



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 8th August 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 8) reports disability advocacy networks and legal organisations have made representations to the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing, warning that the Federal Government's proposed overhaul of the NDIS will cause significant harm to participants. The legislation proposed by Health Minister Mark Butler could lead to 241,000 people being removed from the scheme by mid-2031, including 155,000 people aged 18 and under, 60 per cent of whom are autistic.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 1) reports critical operations and chemotherapy treatments at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre have been disrupted due to industrial action taken by Health Services Union staff during an ongoing pay dispute with the Victorian government. The union, representing 6000 health workers including medical scientists, hospital pharmacists, and psychologists, criticized the state government for failing to match the over 28 per cent four-year pay increase previously awarded to state nurses and midwives.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 7) updated national clinical guidelines recommend that general practitioners proactively offer prostate cancer screening every two years to men aged 50 to 69, high-risk individuals from age 45, and men aged 70 and over with a life expectancy of more than seven years. The RACGP has endorsed the overhaul, supported by \$320,000 from the Federal Government to develop and implement an education and awareness program for doctors.

- [The Ballarat Courier](#) (page 1) reports a local paramedic and the Victorian Ambulance Union have warned that ambulance services in the Ballarat and the wider Grampians region are facing a resourcing crisis due to chronic hospital ramping and stagnant night-shift staffing over the past fifteen years. In response, Ambulance Victoria stated that deployment is dynamic to ensure coverage, while the state government cited a two billion dollar investment that increased the on-road workforce by more than 50 per cent without committing to additional dedicated night-shift ambulances.
- [The Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin](#) (page 1) reports a seventeen-year-old bedbound patient stuck in acute care has been denied support by the NDIA after her condition was determined not to meet the criteria for a permanent disability under the NDIS. The decision followed an assessment of the teenager's Functional Neurological Disorder diagnosis, which led the agency to state that appropriate treatment options likely to remedy the impairment had not yet been fully explored.

MINISTER BUTLER

Pros and cons of finding early cancer signals

AFR Weekend, General News, 08/08/2026, Michael Smith, Page 19

When Sarah Donan, 36, was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer, it was almost too late.

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

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'Not safe care': Experts slam \$10m gender grant

Weekend Australian, General News, 08/08/2026, Rachel Baxendale, Page 7

A \$10m Igbtqiqa+ health grant announced by the Albanese government will channel young people questioning their gender towards unproven medical interventions with irreversible effects, an evidence-based gender health charity has warned. On Monday Health Minister Mark Butler announced an \$18.1m LGBTIQA+ health and wellbeing package, including \$10m to enable La Trobe University, trans lobby group ACON and Thorne Harbour Health to "establish a national voluntary training and accreditation scheme to support primary care providers to deliver safe, inclusive and affirming care for LGBTIQA+ people".

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

Disability groups step up NDIS fight

The Saturday Age, General News, 08/08/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 8

Australia's biggest disability networks and the national legal aid service have made a private intervention to the health department, sounding the alarm that thousands of disabled Australians will be harmed under Labor's push to save billions from the ballooning National Disability Insurance Scheme. [...] A further 100 academics and community organisations- including former disability royal commissioner Alastair McEwin- signed an open letter on Thursday to reject, specifically, the new powers that will allow Health Minister Mark Butler to make sweeping cuts to funding for participants' personal social and community support budgets.

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Mildura pharmacist leads reform

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 08/08/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 8

Mildura gp pharmacist consultant Brooke Shelly says the latest step in modernising the pharmacy profession is a boon for the nation. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler announced the flexibility reform on the first day of the PSA's 2026 National Conference and said the government aims to support the delivery of more pharmacist services.

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Human Rights Commission calls for pause on NDIS reforms

CathNews, Other, 07/08/2026, Rebecca Comini

Australia's government-funded Human Rights Commission has urged Labor to "hit pause" on reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, warning it could be left without adequate avenues for accountability and at the whim of sweeping ministerial powers. [...] First announced by Health Minister Mark Butler at the National Press Club in April, Labor's proposed reforms would ensure the scheme was sustainable for the long-term by targeting sorting and moving tens of thousands of people off the NDIS, according to the government.

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AHPRA breach a 'stuff up', but unlikely to land in court

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/08/2026, Holly Payne

The same day that news of AHPRA accidentally breaching the privacy of more than 100 doctors went live, the regulator has sent out reminders that registration is due. In what federal health minister Mark Butler has described as a "totally unacceptable" lapse, AHPRA has confirmed that it failed to conceal the identities of 136 practitioners invited to a webinar on the process of being investigated for a health impairment notification.

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State health ministers unite against controversial private health cuts

The Senior, Other, 07/08/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

The Coalition says it will fight Labor's changes to private health insurance (PHI) for older Australians, amid a government documents surfacing they know some older Australians would be forced to drop PHI under the change. [...] Tasmanian Health Minister Bridget Archer said she had written to federal Health Minister Mark Butler calling on him to "reconsider" the legislation.

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'Hit pause': Claim about Labor's reforms

Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia, Other, 07/08/2026, Nathan Schmidt

Australia's government-funded Human Rights Commission has urged Labor to "hit pause" on reforms to the NDIS, warning the scheme could be left without adequate avenues for accountability and at the whim of sweeping ministerial powers. [...] First announced by Health Minister Mark Butler at the National Press Club in April, Labor's proposed reforms would ensure the scheme was sustainable for the long-term by targeting sorting and moving tens of thousands of people off the NDIS, according to the government.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Tax changes get tick of approval from ratings agency

Michael West Media, Other, 07/08/2026, James Guthrie & Adam Lucas

Higher taxes on property investors and bracket creep are propping up the federal budget and helping maintain Australia's flawless credit rating. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister on Tuesday said \$11.5 million was being lost from the budget each day through fraud and integrity leakage because the coalition had delayed the passage of the bill.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#).

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MINISTER RAE

Pay rise for aged care nurses: acting PM in Creswick

Ballarat Times, General News, 07/08/2026, Evie Lamb, Page 3

Creswick set the scene for the federal government's Saturday morning unveiling of its latest pay rise for the nation's 400,000 aged care nurses. Acting Prime Minister Richard Marles and aged care and seniors minister Sam Rae visited Creswick hospital and nursing home to announce what is the fifth increase to award wages for the sector's nurses over the last four years.

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Another Victorian Council to exit home care

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/08/2026, Caroline Egan

An outer-metro council is pulling out of aged care services, saying it cannot meet the increased requirements of the Aged Care Act and Support at Home. [...] The Australian Services Union (ASU) has written to Aged Care Minister Sam Rae seeking "urgent assistance" on the Council's decision.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Mental health for young people

Tarrangower Times, Other, 07/08/2026

Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride MP and Member for Bendigo Lisa Chesters MP announced on Tuesday 4 August that the Federal Government is expanding mental health services for young people across the region. They visited headspace Bendigo, which will have its funding tripled.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 07/08/2026, Andy Taylor

This breastfeeding week, a support organisation helping families navigate those first feeds is putting the vital help firmly back in the spotlight. Assistant Minister for Women Rebecca White says the breastfeeding helpline has been supporting the Australian community.

[Play Now](#)

WIN Gippsland, WIN News, 07/08/2026, Bruce Roberts

New figures revealed that aged care workers are six and a half times more likely to be assaulted on the job than any other occupation, and health advocates are now using Aged Care Employee Day to call for regulators to do more to protect staff. Aged Care Assistant Minister Rebecca White says they want all employees to be safe at work.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Should we stockpile Retinal? Discussing the recently announced 'ban'

RUSSH, Other, 07/08/2026, Emily Algar

A few days ago, news came out that the Australian government was changing regulations around the use of Retinal in cosmetics. [...] As per the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing: "Retinal (retinaldehyde; CAS 116-31-4) importation and manufacture can no longer be authorised under the AICIS exempted or reported categories if it has any consumer end use, including as a cosmetic ingredient.

[Read More](#)

Why the iron rule against death by organ donation won't be broken here

The Australian, Other, 07/08/2026, Steve Robson

A group of medical ethics experts has set off a firestorm of controversy by calling for surgical harvesting of human organs for transplants – as a method for voluntary assisted dying. The argument goes like this: if a person has consented to VAD, and has agreed to donate their organs for transplants, it is ethical and appropriate to remove those organs before death as a means of euthanasia.

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'Time for action' on non-GP specialist shortage

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/08/2026, Alyssa Talakovski

Chronic non-GP specialist shortages in rural and remote communities are creating bottlenecks that leave patient care in limbo, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia says. [...] According to a February 2025 Department of Health, Disability and Ageing report, the program cost taxpayers upwards of \$700 million between 2022 and 2025 alone and provides salary support to about 920 non-GP registrars each year.

[Read More](#)

Aged care regulator sounds alert after coroner's dehydration findings

The Weekly Source, Other, 07/08/2026, Caroline Egan

In February 2026, South Australian Coroner Terry Ryan found that aged care resident Adelina D'Angelo (88) died as a result of acute dehydration, complicated by the fact she was living with dementia. [...] She recommended the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing "urgently progress" the development of national safety standards for medication management.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

A lifetime of investment in their future healthcare deserves a fair outcome for the nation's elderly

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/08/2026, Paul Lupo, Page 40

It beggars belief that the federal government is standing by its proposal to ditch the age-based private health insurance rebate for Australians 65 and over. Months after the initial announcement, public opposition to the proposal is still flooding in, and not just from the seniors affected.

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How an unlikely friendship helped a young Aussie overcome loneliness amid national crisis

7News.com.au, Other, 08/08/2026, Tim Mclachlan

It's not every day you see a 24-year-old hanging out with a 75-year-old, but for Grace Martin and Pam it's a friendship that transcends generations. The pair met in Melbourne through a government volunteer scheme, and their friendship has helped them overcome loneliness at a time where more young people are reporting feeling social isolation.

[Read More](#)

AIHS urges aged care sector to protect workers

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/08/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Australia's workplace health and safety peak is calling on providers to consider what they can improve in light of the comparatively high rates of workplace injuries and assaults that aged care staff are experiencing. In recognition of this week's Aged Care Employee Day as a time to thank the aged care workforce, the Australian Institute of Health and Safety is urging the aged care sector to do more to protect employees from rising injury and assault rates.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 07/08/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with The Australian Institute of Health and Safety Chair Celia Antonovsky. Delaney says today is Aged Care Employee Day, and the Australian Institute of Health and Safety is urging better protection for aged care workers. Antonovsky says aged care workers are 6.5 times more likely to get assaulted at work by patients suffering from conditions such as dementia or Alzheimer's disease, and she states that behavioural risk assessments of residents with known aggression or cognitive impairment and de-escalations should be conducted to protect aged care workers.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 07/08/2026, Lucy Breaden & Kylie Baxter

Interview with Red Cross Head of Aged and Community Care Peta Page. Page says her team, which conducts entry-level aged care, revels in connecting with older people and making things easier to make them feel at home. She states that it's easy to dismiss older people, but she and her team continue to bring care and compassion to older Australians needing care every day.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

NDIS dose of reality

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/08/2026, Julie Cross, Page 22

A mother testifying at a Senate inquiry into changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme left listeners in tears as she described how the broken system pushed families like hers to breaking point. Shannon Manning, 49, tore into the lack of safety and oversight in the scheme, which she said allowed dodgy providers to get away with roting and abusing participants.

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

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NDIS Bill just catastrophic

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 08/08/2026, Jo Russell, Page 8

In the past few months, Australians have seen story after story of catastrophic National Disability Insurance Scheme failures hit the news. Each one is a warning sign the system is not just strained, it is structurally unsafe.

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In limbo

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 08/08/2026, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 1

A 17-year-old girl stuck in a hospital bed, paralysed from the waist down, has found herself caught in a bureaucratic nightmare denied NDIS support despite being prepped for transition back home. [...] A spokesperson for the NDIA said they approach every application "carefully and sensitively", but must make decisions based on legislative criteria and the medical evidence available at the time.

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

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NDIS Senate inquiry hears concerns of carer burnout, slashing of social supports and 'dangerous' ministerial powers

ABC Online, Other, 07/08/2026, Mary Lloyd

Not since it was first set up, have the people who rely on and work within the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) faced such significant changes. The government has proposed a suite of amendments to the laws that govern the scheme, which they say will reduce its cost by more than \$30 billion over four years.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 07/08/2026, Steve Austin

Interview with Aruma Chief Executive Officer Martin Lavery, on the proposed legislation to the NDIS, which will pave the way for the biggest cuts to the scheme. Lavery says the bill, which will be passed through Parliament in a few weeks, is going to change the eligibility for NDIS participants and tackle the scheme's costs, but thousands of Australian families are uncertain about how the changes will affect their lives. He notes that the NDIS will be reset and children with mild developmental delay will be moved to the Thriving Kids program, but he says they are not focused enough when it comes to social inclusion.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#)

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PRIMARY CARE

Ramping in record territory

Adelaide Advertiser, Edition Changes, 08/08/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 7

July's ambulance ramping was the third worst on record in South Australia. Ambulances were stuck in hospital carparks waiting to unload patients for 5434 hours last month, as clogged emergency departments and full wards caused long waits for beds and an increasing reliance on "corridor care".

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

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On life support

Ballarat Courier, General News, 08/08/2026, Ben Silvester, Page 1

Ambulance services in the Ballarat and wider Grampians region are in "crisis" after more than a decade of under-resourcing, according to a local paramedic. The paramedic, who The Courier has not named because Ambulance Victoria officers are disciplined for speaking publicly, said the situation hit critical levels in late July.

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'A tricky process': the issues with emergency contraception

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2026, Sheshtyn Paola, Page 34

Pharmacists are on the frontline for oral emergency contraception provision. explores issues such as adolescent access, third-party supply and more. [...] In Australia, levonorgestrel and ulipristal acetate are available as Pharmacist Only medicine for oral EC.2

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Beyond the band-aid: pharmacy's role in wound care

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 54

Through early intervention, evidence-based wound assessment and management, patient education and referral networks, pharmacists can play an important role in wound care. By Leanne Philpott At any one time in Australia, approximately 500,000 people have an unhealed wound, costing the health system around \$3 billion a year. While chronic wounds generally remain outside the scope of community pharmacy, pharmacists can play an important role in managing acute wounds.

Queensland peak medical body sets up task force to address 'waiting list' for surgery waitlist

ABC Online, Other, 07/08/2026, Alex Brewster

Queensland's peak medical body has taken matters into its own hands to try and address the ballooning "waiting list to get on the waiting list". The state government consistently champions a reduction in the surgery waitlist, with just over 60,000 people waiting as of May, slightly down on the same time last year.

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AMA calls for deferral of endorsement for pharmacist prescribers

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/08/2026

Plans to enable pharmacists to autonomously prescribe Schedule 4 and S8 medicines jeopardises patient safety, the AMA warns. Moves to implement an endorsement for pharmacists to prescribe independently should be put on hold "in the absence of a robust, evidence-based, cost-risk-benefit analysis, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) says.

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'I would have given anything': How a \$1.5m medical lab could save regional lives in critical moments

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 07/08/2026, Reidun Berntsen

As a young rural GP facing a child dying of sepsis in an isolated emergency room, Professor Jacqueline Epps would have given anything for a practice run. Dr Epps, who is now the head of school and dean of the School of Rural Medicine at Charles Sturt University, recalled the moment at the opening of the school's \$1.5 million Newmont simulation centre.

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MP vows to probe millions in health contracts awarded without tender

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/08/2026, David Killick

Tasmania's Department of Health has admitted its labour hire approach cost taxpayers \$20m more than using state servants – yet an MP says answers remain elusive. An Upper House MP has vowed to continue pursuing answers about millions of dollars worth of costly labour hire contracts awarded by the Department of Health without tenders as part of a half-billion dollar IT project.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Heat's toll on young minds

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 08/08/2026, Page 18

Health As Australia prepares for an intense El Nino summer, new research provides the first global review linking high temperatures and heatwaves to poorer mental health in children and young people.

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Dementia action urgently needed

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/08/2026

Updated data on dementia in Australia has confirmed that it is the leading cause of death, and second leading cause of disease burden. Recently released figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Dementia in Australia report (available [HERE](#)) show the significant and growing impact of the condition.

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Systemic gap in drug subsidies leaves low-income pregnant women with fewer treatment options

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 07/08/2026

Pregnant women in Australia are facing an unfair two-tiered system for managing morning sickness, with financial status impacting who can access the full range of modern anti-nausea medications available, rather than simply clinical need. A new study led by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) found that Australia's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) is failing to meet the therapeutic needs of pregnant patients, driving widespread off-label prescribing and perpetuating structural health inequities.

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'Talk to your doctor': Pharma giants' weight loss ads skirt Australian law

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 07/08/2026, Elias Visontay

Health experts have hit out at the emergence of US-inspired ads spruiking prescription medicines, as pharma giants behind blockbuster weight loss drugs skirt local laws banning promotions of their products by encouraging Australians to proactively ask doctors about treatments.

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Qld shadow health minister calls out CQ's hospital wait times

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 07/08/2026, Lili Tisch-Bostock

The Queensland Shadow Health minister has called out Central Qld's wait times for specialist appointments and elective surgeries, with the LNP and Queensland Health responding. Lili Tisch-Bostock 2 min read August 7, 2026 - 6:22PM

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2CC, Breakfast, 07/08/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Public Health Association of Australia CEO Adjunct Professor Terry Slevin, on a new University of Melbourne study highlighting the daily reality of vaping addiction amongst younger Australians. Slevin says 72 research participants, who are aged between 14 and 35, reported that they struggled to quit vapes due to nicotine addiction, and he also notes that the delivery of the nicotine dose in vapes is far higher than in cigarettes. He says they have seen great news when it comes to smoking rate reduction in Australia, and the last thing they want to see is more people getting addicted to nicotine through vapes.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Labor sparks cuts to cancer care

Weekend Australian, General News, 08/08/2026, John Ferguson, Page 1

Cancer services including critically important operations and chemotherapy were cut at one of Australia's leading oncology hospitals after the cash-starved Victorian government refused to pay staff an equivalent deal compared with the politically more powerful nurses' union. Staff at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne are among the most experienced and respected in the world but have faced an 18-month campaign of obfuscation from the Labor government, which had previously handed more than 110,000 nurses a four-year pay deal totalling more than 28 per cent.

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Dial M for medical care

The Saturday Paper, General News, 08/08/2026, Andrew Denton, Page 8

Shane Lewis was 65 when diagnosed with the aggressive bulbar form of motor neurone disease and given six months to live. Like one in three people with MND, he chose voluntary assisted dying rather than continuing to suffer and face an uncertain death by choking or through respiratory failure.

Prostate screening overhaul gets the thumbs-up

The Saturday Age, General News, 08/08/2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 7

GPs will offer prostate cancer checks every two years to men aged between 50 and 69 under a major overhaul of national guidelines designed to detect Australia's most common cancer earlier. High-risk groups, including men with the BRCA2 gene variant and with a family history of the disease, will be offered screening from the age of 45.

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

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Hidden pain forces many out of work

Burnie Advocate, General News, 08/08/2026, Allanah Sciberras, Page 8

Millions of Australians living with chronic pain are fighting an invisible battle that extends far beyond health care. It's a condition that forces many to leave the workforce, with fresh research revealing that 42 per cent of sufferers have had to stop working due to chronic pain.

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New prostate guidelines: What the biggest changes in a decade mean for you

Canberra Times, Other, 07/08/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Aggressive will be with the release of landmark Australian guidelines. The guidelines approved by the National Health and Medical Research Council, provide new Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) testing recommendations for Australian men and new guidance for high-risk men and priority populations.

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Melanoma cases forecast to rise

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/08/2026

Melanoma cases in Australia are expected to reach 21,000 in 2035, according to forecasts from leading intelligence and productivity platform GlobalData, up from around 16,800 in 2025.

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Dense breasts or breast cancer in the family? What screening changes mean for you

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 07/08/2026

The way women are screened for breast cancer in Australia is changing. According to a newly released review , this means moving away from screening largely based on someone's age.

[Read More](#)

News24, Afternoon Agenda, 07/08/2026, Ashleigh Gillon

Interview with Labor Senator Michelle Ananda-Rajah, on a new Alzheimer's blood test. Ananda-Rajah says 450,000 Australians are currently living with dementia, and getting a diagnosis has been a complex and expensive process, but she states that the new test is a game-changer. She states that the clinical trials will be run at Sydney's Centre for Research Excellence in Alzheimer's Disease, and it's exciting because they will potentially bring forward the diagnosis of dementia by 10 years.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 07/08/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Prostate Cancer Foundation Board Member Professor Peter Heathcote, on the Federal Government's new guidelines on early detection and management of prostate cancer. Heathcote states that almost 4000 male Australians die from prostate cancer every year, and there is a problem of overdiagnosis and over-treatment even though they've had a PSA blood test that could diagnose the cancer early, but he also notes that there has been an enormous change in risk assessment and management. Heathcote says PSA is often elevated due to non-cancerous prostate conditions, but

there are several false positives, and he adds that they can eliminate 50% of biopsies through the use of MRI.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Heat's toll on the mind

Courier Mail, General News, 08/08/2026, Page 9

As Australia prepares for an intense El Nino summer, new research provides the first global review linking high temperatures and heatwaves to poorer mental health in children and young people. The findings from a team of researchers, including Flinders University scientists, show that adverse mental health outcomes increase by almost 1 per cent in children with every 1C rise in daily temperature.

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

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System let down our loved ones

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/08/2026, Madeleine Bower & Danielle Gusmaroli, Page 10

Families of victims of mental health crisis to get scrutiny but question if they will get justice. The grieving family of a grandfather bashed on his morning walk in Sydney's west and left for dead say the state's mental health system that freed his alleged killer had let them down.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 07/08/2026, Angie Asimus

Loneliness is being labelled Australia's silent epidemic, with one in two people feeling socially disconnected. Doctors warn that isolation can damage physical health, linked to heart disease, dementia, and early death, and they say that having one or two close friends reduces the risk by 90%.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#).

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IMMUNISATION

ED crisis prompts renewed calls to vaccinate

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/08/2026

Record emergency department presentations in Sydney this week, driven partly by influenza cases, have prompted renewed calls from health professionals for Australians to get vaccinated. Monday saw almost 10,000 ED presentations and 4,100 ambulance callouts.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 07/08/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Health experts are examining whether vaccinating at-risk animals could help slow the impacts of Australia's bird flu outbreak. Vaccination programs targeting at-risk species are already underway in other countries, but Australia is still running pilot programs.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Australian Unity unloads \$290m hospital in fund sell-off

Australian Financial Review, Other, 07/08/2026, Nick Lenaghan

Wealth giant Australian Unity has sold a Victorian private hospital, one of the prize assets in its \$3 billion healthcare property trust, as part of a sell-down of up to one-fifth of the fund's assets to ease debt pressures on the vehicle.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Innovators rewarded for life-saving work

Newcastle Herald, General News, 08/08/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

Two Hunter researchers have clinched fellowships worth \$100,000 each for their work on radiation-free lung scans and precise cancer treatments. Dr Geshani Jayasuriya and Dr Heather Murray were announced as winners of a six-week innovator program at Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) yesterday.

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MenB vax lowers gonorrhoea risk

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/08/2026

Research led by Adelaide University has found that the meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine could also provide protection against gonorrhoea. The study, which was conducted in partnership with NT Health, found that two doses of the 4CMenB vaccine were associated with a 38% lower risk of gonorrhoea notifications in young people.

[Read More](#)

S. pneumoniae AMR stable

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/08/2026

An analysis of data on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to penicillin, macrolides and tetracycline antibiotics in *Streptococcus pneumoniae* over the last 10 years has found that resistance rates have remained relatively stable, according to a recently published report by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Funding call for embedding pharmacists in ACCHOs

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/08/2026

Expert questions lack of action on recommendation to fund embedding non-dispensing pharmacists in Aboriginal primary care services. Embedding pharmacists into Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) will deliver benefits to First Nations people during transitions of care, the Australian Pharmacy Council's Indigenous programs manager, Hannah Loller, says.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Struggling to see a GP? Here's why ...

Canberra Times, General News, 08/08/2026, David Smith, Page 41

Since coming to office, the Albanese Labor government has delivered on our commitment to open 137 Medicare urgent care clinics, with six clinics now open in the ACT, and we have made a record \$8.5 billion investment to strengthen Medicare to deliver more bulk billing and more doctors and nurses so you can see a GP for free. [...] International medical graduates are key part of the health workforce with almost 19,800 of these doctors practicing in Australia since 2022.

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

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'People don't go to work to be assaulted...'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2026, Megan Haggan, Page 12

Credentialed pharmacists say something needs to be done to reduce their risk of harm while performing home medicines reviews, often with no idea of what they would be walking into. [...] Now, Gayle's Law mandates that "health practitioners in remote areas of South Australia must be accompanied by a second responder when attending an out of hours or unscheduled callout".

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Hospital doctors to strike next week: 'It takes a lot to get doctors to take industrial action'

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/08/2026, Bella Rough

Doctors across several major hospitals will stop work next week in the first protected industrial action by Victorian public doctors in 20 years. Doctors will walk off the job for three and a half hours at hospitals including the Royal Melbourne Hospital, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne and the Royal Women's Hospital on 13 August as enterprise bargaining with the State Government stalls.

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Pay dispute forces leading Victorian cancer hospital to cut critical patient care

The Australian, Other, 07/08/2026, John Ferguson

Cancer services including critically important operations and chemotherapy were cut at one of Australia's leading oncology hospitals after the cash-starved Victorian government refused to pay staff an equivalent deal compared with the politically more powerful nurses' union. Staff at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne are among the most experienced and respected in the world but have faced an 18-month campaign of obfuscation from the Labor government, which had previously handed more than 110,000 nurses a four-year pay deal totalling more than 28 per cent.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Guild moves to address S100 concerns

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 7

Pharmacies will not be short-changed by the introduction of a wholesaler mark-up on eligible S100 medicines, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia said. A spokesperson for the organisation told the AJP it was aware that some pharmacy owners were concerned about the pricing change, which has seen wholesaler prices rise above the displayed Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) remuneration by some dispensing software systems.

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Wegovy, Mounjaro and Ozempic: a health boon for all but the sickest

The Australian, Other, 07/08/2026, Natasha Robinson

In distribution centres across the country, boxes and boxes of weight-loss drugs stack up, too many to count. [...] Dr Williams and her medical colleagues at the frontline of obesity treatment have lobbied for years for GLP-1 medications to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for those with very high body mass index.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

National interoperability baseline for digital health

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/08/2026, Megan Haggan

The Australian Digital Health Agency has mandated new national interoperability standards for connections to My Health Record. The move will strengthen clinical safety across Australia's digital health system, the agency says.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

X faces \$910k fine over trans critic's article

Weekend Australian, General News, 08/08/2026, Rachel Baxendale, Page 7

Australia's eSafety Commissioner has threatened social media giant X with a \$910,000 fine if it does not immediately remove an article by a US-based feminist that raised concerns about an Australian Medical Association Victoria staff member who has regularly generated and posted extreme transgender pornography in public online forums. [...] The employee whom The Australian has chosen not to name remains in the role, which involves liaising with AHPRA and medical colleges.

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AI in practice: opportunity, risk and accountability

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 70

Artificial intelligence (AI) is being increasingly integrated into pharmacy practice to support administrative and clinical workloads. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) has outlined core principles to guide practitioners in meeting their professional obligations when using AI in practice.

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Former NT doctor with sex misconduct label

Adelaide Now, Other, 07/08/2026, Ashleigh Gleeson & Sharanpreet Singh

The names of more than 140 doctors, nurses or allied health professionals marked with a now-permanent sexual misconduct tag can be revealed. The healthcare watchdog, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, has been adding the sex misconduct classification to the profiles of doctors, nurses, or allied health professionals after changes to national laws.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News](#)

[\(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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AHPRA email bungle exposes identities of doctors invited to addiction support webinar

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/08/2026, Antony Scholefield

AHPRA has apologised to dozens of health practitioners after inviting them to a webinar on addiction and recovery without hiding their email addresses from other recipients.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Shot in the arm for Coast as \$35m hub starts

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 08/08/2026, Rosie Gale, Page 7

Griffith University has broken ground on a new \$35m building set to house cutting-edge medical research, including cell therapies for spinal injuries and malaria vaccine development. Construction began this week in the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct on the new Health and Advanced Technology Research and Innovation Centre (HATRIC), tipped for completion in May 2028.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 07/08/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings

For the first time in its 187-year history, there will be no chickens or birds of any kind at next month's Royal Adelaide Show. With bird flu numbers surging ahead, organisers say it's simply not worth the risk.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#).

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SBS, World News Australia, 07/08/2026, Janice Petersen

The World Health Organization says a faster response is needed for any hope of containing the rapidly moving Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The warning came during a visit to the DRC by the organization's chief, who says the spread of the disease is unprecedented.

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

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Afternoons, 07/08/2026, Michael McLaren

McLaren says the number of bird flu cases in Australia continues to rise, with 32 detections confirmed in South Australia this morning. He notes that the total number of cases across Australia is 155, but he admits more cases will follow as millions of birds succumb to the H5 strain.

Also reported by: [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#).

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3AW, Mornings, 07/08/2026, Tom Elliott

Interview with Invasive Species Council conservation advocate John Kelly, on the H5 bird flu. Kelly says Australia has not seen the H5 strain of bird flu before, and many populations will not have the resilience that they see in other populations in the northern hemisphere that have been exposed to the disease. He also says the virus could have a devastating impact on wildlife, and they need to see an elevated effort from the Federal Government to respond to the crisis.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 07/08/2026, Lucy Breaden & Kylie Baxter

The Democratic Republic of Congo has confirmed that Ebola cases have risen above 4000 for the first time in the current outbreak. The epidemic, which is the world's largest, has been described as the fastest-spreading on record.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 07/08/2026, Graeme Goodings

Goodings played an audio clip of SA Minister for Environment, Climate and Water Emily Bourke, in which she announces that there are now 119 confirmed cases of H5 bird flu in South Australia, bringing the total number of cases in Australia to 155. She also says they cannot stop bird flu, but they can increase biosecurity where possible.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 07/08/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Nationals Deputy Leader and Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Darren Chester, on bird flu. Chester says the international experience of the impact of H5 bird flu has been traumatic, particularly to wild bird populations and the agricultural sector, and he adds that the Coalition is now working with the Federal Government in ensuring that the right messages are spread to the community. He states that the Australian poultry and egg industries remain virus-free and that eating Australian-grown products is safe, but he admits that there is a genuine threat.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

‘We’re seeing some really significant issues’

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/08/2026, Kate Cowling

Unregulated peptides are causing increasing concern for regulators, with serious side effects, unknown ingredients and a lack of sterility among the issues they are grappling with. Healthcare professionals have a key role to play in letting patients know that unregulated peptides aren't safe, amid a social media driven increase in their popularity.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

ABC News, ABC National News, 07/08/2026, Joe O'Brien

In a statement, the ACCC confirmed it had initiated inquiries in line with its usual practises regarding allegations about potentially misleading consumer conduct. The Four Corners probe found some products being sold at major supermarkets didn't match their labels, including their country of origin, and the Federal Government says the competition watchdog is devoting significant resources to investigate the claims.

Also reported by: [ABC \(Sydney\)](#)

AICIS

No relevant coverage

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