



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 12th August 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Herald Sun**](#) (page 8) reports that the Federal Government has shut down a vote on removing telehealth barriers to voluntary assisted dying, sparking pleas from advocates to help Australians die with dignity. Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was looking at moving on the matter, but would do so on its terms. *Also reported by:* [Yahoo! News Australia](#)
- [**The Australian**](#) (online) reports that two people who allegedly colluded to wrongfully register more than 200 NDIS providers have been banned from the scheme for life. The pair were banned under expanded powers given to the commission in April after the passing of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Integrity and Safeguarding) Act 2026. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#)
- [**The Australian**](#) (online) reports that independent MP Kate Chaney is trying to force debate in parliament on her proposal to let doctors give voluntary assisted dying (VAD) care over the phone. Doctors cannot advise patients on VAD remotely because of a 20-year-old law designed to stop suicide being encouraged online.
- The [**Sydney Morning Herald**](#) (page 1) reports that defibrillators used in NSW's ambulances have been failing at disappointing rates and are "by no means acceptable", a director at the emergency service has told paramedics.

- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 6) reports that Australia's aged care workforce is still struggling with chronic understaffing, increased workplace violence and a lack of transparency from providers for billions of dollars in taxpayer funding meant for residents' care.
- [The Australian](#) (online) reports that aged care wait times have continued to fall, but the Federal Government has rebuffed an attempt to return human judgment to the assessment system. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said while demand grew, what mattered is how quickly older Australians could access care. *Also reported by: [West Australian](#)*
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 3) reports that the quest to grow human heart valves in a laboratory from a patient's own cells is a step closer after a world-first breakthrough in Melbourne. The Murdoch Children's Research Institute is behind the discovery and has successfully grown human heart valve tissue that closely mimics those in the human body.

MINISTER BUTLER

Plea for dignity after VAD vote blocked

Herald Sun, General News, 12/08/2026, Ellen Ransley, Page 8

The federal government has shut down a vote on removing telehealth barriers to voluntary assisted dying, sparking pleas from advocates to help Australians die with dignity. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was looking at moving on the matter, but would do so on its terms.

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

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Subsidy hope for GLP-1 weight-loss drugs

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/08/2026, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer, Page 11

Health officials are in talks with pharmaceutical firms to get "revolutionary" weight loss drugs such as Ozempic and Wegovy on the list of federally subsidised prescription medicines. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Monday hailed GLP-1 medications as a "revolutionary" class of drug, adding that "I certainly want to see them on the (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) so that Australians have access to them in an equitable way".

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Are NDIS changes set to do more harm than good?

Warrandyte Diary, General News, 01/08/2026, Sandi Miller, Page 5

The Federal Government is currently considering the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026, which, if passed, will come into effect in stages over the next two years. [...] A statement from the Minister for the NDIS, Mark Butler, said over the past 13 years, the NDIS has become an entrenched and beloved national institution.

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First lifetime bans issued under NDIS watchdog's expanded powers

The Australian, Other, 11/08/2026, Ria Pandey

Two people who allegedly colluded to wrongfully register more than 200 NDIS providers have been banned from the scheme for life. [...] The cases of Ghamraoui and Desai should serve as a warning to "anyone that thinks they can get away with doing the wrong thing – you can't", NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [News24 Australia \(Online\)](#).

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The NDIA wants disabled people to test a new tool. It won't say if their personal data will train a cost-cutting algorithm

Crikey, Other, 11/08/2026, Rick Morton

The agency in charge of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is encouraging disabled people to take part in "experience testing" of a new needs assessment tool, without clearly disclosing that their personal data may be used to train an algorithm that cuts their funding. [...] On Friday, a Senate standing committee inquiry hearing into the NDIS bill heard from Department of Health, Disability and Ageing first assistant secretary Anthea Long, who revealed that 241,000 people are expected to be removed from the scheme by the end of June 2031 as a result of the legislative changes, 155,000 of whom will be under the age of 18, with 95,000 predicted to be children with autism.

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Zero-interest loans promised to fix SA's aged care bed block

WEB InDaily SA, Other, 11/08/2026

A \$250 million loan scheme will open to aged care providers next week to speed up access to aged care beds, Premier Peter Malinauskas announced today. [...] Today's announcement comes weeks after Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced five sites in Adelaide had been chosen under a federal Aged Care Capital Assistance Program, which would give providers a \$134.5 million boost to create 268 new beds.

[Read More](#)

NDIS reforms to pass

The Saturday Paper, Other, 11/08/2026, Kye Halford

Labor's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) reforms are set to pass through parliament within the next fortnight under an agreement with the Coalition, despite disability advocates warning the changes will have an impact on vulnerable lives. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler is not convinced.

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ACT trails nation in bulk-billing growth rate

PS News, Other, 11/08/2026, Chris Johnson

The bulk-billing rate has increased in the ACT since the Federal Government's targeted investment in the scheme, but Canberra still lags behind the rest of the country. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said there are now more than 3800 Medicare Bulk Billing Practices across Australia, with 1400 of those being mixed-billing practices before the government's investments.

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The Zap: catching you up with latest health and aged care news, plus consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 11/08/2026, Charles Maskell-Knight

Australia has its first National Nursing Workforce Strategy , which highlights the need "for urgent and effective policies and planning to support and sustain the nursing workforce". [...] After an extended development period, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA) released the National Nursing Workforce Strategy , launched by Health Minister Mark Butler at the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) National Nursing Forum.

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Why your GP visit now costs more, despite a boost to bulk-billing rates

Newcastle Herald, Other, 11/08/2026, Damon Cronshaw

The bulk-billing rate in Hunter New England and Central Coast has risen 6.5 per cent in a year, but doctors say "one quarter of good numbers does not undo a decade of neglect". [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said "our government is delivering more bulk-billing to more Australians".

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HammondCare makes move on \$150M dementia village

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/08/2026, Caroline Egan

HammondCare is taking its dementia care model in a new direction in Canberra. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler announced at the National Press Club on 22 April the HACDSP

will be expanded as part of a \$200 million package aimed at supporting people living with dementia.

[Read More](#)

Govt unveils nursing strategy as aged care faces 18K shortage

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/08/2026, Caroline Egan

Health Minister Mark Butler has released Australia's first National Nursing Workforce Strategy (NNWS) after three years of consultation. The nursing workforce makes up more than 50% of Australia's health and aged care workforce. Yet the country is facing significant nurse shortages.

[Read More](#)

View from The Hill: government shuts down telehealth-for-VAD bill, defying Labor conference

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 11/08/2026, Michelle Grattan

The government has blocked a crossbench attempt to allow telehealth to be used in voluntary assisted dying care – despite strong support for the measure at last month's Labor national conference. Health Minister Mark Butler told parliament the safeguards around telehealth weren't adequate.

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

[Read More](#)

Labor keeps voluntary assisted dying services offline

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 11/08/2026, Noah Secomb

Australians seeking voluntary assisted dying care will have to keep travelling to in-person doctor visits after Labor shut down efforts to lift a ban on telehealth consultations. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler echoed concerns about using voluntary assisted dying services via the telehealth system.

[Read More](#)

'Literally millions of free visits': Mark Butler lauds latest GP bulk-billing rate

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/08/2026, Antony Scholefield

The GP bulk-billing rate has continued rising, with Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler confident it will reach 90% by 2030. The latest data from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing show 84.2% of all GP services under Medicare were bulk-billed in April-June 2026.

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Labor rejects calls for independent NDIS watchdog as major overhaul moves closer to passage

HelloCare, Other, 11/08/2026, Jakob Neeland

The federal government has rejected calls for an independent watchdog to oversee the National Disability Insurance Scheme, as Labor moves closer to securing parliamentary approval for its sweeping reforms to the \$50 billion program. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has rejected the need for another independent body, arguing that adding another layer of bureaucracy is not the answer to the NDIS's problems.

[Read More](#)

Nursing leaders welcome long-awaited national strategy

Nursing Review, Other, 11/08/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Australia has released its first National Nursing Workforce Strategy, a move leaders say could transform workforce planning and help build a more sustainable nursing profession for the future. Launched by Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler, the strategy outlines a vision for “a sustainable nursing workforce that adapts, innovates and excels to deliver evidence-based health and wellbeing outcomes for all Australian communities”.

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2SM, Mornings, 11/08/2026, Chris Smith

Compere says Australia is currently facing a critical choice on who to take responsibility for their own personal health. He states that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is looking to include expensive weight-loss drugs under the taxpayer-funded Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, and said move demands deep public scrutiny.

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SBS News In Depth, Podcast, 10/08/2026, Unspecified

The Federal Government is looking to pass changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme [NDIS] in the next two weeks. According to NDIS Minister Mark Butler, the changes to the NDIS are required to keep the economy stable.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Fraudster duo barred from the NDIS for life

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/08/2026, Page 8

Two prolific fraudsters caught running an illegal registration syndicate have been barred from the NDIS for life. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the banning orders should "serve as a warning to anyone who thinks they can get away with doing the wrong thing; you can't".

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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First lifetime bans issued under NDIS watchdog's expanded powers

The Australian, Other, 11/08/2026, Ria Pandey

Two people who allegedly colluded to wrongfully register more than 200 NDIS providers have been banned from the scheme for life. [...] The cases of Ghamraoui and Desai should serve as a warning to "anyone that thinks they can get away with doing the wrong thing – you can't", NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said.

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MINISTER RAE

Longer wait for elderly places

Herald Sun, General News, 12/08/2026, Julie Cross, Page 7

The average time it takes to get a place in an aged care home has increased to 356 days. [...] Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae said demand for aged care continued to grow.

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

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Aged-care assessments working: Labor

West Australian, General News, 12/08/2026, Page 7

Aged-care wait times have continued to fall as Labor rebuffs an attempt to return human judgment to the assessment system. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said while demand grew "what matters to older people is how quickly they can access care".

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Aged care times fall as Labor nixes debate on anti-algorithm reforms

The Australian, Other, 11/08/2026, Nathan Schmidt

Aged care wait times have continued to fall, but the federal government has rebuffed an attempt to return human judgment to the assessment system. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said that while demand continued to grow for aged care, "what matters to older people is how quickly they can access care".

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [News24 Australia \(Online\)](#).

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The Zap: catching you up with latest health and aged care news, plus consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 11/08/2026, Charles Maskell-Knight

Australia has its first National Nursing Workforce Strategy , which highlights the need "for urgent and effective policies and planning to support and sustain the nursing workforce". [...] After an extended development period, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA) released the National Nursing Workforce Strategy , launched by Health Minister Mark Butler at the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) National Nursing Forum.

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Aged care homes lose ground on 24/7 RN compliance

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/08/2026, Caroline Egan

New figures show the proportion of homes meeting the mandatory target has fallen for the first time in five months. [...] In the month of June 2026, the number of reported aged care homes achieving 24/7 RNs declined slightly to 95.94%, down from 96.01% the month prior, according to new data from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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Fifth pay rise delivers up to \$36,000 boost for aged care nurses

Nursing Review, Other, 11/08/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Aged care nurses across Australia have received another boost to their wages, with the final instalment of the Fair Work Commission's (FWC) aged care work value case taking effect from August 1. [...]

Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae said fair pay was essential to building a sustainable aged care workforce.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Working together to build the future of Indigenous psychology

Koori Mail, General News, 12/08/2026, Victoria Hovane, Page 25

Standing at the University of Western Australia to launch Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association's (AIPA) culturally-responsive internship and supervision support project, I felt an enormous sense of pride - not simply because we were launching a new program, but because we were witnessing the next chapter in a journey that has been many years in the making. [...] Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, it will provide culturally-responsive internship placements and supervision support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander provisional psychologists as they transition into professional practice.

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'Someone is going to die': Australian nurses expose horrifying working conditions

NEWS.com.au, Other, 11/08/2026, Sarah Keoghan Investigative Reporter

The grim reality facing some of Australia's most crucial workers should shock every one of us – and it's causing them to walk out of hospitals forever. [...] It includes actions to support career development, leadership, workplace wellbeing and flexible career pathways, helping more nurses stay in the profession," a spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing told news.com.au.

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

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The NDIA wants disabled people to test a new tool. It won't say if their personal data will train a cost-cutting algorithm

Crikey, Other, 11/08/2026, Rick Morton

The agency in charge of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is encouraging disabled people to take part in "experience testing" of a new needs assessment tool, without clearly disclosing that their personal data may be used to train an algorithm that cuts their funding. [...] On Friday, a Senate standing committee inquiry hearing into the NDIS bill heard from Department of Health, Disability and Ageing first assistant secretary Anthea Long, who revealed that 241,000 people are expected to be removed from the scheme by the end of June 2031 as a result of the legislative changes, 155,000 of whom will be under the age of 18, with 95,000 predicted to be children with autism.

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Australia-first program strengthens Indigenous psychology workforce

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/08/2026, Giovanni Torre

The Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA) has officially launched a landmark new program that will strengthen pathways into the psychology profession for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander provisional psychologists, marking an important milestone for Indigenous psychology in Australia. [...] Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, it will provide culturally responsive internship placements and supervision support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander provisional psychologists as they transition into professional practice.

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'Literally millions of free visits': Mark Butler lauds latest GP bulk-billing rate

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/08/2026, Antony Scholefield

The GP bulk-billing rate has continued rising, with Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler confident it will reach 90% by 2030. The latest data from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing show 84.2% of all GP services under Medicare were bulk-billed in April-June 2026.

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Medical board okays rural generalist training programs

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/08/2026, Holly Payne

One more hurdle on rural generalism's long and arduous journey to specialtyhood has been leapt, with the Medical Board of Australia giving the official nod to ACRRM and RACGP training programs. [...] "We have been in discussions with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing in relation to Medicare access for rural generalists," she said.

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What do "sharing by default" and an AI-native health system have in common?

Health Services Daily, Other, 11/08/2026, Jeremy Knibbs

Australia has spent hundreds of millions planning and starting the build on a health data architecture for a world that no longer exists. [...] But it was drafted for the big "sharing by default" plan, and for a pre-agentic-AI world, and nothing in the public record to date suggests ADHA or the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DOHDA) has gone back to test any of this hundreds-of-millions-of-dollars architecture, roadmap suite or in-flight Telstra rebuild against what AI actually now demands of a health data system.

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Pharmacy role in minimising peptide harm

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/08/2026

As the current surge in the use of unapproved peptides is felt across the Australian health system, delegates at the recent Pharmaceutical Society of Australia conference, PSA26, heard pharmacists have a role to play in harm minimisation.

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Local government funding inquiry to hear from Geoscape Australia and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Business Acumen Magazine, Other, 11/08/2026, Mike Sullivan

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport 's inquiry into local government funding will hear from Geoscape Australia and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing this week. The committee wants to better understand from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing how local government can be supported to help deliver medical, aged care and disability services across their communities.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged care home truths

Courier Mail, General News, 12/08/2026, Page 6

Australia's aged care workforce is still struggling with chronic understaffing, increased workplace violence and a lack of transparency from providers for billions of dollars in taxpayer funding meant for residents' care. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation research reveals almost half (49 per cent) of the staff surveyed had insufficient time to deliver care.

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

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ANMF calls for mandated staffing ratios to 'finally fix' aged care

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 11/08/2026

Despite the federal government's legislative reforms, Australia's aged care sector continued to struggle with chronic understaffing, rising workplace violence and a lack of transparency over how providers are spending billions of dollars in taxpayer funding meant for resident care, a new national survey of the aged care workforce has revealed.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 11/08/2026, Brenton Ragless

South Australian money is now being used to fix the aged care crisis, despite it traditionally being looked after by the Federal Government. SA Premier Peter Malinauskas is now rolling out an election commitment to build more aged care beds in the state, a choice he says will free up hospitals.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 11/08/2026, Craig Reucassel

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation says the aged care system is still completely broken, despite reforms being made to fix it, in the wake of the Royal Commission. Union Federal Secretary Annie Butler admits that there's often only one registered nurse that's caring for over 100 patients and adds that the number of care workers are also inadequate.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

'Back to work': Labor to lock in gambling, NDIS changes

The Senior, Other, 11/08/2026, Andrew Brown, Noah Secomb and Lucinda Garbutt-Young

Labor and the coalition could soon strike a deal on gambling reforms, but the government continues to come under attack for its housing tax changes. Labor's betting laws were among a handful of major policy stalemates that appeared on their way to being resolved as federal parliament returned to Canberra on Tuesday after a five-week winter hiatus.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

Bulk billing rates up

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 12/08/2026, Page 3

Bulk-billing rates have risen across the country over the past year, as the government inches closer to its election promise of making doctors visits free for more Australians. Data released on Monday shows patients aged between 16 and 64 had the highest growth, with rates up 8.2 per cent in the June quarter compared with last year.

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NSW government promises 2300 more surgeries by mid-2027 amid winter hospital surge

The Australian, Other, 11/08/2026, Nathan Schmidt

Specialised hospital units across NSW will deliver 2300 additional surgeries over the next year as the state government seeks to break its hospital backlog. High Volume Short Stay services – specialised hospital units delivering low-complexity, short-stay surgeries – were established in late-2025 through a \$30m injection by the state government.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Healthcare is often pushed aside by homeless people struggling to survive. This service aims to change that

ABC Online, Other, 11/08/2026, Niki Burnside and Caitlin-Maloney

For the team behind Street Side Medics, the service comes down to an "exceptionally simple idea". Founder Daniel Nour wanted to provide healthcare to people in insecure housing situations who are often too preoccupied with basic daily struggles to seek out medical attention.

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WA community pharmacies expand patient services as forum highlights sector growth

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 11/08/2026

Western Australia's 700 community pharmacies are delivering a growing number of patient services, according to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, with more than 500 delegates gathering for the Pharmacy WA Forum 2026 to hear how the sector is expanding its role in primary healthcare.

[Read More](#)

'An indictment': Doctors criticise Minns over ED warning

Nursing Review, Other, 11/08/2026

A top doctor has hit out after NSW premier Chris Minns controversially urged people to stay away from emergency departments to quell growing winter pressures. Nicholas Spooner, president of the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation (ASMOF) has responded to Mr Minns pleas, in which he implied people should not attend hospitals unless they are in a life-threatening condition.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 11/08/2026, Monique Wright and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Dr Tim Jones, Royal Australian College of GPs, about the dangers of peptides. Jones explains that peptides signal parts of the body to either turn them on or off, and because of that, they are particularly concerned of its effects, as they can influence many parts of the human body. He admits that they are seeing peptides play an important role in health now, and there are several products in the market right now focusing on assisting in diabetes or weight loss.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 11/08/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Australian Medical Association President Dr Betty Ge. Delaney says bulk billing rates have increased nationwide, but ACT still records the lowest bulk billing rates in the entire country. Ge states that the bulk billing incentive in the ACT is slightly less than the rest of Australia due to MN.1 status, particularly in the regional and rural areas, and she also adds that the cost of running the practice is high, making it hard to sustain their dynamic workforce.

Also reported by: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).

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POPULATION HEALTH

Mineral cuts palsy risk

Herald Sun, General News, 12/08/2026, Page 9

New research has added to growing evidence that giving a magnesium sulfate infusion to women at risk of very preterm birth is helping more babies survive without cerebral palsy. South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute researchers analysed outcomes for children born extremely preterm or with very low birthweight and found those who received antenatal magnesium sulfate before birth were more likely to survive without cerebral palsy or moderate-to-severe functional impairment at two to three years of age.

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

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“Hep C is curable”, health body reminds Australians following Australian Story episode

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 11/08/2026

Hepatitis Australia is urging anyone who received a blood transfusion or blood product before 1990 to get tested for hepatitis C, following an episode of ABC's Australian Story that revisited the experiences of Australians affected by hepatitis C and HIV contracted through contaminated blood products before screening began. The organisation says its priority now is ensuring viewers who have questions about their own hepatitis status know where to turn.

[Read More](#)

Vitamin K shots stop internal bleeding in newborns. So why are some parents refusing them?

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 11/08/2026, Zohra Lassi and Engida Yisma

Babies aren't born with enough vitamin K, which is essential to clot blood. This is why it's recommended in Australia that all newborns receive a vitamin K injection at birth.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

'I lost two years' wages': The hidden cost of caring for a sick child

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 12/08/2026, Jessica Penny, Page 24

As if having a child diagnosed with cancer isn't enough, the financial fallout can last for years if not decades for many Australian families.

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

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Exercise is the best medicine

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/08/2026, Page 5

Adults who do both aerobic and muscle strengthening exercises are less likely to develop a raft of chronic diseases. Aussie researchers followed more than 8000 adults over nine years, examining the association between aerobic physical activity, musclestrengthening activities, and the development of chronic conditions.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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MP pushes for VAD phone help

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12/08/2026, Page 3

Independent MP Kate Chaney is trying to force debate in parliament on her proposal to let doctors give voluntary assisted dying (VAD) care over the phone. Doctors cannot advise patients on VAD remotely because of a 20-year-old law designed to stop suicide being encouraged online.

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

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

Dying woman's last-minute plea to prime minister to allow telehealth for voluntary assisted dying

ABC Online, Other, 11/08/2026, Lucy Barbour

As she prepares to die tomorrow using voluntary assisted dying (VAD), Sandra Sarantou has one final request for the prime minister. She is urging the nation's leaders to change a law that is limiting some Australians' access to VAD.

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Offer prostate cancer testing to higher-risk men every two years from age 45: new Aussie guidelines

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/08/2026

Men aged 50-69 should be offered prostate cancer testing every two years, with higher-risk men starting at 45, according to new Australian guidelines approved by the NHMRC. The first update to the early-detection guidelines in a decade includes several changes from the draft version released in 2025.

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New pharmacy standards to tackle Australia's kidney disease crisis

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 11/08/2026

The updated AdPha Nephrology Standards are now available via Early View in the Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research (JPPR). A newly updated pharmacy practice standard for nephrology has been released by Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) to strengthen the role of pharmacists in improving outcomes for people living with kidney disease.

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ABC News, ABC National News, 11/08/2026, Joe O'Brien

A dying woman has pleaded with the Federal Government to give more Australians access to voluntary assisted dying. Labor has blocked a crossbench move today to make it legal for doctors to use telehealth in end-of-life care, despite internal pressure for change.

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

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 11/08/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Rural Doctors Association of WA President Dr Thomas Drake-Brockman. Mitsopoulos says Independent Member for Curtin Kate Chaney is pushing the Federal Parliament to debate her

private member's bill removing electronic communication bans on voluntary assisted dying consultations. Drake-Brockman states that a change needs to happen and voluntary assisted dying is the law across the vast majority of Australia, and he also notes that people should be able to access all kinds of care in the way that's most convenient to them.

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

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Kids' mental health unit shut, staff 'investigated'

Age, General News, 12/08/2026, Grant McArthur and Kieran Rooney, Page 1

A children's mental health unit has been closed and five of its staff stood down amid allegations of bullying and the use of force against vulnerable young patients. The unit at a major Melbourne hospital has halted admissions to its inpatient unit which treats children under 13 for severe mental health conditions and has been referring families to another facility since the allegations emerged last Wednesday.

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FIFO boss leads Victoria's flagship youth mental health service amid reports of patient deaths and violence

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/08/2026, Grant McArthur

Victoria's flagship new youth mental health service is being led by a fly-in, fly-out boss from Queensland, as reports mount of violence, drug use and patient deaths in its first year of operation. The Parkville Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Service has been beset by staff claims of deteriorating patient care and frustration with senior management – including chief executive Dr Leanne Geppert, who they say only attends the service for a handful of days a month from her interstate base.

[Read More](#)

Can mothers prevent passing on mental illness? This new study offers insight

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/08/2026, Sarah Berry

April Wilson wanted the cheat code – the one that ensured her future children wouldn't inherit the mental illness that ran through her family. "It's not one of the genetic gifts that I would like to pass on," says the 34-year-old from Melbourne's east.

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I'm a psychiatrist of 40 years. It's mass gaslighting to pretend we're making progress

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/08/2026, Patrick McGorry

The reform of mental health care is elusive and tantalising. In my 40 plus years in psychiatry, I have seen the system repeatedly cycle between scandal and the promise of a new era.

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

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IMMUNISATION

Over 60 but too young for a free RSV vaccine? Here's what this doctor says

The Senior, Other, 11/08/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

A senior medical clinician has criticised the federal government's decision not to provide the Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine free to people in their 60's, with cost cited as a key concern. Dr Charlotte Hespe, the clinical lead at Glebe Family Medical Practice in Sydney told The Senior the decision was a "disappointing outcome" with the highly contagious virus in the worst case leading to bronchiolitis, pneumonia, respiratory failure, and even death.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Heart valve a beat closer

Herald Sun, General News, 12/08/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 3

The quest to grow human heart valves in a laboratory from a patient's own cells is a step closer after a world-first breakthrough in Melbourne. The Murdoch Children's Research Institute is behind the discovery and has successfully grown human heart valve tissue that closely mimics those in the human body.

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

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New research program targets chronic pain “at its source”

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 11/08/2026

A 5-year research program at Adelaide University will investigate targeted therapies for chronic visceral pain, a symptom affecting people with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and endometriosis, funded by an NHMRC Investigator Grant. The program, led by Professor Stuart Brierley, Director of the Visceral Pain Research Group, Director of the Hopwood Centre for Neurobiology and Co-Theme Leader of Lifelong Health at SAHMRI and Professor at Adelaide University's College of Health, will examine how hypersensitive nerve pathways generate pain originating from internal organs, and test therapies designed to interrupt those signals before they reach the brain and spinal cord.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 11/08/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry

University of Queensland-led research has found aerobic strengthening exercise could be linked to the prevention of chronic disease. The study followed more than 8000 Brisbane adults over nine years, revealing those who did both styles of exercise were less likely to develop type 2 diabetes and hypertension, and may also be at less risk of some cancers.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Indigenous care crisis

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/08/2026, Aris Schuler-Shah, Page 8

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids continue to remain over-represented in Tasmania's child welfare system, making up nearly 45 per cent of all children in out-of-home care, according to figures from Allies for Children. The child protection body, which represents eight major child welfare services

across Australia, says work must continue on addressing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 11/08/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Australian Nurses and Midwifery Federation Federal Secretary Annie Butler, about issues nurses are experiencing within the aged care sector, as seen through a recent survey. Butler admits that the staggering 55% of aged care staff not having time for proper care is concerning, since the government is already implementing changes to the sector, stemming from the recent Royal Commission into Aged Care. She states that there's already more than \$25 billion in funding already provided to serve the changes and improvements to the sector.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Staff nursing security fear

Herald Sun, General News, 12/08/2026, Euan Kennedy, Page 14

Frankston healthcare staff face daily violence, abuse and intimidation while arriving at and leaving work, leading to a WorkSafe complaint by the Nurses Professional Association of Australia. An NPAA survey of employees has detailed the horrifying experiences of those stationed at Peninsula University Hospital, the Tarnbuk Centre, Frankston Mental Health, Wellways Frankston and other local healthcare facilities.

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Coffers not healthy

Herald Sun, Editorials, 12/08/2026, Page 20

In the midst of winter illnesses and another blowout in elective surgery wait times, some of Victoria's public hospitals face chaos health professionals roll out strikes and other industrial action. From midnight Tuesday, thousands of allied health workers are set to walk off the job.

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Aged care home truths

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 12/08/2026, Page 6

Australia's aged care workforce is still struggling with chronic understaffing, increased workplace violence, and a lack of transparency from providers for billions of dollars in taxpayer funding meant for residents' care. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation research reveals almost half (49 per cent) of the staff surveyed had insufficient time to deliver care.

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Patient appointments disrupted as healthcare staff walk off job

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 12/08/2026, Ben Silvester, Page 3

Patient appointments have been disrupted at South West Healthcare as key staff again walked off the job amid protracted industrial negotiations. Allied health professionals across Victoria, including Warrnambool, stopped work for 24 hours from midnight yesterday as they escalated industrial action against the Victorian government.

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Burnout, attrition and shortages: the pressures facing nurses

Nursing Review, Other, 11/08/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Australia could face a shortage of more than 80,000 nurses within a decade, according to workforce forecasts that have intensified concerns about retention, burnout and the long-term sustainability of the profession. The warning has become a key focus of workforce discussions following the release of the National Nursing Workforce Strategy, with nursing leaders arguing that solving the problem will require more than simply recruiting new staff.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Ebola deaths surpass 2,000 in Democratic Republic of Congo

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 11/08/2026

Democratic Republic of Congo said on Tuesday that confirmed Ebola deaths had reached 2,011, the latest grim milestone in what health officials have described as the fastest-spreading outbreak on record. The latest data from Congo's public health institute, seen by Reuters, also reported 4,381 confirmed cases across five provinces.

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ABC News, ABC National News, 11/08/2026, Joe O'Brien

The H5N1 virus is continuing its spread across Australia, with more than 230 confirmed cases now and the first event involving Australian wildlife. The Federal Government has secured \$2m worth of flu vaccines that will be administered mostly to birds in captivity.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Top paramedic casts new doubt over reliability of defibrillators

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/08/2026, Amelia Ballinger, Page 1

Defibrillators used in NSW's ambulances have been failing at disappointing rates and are "by no means acceptable", a director at the emergency service has told paramedics. As NSW Ambulance yesterday publicly stood by the device after this masthead revealed the medical regulator had suspended its registration, a post from a senior officer cast fresh doubts over its reliability.

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Safety concerns persisting over defibrillators

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 12/08/2026, Page 16

The media mogul Kerry Packer was clinically dead for eight minutes after suffering cardiac arrest at a polo match in 1990. He was so grateful that paramedics arrived in time to resuscitate him he donated \$2.5 million to NSW Ambulance to install defibrillators in most ambulances. The people of NSW were grateful too, and coined "Packer whacker" to honour his gift. But, 36 years later, a question hangs over the device: the medical regulator has suspended sale of new model defibrillators used across NSW's ambulance fleet.

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Confusion and concern: NSW ambulance defibrillators removed from sale, still on the road

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/08/2026, Amelia Ballinger, Liam Mannix

The medical regulator has suspended the sale of the defibrillators used across NSW's ambulance fleet, raising major questions about patient safety and prompting demands for action from the paramedics union. The Therapeutic Goods Administration announced late last month that it was suspending two corpuls defibrillators – the model 3 and the model 3T – and it was "likely" there were grounds to cancel the product's registration.

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Health Check: The hard evidence suggests LTR Pharma's ED drug is quick and effective

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/08/2026, Tim Boreham

LTR Pharma (ASX:LTP) has released the results of a 147-patient 'real world' study suggesting its spray-based erectile dysfunction (ED) treatment Spontan does the job more quickly and effectively than traditional tablets. With a mean age of 65.6 years, all of the men had been treated previously with oral PDE5 inhibitors, such as Cialis, Viagra or Levitra.

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

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LTR Pharma reports encouraging real-world SPONTAN data

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/08/2026

LTR Pharma has reported "encouraging" results from a real-world study of its SPONTAN rapid-acting intranasal erectile dysfunction (ED) treatment, including a 93% response among a subgroup of men seeking greater convenience and spontaneity, along with findings from post-prostatectomy patients. ED is one of the most common and often persistent consequences of treatment that can be difficult to manage, affecting up to 85% of men following radical prostatectomy.

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

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'Male' hormone dividing doctors in perimenopause treatment

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/08/2026, Bek Day

It's estimated that about 2 million Australian women are experiencing perimenopause at any given

time. For a number of these women, that means experiencing symptoms severe enough to require medical treatment.

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

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Doctor sounds warning as Aussie kids as young as 12 access unregulated peptides

7News.com.au, Other, 11/08/2026, Aimee Edwards

Doctors are raising the alarm over a disturbing trend which involves children as young as 12 being offered unregulated peptides through online chat groups. Dr Tim Jones from the Royal Australian College of GPs said young patients had told him they were being offered the products through WhatsApp, with sellers promising to mail them directly to their homes.

[Read More](#)

Higher doses of common fertility drug linked to pregnancy risks, study finds

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 11/08/2026

New research from Adelaide University has raised safety concerns about high cumulative doses of clomiphene citrate, one of the world's most widely prescribed fertility drugs, finding a link to increased pregnancy loss. The study, supported by the NHMRC and conducted with Boston University and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, analysed 21,004 IVF embryo transfer cycles in the United States.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 11/08/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with NSW Ambulance Senior Assistant Commissioner Alan Morrison. Oriti says the Therapeutic Goods Administration has suspended the licence of the defibrillators used across NSW Ambulance's fleet. Morrison states that the TGA did not specify the reason why it issued the notice, but it clearly indicated that it's not allowing any further devices to be registered into the system, and he adds that even though it's a matter between the TGA and the device vendors, they will continue to use the devices that they have.

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

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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