



TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 6th August 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Age** (online) reports that Australian federal, state and territory governments have endorsed a new risk-based strategic framework for BreastScreen Australia to deliver earlier detection through personalised screening, which Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White said was a critical step to saving lives through early intervention. *Also reported by: 7News*
- The **Daily Telegraph** (online) reports that legal experts have warned a Senate inquiry that proposed NDIS bill amendments could allow automated systems to issue unchecked debt notices to participants.
- **The Australian** (online) reports NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has warned limited access to respiratory assistive technology under federal aged care reforms could increase emergency department presentations, while federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae says the changes have strengthened access to assistive technology and funding for in-home care.
- The **West Australian** (page 4) reports that University of Melbourne researchers have found that vaping is having a significant impact on the lives of Australians, with users often working from home or excusing themselves from social situations to ensure the opportunity to vape.
- The **Sydney Morning Herald** (online) reports the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union is calling for increased funding and stronger measures to address workplace violence, saying

most surveyed members have experienced aggression despite growth in the state's frontline health workforce.

- The [West Australian](#) (online) reports that health professionals from across the Kimberley have been invited to a free two-day ear health education forum in Broome on August 20 and 21, led by prominent specialists including Professor Kelvin Kong to help address high rates of preventable ear disease in First Nations children.
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (online) reports the TGA is suing Better Leaf Pty Ltd, Better Life Pty Ltd, and former director Jack Weisberg over allegations they unlawfully advertised medicinal cannabis and falsely implied endorsement by the regulator and health practitioners.

MINISTER BUTLER

Simple blood test to detect Alzheimer's disease

Weekly Times, General News, 05/08/2026, Page 10

A major breakthrough in the fight against Alzheimer's has been announced, with a simple blood test able to detect the disease before symptoms appear. [...] "I really describe this as the holy grail," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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

Lawyers warn automated NDIS debt system could be a 'new Robodebt'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/08/2026, Julie Cross

Lawyers have warned history could repeat itself as a new NDIS bill hands computers the power to raise debts against Australia's most vulnerable citizens. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced this year the government would slash at least 160,000 people from the NDIS over the next four years.

[Read More](#)

Aged care caught in health insurance rebate battle

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/08/2026, Caroline Egan

The Government is under pressure from all sides over its proposal to reduce private health insurance rebates for over-65s. [...] Ahead of the Federal Budget, Federal Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler announced at his National Press Club address in April that higher private health insurance rebates for over 65s would be lowered to the same rate as younger people on the same income.

[Read More](#)

\$180m available for Aboriginal community-controlled health infrastructure

National Indigenous Times, Other, 05/08/2026, Dechlan Brennan

Eligible Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) can apply for a share of \$180 million in Federal Government funding aimed at expanding and upgrading health infrastructure across Australia. [...] Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Rebecca White said they demonstrated the value of investing in community-controlled health infrastructure.

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50 new medical school places to boost GP pipeline

Campus Review, Other, 05/08/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The federal government will fund 50 additional medical school places from 2028 as part of a \$30 million investment designed to boost the GP workforce and strengthen access to primary care across Australia. [...] Health, Disability and Ageing Minister Mark Butler said the initiative was part of a broader effort to address workforce shortages and improve access to care.

[Read More](#)

Health Minister to address more than 1,000 nurses at national forum

Oz News Today, Other, 05/08/2026

More than 1,000 nurses are gathering in Melbourne, including nursing leaders from across the country and the world, for Australia's premier nursing conference, the Australian College of Nursing National Nursing Forum. [...] The conference will be addressed by the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, and Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care, Senator Anne Ruston, with a closing keynote from the Founding Director of Go Gentle Australia, Andrew Denton.

[Read More](#)

WIN Hobart, WIN News, 05/08/2026, Bruce Roberts

Older Tasmanians have raised concerns at a community forum hosted by Tasmanian private health insurer St Luke's about the Federal Government's proposed changes to the private health insurance rebate, which would remove the higher rebate for policyholders aged 65 and over and base rebates on income alone. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says funds raised from the change would be reinvested into aged care, while St Luke's CEO Paul Lupo and Liberal Senator Anne Ruston highlight concerns about impacts on private health insurance affordability and pressure on the public health system.

Continues on: [WIN Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 05/08/2026, Leon Compton

Interview with Anne Ruston, Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care. Ruston discusses the Federal Government's planned cut to the private health insurance rebate, saying many older Australians report they cannot afford to keep their cover. She says the changes, announced by Federal Health Minister Mar Butler, are subject to a Senate Committee on Community Affairs inquiry, with submissions closing on 21 August.

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

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

NDIS cuts to pass but widow tax changes delayed

Australian Financial Review, General News, 06/08/2026, Phillip Coorey, Page 4

Legislation to cut the cost of the National Disability Insurance Scheme by \$38 billion by the end of the decade is set to sail through the Senate the week after next, under a tacit agreement between Labor and the Coalition.

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

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MINISTER RAE

NSW Health Minister warns elderly ED presentations could increase after aged care reforms

The Australian, Other, 05/08/2026, Nathan Schmidt

Difficulties older people face accessing respiratory assistive technology under the Albanese government's aged care reforms could lead to an uptick in elderly patients being admitted to the ED, NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has warned. However, federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said states had "rejected" a \$2bn offer through the National Health Reform Agreement for aged care services despite delayed discharges of elderly patients – known as bed block – being singled out as "their biggest pressure point".

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Acting Inspector-General of Aged Care appointed

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/08/2026, Caroline Egan

The Government has appointed an Acting Inspector-General of Aged Care after Natalie Siegel-Brown unexpectedly cut short her term. [...] "Ms Pope comes to the position with deep experience in the public sector and I am confident she will do an excellent job in working with us and the Parliament in improving aged care for older people," said Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae.

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Kate Pope becomes the sector's next IG

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 05/08/2026

Former deputy president of the Department of Veterans' Affairs Repatriation Commission Kate Pope has been appointed acting Inspector-General of Aged Care. [...] She will also be responsible for reporting to the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae and Parliament on the implementation of the recommendations of the royal commission.

[Read More](#)

Kate Pope appointed acting Inspector-General of Aged Care

Inside Ageing, Other, 05/08/2026, Amy Clarke

The government has appointed experienced public sector leader Kate Pope PSM as acting Inspector-General of Aged Care, following the departure of Natalie Siegel-Brown at the end of July. [...] Announcing the appointment, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said the role of the Inspector-General remained critical to supporting long-term reform across the aged care sector.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Revealed: The radical overhaul of cancer screening to detect most at risk

The Age, Other, 05/08/2026, Kate Aubusson and Henrietta Cook

A radical overhaul of Australia's breast cancer screening will implement a risk-based approach to detect cancers earlier with new technologies beyond mammograms, replacing the current one-size-fits-all, age-based model. [...] Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White said regular breast screening remains one of the most effective ways to detect cancer early, preventing more challenging treatment and poorer outcomes for women.

Also reported by: [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#)

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Biggest overhaul of BreastScreen Australia in decades promises more personalised screening, but funding questions remain

7News.com.au, Other, 05/08/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Australia's breast screening program is set for its biggest overhaul in decades, with plans for more personalised screening, greater use of artificial intelligence and a stronger focus on women at higher risk of breast cancer. The Federal Government has unveiled a new 10-year roadmap for BreastScreen Australia, designed to modernise the national program as evidence and technology continue to evolve.

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\$180m available for Aboriginal community-controlled health infrastructure

National Indigenous Times, Other, 05/08/2026, Dechlan Brennan

Eligible Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) can apply for a share of \$180 million in Federal Government funding aimed at expanding and upgrading health infrastructure across Australia. [...] Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Rebecca White said they demonstrated the value of investing in community-controlled health infrastructure.

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Channel 7, Seven News First at 4pm, 05/08/2026, Amber Laidler

Breast Screen Australia is set for its biggest overhaul in decades, promising more personalised screening and earlier detection to save more lives. The biggest shift is a move from a one-size-fits-all approach towards personalised screening. That means women at higher risk of breast cancer could eventually be offered more frequent mammograms, while the programme will also trial the best screening approach for women aged 45 to 49.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 05/08/2026, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

Australia's breast screening programme is set for its biggest overhaul in decades with more scans for younger and high-risk patients. The aim is to improve early cancer detection, but questions remain over whether enough funding has been committed to make it happen. Artificial intelligence is also expected to play a bigger part in breast screening, acting as a second reader alongside radiologists, helping detect more cancers while reducing wait times for thousands of women.

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Channel 7, Seven News Qld at 4pm, 05/08/2026, Samantha Heathwood

Australia is set for a major overhaul of breast screening, with the new framework moving towards personalised screening, including more frequent mammograms for higher-risk women, trials for women aged 45 to 49, national breast density reporting, and expanded use of artificial intelligence. Assistant Minister for Health Rebecca White says the program aims to encourage more women to participate, while Cancer Australia Medical Director Professor Vivienne Milch highlights the importance of follow-up assessments for women with higher breast density.

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

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NITV, NITV News, 05/08/2026, Cameron Gooley

The National Indigenous Healthcare Forum in Sydney on Gadigal Country brought together more than 250 attendees to discuss culturally grounded solutions to health gaps affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including the need for greater investment and accountability. Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White and Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council representative Nicole Turner highlight the importance of supporting community-controlled organisations, genuine relationships and culturally safe healthcare delivery.

Continues on: [NITV \(Sydney\)](#), [NITV \(Sydney\)](#), [NITV \(Sydney\)](#).

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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Women face losing life-changing pain drug

Launceston Examiner, General News, 06/08/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 7

A Tasmanian woman living with severe adenomyosis has spoken out against "misogyny" in women's healthcare, warning that changes to the availability of the drug Zoladex leave tens of thousands of patients stranded in uncertainty. [...] According to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, all patients prescribed the 3.6mg implant before November 1 will automatically qualify for the program.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#).

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

Medical students face new brain bleed subject far worse than neuroanatomy

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/08/2026, Ciara Seccombe

The Federal Government has been asking medical schools to trial an education course for students on the intricacies of Medicare billing. [...] But the independent investigation by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing concluded that doctors found the MBS, with its esoteric descriptors, its arcane rules and its 6000-plus Medicare items, an administrative brain bleed.

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TGA signals compliance action over AI clinical scribes

Aesthetic Medical Practitioner, Other, 05/08/2026, Aimée Rodrigues

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has escalated its year-long review of AI clinical scribes, moving to compliance action after identifying clinical decision-making functions, inadequate monitoring and limited transparency in some products. The development was reported by The Medical Republic following the Australian Institute of Digital Health's HIC2026 conference in Sydney on Monday 3 August, where TGA First Assistant Secretary of the Medical Devices and Product Quality Division Tracey Duffy addressed the regulator's review.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

From home support to residential care – how to navigate the aged-care maze for ageing parents

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 05/08/2026

Trying to get an ageing parent into care can feel like trying to land a plane in a storm while also looking after kids in the back row. This is the reality for the "sandwich generation": adults who are supporting ageing parents while raising their own children.

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Home care refusals drive lower package use: Senate Inquiry

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/08/2026, Caroline Egan

Older people are refusing care under Support at Home, a Senate Inquiry heard this week. Over two hearings in Melbourne (Monday, 3 August) and Launceston (Tuesday, 4 August), the Community Affairs References Committee heard from local councils, community groups, allied health providers, and home care providers as part of the Senate Inquiry into Support at Home.

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The business case for dementia-competent hospitals in Australia

HelloCare, Other, 05/08/2026, Jakob Neeland

Specialised staff training and coordinated care models are not clinical add-ons. They are strategic financial and operational investments that Australian hospitals can no longer afford to postpone.

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Cairns leads the way

Cairns Post, General News, 06/08/2026, Grace Carter, Page 3

A triple paralympian coming to Cairns has said the city is "leading the country" on NDIS participation, as the federal electorate of Leichhardt has been identified as one of the highest performing markets in the country according to new data. The electorate has the top national NDIS utilisation rate of 67 per cent 12 per cent higher than the state and national average of 55 per cent and is ranked fourth out of 150 Australian electorates for overall market effectiveness.

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Mum scammed \$193k

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 06/08/2026, Peta Mceachern, Page 3

A Queensland woman who stole almost \$200,000 from the National Disability Insurance Scheme has walked free from court. Pensioner Kristy Meta Elisabeth Lutter, 44, pleaded guilty to fraud, exceeding \$100,000, before the Toowoomba District Court on Tuesday and was sentenced to a five-year suspended jail term.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 05/08/2026, Craig Reucassel

Interview with Tim Taylor, CEO, Assistance Dogs Australia. Taylor discusses the organisation's assistance dog program, which breeds and trains Labradors and Golden Retrievers to support people with disabilities, including those with physical disabilities, complex autism, and PTSD. He says Assistance Dogs Australia trains each dog for up to two years at a cost of more than \$60,000 and currently has more than 200 dogs in training, with plans to increase the number of dogs placed with people by 50 per cent over the next two years.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Many choose pain over financial stress

Launceston Examiner, General News, 06/08/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 2

Young people are increasingly skipping out on seeing the dentist because, despite the pain, discomfort and insecurities, it's "not at the top of the list" while struggling financially. The Australian Dental Association's (ADA) 2025 Consumer Survey of more than 25,000 Australians revealed about 60 per cent of people aged 18-25 have experienced wisdom tooth-related issues, including pain, swelling, crowding, infection, or discomfort.

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Health insurance rebates are changing for the over-65s. Here's what to expect

The New Daily, Other, 05/08/2026

Just how many people would really drop their cover as a result of the change? Since the federal government announced earlier this year it would scrap the higher private health insurance rebate for people aged 65 and over, opponents have come out in force.

‘At the end of the day they’re going to come to the pharmacy’

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 05/08/2026, Megan Haggan

Pharmacists should play a bigger role in identifying patients who could use a medicines review, one doctor tells a conference The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) latest medicine safety report highlights the medicine safety challenges faced by culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Australians.

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Young Australians at risk of “falling through the cracks” on dental health

Bite Magazine, Other, 05/08/2026

Young Australians are increasingly "falling through the cracks" when it comes to their oral health, with new national research revealing a concerning combination of untreated dental problems, social media-driven cosmetic treatments, and preventable sports injuries among 18-25-year-olds.

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Men in Mind now for pharmacists

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 05/08/2026

Pharmacists and other primary healthcare workers can now access the Movember Men in Mind program, helping them to better engage, support and care for male patients. The Federal Government has invested \$11.3 million to expand the program, which until now was only available to mental health practitioners.

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POPULATION HEALTH

National study reveals how vape addiction is ruining Australians' lives

West Australian, General News, 06/08/2026, Hannah Cross, Page 4

A new study has laid bare how vaping is controlling the lives of Australians, who are purposely working from home, initiating breaks, or excusing themselves from social situations to vape. University of Melbourne researchers recruited 72 vapers aged 14 to 39 via social media to take part in the study, which involved documenting their vape experiences over seven days.

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

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Darren's proactive approach pays off

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 06/08/2026, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 2

When Darren Cruickshanks went to see his general practitioner for blood test results, he expected to be told to exercise and stop eating Kentucky Fried Chicken. "That's been happening for years," the real estate agent from Bendigo told AAP, with a laugh.

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Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union survey finds 'crisis level' workplace violence

ABC Online, Other, 05/08/2026

In her almost 30 years as a nurse, Annalise* has been "punched, kicked, spat on" and even bitten on the face by a patient. When she reported the incident to her manager, she was told to "stick an alco wipe on it" and keep working.

[Read More](#)

Why cold hands and brain fog are not just normal signs of ageing

The Senior, Other, 05/08/2026, Desiree Savage

Often brushed off as " getting old ", ailments like cold hands, brain fog and energy slumps are actually warning signals from the most overlooked system in our bodies , says a retired scientist. For decades, TJ 'Robert' Phua worked as a specialist in microbiology and cytogenetics in Newcastle.

[Read More](#)

'Harry doesn't have a lot of options left': Meet the paediatrician battling antibiotic resistance every day

Australian Doctor, Other, 05/08/2026, Carmel Sparke

Associate Professor Penelope Bryant has co-authored a major study showing that in the next decade 35% of klebsiella infections will be resistant to at least one last line of defence agent. One of the patients Associate Professor Penelope Bryant helps to treat is Harry, a 13-year-old with an unwanted place on the front line of antimicrobial resistance.

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Dementia remains leading cause of death

Community Care Review, Other, 05/08/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The updated Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Dementia in Australia report shows dementia remains the leading cause of death in Australia and that it will impact close to 1.1 million people by 2066. There were an estimated 439,000 Australians living with dementia in 2025 – which equates to around 16 people per 1,000 Australians – and this number is predicted to rise to 459,000 in 2026.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 05/08/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Dr Randall Long, Head of Unit for the Statewide Eating Disorder Service, SA Health. Long discusses the increasing prevalence of eating disorders, noting that around 1.1 million people in Australia are affected and rates are rising across different communities. He says eating disorders are complex mental health conditions influenced by multiple factors, with social media contributing to the onset and worsening of symptoms for some people.

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

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ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 05/08/2026, Tracey Strong

Interview with Kate Miranda, CEO, Asthma Australia. Miranda discusses the growing burden of asthma, highlighting that it is the leading cause of total disease burden in children aged 5 to 14. She says new asthma treatment guidelines now recommend combination puffers from diagnosis to better manage underlying inflammation, rather than relying only on symptom-relieving blue puffers.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, 05/08/2026, Joel Rheinberger

Interview with Dr Ioan Jones, Clinical Director, Oral Health Services Tasmania. Jones discusses children's oral health during Dental Health Week, highlighting that children can access public dental services without a waitlist in Tasmania. He says oral Health Services Tasmania operates a network of clinics across the state and focuses on preventive care, including educating parents and carers on early dental health practices.

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

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Breast test framework undergoes overhaul

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/08/2026, Kate Aubusson and Henrietta Cook, Page 16

A radical overhaul of Australia's breast cancer screening will implement a risk-based approach to detect cancers earlier with new technologies beyond mammograms, replacing the current one-size-fits-all, age-based model. Australia's federal, state and territory governments yesterday endorsed a new national strategic framework for BreastScreen Australia, based on the latest evidence of risk assessment and new technologies.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Cairns hospital to manufacture chemotherapy drugs locally at new Cancer Care Hub

The Courier Mail, Other, 05/08/2026, Catherine Duffy

A \$5.6m hub has ended the need to fly chemotherapy drugs from Brisbane to Far North Queensland cancer patients, with drugs now made on-site. Local cancer patient Rex Cashion is relieved to see the new \$5.6m Cancer Care Hub open at the Cairns Hospital this week.

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Biggest overhaul of BreastScreen Australia in decades promises more personalised screening, but funding questions remain

7News.com.au, Other, 05/08/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Australia's breast screening program is set for its biggest overhaul in decades, with plans for more personalised screening, greater use of artificial intelligence and a stronger focus on women at higher risk of breast cancer. The Federal Government has unveiled a new 10-year roadmap for BreastScreen Australia, designed to modernise the national program as evidence and technology continue to evolve.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Bondi stabbing attack sparks mental health policy revamp

Newcastle Herald, General News, 06/08/2026, Catherine Bouris, Page 12

Emergency services will implement a triaging model for mental health crises in response to a devastating mass stabbing attack that left six people dead. Joel Cauchi, 40, armed himself with a hunting knife and was experiencing symptoms of psychosis when he went on a killing spree at Westfield Bondi Junction, in Sydney's east, on April 13, 2024.

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

Helping youth with a 'vibe check'

Shepparton News Online, Other, 05/08/2026

The Vibe Check Youth Mental Health Toolkit has been officially introducing a vital new safety net for young people across the region. Federation Council, the Lions Club of Corowa and the Corowa Local Health Advisory Committee (LHAC) launched the free, practical guide designed to help the community shift from silence to supportive action.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 05/08/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

The NSW Government has accepted all coroner recommendations following the Westfield Bondi Junction murders, including measures to improve mental health emergency responses and expand supported mental health accommodation. NSW Mental Health Minister Rose Jackson says 60 supported accommodation beds are being rolled out across Western Sydney, Northern Sydney and Newcastle, while noting that further expansion may be needed.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 05/08/2026, James Glenday and Emma Rebellato

Interview with Kate Colvin, CEO, Homelessness Australia. Colvin discusses people being discharged from acute mental health care into homelessness, highlighting that an estimated 31,000 people are caught in this cycle due to gaps between mental health and housing systems. She says Governments need to fund ongoing support and housing through a coordinated approach between Federal and State Governments to address the issue.

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IMMUNISATION

4BC, Afternoons, 04/08/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with Professor Paul Griffin, Director of Infectious Diseases, Mater Health Services. Griffin discusses declining vaccination confidence and the importance of restoring understanding of vaccines, noting that measles cases are rising as vaccination rates fall. He says measles requires about 95 per cent vaccination coverage to limit transmission, with Australia's rates now below that threshold at 90.5 per cent for fully vaccinated one-year-olds and 88.5 per cent at 24 months.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Channel 10, 10 News, 05/08/2026, Sharyn Ghidella

Jordan Bate, who received a life-saving liver transplant at 17 after being born with a rare genetic disorder, is now working as a nurse at the Princess Alexandra Hospital where he was treated. DonateLife Qld highlights his story as an example of the impact of organ donation, with 2000 people currently awaiting life-saving organ transplants in Australia.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 05/08/2026, Brenton Ragless

A Qld-developed leukaemia therapy using genetically engineered immune cells from umbilical cord blood is being prepared for a national clinical trial, led by the Translational Research Institute, to treat patients with aggressive acute myeloid leukaemia who have exhausted chemotherapy options. Professor Maher Gandhi says the therapy uses cord blood stem cells from newly delivered mothers, with engineered immune cells tested and frozen for hospital use through a single infusion.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 05/08/2026, Craig Reucassel

Interview with Dr Fiona McKay, Deputy Head of Research, MS Australia. McKay discusses lab-grown mini-brains as a new approach to studying myelin repair in multiple sclerosis (MS), using human stem cell-derived brain models to investigate myelin growth. She says Dr Sam Barton at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health in Melbourne is using these models to study cellular signals involved in myelin production and identify potential therapy targets for repairing MS-related damage.

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3AW, Afternoons, 05/08/2026, Tony Moclair

Interview with Professor Tony Cesare, Head of the Genome Integrity Unit, Children's Medical Research Institute. Cesare discusses cancer research breakthroughs, including his lab's work on how DNA damage repair affects cancer cell death. He says artificial intelligence is helping accelerate data analysis in cancer research, with the potential to shorten the path from laboratory findings to treatments in the clinic.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Free ear health forum to be held in Broome

West Australian, Other, 05/08/2026, Phoebe Solon

Health professionals from across the Kimberley are being invited to a free two-day ear health education forum in Broome on August 20 and 21, aimed at tackling high rates of preventable ear disease among First Nations children in the region. The event opens on Thursday with a mob-only session for Aboriginal health professionals from 8.30am to 12.30pm at Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services.

[Read More](#)

Healthy Ears initiative supports Aboriginal children across Western NSW

National Indigenous Times, Other, 05/08/2026, Jackson Clark

Aboriginal children across Western NSW are receiving earlier access to important ear, nose and throat treatment through a major regional health initiative. The program has delivered specialist ENT care to 91 children, including 51 who underwent surgery during four days at Dudley Private Hospital after some had waited almost two years.

[Read More](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 05/08/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Sarah Brown, CEO, The Purple House. Brown discusses the organisation's Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service model, which provides dialysis services closer to country and community for Indigenous Australians with kidney disease, with services operating across multiple remote locations. She highlights that Purple House was developed with remote communities to reduce the need for patients to leave family and culture for treatment, while supporting dialysis access and community wellbeing.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Bunbury ramping reaches record high for 2026 as steady decline rapidly reverses

West Australian, Other, 05/08/2026, Craig Duncan

Ambulances were stuck ramping for more than 200 hours at WA's biggest regional hospital last month, the highest on record for 2026. Patients taken to Bunbury hospital spent 215.7 hours waiting for treatment in July, the fourth highest recording of hours ramped on record at the facility, rising from 152 hours recorded in June.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 05/08/2026, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Interview with SA Health Minister Blair Boyer and SA Shadow Health Minister Jack Betty. Boyer and Betty discuss the budget, design progress and delivery timeline of the new Women's and Children's Hospital in South Australia. Boyer says construction is underway, with 90 per cent of the schematic design complete, and that the SA Government is reviewing options to reduce budget pressure while maintaining the committed 2031 completion date. Betty says the project is not on time or on budget, criticising the lack of a final design and costings nearly 13 years after Labor first promised the new hospital.

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

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2CC, Canberra Live, 05/08/2026, Leon Delaney

A private emergency department has opened in Turner, ACT, offering Canberrans access to private emergency care and aiming to reduce pressure on the public system. Head of Partnerships James Gordon says the centre, the ninth private ED operated by the group nationally, expects to maintain an average patient wait time of 15 minutes with its staffing model.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 05/08/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park. Park says NSW's hospitals are managing record winter demand, with more than 4000 ambulance call-outs and almost 10,000 emergency department presentations recorded on Monday. He urges people with non-emergency health needs to use alternatives such as Healthdirect and other services, while emergency departments focus on emergency surgeries and health interventions.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Union seizes on viral video of violent patient to renew security calls

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 05/08/2026, Dominique Tassell

The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union has called for better working conditions and increased health funding, days after the Queensland government celebrated additional frontline staff, and a video of a nurse taking down an aggressive patient went viral. Of 8000 QNMU members recently surveyed, 82 per cent reported experiencing violence at work.

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Channel 9, Today , 05/08/2026, Tom Steinfort and Samantha Armytage

Victorian public hospital doctors will stage their first strike in 20 years next week, with AMA Victoria members seeking a 30 per cent pay rise over four years and improved pay and working conditions. AMA Victoria President Dr Simon Judkins says the action is aimed at addressing stress, burnout and fatigue in the public hospital system, with members striking from 12.30pm to 4pm on Thursday at hospitals in the city and Parkville.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 05/08/2026, Sharyn Ghidella

New data from the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union shows that four in five nurses, midwives and carers experienced workplace violence in the past year, with nearly a quarter reporting physical attacks. The union's secretary, Sarah Beaman, says urgent action and increased funding for preventative measures are needed to address violence against healthcare workers, with some considering leaving the sector.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

WHO chief arrives in Congo to support Ebola response

West Australian, Other, 05/08/2026

The head of the World Health Organisation has arrived in Congo to support measures being ramped up to slow the world's fastest-growing Ebola outbreak, as confirmed cases reach almost 4000. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus arrived in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo's capital, late on Tuesday night and is scheduled to meet partners and Congo's president, Felix Tshisekedi.

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

Radio National, Breakfast, 05/08/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Professor Raina McIntyre, Professor of Global Biosecurity, UNSW. [...] McIntyre discusses the spread of H5N1 avian influenza in Australia, pointing out that local transmission among resident greater crested terns in South Australia has increased the virus's ability to spread to Australian birds. She says the Federal Government has confirmed Australia's first mass mortality bird flu event, with more than 80 dead or sick birds discovered on South Australia's south-east coast, while the risk of human infection remains low because the virus is still primarily a bird virus.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Cannabis companies caught allegedly making false promises

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 05/08/2026, Kate Aubusson and Rachel Rasker

The national medicines watchdog is suing two Australian cannabis companies for allegedly unlawfully advertising medicinal cannabis, including implying that the products had been endorsed by the regulator and health practitioners. Better Leaf Pty Ltd and Better Life Pty Ltd and their former sole director, Jack Weisberg, have been accused of contravening the Therapeutic Goods Act by advertising medicinal cannabis on their website, Facebook and Instagram pages and physical pamphlets.

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Erectile dysfunction drug tadalafil may heighten 'risk' of eye disease

ABC Online, Other, 05/08/2026, Lauren Roberts

Men who use a Viagra-like erectile dysfunction drug long-term are "significantly more likely" to develop glaucoma than those who do not, according to a new study. The research, published in the British Journal of Ophthalmology, followed 74,000 men aged 40 years and older, half of whom had been prescribed tadalafil (sold under the brand names such as Cialis) over a period of five years.

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Uptake of unregulated peptide use in young Australian men concerning eating disorder experts

ABC Online, Other, 05/08/2026

More young Australian men are using unregulated peptides, blinded by the promise of a ripped physique and not understanding the damage to their long-term health. Alex Boutin was a healthy, young Australian who became addicted to steroids and unregulated injectable peptides his peers at the gym told him about.

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Key Sun Kids homeopathic lozenges recalled after customers find metal wire

7News.com.au, Other, 05/08/2026, Katharina Loesche

A popular children's lozenge has been pulled from shelves over fears it could contain metal fragments. Key-Sun Laboratories has issued a nationwide recall of its Kids Honey and Eucalyptus + Acerola Lozenges (54g).

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TGA sues over alleged cannabis claims

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 05/08/2026, Megan Haggan

The TGA is suing a cannabis dispensary and pharmacy over material which allegedly contained unlawful advertising claims. The Therapeutic Goods Administration says it has commenced

proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia against Better Leaf Pty Ltd, Better Life Aussie Pty Ltd, and their sole director Mr Jack Weisberg.

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TGA sues over med cannabis ads

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 05/08/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has commenced proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia against Better Leaf, Better Life and their sole director Mr Jack Weisberg for the alleged unlawful advertising of medicinal cannabis. This follows the repeated failure on the part of the entities to pay multiple infringement notices.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 05/08/2026, Joe O'Brien

Eating disorder experts have raised concerns about the growing use of unregulated peptides and performance-enhancing drugs among young men, with online communities promoting substances marketed for muscle growth and fat loss. Dietician Alex Rodriguez warns that users may not understand the risks, as social media can normalise extreme measures to alter their appearance.

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