



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 16th August 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) | [Australian CDC](#) |
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a Labor-led committee has raised human rights concerns over the government's NDIS reforms, warning restricting access to the scheme, cutting funding or limiting the types of supports available could infringe a person's right to an adequate standard of living.
- **[The Sunday Mail Adelaide \(page 1\)](#)** reports that SA Health says protecting patient confidentiality means it will not release the results of a review into a scandal where 22 children were given gender-affirming treatment at the Women's and Children's Hospital without the mandated psychiatrist assessment.
- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane \(page 4\)](#)** reports that the Queensland government is investing \$93.1 million over four years to recruit 53 additional full-time equivalent specialised mental health nurses to emergency departments across the state.
- **[The Sunday Times \(page 29\)](#)** reports that Perth's Personalised Medicine Centre has received \$4 million in Federal Government funding to become Australia's national centre for gene-patching technology targeting rare genetic diseases. Researchers hope the personalised treatments could eventually be subsidised through the PBS or Medicare to improve access for patients.

- [ABC Online](#) reports that almost 100,000 Australians are waiting for aged-care assessments to access government subsidies that can help them remain at home rather than enter residential care. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae acknowledged some people face longer waits due to assessor availability and said more work was needed despite increased investment in the system.

MINISTER BUTLER

NDIS human rights hiccup

Sunday Age, General News, 16/08/2026, Brittany Busch, Page 1

A Labor-led committee has raised human rights concerns over the government's sweeping NDIS overhaul, even as their colleagues in a separate inquiry steamrolled the pleas of the disability community to recommend the reforms pass. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler's changes aim to return the scheme to its original purpose by restricting eligibility to people who must from 2028 prove permanent impairments.

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

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Mounting crisis in aged care

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 16/08/2026, Julie Cross, Page 74

Whistleblowers have revealed the shocking incidents happening inside Australia's aged care homes, including a resident calling police for help after no-one answered their call bell, and a man left with "faeces half way up his back and up his front". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler released the first National Nursing Workforce Strategy last week, which will help create a national approach to nursing workforce planning.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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

Canberra's neurodivergent community 'cautiously welcomes' autism and neurodiversity minister

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2026, Caitlin Maloney

Neurodivergent support organisations have welcomed the creation of a dedicated autism and neurodiversity portfolio in the ACT government. [...] Federal Disability and NDIS Minister Mark Butler announced the Thriving Kids program in a National Press Club address in August last year.

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Albanese Government Targets Dementia Risk at 50

Wamn News Online, Other, 16/08/2026, Paige Reid

Australians turning 50 will soon receive advice from the Albanese Government on steps they can take to reduce their risk of developing dementia. [...] Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae says turning 50 is an opportunity to focus on long-term health.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 15/08/2026, Fauziah Ibrahim and Johanna Nicholson

Ibrahim and Nicholson are joined by Triple J Hack host Dave Marchese, on sudden cardiac arrest being one of the leading causes of death amongst young Australians. Marchese says up to three young Australians die every week from cardiac arrest. He states that families are calling for Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to inject money into research to learn the causes and whether genetic testing might reveal if some young people are at risk.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

Brain health to the letter

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Edition Changes, 15/08/2026, Jennifer Bechwati, Page 26

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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Help for Australians to ward off leading cause of death

Sunday Examiner, General News, 16/08/2026, Morgan Reinwald, Page 3

Australians turning 50 years old will receive a letter from the federal government but it won't say 'Happy Birthday'. [...] "The science is clear that the choices we make in midlife matter," Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Sean Dorney's waiting for more aged-care support at home. He's not alone

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2026, Anne Connolly, Ninah Kopel and Inga Ting

Sean Dorney was a familiar face on Australian TV screens for three decades. [...] Asked why someone would be waiting eight months, Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said there could be longer wait times due to "geographic distribution and availability of assessors".

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Albanese Government Targets Dementia Risk at 50

Wamn News Online, Other, 16/08/2026, Paige Reid

Australians turning 50 will soon receive advice from the Albanese Government on steps they can take to reduce their risk of developing dementia. [...] Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae says turning 50 is an opportunity to focus on long-term health.

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Triple M Brisbane, 06:00 News (Weekend), 15/08/2026

Australians who turned 50 in the past year are receiving letters urging them to start protecting their brains from dementia. Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae states that now is the perfect time for Australians to think about their long-term health.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

We owe duty of care

Sunday Herald Sun, Editorials, 16/08/2026, Page 66

Older Australians are owed a duty of care by government and service providers. At a minimum, Australians who have already contributed so much over their own working lives are owed a place of safety and sustenance.

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One in six older Australians experience social isolation. This program is designed to tackle it

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2026, Jasmine Hughes and Lucy Martin

Anyone looking at Hana and Wanda can see they share a special friendship. They chat, laugh, sing karaoke at Wanda's aged care home and even dance together in the local park.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Health system's lifesaving disability teams keeping NSW families afloat

Sun Herald, General News, 16/08/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 8

When Rose Mitchell was 10, she felt like she became a parent. "The minute he was born, something shifted within me," she said of her brother Daniel Rata.

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Isolation concerns over NDIS cuts

Sunday Age, General News, 16/08/2026, Grant McArthur, Page 6

Ella jolts around in her chair playing pigeon simulator. She laughs, then screams with delight as her bird takes to the sky and wreaks havoc.

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NDIS get-out-of-jail card

Dangerous sex offenders are being released from prison with the help of NDIS-funded community supervision worth hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. Supreme Court records have exposed the glaring loophole, with The Sunday Times uncovering multiple cases where judges reference the National Disability Insurance Scheme funding in their remarks when considering serial paedophiles, rapists and life-long criminals for release.

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

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Fraud officials charge another over alleged \$5 million NDIS dishonesty plot

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2026

A 38-year-old Adelaide man has been charged over an alleged \$5 million dishonesty plot against the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The man, who is a director of a registered NDIS provider, was arrested and charged by Australian Federal Police (AFP) officers at Adelaide Airport on Friday as he prepared to leave the country.

Also reported by: [News24 Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [News24 Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Canberra's neurodivergent community 'cautiously welcomes' autism and neurodiversity minister

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2026, Caitlin Maloney

Neurodivergent support organisations have welcomed the creation of a dedicated autism and neurodiversity portfolio in the ACT government. After a cabinet reshuffle following the resignation of Yvette Berry, Suzanne Orr became the Minister for Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity.

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Four-year-old excluded from early learning centre in NSW due to his disability-related needs

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2026, Nick Dole

June 30 seemed like an ordinary day for four-year-old Tommy Schumacher. That morning, his parents packed his bag and sent him off to his early learning centre in Milton, on the NSW south coast.

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Push to remove barriers to air travel for passengers with disability

West Australian, Other, 15/08/2026, Emma Kelly

The Australian Government is seeking to remove the barriers to air travel for people with disability with the launch of a consultation paper on aviation disability standards. In 2022, more than one in five Australians identified as living with a disability, or roughly 21 per cent of the population, with the prevalence increasing between 2018 and 2022 from 4.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

10,000 baby booties in abortion protest

More than 10,000 hand-knitted baby booties laid in the shape of a cross, will fill the lawn in front of Parliament House this week, coinciding with a Bill set to be introduced to ensure medical care is provided for babies born alive after abortion. The protest, organised by the Australian Christian Lobby, will fill the lawn in front of Canberra's parliament with knitted boots sent in by thousands of Australians as part of an annual awareness campaign advocating for more protections around babies born after later-term abortions.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Face of risky drinking 'quietly changes'

Sunday Examiner, General News, 16/08/2026, Emily Woods, Page 5

Every day, as the clock struck five, Mish Wright would pour herself a crisp glass of Sauvignon Blanc. By the end of the evening, the better part of the bottle was gone.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

I went for a run and nearly died

Sun Herald, General News, 16/08/2026, Jacqueline Maley, Page 17

We are the people you don't want to have over for dinner. We are the ones who make everyone's lives difficult.

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

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Sugar fix hope for menopause

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 16/08/2026, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 12

Australian researchers hope around-the-clock monitoring of blood sugar levels in postmenopausal women will help unlock the key to easing symptoms such as hot flushes and night sweats while also reducing the risk of type-2 diabetes. The research, being spearheaded by the head of Flinders University's Chronic Disease Research Laboratory, Elke Sokoya, may also hold the key to helping prevent illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease.

Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Qld lands base for rare disease fight

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 16/08/2026, Kate Kyriacou, Page 9

Queensland scientists hope to build on a historic medical breakthrough that corrected a "misspelled letter" in the DNA of a child with mitochondrial disease effectively curing the rare and lifelimiting condition. A team of researchers in the US was last year able to correct a gene mutation in a baby with a rare, incurable form of mitochondrial disease, paving the way for the technique to be used on other forms of the genetic disorder.

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

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Exercise is still the best of medicines

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 16/08/2026, Page 25

Adults who do both aerobic and musclestrengthening exercises are less likely to develop a raft of chronic diseases. University of Queensland-led research followed more than 8000 Brisbane adults over

nine years.

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New hope for little troopers like Mina

Sunday Times, General News, 16/08/2026, Angela Pownall, Page 28

For Mina Hille and her parents Steve and Mary, the genetic defect she was born with seven years ago shapes their lives. Mina is one of only 20 people in Australia, and around 1000 worldwide with FOXG1 syndrome, which affects the proper development of the brain.

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Perth at research forefront

Sunday Times, General News, 16/08/2026, Angela Pownall, Page 29

Perth's international reputation for groundbreaking research discoveries in genetic medicine began 30 years ago. Medical researchers Steve Wilton and Sue Fletcher were early pioneers of ASO treatments.

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Melbourne researchers create intestinal models to research inflammatory bowel disease

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2026

Ronan Somers looks like any other 12-year-old boy, but he has been battling a hidden illness. At times, his ulcerative colitis has stopped him from doing the things he loves.

[Read More](#)

Australian cancer detection breakthrough shortlisted for prestigious global healthcare prize

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

Australian medical innovation is taking on the world, with three homegrown organisations shortlisted for one of healthcare's most prestigious prizes. But industry leaders are warning that without greater investment, our best breakthroughs could be lost overseas.

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Channel 9, Nine News (Saturday), 15/08/2026, Alicia Loxley

Australians turning 50 can soon expect a letter in the mail from the Federal Government, outlining ways to reduce their dementia risk, from mental health support to hearing checks. Dementia is the leading cause of death in Australia, but research shows half of those cases could be delayed or prevented if addressed earlier.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

The toughest gig

Sunday Age, General News, 16/08/2026, Wendy Tuohy, Page 1

She is the daughter of a family therapist and has a social work degree but, still, parenting in 2026 is so complex that Genevieve Muir likens it to "learning an entirely new language" to the one known to previous generations.

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Kid gender secret

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 16/08/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 1

The results of a review into a scandal in which 22 children were given gender-affirming treatment at the Women's and Children's Hospital without the mandated psychiatrist assessment will be kept secret. SA

Health says that due to patient confidentiality, any review documentation cannot be made public.

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Isolated new mums finally get support

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 16/08/2026, Lauren Novak, Page 24

When Steph Schmidt's first baby hardly slept, a visiting nurse told her she would have to "get used to" the sleep deprivation. Months later, she was diagnosed with postnatal depression and faced a three-hour round trip with her baby to see a psychologist.

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New nurses bring calm to ED crisis

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 16/08/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 4

Highly trained nurses are being placed on the front line at the state's emergency departments to de-escalate distress in mental health patients and help them receive vital care sooner. As increased numbers of mental health patients land in busy EDs with suicidal thoughts, psychosis and severe anxiety, the Crisafulli government is investing \$93.1m over four years to recruit 53 additional full-time equivalent specialised mental health nurses to emergency departments across Queensland.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Five new CPR devices for around the state

Sunday Examiner, General News, 16/08/2026, Page 5

Five life-saving devices have been distributed across the state to frontline paramedics. The portable LUCAS CPR devices provide mechanical chest compressions to patients experiencing cardiac arrest.

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2GB, Weekends, 15/08/2026, Luke Grant

Grant says ambulance ramping at some Queensland hospitals has fallen to its lowest rate in more than a decade, at 35.5%, but the number of people on the outpatient wait list continues to grow. He adds that Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls has committed to reducing it to less than 30% by 2028.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Gender pay gap reaches record low

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 13/08/2026

Australia's gender pay gap is at its lowest on record, latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data shows. The Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) says the drop from 11.5% to 11.3% over the past six months was driven by wage gains for women in lower paid work, including in the health sector, off the back of key reforms to end the historic practice of undervaluing work in female dominated occupations.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorched

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 16/08/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 16

A woman who woke up from a routine colonoscopy at a Queensland hospital with horrific third-degree burns on her breast is still dealing with trauma years later and is calling for patients to be warned of the burn risk with the very common procedure. Philomena Bell from Hervey Bay attended Maryborough Hospital for the colonoscopy.

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Ahpra appoints new head of its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Unit

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 15/08/2026

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency today announced the appointment of Nicole McCartney as the new National Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Unit (HSU). Nicole is a proud Yorta Yorta woman living on Bunurong country in Victoria. Nicole is from a long line of strong matriarchs and advocates for Aboriginal rights and is a respected leader with more than 20 years' experience in Aboriginal health.

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[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

Thousands still suffering from 'forgotten' disease

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 16/08/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 10

The "forgotten" scourge of polio continues to affect hundreds of thousands of Australians, and while vaccination saw Australia declared poliofree, it was detected in a sample taken from a wastewater catchment in Perth in midApril. Polio SA is hosting information sessions in SeptemberOctober before a conference at West Adelaide Football Club on October 20-21 including representatives from Rotary which is working to eliminate the disease worldwide.

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

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2026

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. "I was told this is a diagnosis that perhaps someone cannot love you for," Mr Borg said.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Elie's family business was on death row, now it's a global juggernaut

Sun Herald, General News, 16/08/2026, Mostafa Rachwani, Page 26

There were many moments in his life where Dr Aniss Chami believed his father had lost his mind. [...] The collapse came after the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) recalled 1600 of Pan's products due to complaints of defective pills, leaving Elie and his fledgling company broken.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

I went for a run and nearly died

Sun Herald, General News, 16/08/2026, Jacqueline Maley, Page 17

We are the people you don't want to have over for dinner. We are the ones who make everyone's lives

difficult.

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

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Food fights

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 16/08/2026, Page 1

Health Protection Service data reveals food safety warnings for Canberra pubs, cafes and restaurants have doubled in two years.

Story continues in: [Sunday Canberra Times](#)

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Food labels failing the sniff test

Sunday Canberra Times, Relax, 16/08/2026, Megan Doherty, Page 16

My family recently discovered we are still using a bottle of sweet chilli sauce with a "best-before" date of May 2023. [...] With use-by dates, "foods should not be eaten after the use-by date and can't legally be sold after this date because they may pose a health or safety risk", Food Standards Australia New Zealand says.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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