



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 14th August 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Australian Financial Review**](#) (page 4) reports that economic modelling has revealed that the inclusion of weight-loss medications on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme would cost the Federal Government \$10.1 billion per year.
- The [**Daily Telegraph**](#) (page 1) reports that the Therapeutic Goods Administration's Database of Adverse Event Notifications data has recorded 62 deaths and 2829 instances of adverse reactions potentially connected to the use of popular weight-loss medications.
- The [**Daily Telegraph Australia**](#) (online) reports that, responding to nursing workforce concerns, a Department of Health spokesperson cited the Federal Government's National Nursing Workforce Strategy as an important policy framework for supporting and retaining nurses.
- The [**West Australian**](#) (online) reports that, in a submission to the Senate inquiry on regional Medicare access, the Department of Health has stated that its strategy for improving healthcare outside major cities is "system-wide, long-term and reform-focused."
- The [**Adelaide Advertiser**](#) (page 3) reports that the Australian Medical Association SA has called for RSV vaccinations programs to be expanded to include free vaccinations for individuals aged over 65 living in aged care homes.

- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 1) reports that medical researchers from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute have developed a new malaria vaccination method, with the experimental method potentially providing significant improvement in malaria vaccination effectiveness.
- The [Northern Territory News](#) (page 3) reports that Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation NT secretary, Heidi Crisp, has stated that severe capacity pressures in the Northern Territory's hospital system are delaying vital care.
- The [Age](#) (page 1) reports that the Victorian Department of Health is investigating multiple cases of a rare bacterial infection which has led to the hospitalisation of two children suffering from kidney failure.
- [ABC Online](#) (online) reports that data provided by the national census will provide government and non-government organisations with vital information for planning the future provision of mental health support services.
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 20) reports that South Australian State Coroner David Whittle has recommended a review of surgical listing practices after determining that the death of a 62-year-old man waitlisted for heart surgery was preventable. *Also reported by:* [ABC Online](#)
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 19) reports that Australian Medical Association NSW president Dr Fred Betros has stated that recent Bureau of Health Information patient satisfaction data underscores the urgent need for increased funding and workforce expansion. *Also reported by:* [Illawarra Mercury](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Weight-loss drug subsidies come with heavy cost

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/08/2026, Michael Smith, Page 4

The Albanese government would face a \$10 billion annual drain on the federal budget if it subsidised weight-loss drugs for the estimated 6.5 million Australians living with obesity.

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

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Follow Quebec on tobacco tax to stamp out illegal cigs trade

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/08/2026, Rohan Pike, Page 29

We are repeatedly told by the health minister, the illicit tobacco and e-cigarette commissioner and others that there is no evidence to support lowering tobacco excise.

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

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Top medical editor on youth gender panel likened Trump to Pol Pot

The Australian, Other, 13/08/2026, Bernard Lane

The editor-in-chief of Australia's leading medical journal, who likened Donald Trump to the communist mass murderer Pol Pot, has not listed her politicised commentary as a potential conflict of interest in the high-stakes project to draw up the first national treatment guidelines for gender-distressed youth. [...] Dr Pang is also a co-author of the RCH treatment guideline, which is to undergo "a comprehensive review" as part of the NHMRC project, according to instructions from federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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'You only have to look at me': Chris wants to face the world with dignity, but can't

Canberra Times, Other, 13/08/2026, Megan Doherty

Every day, Chris Sequeira lives with a large hole in his nose and other disfigurement on his face caused by multiple surgeries to treat his cancer. [...] "[Health] Minister [Mark] Butler and his staff are listening to you," Senator O'Neill said.

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Labor's health insurance changes could force me to drop cover: pensioner

The Senior, Other, 13/08/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Glen Wall says he is angry there has been no consultation on Labor's proposed changes to private health insurance that could cause him to drop cover altogether, amid new research showing more than a third of older Australians could do the same. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the change would save an estimated \$3 billion over four years to fund aged care beds and home care packages.

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The Health Wrap: a witch hunt, infectious diseases, for the love of marmots, and who will be the next United Nations chief?

Croakey, Other, 13/08/2026, Melissa Sweet

Climate change is increasing the risks of foodborne diseases globally, while postal workers in France are on the climate frontlines, checking in on older people during heatwaves, offering advice, addressing loneliness, and making sure they are eating well and staying hydrated, reports The Health Wrap. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has announced a funding boost of \$18 million for LGBTIQ+ healthcare.

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Eli Lilly CEO still wants deal to bring Mounjaro to Australia under PBS

MSN Australia, Other, 13/08/2026

Eli Lilly pharmaceuticals CEO David Ricks says he still wants to reach an agreement with the Australian government and bring diabetes and weight loss drug Mounjaro into the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said in April that price negotiations to get the drug on the PBS were the issue.

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CUREator+ backs six Australian startups with \$13.5 million to advance new health technologies

Biotech Dispatch, Other, 13/08/2026

Six Australian health and medical technology startups have secured a combined \$13.5 million through the second funding round of CUREator+, as the national commercialisation program seeks to move locally developed therapies, diagnostics and digital health tools closer to patients and private investment. [...] Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler said the funding reflected the potential for emerging health technologies to deliver meaningful patient benefits.

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Rising star locks in \$35K CSL award

Pharma In Focus, Other, 13/08/2026

A QIMR Berghofer researcher has won the Australian Medical Research Institute (AAMRI) Rising Star Award. [...] The award was presented last night at the AAMRI Convention Dinner at Parliament House by Health Minister, Mark Butler, with Oliver taking home \$35,000 to support her ongoing research. Tiffany Walker

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ABC Radio Perth, Drive, 13/08/2026, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Dr Michael Gannon, former President, Australian Medical Association, regarding his open letter to the upcoming President of the AMA, saying that Australia's entire health system is under threat, with general practice struggling, public hospitals underfunded and the viability of private hospitals and health insurers increasingly precarious. Gannon says that in recent months, the Albanese Government and Minister Mark Butler have decided to take away the private health insurance rebate for over-65s. He says it makes no sense to attack the private system at a time when it

is under threat and the public system's already straining under the burden of those who can't afford to have care in the private system.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Headspace support tripled to tackle demand, complex cases

Bendigo Times, General News, 14/08/2026, Adam Carswell, Page 7

The Bendigo branch of youth mental health service headspace will have its funding tripled as it transitions to a new model over the next 12 months. [...] Assistant rural and regional health, mental health and suicide prevention minister Emma McBride said young people in regional Australia deserve access to the mental health care they need, close to home.

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ABC Central Coast, Breakfast, 13/08/2026, Scott Levi

A review is currently being called after the Tuggerah Medicare Mental Health Centre turned away an NDIS participant from its free service. Member for Dobell Emma McBride says reports of NDIS participants not receiving any treatment do not align with her expectations.

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DEPARTMENT

Healthcare cost review

King Island Courier, General News, 13/08/2026, Page 3

The Australian Medical Association has warned against creating a new regulatory regime around

medical fees as the Federal Government considers changes aimed at giving patients clearer information about healthcare costs. The AMA's comments follow a Department of Health, Disability and Ageing consultation on fee transparency and informed financial consent, which closed on August 5.

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Patient turned away at hospital after 10-hour trip

West Australian, Other, 14/08/2026, Stephanie Gardiner

A patient who visited two clinics and an emergency department during a 10-hour journey to treat an infection is a symbol of the fragmented rural medical system, health advocates say. [...] The federal health department's submission said its approach to improving health care outside the cities was "system-wide, long-term and reform-focused".

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Graph that proves Australians are screwed as nurses turn their backs on industry

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/08/2026, Sarah Keoghan

Queensland nurse Grace Young can be doing something as simple as shopping at Woolies when it happens. [...] "A key focus is growing and retaining the nursing workforce Australia needs now and into the future," a spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing told news.com.au.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Medicare backs home sleep studies for kids

The Medical Republic, Other, 13/08/2026, Amanda Sheppeard

GPs can now refer children and adolescents for Medicare-funded assessment that may lead to an overnight sleep study being conducted outside a laboratory, under two new MBS items introduced in July. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said the new items were intended for medically uncomplicated children and adolescents who did not require professional supervision overnight.

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Let's not make financial consent more complex: AMA

Oncology Republic, Other, 13/08/2026, Holly Payne

The AMA has rejected nearly all of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's proposals to tighten up informed financial consent, arguing that the current focus on doctors' fees is distressing clinicians to the point that they consider leaving the profession. As part of broader work addressing non-GP specialist doctor fees – the other components being referral reform and the Medical Costs Finder transparency legislation – the DoHDA is also looking at strengthening the laws on informed financial consent.

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TGA flags compliance action on AI scribes as review finds safety concerns

Oncology Republic, Other, 13/08/2026, Cate Swannell

The Therapeutic Goods Administration will begin compliance action against suppliers of some artificial intelligence-powered clinical scribes after finding evidence of regulatory non-compliance during a year-long review of the rapidly growing technology. Speaking at the Australian Institute of Digital Health's HIC2026 conference in Sydney last week, the TGA's product quality division head Tracey Duffy said the regulator had completed 12 months of engagement with vendors and was now shifting its focus to enforcement.

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Private health reform risks moving costs around rather than cutting them

Insurance Business Australia, Other, 13/08/2026, Roxanne Libatique

The largest affordability lever in Australia's private health system - estimated at more than \$1 billion annually - is not on the table in the government's current reform consultation. The Members Health Fund Alliance lodged its submission to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's Private Health Sector Reform Consultation – Tranche 1 on August 13, 2026.

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DoHDA questioned over why regional areas are missing out

Health Services Daily, Other, 13/08/2026, Helen Tobler

Government incentives aren't fixing GP shortages in regional areas, an inquiry has heard. [Paywall]

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Markets cheer as traders cut Fed rate hike odds

Capital Brief, Other, 13/08/2026

Good morning. Here's what happened overnight and what you need to know today. [...] A Senate inquiry into local government funding and fiscal sustainability hears from Geoscape Australia and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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6PR, Perth Today, 13/08/2026, Simon Beaumont

Interview with John Hammond, Perth lawyer. Beaumont says that, according to social media, Pauline Hanson and Basil Zempilas want to dismantle the Federal Health Department, and that it is a mistruth. Hammond says he thinks it is just politics, and the people are the ones who ultimately go on the day and vote, and it is important that they make an intelligent assessment of whether or not those issues are real.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Red tape under Labor 'failing Australians': Taylor

Canberra Times, General News, 14/08/2026, Dana Daniel, Page 5

Angus Taylor has defended his hot mic comments attacking the Australian public service, while hinting at further targets for cuts if he becomes Prime Minister. [...] Senator Ruston declined to say whether agencies in her portfolio - like the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC), Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) or the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) - should be abolished.

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Four Corners is coming for aged care again. And this time, it is the algorithm in the spotlight

HelloCare, Other, 13/08/2026, Jakob Neeland

Eight years after Anne Connolly's Four Corners investigation helped expose serious failures in residential aged care and contributed to the establishment of a Royal Commission, the investigative journalist is turning her attention to the next chapter of aged care reform. Next Monday night, Four Corners will air The Waiting Game , examining the Government's new aged care system and, in particular, the controversial algorithm used to determine how much funding an older person receives.

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The 17,551 reasons aged care staffing ratios won't work

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/08/2026, Lauren Broomham

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation's latest 'Pulse Check' of more than 3,550 aged care workers found almost half believe they do not have enough time to deliver care. Its solution is to abandon mandated care minutes and introduce fixed staff-to-resident ratios across every shift.

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Nurses union wants mandatory care minutes axed

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/08/2026, Caroline Egan

ANMF Federal Secretary Annie Butler said the findings of the union's 65-page report 'Aged Care Pulse Check – The Real Impact of Reforms' present a damning assessment of the aged care sector. The sector is not seeing a return on the Government's more than \$25 billion investment in residential aged care, she said.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Probe on disability company collapse

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/08/2026, Giuseppe Tauriello, Page 4

The company behind an Adelaide-based disability services provider has gone into liquidation, sparking an investigation into the sale of the business before the company's multimillion-dollar collapse. Liquidators were appointed to wind up Better Care Australia Pty Ltd - the company behind NDIS provider BCA Plus - on Tuesday, following a Supreme Court application to wind up the company brought by ReturnToWorkSA.

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

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'I wasn't there': Life with dissociative identity disorder

ABC Online, Other, 13/08/2026, Tim Callanan

There's plenty of evidence that his was a life well-lived. He had a family. Children. A successful career as a business coach.

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PRIMARY CARE

Veterans fear war for their health care

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/08/2026, Julie Cross, Page 27

Like thousands of his fellow veterans, Jordan Clarke joined the Australian Defence Force prepared to risk his life for the country, but has now been left feeling betrayed by the federal government over changes to his medical care. Mr Clarke, 49, a widower with five children, was medically discharged from the army after eight years, following an ACL tear in his knee and hip issues.

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

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Dead patients booked for surgery by flawed Acacia health system, AMA NT warns

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/08/2026, Fia Walsh

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) has warned of dead people being booked for surgeries, incorrect next-of-kin, dramatic spikes in wait times and doctors afraid to speak out due to failure of the Northern Territory's \$335 million health IT system. The peak body for doctors has provided more

damning evidence about the Acacia digital patient record system in its second submission to a public accounts inquiry.

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

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POPULATION HEALTH

Treating disorders

Herald Sun, General News, 14/08/2026, Page 7

About one in five Australians aged 16-85 had a mental health disorder in the last 12 months. For children aged 4-17, the figure was one in seven, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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Problem of substance

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/08/2026, Olivia Conder & Zoe De Koning, Page 1

Behind the growing public display of disadvantage on Geelong's streets, hundreds of residents are waiting to access drug treatment. New figures show 438 people were waiting for alcohol and other drug treatment in Geelong on any given day in May, as Victoria's treatment waiting list reached a record high.

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Alcohol culture in rural Western Australia is changing, but risky drinking remains high

ABC Online, Other, 13/08/2026, Jess Baker

If Australians are thought to be heavy drinkers, the stereotype is even stronger for rural station and farm workers. The cliché is supported by public health data showing higher rates of risky drinking in isolated regions, including Western Australia's north.

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

Medicine Today, Other, 13/08/2026, Engida Yisma & Zohra Lassi

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.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 13/08/2026, Sharyn Ghidella

Queensland researchers have created a map of the heart that shows how molecules move around the organ, and it could help prevent dangerous diseases. It also shows the way cells respond to more than 80 different biological signals.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

'Diabetesity' is a real killer and we must fight it

I believe the true pandemic of the 21st century is not Covid-19, it is "diabesity" - the dangerous combination of our growing tendency towards diabetes and obesity. As a society, we are failing to deal with it.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Concerns as centre sees a downturn in user numbers

Border Mail, General News, 14/08/2026, Hana Humboldt, Page 2

The Border's cancer wellness centre is worried over an unexplained drop in attendance numbers, which could be linked to a recent hospital change. Sunshine Trust chair Brad Robertson said wellness centre staff noticed fewer people coming through the doors in recent months.

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Daffodil Day blossoms

Border Watch, General News, 14/08/2026, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 13

For 40 years Mount Gambier/Berrin's very own Maxine Tuffnell has led the charge in raising funds for Cancer Council SA. Each year Ms Tuffnell raises thousands of dollars for the charity through the popular Daffodil Day initiative, leading the charge on supporting those in need.

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Novel ways to tackle decline

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/08/2026, Sarah Pye, Page 15

New world-first research has found replacing passive activities with mentally engaging ones while sitting could reduce the risk of dementia onset in later life. Most adults spend nine to 10 hours a day sitting.

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Hidden tradie cancer risks

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 14/08/2026, Page 12

During Tradies National Health Month, tradies are being reminded about the dangers that aren't always visible while on the job. Cancer Council Australia says being a tradie carries inherent risks, and the burden of work-related cancer is often overlooked.

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Inspiration to keep it healthy at home

Retail World, General News, 01/08/2026, Nicholas Rider, Page 38

The Heart Foundation launched a new winter recipe collection and six step-by-step cooking videos in June, noting that its recent research finds that Australians, particularly younger people, are eating fast food more often because they feel too time-poor to cook. While takeaway foods are thought to save time, regular consumption can increase the risk of heart attack and stroke, according to the heart health charity.

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GLP-1 use reshaping consumer behaviour

Retail World, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 41

One in 10 surveyed Australian adults currently report using GLP-1 medicines, an EY Studio+ study involving more than 9000 adults found, while projections indicate adoption may reach between 17 and 30 per cent of the adult population over the next decade, depending on how access, affordability, and policy settings evolve. Increasing GLP-1 use is already beginning to alter consumption patterns, from healthier grocery choices to fewer restaurant visits and increased spending on wardrobe refreshes, says EY Regional Consumer Products & Retail Leader, Oceania, Lisa Nijssen-Smith.

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'Big thing to process': mother faces chronic health issue that ended her mum's life

Newcastle Herald, Other, 13/08/2026, Damon Cronshaw

When Alex Budden was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease, it was a painful echo of her past. At age 15, she lost her mum to kidney failure after years of being on dialysis.

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Mounjaro still open to PBS

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/08/2026

After declining to list its blockbuster diabetes and weight loss drug Mounjaro (tirzepatide) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) earlier this year (PD 28 Apr), Eli Lilly has indicated it may yet be able to come to an agreement on pricing. [Paywall]

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Channel 9, Nine News, 13/08/2026, Alicia Loxley

A simple test is all it takes is the message behind a first-of-its-kind Melbourne kidney clinic aiming to identify people living with disease, even though they don't have any symptoms. It is using cheeky Australian slang to grab some attention. Stats show 2.5 million Aussies are living with markers of kidney disease but have no idea.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mental health levy fails to deliver windfall

Age, General News, 14/08/2026, Angus Delaney, Grant McArthur & Kieran Rooney, Page 2

A \$1.2 billion levy that was designed to significantly improve Victoria's problem-plague mental health system has resulted in only a small overall funding increase, frustrating advocates and experts who say it is not working as the royal commission intended. A report from the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission, the independent authority that holds the state government to account, shows that while spending on mental health had increased from about \$2 billion in 2020 to \$3 billion in 2025-26, that was only \$200 million more than what the government would have invested had it continued spending at the pre-royal commission rate.

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

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Serving up a good vibe

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/08/2026, Greta Lannen, Page 26

Many of us can be guilty of taking simple things like a cup of coffee, a friendly hello or a warm hug for granted. But for some, these things can be a reason to keep going.

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Fears mount over more kids using AI for emotional support and health advice

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/08/2026, Will Paige

More than half of Australian children use AI for personal and social reasons, new data shows, as experts raise concerns about the growing number of kids turning to the tech for emotional support. One in five children who used an AI assistant or companion experienced potentially inappropriate or harmful interactions, eSafety Commissioner research found, while one-third of users shared personal or potentially sensitive information with the tech.

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

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New mental health service brings specialist care closer to Kimberley children

West Australian, Other, 13/08/2026, Phoebe Solon

Children and young people in remote areas like the Kimberley will have greater access to specialist mental health care after the launch of a new \$12 million virtual service. The State-funded WISH service is designed to provide expertise for complex needs including trauma, infant mental health, eating disorders, family therapy, and Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing.

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Census creates opportunity to track prevalence of mental health conditions

ABC Online, Other, 13/08/2026, Matthew Ward Agius

Experts are expecting to see a rise in the number of mental health conditions across the country in the census, which they hope will provide a fuller picture of community wellbeing. Tuesday night's census was just the second time Australians have been asked to report long-term health issues.

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Leaked report reveals staffing issues at Thomas Embling Hospital

ABC Online, Other, 13/08/2026, Rachel Eddie

Victoria's only mental healthcare provider for the criminal justice system is inefficient with government funding and struggles with a junior workforce that is burning out, according to a leaked report. Thomas Embling Hospital, a secure facility in Melbourne's inner north, treats patients found not guilty of serious violent crimes because of mental illness. Other patients are transferred from prisons when they need temporary care for an acute issue.

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IMMUNISATION

Putting the bite on malaria

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/08/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 1

After decades of research and a stroke of luck, Australian researchers have developed a new vaccination method for a disease that has dogged humanity for millennia and continues to take at least 610,000 and counting lives each year. The scientists hope the experimental malaria vaccine, successfully tested on mice, could transform mosquito bites into "booster shots" that fortify the body's immune defences against the disease instead of causing infection.

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

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Broaden free vax for RSV: doctors

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/08/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 3

Potentially deadly RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) cases have more than tripled in eight weeks, prompting the Australian Medical Association SA to call for an expansion of free vaccines to those aged over 65 living in aged care homes. Confirmed cases of RSV in South Australia are running at more than 700 a week and have hit 6397 so far this year.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Unis' hardline ban on Iranian students labelled 'unfair'

Age, General News, 14/08/2026, Jackson Graham, Page 2

Two Melbourne universities are not accepting applications from Iranian students to study research degrees such as PhDs, as they take a hardline approach to complying with federal government sanctions. The tightening of enrolments has led Australian-based Iranian academics to call for the universities to reconsider the policies, which they say unfairly prevent students from adding to fields such as medicine, food science and architecture.

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New clue to failure of cancer therapy

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/08/2026, Page 10

Peter Mac researchers have discovered why breast cancer treatment stops working for some patients, uncovering the unexpected role of one of the body's most important cancer-fighting proteins. Its study revealed that the retinoblastoma protein - considered one of the body's natural brakes on cancer growth as it stop cells dividing uncontrollably - unexpectedly activates a group of genes that respond to the hormone estrogen.

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Positive perks of tuning out & heading outside

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/08/2026, Harvey Constable, Page 9

Turning off the TV and heading outdoors could be the key to calmer toddlers, according to new Deakin University research. The study, published in Developmental Psychology, found toddlers and pre-school children were less irritable when they were more physically active, suggesting physical activity has a positive impact on wellbeing from the earliest years.

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

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Qld breakthrough turns umbilical cord blood into cancer lifeline

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/08/2026, Judith Kerr

Doctors told Queensland grandfather Mark Taylor in November last year he was unlikely to survive until Christmas the following month. [...] Scientists at Brisbane's Translational Research Institute have secured almost \$4 million in Medical Research Future Fund funding to develop what they describe as a world-first "off-the-shelf" immune cell therapy for acute myeloid leukaemia, an aggressive blood cancer with an average five-year survival rate of about 30 per cent.

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

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Binders bring gender-diverse people 'trans joy' but are safe they for exercise?

ABC Online, Other, 13/08/2026, Kate O'Halloran

AFLW player Tilly Lucas-Rodd remembers the "trans joy" they felt the first time they wore a chest binder. [...] Australian researchers are now trying to close the gap on a lack of knowledge about binding and exercise, with preliminary results from one study led by the Mental Health and Exercise Research Group at the University of Western Australia (UWA), providing some reassurance.

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Experts, organisations unite to tackle 'supercharged' El Niño heat in red centre

ABC Online, Other, 13/08/2026, Elsie Lange & Emma Masters

In the face of a potentially sweltering El Niño summer ahead, researchers, experts and health

practitioners gathered in Alice Springs this week to develop a strategy for dealing with a hotter future in the arid region. Extreme heat has a ripple effect across every part of life in Central Australia, from health, to housing and homelessness, to the environment and even crime — particularly for those living in poverty.

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Councils look for guidance from WA government on data centre applications

ABC Online, Other, 13/08/2026, Emma Wynne

A move by a councillor in Perth's northern suburbs to ban data centres has failed, but planners and local government leaders say it highlights the need for clearer guidelines on the rapidly expanding sector. [...] "Research has linked large data centres to community concerns around air quality, noise, water stress and broader public health impacts," she said.

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Climate science under attack just when we need it most

The New Daily, Other, 13/08/2026, Matthew England & Mark Ogge

We used to talk about Australia punching above its weight on scientific research. Our scientists helped kick off the tech revolution with the invention of Wi-Fi.

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This often neglected daily habit can cut your dementia risk by a third

The Senior, Other, 13/08/2026, Phoebe Loomes

Scientists are uncovering the potentially profound health benefits of flossing, with new research suggesting that regular cleaning between your teeth could cut your dementia risk by up to a third. "The mouth is often described as a window to overall health," dentist Dr Mark Dohlad told The Senior.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

CEQ in partnership to improve Indigenous health outcomes

Retail World, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 7

Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ) and the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service (TCHHS) have signed a transformative heads of agreement, reaffirming their shared commitment to 'Close the Gap' in social, economic, health and wellbeing outcomes for Torres Strait, Northern Peninsula Area, and Cape York communities. The historic three-year agreement outlines a collaborative framework for developing strategic and innovative methods to support healthy lifestyles.

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Grants program supports strong and healthy Zenadth Kes

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/08/2026, Callan Morse

Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) community organisations, sporting clubs, schools, councils, and eligible individuals and groups across the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) are being encouraged to apply for the latest round of the GBK Healthy Communities Grants Program. Funded by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and delivered by Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Corporation (GBK), the GBK Healthy Communities Grants Program is a long-term investment in community wellbeing across Zenadth Kes.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

'System is not coping'

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/08/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 3

It has been 13 days since a Code Yellow was called at Darwin and Palmerston hospitals for the sixth time this year and nurses say conditions have reached a "critical point". Staff are reporting alleged neglect of seriously unwell patients, overcrowding and measures to free up bed space leaving people sicker.

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

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Two missed chances to save woman's life: Coroner

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/08/2026, Thomas Stewart, Page 11

The death of a "kind, sweet" 32-year-old from a blood clot was preventable, with medical professionals missing two opportunities that could have saved her life, the deputy state coroner has found. [...] Ms Kereru provided four recommendations to the Health Minister and the SA Health and SA Ambulance Service chief executives, including a directive for SA Health to consider a program allowing families to escalate hospital care when their concerns are not taken seriously.

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Surgery delay led to death

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/08/2026, Dasha Havrilenko, Page 20

The death of a grandfather could have been prevented if his heart surgery had not been repeatedly cancelled, a coroner has found, while acknowledging overwhelmed hospital staff had no genuine opportunity to perform the operation earlier. State Coroner David Whittle, in findings handed down on Thursday, recommended a sweeping review of surgical listing practices across the state after examining the circumstances leading to the death of Petar Josipovic.

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

Alarm bells for NSW hospitals

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/08/2026, Madeleine Bower & Abisha Sapkota, Page 19

Patient satisfaction with hospitals in southwestern Sydney is the worst in the state, according to new data released this week, painting a scathing assessment of struggling hospitals in Blacktown and Campbelltown. Wollongong Hospital, which services Health Minister Ryan Park's south coast electorate of Keira, was rated as one of the worst performing in the state, according to the latest Bureau of Health Information patient survey.

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

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

Millions for Mater mould

Newcastle Herald, General News, 14/08/2026, Damon Cronshaw & Jamieson Murphy, Page 1

The Calvary Mater's deadly mould problem is set to be fixed under a Minns government plan to tackle the hospital's disastrous infrastructure and maintenance problems, after a quarter of inspected assets were found to have defects. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park will announce today a taskforce to manage a "targeted asset remediation program" at the Mater. It coincides with the release of a scathing NSW Health-funded audit of the Mater, known as the Jacobs report.

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Hospital patient satisfaction drops: survey

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 14/08/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 4

The proportion of patients who rate their care at Wollongong Hospital as good or very good has fallen to a six-year low. And the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD) overall has scored some of the lowest ratings in the state across a number of measures, a new report from the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) shows.

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Emergency department upgrade approved

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/08/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 10

A \$14.5 million redevelopment of the North West Regional Hospital's (NWRH) emergency department, which was in part triggered by a 2023 stabbing attack on a doctor, has been approved. The redevelopment is one of three hospital projects worth \$144 million that has been given the green light by the Public Works Committee after days of inquiries.

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Patient lodges complaint after waiting hours unable to breathe at hospital

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/08/2026, Celeste Müller

A woman who waited hours in a hospital emergency room while struggling to breathe said the incident left her feeling angry, terrified and concerned about the safety of other patients. South Burnett woman Pru Macdonald, 27, shared her recent experience with the Kingaroy Hospital on a community Facebook page, and said she went to the hospital earlier this month for an asthma attack.

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

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Coroner finds man died at RAH amid 'systemic failings' of 'overworked' health system

ABC Online, Other, 13/08/2026, Jordanna Schriever

A man, who died after his high-priority cardiac surgery was delayed, could have survived if the operation occurred sooner — but South Australia's overworked health system meant it "might have come at the cost of the chance of survival of another patient", a coroner has found. Petar Josipovic, 62, died in the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) on September 14, 2023, after he was placed on a waiting list for category one cardiac surgery in June that year — an operation which should have occurred within 30 days.

[Read More](#)

Call for hospital electrification

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/08/2026

Health organisations alongside MPs Dr Monique Ryan and Dr Sophie Scamps have gathered at Parliament House today for the launch of a new report that calls on the Federal Government to fund feasibility studies to electrify nine pilot hospitals across every Australian state and territory. [Paywall]

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Our regions are sick, yet I'm among the doctors they spurn

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/08/2026, Stuart Kostalas, Page 26

On March 4 last year, I received an email that, in one sentence, explains how regional health care dies. "Unfortunately, currently the [district] is not in a fiscal position to engage another gastroenterologist," a senior manager wrote.

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

State 'failing' sexual assault survivors on wait times

West Australian, Other, 13/08/2026, Emily Woods

Angel Love Owens waited more than eight hours in the clothes she had been raped in to be forensically examined. [...] In regional areas, including Kalgoorlie, it is not unusual for victim-survivors to wait from six to 12 hours for a forensic examination due to lack of trained staff, a review by the WA Department of Justice found in December 2025.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Nursing union warns of staff shortages as University of Notre Dame degree delayed

ABC Online, Other, 13/08/2026, Pip Waller

When Madison decided to study nursing in Western Australia, there was one university that was recommended to her the most. Three years later, the 24-year-old, who has asked the ABC not to use her real name, is about to graduate from the University of Notre Dame, but said the experience had been anything but easy.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doc accused of rape can't see females

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/08/2026, Lucy Rutherford, Page 1

A locum doctor has been he banned by a tribunal from having with female contact patients after a woman claimed he raped her when attended her home to provide a medical certificate. Dr Sandeep Doraiswamy argued the prohibition was having a substantial impact on his ability to practise.

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

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Deadly bird flu strain spreads to sixth state

The Australian, General News, 14/08/2026, Blair Jackson, Page 3

The deadly bird flu strain killing wild birds across the country has now been found in all six states, after Tasmania recorded its first case. [...] Overseas, the H5N1 strain has caused severe disease and high

death rates in poultry, wild birds and other wildlife, but human cases are rare and the virus does not spread easily between people.

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

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Farm visit bug warning

Age, General News, 14/08/2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 1

Victoria is set to record its highest number of infections from a dangerous bacterium that causes violent illness and has hospitalised two children with kidney failure. The Department of Health is investigating two cases in which previously healthy toddlers developed a serious kidney condition linked to the bacteria after visiting the same petting farm.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Dying to lose weight?

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/08/2026, Maria Bervanakis, Page 1

The deaths of more than 60 Australians are suspected of being linked to popular weight-loss drugs, in a major wake-up call to users. [...] In the most comprehensive data snapshot yet, Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) received reports of 62 deaths and 2829 cases of bad reactions possibly connected to the popular drugs, which are now used by half a million Australians.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Worries over weight loss drugs

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 14/08/2026, Page 32

We live in a new era for weight loss. [...] New Therapeutic Goods Administration data reveals that many users have suffered side-effects from the drugs.

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Peptide craze leads to surge in calls to poison hotline

Australian Financial Review, Other, 13/08/2026, Euan Black

Australia's poisons hotline received more calls related to unapproved peptides in the first six months of this year than in the two previous years combined, new data shows.

[Read More](#)

A new ADHD drug targets three brain chemicals instead of two. Here's what that means

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 13/08/2026

A new medicine for attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has just entered the treatment toolbox: centanafadine, a once-a-day tablet sold under the brand name Simtriyo. [...] Centanafadine has not been approved by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

[Read More](#)

First mRNA flu vaccine gets FDA tick

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/08/2026

Moderna's mRNA flu vaccine mFLUSIVA has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in people aged 50 years and older, becoming the first and only mRNA seasonal influenza vaccine on the market. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is currently reviewing

mFLUSIVA for approval in Australia, along with Moderna's combination COVID-flu vaccine mCOMBRIAX.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Magistrate blasts 'useless' note in medicinal cannabis case

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 14/08/2026, Andrew Thomson, Page 2

A Warrnambool magistrate has questioned the value of an online doctor's evidence in a drug-driving case, which resulted in a man keeping his licence after testing positive to cannabis. Jody Battan pleaded guilty in the Warrnambool Magistrates' Court on Monday to drug-driving.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Wood v plastic boards: Which one is healthier?

Sydney Morning Herald, Features, 14/08/2026, Erica Sloan, Page 7

Cutting boards can get a lot of action in the kitchen, brushing up against many of the foods we eat both raw and cooked so you may wonder whether your go-to boards are optimal for food safety and long-term health. Different materials, such as wood and plastic, can affect how a surface harbours microbes such as bacteria from raw ingredients.

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

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