



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 15th August 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Saturday Paper](#)** (page 3) reports the Federal Government is proposing reforms to limit annual funding growth for the NDIS, matching the growth rates of Medicare and the PBS. Following AIHW data showing 760,000 participants on the scheme and growth at the NDIA to 11,000 staff, Health Minister Mark Butler expressed confidence in parliamentary negotiations despite human rights advocates warning the changes will erode vital support.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 2) reports medical professionals and parents are calling on the Federal Government to urgently review policies on gender medicine after the WPATH acknowledged its standards of care are opinions in an area of significant medical debate. In response to the concerns, a spokesperson for Health Minister Mark Butler said the Federal Government has commissioned a comprehensive review of Australian clinical practice guidelines to develop new national standards.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 8) reports the Inspector-General of Aged Care has identified a persistent issue of price-gouging in the Support at Home program as providers fold administrative expenses into hourly rates, and the program's pricing-related complaints have surged by 50 per cent.
- **[The AFR Weekend](#)** (page 9) reports Novo Nordisk has called on the Federal Government to implement a targeted rollout of subsidies for weight-loss drugs to help address the substantial health and economic costs of obesity. Minister for Health Mark Butler stated that he supports a

managed rollout on the PBS, though negotiations between the government and pharmaceutical companies have failed to reach an agreement on pricing and risk-sharing arrangements.

- **The Courier Mail** (page 3) reports data from the TGA indicates weight loss medications are suspected in the deaths of 62 Australians and severe side effects in 2829 people, prompting doctors to call for a ban on prescribing these treatments via telehealth, with the RACGP pointing to a "perfect storm" for people with eating disorders.
- **The Saturday Age** (page 2) reports Melbourne researchers have developed an experimental drug that converts malaria parasite infections into an immune-building event by killing the parasite before it enters the bloodstream. The treatment has proved successful in protecting mice from infection, paving the way for human clinical trials.
- **ABC Online** reports Digital Rights Watch has highlighted significant risks associated with unregulated AI medical scribes producing false patient symptoms and conditions in clinical records. The RACGP and AHPRA have emphasised that doctors must verify all AI-generated outputs, with the TGA reviewing potential regulatory breaches by these tools.
- **The Weekend Australian** (page 18) reports a growing number of Australian women are opting for unassisted freebirths in response to increasing medical interventions and inductions in the birthing process documented by the AIHW. Professional bodies have appealed to the Federal Government to restrict doulas from providing clinical care during labour, despite WHO data revealing no evidence of maternal or neonatal mortality reduction in caesarean rates above ten per cent.

MINISTER BUTLER

Call for PBS subsidies on obesity drugs

AFR Weekend, General News, 15/08/2026, Michael Smith, Page 9

Novo Nordisk, the Danish maker of Ozempic and Wegovy, has called on the Albanese government to implement a targeted, staged rollout of subsidies for weight-loss drugs currently only available on the private market arguing obesity is costing the economy \$40 billion a year.

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

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

Senate inquiry backs Labor's cuts to NDIS

AFR Weekend, General News, 15/08/2026, Michael Smith, Page 11

A Senate inquiry has recommended legislation for Labor's sweeping overhaul of the NDIS to be passed, despite warnings from providers and participants that the new system is not ready and is cruel to people with disabilities and their families.

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

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

Human rights fears for NDIS

The Saturday Paper, General News, 15/08/2026, Julie Hare, Page 3

The Human Rights Commission has joined the disability community in calling for a halt to the NDIS legislation, which is likely to pass with Coalition support next week. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler did not sound receptive to the recommendation for additional oversight, telling ABC Radio National's Sally Sara this week: "Whether an inspector-general can add to some of that work that's already delivered by that taskforce, or in terms of safety and quality, delivered by the NDIS Commission, I'd take a little bit of convincing."

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

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Trans guide based on gender care 'opinions'

Weekend Australian, General News, 15/08/2026, Rachel Baxendale, Page 2

Medical professionals and parents are calling on federal and state governments and health authorities

to urgently review policies on gender medicine, after the World Professional Association for Transgender Health sensationally conceded its standards of care are merely "opinions" in an area of "significant medical debate". [...] The concession has prompted the Australian branch of evidence-based health charity Genspect to demand an urgent review of all medical pathways built on WPATH guidance, including puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and surgery, as well as anger from parents, with one mother of a gender-distressed child writing to Health Minister Mark Butler saying her child "has been permanently altered within a healthcare environment shaped by this model of care".

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

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Cuts to NDIS get the nod

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/08/2026, Julie Cross, Page 9

A Labor-led inquiry has backed Australia's largest-ever NDIS cuts, sparking panic across the disability community. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, who announced the proposed cuts to the NDIS in April, said the amendments were needed to keep the \$1bna-week scheme sustainable.

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Perfect storm for anorexia

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/08/2026, Maria Bervanakis & Gillian McNally, Page 18

Doctors are calling for a ban on prescribing weight loss drugs via telehealth, in what has been described as a "perfect storm" for a surge in eating disorders. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler's office was contacted for a comment but did not respond.

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

Is the referral system working?

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/08/2026, Paul Smith, Page 10

It is not often you see detailed analysis of one of the most fundamental elements of the health system: the decision-making underpinning a patient's journey from primary to secondary care. [...] It seems the burning debate on specialist fees is happening beyond the barbecues mentioned by the Minister for Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, who has dubbed out-of-pocket costs a crisis issue.

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Butler vows to help nurses work in general practice 'without GPs looking over their shoulders'

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/08/2026, Carmel Sparke

Health Minister Mark Butler has pledged to find further ways to allow practice nurses to work without having a GP "looking over their shoulder". Speaking at the Australian College of Nursing conference last week, he said the list of medications that designated nurse prescribers could soon prescribe under the PBS was almost finalised.

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Six biomedtech startups share \$13.5 million in CUREator+ grants to fast-track health breakthroughs

Business News Australia, Other, 14/08/2026

Six Australian biomedtech and health technology startups have been awarded a combined \$13.5 million through the second funding round of CUREator+, a national research translation and commercialisation program backed by the federal government with a mission to fast-track medical breakthroughs. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler says the investments demonstrate the government's commitment to turning Australian medical research into real-world treatments.

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Health leaders call for feasibility studies to progress electrification of hospitals

Croakey, Other, 14/08/2026, Jason Staines

Healthcare's contribution to climate change is well established. [...] A representative from Health Minister Mark Butler's office also attended.

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On voluntary assisted dying, “it is time to fix what is a fundamentally unfair, unjust and cruel law”

Croakey, Other, 14/08/2026, Jason Staines

As Parliamentary debate continues over whether people should be able to access voluntary assisted dying (VAD) through telehealth, one advocate has urged the Federal Government to "catch up with the rest of Australia". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told Parliament that the Government would determine how Labor's platform commitments were implemented, not the cross-bench.

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For people who have survived disfiguring treatment for head and neck cancers, help is needed

Croakey, Other, 14/08/2026, Charles Maskell-Knight

People who have survived head and neck cancers and associated treatments are then experiencing additional suffering and hardship as a result of difficulties accessing and affording prostheses, an event at Parliament House was told this week. [...] Croakey has asked Minister Mark Butler for comment, noting that it is now over two years since the Senate report, and just under a year since the KPMG report was handed to the Government.

[Read More](#)

Pocock and crossbenchers call Labor's NDIS overhaul 'too far, too fast' in scathing Senate inquiry report

MSN Australia, Other, 14/08/2026, Sarah Basford Canales & Krishani Dhanji

Cross-benchers have slammed the Albanese government's proposed overhaul of the NDIS as going "too far, too fast" as the changes to curb the growth of the \$52bn program appear set to pass the parliament as early as next week. [...] It will also give the NDIS minister, Mark Butler, the power to reduce funding categories for individuals by up to 99%.

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

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Chris can't afford a prosthesis to mask his scars - and there's no funding to help him get one

Port Macquarie News, Other, 14/08/2026, 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.

Also reported by: [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader \(Online\)](#).

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Senate inquiry green lights NDIS bill, paves way for \$38bn cuts

The Australian, Other, 14/08/2026, Elizabeth Pike

Senators have given Anthony Albanese and Angus Taylor the green light to pass sweeping reforms to the NDIS, with an inquiry recommending the legislation pass parliament ahead of its debate next week. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, who also manages the NDIS portfolio, has maintained that major reforms are the only way to make the scheme sustainable for "future generations".

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‘Too far, too fast’: NDIS amendment bill clears Senate committee as battle over cuts, fraud and automation intensifies

The Australian, Other, 14/08/2026, Andrew Hedgman

An explosive Senate inquiry has handed Labor a procedural win on the NDIS, while exposing deep

fears about cuts, automation and unpaid care. [...] Introduced by Health Minister Mark Butler in May, the bill passed the House of Representatives on July 2 after the government accepted 30 amendments negotiated with crossbench MPs and other parties.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [News24 Australia \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Senate bill seeks to allow assisted dying via telehealth

The Daily Aus, Other, 14/08/2026, Eliot Lawry

Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young introduced a bill in the Senate on Thursday morning to allow doctors to use telehealth for voluntary assisted dying (VAD) consultations. [...] On Tuesday, Health Minister Mark Butler led the Government in stopping debate on Chaney's bill in the House of Representatives, telling Parliament the existing safeguards for telehealth weren't adequate.

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Heart, smarts and pragmatism: why health minister Mark Butler is suddenly a contender as a future PM

The Guardian, Other, 15/08/2026, Tom McIlroy

On the day the health minister, Mark Butler , revealed plans for an overhaul of the National Disability Insurance scheme in Canberra in April, his cabinet colleague, Katy Gallagher, witnessed a major shift. [...] 'Heart, head and hands' Butler and the NDIS minister, Jenny McAllister, have been negotiating with the Coalition on major reforms they say are necessary to make the \$50bn scheme sustainable.

Also reported by: [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#).

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GPs at 90% bulk billing in disadvantaged, rural communities

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/08/2026, Holly Payne

Medicare data reveals that GPs are already bulk billing nine in 10 consults for patients who are living in the most disadvantaged areas of Australia, the most remote areas of Australia, are younger than 16, are older than 64 or have a concession card. [...] Health minister Mark Butler's goal is to make that 84.1% shift upward to 90% by the end of the decade.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Heart, smarts and pragmatism: why health minister Mark Butler is suddenly a contender as a future PM

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Also reported by: [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#).

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MINISTER RAE

Risk test could take a load off your mind

The Nightly, General News, 14/08/2026, Jennifer Bechwati, Page 12

Hundreds of thousands of Australians are about to receive a confronting letter warning them to start protecting their brains from dementia. [...] "This is the first time the Australian Government has had proactive and targeted messaging to younger people to support them to invest in their brain health into the future," Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae told 7NEWS.

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Revamped system creaking under demand

Weekend Australian, General News, 15/08/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 8

The big promise of the revamped aged-care system to help keep more older Australians at home for longer is simply not being delivered. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae is taking the latest waiting-time figures as a win, saying the numbers are "encouraging", but concedes there is "much more to do".

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

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Councils' exit from aged care devastates clients

The Saturday Age, General News, 15/08/2026, Rachael Ward , Page 24

Nothing makes Helen Redmond, who lives with dementia, happier than relaxing with her friends at her local aged care community group. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said he was deeply disappointed councils were "planning to abdicate their responsibilities to their older residents".

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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Aged care star ratings are a giant chocolate teapot

Health Services Daily, Other, 15/08/2026, Cate Swannell

Back in 2020, when I was trying to help my mother pick an aged care facility for herself, the current Star Rating system didn't exist. [...] We have asked both the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and the federal minister for aged care and seniors, Sam Rae, some very specific questions about those numbers and how star ratings work.

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Thousands of Australians to receive official government letter on dementia risk in new prevention push

The Australian, Other, 14/08/2026, Nathan Schmidt

Almost 350,000 Australians turning 50 will receive a letter in the mail warning them of the risks of developing dementia, as a Senior Australian of the Year calls for action. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the government hoped the letters would be a conversation starter for anyone turning 50.

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

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Why every person turning 50 is about to get a letter from the government

The Senior, Other, 14/08/2026, Phoebe Loomes

While many might be dreaming of a new sportscar or a holiday home for their 50th birthday, Australians will soon be able to mark their half-century with a letter from the government. [...] The letters are designed to encourage people to think about their health, and discuss it with their families, said Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae.

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No need to suffer in silence

Herald Sun, General News, 15/08/2026, Emma McBride, Page 63

The loudest noise in your life may be the noise no one else can hear. It starts when you're lying awake at night, replaying a conversation you can't change.

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Headspace support tripled to tackle demand, complex cases

Bendigo Times, Other, 15/08/2026, Adam Carswell

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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Glenorchy to get free walk-in Medicare Mental Health Centre

WEB Pulse Tasmania, Other, 14/08/2026

A new Medicare Mental Health Centre is set to open in Glenorchy in the coming weeks, offering free walk-in mental health support without the need for a referral or appointment. [...] Emma McBride, the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Rebecca White, the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care and Member for Lyons, visited the centre ahead of its opening.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 14/08/2026, David Reilly

Interview with Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride. McBride says the new mental healthcare centre in Glenorchy is expected to open on 24 August, and she states that she and Minister Rebecca White met with the staff last week. She notes that more than 22,000 walk-in services have been provided since they opened services in Launceston, Devonport, and Burnie, and she says these are the services that people feel confident walking into, where they will be met with the right support and care.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Investing in the health workforce

New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News, General News, 14/08/2026, Rebecca White, Page 17

Across regional Tasmania, we know how hard it can be to get the healthcare you need. Whether it's finding a physiotherapist after an injury, getting an appointment with a psychologist, or accessing speech pathology for your child, too many people are waiting longer than they should.

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Health leaders call for feasibility studies to progress electrification of hospitals

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WEB Pulse Tasmania, Other, 14/08/2026

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Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Rebecca White, the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care and Member for Lyons, visited the centre ahead of its opening.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Fighting frailty: push for strength training for oldies

Canberra Times, Other, 14/08/2026, Allannah Sciberras

Coralie Wales understands the toll frailty can have on a loved one. [...] "The Australian government is taking action across many areas to improve the lives of older people in Australia and to support them as they age," a Department of Health, Disability and Ageing spokesperson said.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Health Department goes to market for next generation of HTA expert panel

Health Services Daily, Other, 14/08/2026, Cate Swannell

The DoHDA is seeking providers for the expert panel supporting Commonwealth decisions on medicines, medical services, and vaccines, as it embarks on a major overhaul of its health technology assessment system.

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Aged care's data problem is starting to find its fix

Hello Leaders Australia, Other, 14/08/2026, Lauren Liao

A registered nurse in residential aged care can lose up to three hours of a shift to documentation, according to sector analysis from MediQo Health: progress notes, incident reports, care plan updates and medication records, each logged separately, often in different systems. [...] The DHCRC's response, developed with Bupa, Regis Aged Care, CSIRO and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, is Kinnexus: a tool that maps provider clinical data to a standardised assessment framework and generates evidence-based quality benchmarks.

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Rural Aussies die young amid major healthcare shortfall

MSN Australia, Other, 14/08/2026, Stephanie Gardiner

Stephanie Gardiner In pockets of remote Australia, there are teenagers with type two diabetes, young patients on kidney dialysis and people dying of heart disease before middle age. [...] The federal health

department's submission to the inquiry said its approach to improving health care outside the cities was "system-wide, long-term and reform-focused".

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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'Shame on you': Nurse sobs over state of hospitals four years after walking off the job

NEWS.com.au, Other, 14/08/2026, Sarah Keogh Investigative Reporter

Amy Halvorsen made nationwide headlines when she very publicly walked off the job at Sydney's Westmead Hospital four years ago. [...] 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: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Peak medical education body calls for a 'self-sufficient' workforce

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/08/2026, Alyssa Talakovski

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (MDANZ) have doubled down on its calls for a transparent national medical workforce plan and sustained funding for medical schools. [...] A Department of Health supply and demand study of general practitioners in Australia reported that while GPs who obtained their initial medical qualification overseas made up only 43% of the workforce in 2023, they accounted for 54% of the total GP FTE in the same period.

[Read More](#)

DoHDA questioned over why regional areas are missing out

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/08/2026, Helen Tobler

Government incentives are not resolving the GP shortage in regional areas, while local councils are "picking up the slack", a parliamentary inquiry heard on Thursday. Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) representatives faced questioning over why some council areas received significant funding while others were left with little.

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Why every person turning 50 is about to get a letter from the government

The Senior, Other, 14/08/2026, Phoebe Loomes

While many might be dreaming of a new sportscar or a holiday home for their 50th birthday, Australians will soon be able to mark their half-century with a letter from the government. [...] The letters are designed to encourage people to think about their health, and discuss it with their families, said Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Alarm at providers' 'price gouging'

Weekend Australian, General News, 15/08/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 8

One of the government's riding instructions for the delivery of the Support at Home program was that it didn't turn into the next NDIS, with a "wedding tax" of higher prices applied to the cost of services. [...] Pricing-related complaints to the Inspector-General of Aged Care increased by 50 per cent between November and March compared to the corresponding period 12 months earlier.

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Understanding these five fees is first step

Canberra Times, Business News, 15/08/2026, Noel Whittaker, Page 41

As Australia's population ages, more people are helping a parent move into aged care. What people overlook is that it can be the trickiest financial decision a family will make.

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Three months for full package payment too long

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/08/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

While providers were not expecting the Support at Home rollout to be smooth, 10 months on, they are still trying to navigate the complexities of delivering home care services without full funding or consumer acceptance of the program. [...] The sector has received backlash over its application of HELF, with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission investigating several providers amid concerns they were charging residents for services they are obligated to provide.

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Metropolitan aged care occupancy passes 94% as admissions fall and room prices surge

HelloCare, Other, 14/08/2026, Jakob Neeland

Occupancy across metropolitan aged care services has passed 94 per cent for the first time in more than a decade, despite a sharp fall in new permanent admissions. New figures from Mirus Australia show national residential aged care occupancy increased for the sixth consecutive month in July, reaching 93.54 per cent, up 0.28 percentage points from June.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 14/08/2026, Michael Usher & Angie Asimus

Hundreds of thousands of Australians are about to receive letters in the mail warning about their dementia risk, and it's all part of a new push to stop or delay the disease decades before symptoms strike. The new brain campaign has been shaped by one of the nation's leading dementia experts and Senior Australian of the Year, Professor Henry Brodaty.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Seven Tasmania \(Hobart\)](#), [Seven Wagga Wagga \(Wagga Wagga\)](#).

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

NDIS bill gets nod in inquiry

Courier Mail, General News, 15/08/2026, Page 5

A Labor-led inquiry has backed Australia's largest-ever NDIS cuts, sparking panic across the disability community. The senate inquiry scrutinising proposed amendments to the NDIS bill recommended the legislation be passed in its final report tabled on Friday.

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'Too far, too fast': alarm as NDIS revamp moves closer

Canberra Times, Other, 14/08/2026, Andrew Brown & Noah Secomb

Controversial changes to the NDIS appear set to pass federal parliament, despite significant concerns the overhaul goes "too far, too fast". A Labor-led Senate inquiry recommended the disability scheme reforms come into effect, with a deal between the government and the coalition looming.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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With NDIS changes set to pass, here's who bears the cost of making it

'sustainable'

The Conversation, Other, 14/08/2026, Mona Nikidehaghani

Legislation to tighten eligibility for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) could be passed as early as next week, after a Labor-led Senate committee today recommended the bill be passed. The bill, introduced in May and amended in July, aims to slow NDIS spending growth by A\$37.8 billion over four years.

[Read More](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 14/08/2026, Anton Enus

The Senate's Community Affairs Committee released its report late this afternoon and has recommended the NDIS bill be passed. However, the Greens warn the NDIS reforms will have a devastating impact on the lives of people with a disability and potentially cost tens of thousands of jobs in the disability sector.

Similar coverage reported by: [SBS \(Sydney\)](#). [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

Ambulance ramping rate on way down

Courier Mail, General News, 15/08/2026, Hayden Johnson, Page 8

Ambulance ramping at some Queensland hospitals has fallen to its lowest rate in more than a decade, but the number of people on the outpatient waitlist continues to grow. Health Minister Tim Nicholls has committed to keeping Queensland's ambulance ramping rate less than 30 per cent by 2028.

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Stalled hospital update

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 15/08/2026, Leighton Smith, Page 1

The door has been thrown open for new opportunities to finally complete Townsville's long-delayed Weststate Private Hospital project, which could ease the pressure on the city's stretched health system or assume an entirely different use. [...] The Townsville Bulletin reported in November last year that three wards at Townsville University Hospital were taken up by patients waiting for a place in residential aged care some for more than 500 days.

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End-of-life funding rules test doctors

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/08/2026, Jamie Thannoo, Page 11

Estimating a patient's date of death is not an exact science, especially when it could be months away. Yet under the Federal Government's Support at Home program, introduced last year, doctors are essentially being asked to do that.

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GP referrals demand idiocy no wonder we burn out

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/08/2026, Rachel Glasson, Page 16

There has been a lot of talk about specialist referrals lately. It's been suggested that the current state of many public hospital outpatient departments has led to GPs managing conditions that they might normally refer on to a non-GP specialist.

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Adult burn injuries

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/08/2026, Natalie Ziolkowski, Sharon Rowe, Fiona Wood & Helen Douglas, Page 19

Burn injuries in adults can have devastating consequences, with loss of life, limb or permanent damage

to skin. Adult burn injuries in Australia most commonly occur from flame, followed by scald.

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

Same-day release release after bowel surgery

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2026, Aleisha Orr, Page 6

A patient at Royal Perth Hospital had a malignant bowel tumour removed and was sent home from hospital just a few hours later. The same-day release program is believed to be an Australian first for colectomy patients.

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WA GP clinics hit by cyber attack

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 17

Partnered Health, which runs 57 primary care clinics across Australia, confirmed that it had been the subject of a malicious cyber attack. [...] Medicare numbers, private health insurance details and Veteran Card (DVA) numbers may also have been accessed, Partnered Health confirmed.

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Prostate cancer testing changes every man needs to know

The Australian, Other, 14/08/2026, Penny Timms

Australia has new guidelines aimed at diagnosing prostate cancer earlier while also making detection of the disease safer and more comfortable. But even as the new recommendations come into play, there are calls for a national prostate cancer awareness campaign to encourage more men to get tested.

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POPULATION HEALTH

The brutal truth ... and finding her way

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 15/08/2026, Briana Domjen, Page 8

ules Sebastian has revealed her battle with perimenopause has become so overwhelming it has left her dreaming of walking away from life in the spotlight. She met her husband, Guy Sebastian, when they were both teens growing up in Adelaide. [...] Among these, up to 80 per cent experience symptoms, prompting the federal government to launch The National Menopause and Perimenopause Awareness Campaign this year, which is aimed at increasing awareness and reduce uncertainty around what is a biological and physiological stage of life, by providing evidence-based information and resources.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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National pregnancy loss data

Medicine Today, Other, 14/08/2026

Pregnancy loss is common in Australia, but national data remain incomplete, says an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare scoping study. Among women who gave birth in 2022 in five states and territories, 30% had previously had at least one miscarriage and 10% two or more.

[Read More](#)

Dispensary corner

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/08/2026

As it becomes apparent that Ozempic and similar drugs reduce not only food cravings, but also alcohol and drug abuse and 'addictive' behaviours such as gambling, scientists have traced the effect to a region of the brain that helps connect memories and surroundings.

[Read More](#)

Scots boys allegedly captured on CCTV on night of sexual assault

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 14/08/2026, Riley Walter, Christopher Harris & Rachel Rasker

Detectives have seized CCTV of Scots College students from the evening they allegedly sexually assaulted a 14-year-old girl in an eastern suburbs alley way, as parents express shock and sound the alarm on what they say is a culture of toxic masculinity at the school. [...] Separate Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows 92.3 per cent of women did not report an assault by a male perpetrator to police in 2021-22.

[Read More](#)

6PR, Afternoons, 14/08/2026, Tod Johnston

Interview with Kidney Health Australia CEO Chris Forbes. Forbes says Taking the 'Whiz' campaign by Kidney Health Australia is about starting the conversation and awareness about kidney disease. He states that they are encouraging Australians who are at risk of kidney disease to consult with their GPs and have their blood and urine checked.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Breaking the silence

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 15/08/2026, Briana Domjen, Page 10

For generations of women, menopause was something endured quietly. It was rarely spoken about at the dinner table, seldom discussed in workplaces and, in many cases, not even fully understood within the medical profession. Today, the conversation couldn't be more different.

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

Denton's demand

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/08/2026, Andrew Banks, Page 24

Voluntary assisted dying campaigner Andrew Denton is refusing to back down, declaring he is pursuing the political path "very hard right now" with an ever-growing coalition of medical experts, state ministers, and health bodies behind him. The veteran broadcaster and Go Gentle Australia founder said he is determined to reverse the federal telehealth ban that continues to deny terminally ill Australians remote care.

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

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Clp VAD showdown

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/08/2026, Fia Walsh, Page 7

Country Liberal Party backbencher Tanzil Rahman has announced he will break unofficial ranks to push for changes to the Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill, while finally addressing serious bullying allegations levelled against him during a voluntary assisted dying inquiry. The Member for Fong Lim is optimistic he may be able to get the numbers to axe the gag clause and prognosis time frame from the draft laws, but the move puts a wedge between him and the Chief Minister who has publicly declared majority CLP support to pass the bill in its current form.

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'Screen for hypertension from age 7'

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/08/2026, Bella Rough, Page 15

Hypertension screening should begin at ages 7-9 and then be repeated at ages 13-15, according to new national guidelines published last month. "The recommendation for an initial screening time point of 7-9 years of age was based on studies of blood pressure tracking and clinical experience that children of this age will typically co-operate with the procedure for accurate blood pressure measurement," the panel wrote in the Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Clinical management of tinnitus

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2026, Kathryn Penno, Page 32

Tinnitus is the perception of sound in the absence of an external acoustic source. Patients commonly describe ringing, buzzing, humming, hissing or pulsatile sounds in one or both ears.

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Exercise and breast cancer treatment

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2026, Alejandro Dominguez Garcia, Page 38

Breast cancer is one of the most diagnosed cancers worldwide. Around 9 in 10 women diagnosed with breast cancer in countries such as Australia and the US now survive at least five years after diagnosis, shifting attention toward the long-term effects of treatment.

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

'Despondent': neurological patients face treatment maze

Canberra Times, Other, 14/08/2026, Nick Wilson & Eleanor Wilson

James Dunn was fit, healthy and hard at work running a consulting firm when he woke one morning in 2018 to find he could barely stand. [...] Postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS) and myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) are complex, poorly understood and affect thousands of Australians.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Interventions to prevent dementia: current approaches leading to limited behaviour changes

Medicine Today, Other, 14/08/2026, Rebecca Jenkins

Current population-level interventions to educate the public on dementia prevention show promise, but more evidence is needed to inform scalable policy and prevention measures, Australian researchers say. Writing in The Lancet Healthy Longevity, they noted dementia affected more than 57 million people worldwide, with the figure predicted to nearly triple by 2050.

[Read More](#)

Significant cost burden for diagnosing and treating skin cancer in Queensland

Medicine Today, Other, 14/08/2026, Melanie Hinze

Services for diagnosing and treating skin cancer accounted for 2.4% of all direct health service costs in a large Queensland population-based cohort study. Published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, the authors of the QSkin Study analysed linked healthcare information from three databases (MBS, PBS and Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection) for 40,338 Queensland residents, aged 40 to 69 years in 2011.

[Read More](#)

Mohs micrographic surgery: what to consider, when to refer

Medicine Today, Other, 14/08/2026, Samuel A. Der Sarkissian & Duncan Stanford

Australia has one of the highest incidence rates of nonmelanoma skin cancer (NMSC) in the world, with 70% of men and 58% of women developing at least one lesion by the age of 70 years. Traditional surgical excision is the usual treatment for most NMSC, but staged procedures are appropriate in certain clinical scenarios.

[Read More](#)

Worsening asthma outcomes found in Australian adults

Medicine Today, Other, 14/08/2026, Rebeca Jenkins

Asthma control has worsened among Australian adults in the past decade and more people are requiring urgent care for the condition, a new analysis suggests. The study, published in the Medical Journal of Australia, compared results from a 2021 cross-sectional web-based survey of people with asthma (5427 participants) with those from a similar 2012 survey (2686 participants).

[Read More](#)

Johnny Young's death shines light on new hope in pancreatic cancer fight

The Australian, Other, 14/08/2026, Steve Robson

The death of beloved entertainer Johnny Young, announced by his family on Friday, came after a brief fight with pancreatic cancer, one of the most deadly forms of this insidious disease. [...] Over the past decade, pancreatic cancer has taken the lives of more and more people every year, and now is one of the commonest causes of cancer death in our communities.

[Read More](#)

Campaign urges Kimberley residents to act on lung cancer symptoms

West Australian, Other, 14/08/2026, Phoebe Solon

People across the Kimberley are being urged to act early if they notice potential symptoms of lung cancer as Cancer Council WA launches an awareness campaign this month. The "It is time to act" campaign, part of Cancer Council WA's Find Cancer Early Program, aims to improve awareness of lung cancer symptoms and encourage people to seek medical advice sooner.

[Read More](#)

Worried your toddler isn't getting enough iron? Here's what parents need to know

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 14/08/2026

The devastating recent deaths of three toddlers in Queensland, linked to low iron levels, have understandably left many parents wondering whether their own child is getting enough iron. The good news is that life-threatening iron deficiency is uncommon.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 14/08/2026, Alicia Loxley

Collingwood great Anthony Rucker is helping to spearhead a campaign to raise awareness of lymphoma. Tomorrow, players from both the Northern Knights and Eastern Rangers will wear lime green socks, the go-to colour for Lymphoma Awareness Month.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Gap in life expectancy

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/08/2026, Page 9

Being diagnosed with a severe mental illness such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder can reduce a person's life expectancy by up to 20 years compared with the general population. After analysing 24 years of hospital data covering nearly 180,000 patients, University of Queensland researchers found people with severe mental illness developed serious physical diseases much sooner, and not the expected shortening of life expectancy by suicide in people with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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

Youth mental health support

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/08/2026, Elise Kaine, Page 13

An initiative designed to help people to better understand their mental health was designed for and by youth. The "Whatever the Weather" campaign was created by a youth advisory council to the Mental Health Council of Tasmania and is designed to remove barriers for young people seeking mental health support.

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

Funds fight suicide crisis

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/08/2026, Ryan Kirley, Page 8

Almost \$300,000 has been awarded to projects across the Top End, Big Rivers, East Arnhem, Barkly and Central Australia to raise awareness under the Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Community Grants Program. The Suicide Prevention Community Grants aims to reduce suicide rates in the Territory, which are reported as the highest in the country.

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GPs hold the thread in Complex trauma

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2026, Cathy O'Leary, Page 10

Complex trauma is not as rare as people might think, yet it often remains invisible in primary care settings. Research suggests that a significant number of Australians are affected by complex trauma because of repeated, chronic interpersonal events often starting in childhood.

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'A disaster waiting to happen': Mother's desperate plea over mental health gaps

Sunshine Coast Daily, Other, 14/08/2026, Joseph Humphreys

A Sunshine Coast mother has shared the heart-wrenching reality of caring for her adult son with schizophrenia to shed light on the need for more investment in community-based mental health care. [...] In a statement, a Sunshine Health spokesman said there were "no wait times" for inpatient care for those who meet the criteria for admission under the Mental Health Act.

[Read More](#)

New virtual mental health service WISH launches to support young people in Pilbara

West Australian, Other, 14/08/2026, Phoebe Solon

A new \$12 million virtual mental health service has been launched to give children and young people across the Pilbara with mental health needs faster, specialised care closer to home. The State-funded WISH service is designed to provide expertise across complex needs, including trauma, infant mental health, eating disorders, family therapy, and Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 14/08/2026, Brenton Ragless

New parents in the state's southeast now have access to much-needed perinatal mental health support. Gidget House opened in Murray Bridge today, the second site in South Australia after its Elizabeth site launched earlier this year.

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IMMUNISATION

Dangerous RSV cases triple in just eight weeks sparking calls for more free vaccines

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/08/2026, Brad Crouch

Potentially deadly RSV cases have more than tripled in just eight weeks, prompting the Australian Medical Association SA to call for an expansion of free vaccines to everyone aged over 65 living in

aged care homes. [...] State and federal government programs provide free protection for infants, pregnant women, adults aged 75 and over, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 60 and over.

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

[Read More](#)

Vaccine hesitancy – why it occurs and how to manage it

Medicine Today, Other, 14/08/2026, Julie Leask

Vaccines bring immense health, social and economic benefits. Australia has had one of the strongest vaccination programs in the world for decades, yet access barriers and vaccine hesitancy have increased since the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 14/08/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Simon Blacker, ACT Pharmacy Guild. Blacker says it is not too late to get a flu vaccine, and adds that vaccines for Australians over 75 and First Nations people over 60 are free through the National Immunisation Program. He states that interested people may consult their GPs or pharmacies.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 14/08/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Australian Medical Association SA President Dr Peter Subramaniam. Subramaniam says weekly RSV infections have tripled over the last eight weeks, reaching about 6500 cases in the state, and their impact will be directly correlated with pressure on the health system. He notes that people can protect themselves by getting vaccinated, and he also adds that the National Immunisation Program is providing pre-vaccination for Australians over 75 and pregnant women, but they are now calling for the program to be expanded for people over the age of 65 in residential aged care facilities.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 14/08/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Australian Medical Association SA President Dr Peter Subramaniam. Subramaniam says weekly RSV infections have tripled over the last eight weeks, bringing about 6500 cases in the state. He states that the National Immunisation Program is providing pre-vaccination for Australians over 75 and pregnant women, but they are now calling for the program to be expanded for people over the age of 65 in residential aged care facilities.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Cure in sight

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 15/08/2026, Page 50

While Townsville's public hospital wards burst at the seams, a \$60.5m, five-storey private hospital sits 80 per cent complete and completely empty. [...] Late last year, the Bulletin revealed the heartbreaking reality that three entire wards at Townsville University Hospital were occupied by patients waiting for residential aged care.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Turning mosquito bites into vaccine booster shots

The Saturday Age, General News, 15/08/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 2

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.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Vision and hearing health gaps in Indigenous Australians revealed in nationwide study

Medicine Today, Other, 14/08/2026, Melanie Hinze

Indigenous Australians aged 50 years and older are almost three times more likely to have vision impairment than their non-Indigenous peers, and slightly more likely to have hearing impairment, according to new Australian research. The Australian Eye and Ear Health Survey (AEEHS), published in The Lancet Global Health, recruited 4519 participants across 30 sites nationwide between August 2022 and March 2025, of whom 617 were Indigenous.

[Read More](#)

'Let her death not be in vain': CQUniversity PhD tackles neglected tropical disease

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/08/2026, Giovanni Torre

A promise made more than 25 years ago has culminated in CQUniversity research that could help transform Australia's response to one of its most neglected tropical diseases. After the death of a respected Aboriginal health worker and community leader from disseminated strongyloidiasis in 1999, her grieving sister urged Dr Wendy Page Mastin to "let not her death be in vain" - words that would fuel decades of advocacy, clinical practice and research aimed at reducing the burden of the disease in remote Indigenous communities.

[Read More](#)

WA's Rheumatic Heart Disease Strategic Framework aims to drive change

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/08/2026, Giovanni Torre

The Western Australian Government introduced a new strategic framework which sets out a shared vision to eliminate new cases of rheumatic heart disease (RHD) in WA by 2036, through Aboriginal-led prevention, equitable care and collaboration. The WA Rheumatic Heart Disease Strategic Framework 2026-2036 is the result of "extensive" consultation and included insight and expertise from Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, health service providers, researchers, government agencies, and community representatives, the government said on Friday.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

NT Health books dead

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/08/2026, Fia Walsh, Page 3

The Australian Medical Association 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 \$335m health IT system. The peak body for doctors provided more damning evidence about the Acacia digital patient record system in its second submission to a public accounts inquiry.

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NT record system's fatal flaws

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/08/2026, Rachel Carter, Page 4

The botched rollout of a digital patient record system in NT public hospitals has led to dead patients being booked in for operations and has left doctors afraid to speak out. The claims have been made by the AMA after the implementation of the notorious Acacia system, which was first launched by NT Health 10 years ago and, despite \$335 million having been spent, remains incomplete.

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St John of God Murdoch cuts 24/7 ED care

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2026, Fiona Stanley, Page 23

Workforce pressures have been blamed for St John of God's decision to implement 8am-10pm opening hours at its Murdoch Hospital from September. AMA (WA) President Dr Kyle Hoath said the reduction in hours would increase pressure on Fiona Stanley Hospital's emergency department.

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Ballarat emergency department staff say recent death highlights health system failures

ABC Online, Other, 14/08/2026, Eden Hynninen

Ballarat Base Hospital staff say the death of a man left unattended in the emergency department (ED) waiting room highlights the catastrophic issues facing the regional hospital. Multiple ED staff have told the ABC that a man came to the hospital in July by ambulance and required oxygen.

[Read More](#)

Critical mistakes made at Mackay Base Hospital before father's death, review finds

ABC Online, Other, 14/08/2026, Bryn Wakefield

There were no free beds or even an empty treatment bay in the emergency department on the night youth worker Amenatave "Mena" Tuibua walked into Mackay Base Hospital with chest pain. The public hospital was at capacity on the night of May 26, 2025. Patients waiting for beds were stuck in the emergency department and others were ramped in ambulances.

[Read More](#)

Southwestern Sydney hospitals rated worst in the state in new patient survey

The Mercury, Other, 14/08/2026, Madeleine Bower & Abisha Sapkota

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. [...] Australian Medical Association president Dr Fred Betros said the latest data needed to serve as "a wake-up call" to the NSW government, saying hospital funding and workforce numbers had not kept pace with the fast growing population of southwest Sydney.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 14/08/2026, Ross Solly

Interview with ACT Minister for Health Infrastructure Rachel Stephen-Smith. Solly says the first of the development applications for the new Canberra Northside Hospital has now been approved by the ACT Government. Stephen-Smith states that some of the outdated existing buildings at the site will be demolished to make way for the new early childhood education and care centre.

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What's the safest way to birth a child?

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 15/08/2026, Kate Smithers, Page 18

It starts at the edge of the internet – in chat rooms, on Instagram, Facebook, in Reddit threads, on YouTube, and with podcasts. [...] Interventions have increased across all states and territories, with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's latest Australia's Mothers and Babies report noting that a third of women are now induced.

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

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

GP practice backs RN prescriber

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/08/2026, Ciara Seccombe, Page 3

Benjamin Jol is set to become one of the first RNs to start prescribing S4 medications, with the support of his GP colleague. [...] He secured endorsement from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia in July and will now begin a mandatory six-month clinical mentorship period under Dr Goyal and other GPs at the practice.

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Darling Downs Health appoints first endorsed midwife in public system milestone

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 14/08/2026, Zachary Probert

Darling Downs Health have employed their first endorsed midwife, marking the achievement as a first in the region's public health system. [...] Acting Executive Director for Nursing and Midwifery at Darling Downs Health, Judith Cooze, said the addition of Jessica Stone was a significant milestone.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

AHPRA defends its stance on anti-Semitism

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/08/2026, Ciara Seccombe, Page 14

AHPRA will not ditch its contested anti-Semitism definition to guide investigations but has admitted it still has no clear idea how it will use the definition to assess doctors accused of misconduct. The

watchdog has been under fire since adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition back in June.

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What to expect when a complaint is made against you

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2026, Susan Biggar, Page 24

We all have moments that stop us in our tracks. For some doctors, hearing that a complaint has been made about them is one of those moments. But being the subject of a notification to AHPRA is not uncommon, and the outcome is not predetermined.

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

Error by AI scribe during medical appointment leaves patient devastated

ABC Online, Other, 14/08/2026, Paige Cockburn

When Rebecca Green arrived for her first appointment with a urologist she was asked if she consented to the appointment being transcribed by artificial intelligence (AI). She said yes without hesitation. [...] Australia's peak regulator of medical practitioners, AHPRA, said clinicians must always check all output from an AI scribe for accuracy to ensure they meet their professional obligations.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Australia's fight against HIV is not over as new challenges disrupt progress

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2026, Jeremy Story Carter

Not long after Stephen Borg was diagnosed with HIV in 2007, he was given a warning that has remained lodged in his heart ever since. [...] Forty-five years since the first globally diagnosed case of HIV/AIDs — and more than 40 million lives lost — Australia stands within reach of virtual elimination of HIV transmission.

[Read More](#)

Two children admitted to hospital after contracting bacterial infection from Melbourne petting zoo

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/08/2026, Jackson Robb

A child has been left with permanent brain damage and may require a kidney transplant, after contracting a dangerous bacterial infection after visiting a petting zoo. Victoria's Department of Health has begun investigating an outbreak of the shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) which can cause serious gut problems and kidney damage.

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

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 14/08/2026, Hamish Macdonald

Congo's Ebola outbreak has spread to a sixth province after a death was recorded in a previously unaffected province. The fast-growing outbreak is on track to surpass the deadliest in history, which killed over 11,000 people a decade ago.

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

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Dial-up drugs a script for risk

Courier Mail, General News, 15/08/2026, Maria Bervanakis & Gillian McNally, Page 3

Doctors want a ban on the prescription of weight loss drugs via telehealth. [...] Data obtained exclusively from the medicines regulator the Therapeutic Goods Administration showed a further 2829 people were thought to have suffered severe side effects, such as pancreatitis, suicidal thoughts and an eye condition that can cause blindness.

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

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Twins launch A war on social media health lies

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 15/08/2026, Ann Wason Moore, Page 22

The influencer walked over to his fridge, pulled out a vial and injected somebody on camera. [...] As registered pharmacists, the sisters face strict rules around what they can say online under AHPRA and TGA regulations, while influencers are not held to the same professional standards or accountability even when promoting health products to huge audiences.

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GLP-1 RAs to carry eye warning

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/08/2026, Jamie Thannoo, Page 4

A boxed warning about a rare condition that can trigger sudden vision loss is being added to GLP-1 receptor agonists, the TGA says. The warning states that the drugs may increase a patient's risk of developing non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (NAION), with an extended warning on semaglutide that patients with a pre-existing anatomical predisposition called 'disc at risk' are at the highest risk.

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Weight loss drugs linked to 62 deaths and thousands of adverse reactions

7News.com.au, Other, 15/08/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Weight loss drugs have been linked to more than 60 reported deaths in Australia and thousands of serious reactions, but doctors warn the drugs may not be to blame. Australia's medicines regulator has received reports of 62 deaths and more than 2800 adverse reactions potentially linked to drugs including Ozempic, Wegovy and Mounjaro.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 14/08/2026, Mark Burrows

Considered by many as a game changer, 500,00 Australians now use weight loss drugs, but users are being urged to carefully consider their pros and cons. There are reports that 62 deaths and 2829 adverse events have been reported to the TGA, all with possible links to, but not limited to, Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro, Trulicity and Saxenda.

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

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2GB, Breakfast, 14/08/2026, Ben Fordham

Fordham says the Therapeutic Goods Administration has reported that 62 deaths have been associated with people taking weight-loss drugs, and he also adds that more than 2800 cases of side effects have been reported, including severe bouts of nausea, gastro issues, pancreatitis, an eye condition that can also cause blindness, and suicidal thoughts. He says 37 deaths are suspected to be linked to the popular drugs sold under the brand names Ozempic and Wegovy, and another nine potentially tied to Mounjaro.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 14/08/2026, Bob Murphy & Richelle Hunt

The Therapeutic Goods Administration is due to release a review of AI scribes in the coming weeks. It comes after a recent report by privacy advocates Digital Rights Watch, which found that Australians are being subjected to unregulated AI, sometimes without their consent.

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

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Medical board chair issues warning to telehealth doctors prescribing unapproved drugs

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/08/2026, Heather Saxena

The Medical Board of Australia chair says she is worried that poor prescribing of unregistered medicines such as peptides or medicinal cannabis could undermine patients' trust in doctors. Since the explosion in medicinal cannabis prescribing, the board has focused on the growing number of unapproved medicines being prescribed by doctors — mostly, though not entirely, through telehealth clinics.

[Read More](#)

Experts warn Geelong's drug treatment bottleneck is putting lives at risk

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 14/08/2026, Olivia Conder

Behind the growing public display of disadvantage on Geelong's streets, hundreds of residents are waiting to access drug treatment. New figures from Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) show 438 people were waiting for alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment in Geelong on any given day in May, as Victoria's treatment waitlist reached a record high.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

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