part of a Kidney Health Check.

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

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Whittington father-of-two James Martin fears recurrent stroke every headache

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/08/2026

James Martin was making a sandwich when his greatest fear became reality. His left leg went numb, he couldn't lift his left arm or stand up straight, and one side of his mouth began drooping.

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

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But you're too young to have chronic pain

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 03/08/2026

Pharmacists have a key role to play in breaking barriers to accessing care for young Australians living with chronic pain, write Dr Brett MacFarlane, and Nicolette Ellis While rarely intended to be dismissive, the sentiment that young people aren't likely to live with chronic pain reflects a common misperception that it is primarily a condition

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Your mouth could hold the secrets to a longer and healthier life

The Australian, Other, 03/08/2026, Laura Landro

The eyes are a window to the soul, but the mouth may reveal just as much about a person's health – and the diseases that shape how we age. To better understand those connections, scientists are studying how issues that start in the mouth may contribute to chronic inflammation elsewhere in the body.

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Mother shares heartbreak after son's sore throat leads to shock leukaemia diagnosis

Sunshine Coast Daily, Other, 03/08/2026, Kelsey Reid

A Sunshine Coast mother has shared the devastating moment when her 10-year-old son's sore throat resulted in a sinister cancer diagnosis. Naomi Turner said she took her son Cooper, 10, to the hospital after suspecting he had tonsillitis.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Warning on Covid hotel suicide

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2026, Marcus de Blonk Smith, Page 7

Police flagged welfare concerns about a man who later committed suicide during Covid hotel quarantine in Brisbane, an inquest has heard. Matthew Stephen Carroll took his own life at the Novotel Airport hotel on September 27, 2021, two days after arriving in Queensland from Canberra.

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

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Sportsbet denies offering punters drugs and escorts

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/08/2026, Ronald Mizen, Page 1

Bookmaking giant Sportsbet says it has no evidence that its VIP managers offered drugs and escorts to gamblers to keep them punting, and anyone with evidence should hand it over for investigation by the authorities.

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

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More effort needed to end loneliness blight

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/08/2026, Michael Easson, Page 29

Australians think we are the friendliest people on earth. The truth is most of us are strangers to each other.

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Critical welfare checks missed

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2026, Paul Brescia, Page 8

Officers raised concerns but QH workers failed to follow up Queensland Health employees did not conduct additional welfare checks on a man who would die by suicide while in hotel quarantine during the Covid-19 pandemic, despite multiple police officers raising mental health concerns.

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Inquiry hears drugs offered to gambling addicts

ABC Online, Other, 03/08/2026, Bridget Fitzgerald and Samantha Donovan

A former rugby league player has told a Senate inquiry that he was offered illegal drugs from gambling company employees when he was at the height of a gambling addiction. The inquiry is looking into the federal government's legislation on restricting gambling advertising, which was introduced to parliament last month.

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Ex-NRL player Luke Bateman alleges gambling company offered him drugs

ABC Online, Other, 03/08/2026, Clare Armstrong

A former professional rugby league player says gambling company employees offered to secure him illicit drugs to "strengthen" their relationship when he was in the grips of a financially crippling wagering addiction. Luke Bateman, 31, had losses of "tens of thousands of dollars a month" at the peak of his problem gambling and will give evidence about his personal experience at a Senate inquiry into the federal government's legislation to restrict gambling ads in Canberra on Monday.

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Lonely planet: why are we addicted to the social media scroll when it is

so clearly harming us?

The Guardian, Other, 04/08/2026, Paul Daley

There is so much talk of all the lonely people in the world right now that the pervasive state of loneliness is being called an epidemic. I don't think that is an overstatement.

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IMMUNISATION

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Hospital's record surgeries

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/08/2026, Michael Nolan, Page 2

St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba recorded its highest number of surgeries in its 104-year history, chalking up 18,157 operations in the past financial year. The number is up 7.4 per cent on the previous year, and 25.3 per cent up from 2023-24.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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Healthcare giant Mater officially opens Gold Coast hospital

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 03/08/2026, Ashleigh Jansen

Mater Private Hospital Gold Coast has officially opened its doors, seven months after gaining exclusive due diligence rights to buy Gold Coast Private Hospital from receivers. The Southport-based facility brings Queensland's largest not-for-profit healthcare provider to the Coast – along with 1400 jobs, and nearly 350 patient beds.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Breast milk breakthrough

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2026, Kate Kyriacou, Page 1

Scientists in Queensland have found a way to mimic the chain reaction from a protein in breast milk so that baby formula might one day help infants develop lifesaving immunities. And a known FDA-approved diabetes medication could pave the way to make this a reality.

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No kidding, beans tum-tastic

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/08/2026, Zoe Brain, Page 9

They are cheap, filling and can sit in the cupboard for months, but not every tin of beans is nutritionally equal, says dietitian Zoe Brain. Canned beans are one of the most underrated supermarket staples.

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Health impacts of mining on babies set to be studied

Newcastle Herald, General News, 04/08/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 4

Two University of Newcastle cardiovascular specialists have been awarded \$1.2 million in medical research funding to improve heart health in the Hunter. The funding will support research into how babies' health is affected by air pollution from coal mining and bushfires during pregnancy.

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Adelaide Uni researchers to probe if some artificial sweeteners are worse for some than others

Adelaide Now, Other, 03/08/2026, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker

In a new study, Adelaide University researchers are investigating how different, popular low-calorie sweeteners affect the body's glucose regulation systems as well as metabolism. Testing five of the world's most used sweeteners – aspartame, stevia, sucralose, saccharin and acesulfame potassium – they will examine in healthy individuals how each interacts with multiple organs involved in blood sugar control, including the intestine, pancreas and kidneys, as well as the gut microbiome.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Once-weekly HIV drug success

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 03/08/2026

A major international clinical trial has found that a once-weekly oral treatment for HIV is as effective as one of the leading daily therapies currently used, potentially offering a more convenient option for people living with the virus.

[Read More](#)

Our country's luck will run out if you don't fund research properly

Canberra Times, Other, 03/08/2026, Brian Schmidt

Australia's ARC (Australian Research Council) Centres of Excellence program is designed to break down research silos by funding cross-institutional teams working at the pinnacle of Australian basic research. As well as forming synergistic collaborations, these centres naturally spawn successful commercial ventures, because high-tech venture capital depends on deep technical advantage.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Pearson's 'blue-dot' plan an echo of the voice

The Australian, General News, 04/08/2026, Marcia Langton and Tom Calma, Page 11

On the first of August, at Gulkula, Noel Pearson closed his Garma address with the question Dr Martin Luther King asked in 1967: Where do we go from here? His answer was a structural one.

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A yarn saves lives

Cairns Post, General News, 04/08/2026, Molly Frew, Page 1

A young Cairns woman who received a life-changing kidney transplant last year is sharing her story to encourage Far North Queenslanders and especially First Nations people to get talking about organ donation. Tahnee Boyd, 35, was in renal failure for more than three and a half years, doing dialysis three days a week for five hours at a time.

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'Government must act': Closing the Gap data concerns Aboriginal legal service

National Indigenous Times, Other, 03/08/2026, Callan Morse

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service has raised concerns about the Productivity Commission's latest Closing the Gap data. Released on Wednesday evening, the Commission's 2026 Closing the Gap report found of the 15 targets assessed only three are on track to be met, with suicide rates, adult imprisonment, children in out-of-home care, and the proportion of children developmentally on track continuing to worsen.

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The inability to deliver the changes Indigenous Australians need is no longer just a moral failure but a civilisational one

The Guardian, Other, 03/08/2026, Noel Pearson

The Uluru statement from the heart was our prayer to the Australian people. There was hope in its words.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Corridor 'care' a risk to patients

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/08/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 3

Corridor care is being "normalised" at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, putting patients and staff at risk, the nurses' union warns. It follows the hospital doctors' union also raising serious concerns about patients being crammed into corridors to cut an ambulance gridlock – and improve politically explosive monthly ramping data.

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

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Vic Park gridlock fears at hospital

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2026, Hayden Johnson, Page 2

Fears of traffic gridlock around Queensland's biggest hospital have increased following the government's release of a draft Victoria Park Precinct masterplan. The masterplan, which is open for public comment, features new pedestrian links, green space and sports facilities in the parkland.

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

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Labor's bid to revive NT health

Northern Territory News, General News, 04/08/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 9

Just as another Code Yellow has been called in Darwin and Palmerston hospitals, the Territory Labor Party is suggesting a hard change is needed in the overburdened NT health system. Citing long patient wait times, lack of accessibility and heavy health staff workloads, the Opposition claims a long-term plan is needed to address the ever-growing pressure in the NT.

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

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'In a fire, you wouldn't get out' of Mater

One of the Hunter's major hospitals has been non-fire compliant for years, and a whistleblower says "in the event of a fire, you wouldn't get out". Seven of the 10 buildings at the Calvary Mater Newcastle have not lodged an independently verified fire certificate - known as an Annual Fire Safety Statement (AFSS) and required every 12 months - for two to four years.

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SA nurses call for urgent investigation into use of corridors for patient care at RAH

ABC Online, Other, 03/08/2026

The South Australian nurses' union wants the state government to intervene in what it claims is the "regular" use of hospital corridors to keep patients until beds become available during high-demand periods. Following an inspection at the Royal Adelaide Hospital by its officers, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation SA Branch (ANMF SA) has submitted a report to SafeWork SA calling for an investigation into use of "corridor care" at the state's major hospital.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 03/08/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

Public hospital nurses have called in SafeWork SA, warning patient overcrowding in corridors at the Royal Adelaide Hospital is getting worse. The union is claiming patients and staff are at serious risk, and it's now calling for an independent investigation.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 03/08/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry

Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls is celebrating a major milestone in his push to recruit thousands of health workers to keep up with soaring demand, but AMA Queensland is disappointed that the long-term plan has not been released. Nicholls also spruiked an update on the Redcliffe Hospital expansion, which is set to deliver 255 new beds.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Hero Brisbane nurse chokes out drunk

Courier Mail, General News, 04/08/2026, Iwan Jones, Page 2

Footage has emerged of a nurse using Jiu-jitsu to restrain an aggressive patient at a Brisbane hospital. The CCTV footage shows registered nurse Daniel Nelson taking down an intoxicated man in the foyer of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital emergency department.

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Nurses sound alarm

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 04/08/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 1

A recent report shows that nurses and midwives who have started looking for an alternative occupation is as high as 48 per cent, a level of turnover that would "paralyse the public healthcare system". The federal government has forecast that the country needs almost 80,000 more nurses by 2035 to fill a projected shortfall in the profession.

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

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Health strike arrives in GV

Shepparton News, General News, 04/08/2026, Ashley Darling, Page 5

Allied health workers across Victoria are continuing their fight for better pay after they deemed a 24-hour statewide strike in June was not met with a satisfactory response. They are striking for three hours each week, leaving skeleton crews in place to continue providing care.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#).

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South Australia CCTV captures incredible moment Jiu-jitsu-obsessed nurse takes down violent patient at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

NEWS.com.au, Other, 03/08/2026, Emma Kirk

Incredible footage has emerged of a jiu-jitsu-obsessed nurse taking down a violent patient at a hospital emergency department. Brisbane nurse Daniel Nelson posted CCTV footage of the incident to social media that has since been viewed more than 1.3 million times.

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

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PSA26 is officially a wrap

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 03/08/2026

The PSA's national conference wrapped on Sunday after 3 days of learning, celebration and networking at Sydney's International Convention Centre (ICC), with delegates embracing this year's theme, 'Home of Pharmacists'. The conference wrapped Sunday 2 August with 'CSI Sunday', tailored streams led by PSA's consultant, hospital, early career, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities of Specialty Interest.

[Read More](#)

PSA awards excellence

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 03/08/2026

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) celebrated excellence in pharmacy through its annual awards, presented at PSA26 on Fri last week. Dr Paul Tait (pictured centre) was awarded Pharmacist of the Year in recognition of his excellence in pharmacy practice research and his contribution to advancing pharmacy practice.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Minister 'worried' by US pricing policy

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 03/08/2026

Government concerned about the implications Trump's 'most favoured nation' policy could have for medicines access in Australia. Pharmacists are being urged to engage in discussions about access to affordable medicines, as the US government's new drug pricing model threatens to impact the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

[Read More](#)

New PBS listings

Several new medicines have been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from 01 Aug, including the first and only chemo-free immunotherapy for lymphoma and a new treatment option for a rare brain cancer. Independent biopharma company Specialised Therapeutics (ST) has announced the PBS listing of Minjuvi (tafasitamab), in combination.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Channel 9, Nine News Late, 03/08/2026, Tracy Vo

Addressing the problem drinking online is proving successful, particularly among Australian women. One course, delivered entirely via telehealth, is turning around participants' lives, all from the privacy of their own homes.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#).

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Dr Fauci revives mystery of Covid

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/08/2026, Alexander Downer, Page 13

The sudden re-emergence of the US's former chief medical officer, Dr Anthony Fauci, has reminded us of something that should have been front of mind. Incredibly, we still haven't had any confirmation of the cause of the Covid-19 outbreak that shook the world.

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

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Pharmacists step up as PSA's newest advocates

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 03/08/2026, Leah Jacobsen

Julianna Neill MPS and Jemma Keay MPS were announced as the PSA Vaccination Ambassadors, recognising their leadership and commitment to advancing pharmacist-led immunisation services across Australia. Based on the Sunshine Coast, Ms Neill has worked in community pharmacy and aged care and was among Australia's first pharmacist vaccinators.

[Read More](#)

The new faces of vaccination

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 03/08/2026

Two new vaccination ambassadors were introduced at PSA26, with Julianna Neill and Jemma Keay taking the baton from inaugural PSA Vaccination Ambassador Anna Theophilos. The appointments of Neill and Keay recognise their leadership and commitment to advancing pharmacist-led immunisation services across the country.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 03/08/2026, Yvonne Yong

CSIRO testing has confirmed the first mass mortality from H5 bird flu in Australian wildlife on an island off South Australia's Southeast Coast. It has prompted predictions of significant bird deaths as the virus spreads across the country.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#), [SBS \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#).

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 03/08/2026, Spence Denny

A cluster of dead and sick birds found in SA's Baudin Rocks is being described by the Federal Government as the nation's first mass mortality bird flu event. Federal Environment Minister Murray Watt says the H5 strain poses a threat to native species, but he insists the Federal Government is well prepared for the virus.

Similar coverage reported by: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [2GB \(Sydney\)](#), [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#), [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#).

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