



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 17th 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](#) |
[Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)
| [AICIS](#)

LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 1) reports a joint TGA and NSW Police operation seized more than \$120,000 worth of illegal peptides, anabolic steroids and cannabis allegedly linked to an unnamed influencer who allegedly imported, relabelled and sold them online. Health Minister Mark Butler said buying unapproved peptides could lead to fines and health harms.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports the Federal Government plans to pass the NDIS reforms through parliament this week, with NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister saying the government was not considering delay. Ms McAllister said Queensland is "still formulating their position" on the Thriving Kids initiative, and dismissed calls to introduce an NDIS inspector-general. *Also reported by: [The Canberra Times](#), [ABC Online](#), [The West Australian](#)*
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 4) reports the NDIS Quality and Standards Commission has banned 111 individuals and providers between April and June as part of the Federal Government's crackdown on fraudsters and push for NDIS reforms. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the scheme must operate with integrity and those who abuse it will be removed. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#)*
- **[The Age](#)** (page 5) reports a surge in dry eye disease, linked to increased screen time, has driven demand for specialty clinics nationwide, many of which have lengthy waiting lists.

- [**The Courier Mail**](#) (page 1) reports that Julie-Ann Finney, who helped establish the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, and veteran advocates will protest the \$5,000 allied health care cap on Monday, saying this would further delay and limit veterans' access to critical treatments.
- [**The Courier Mail**](#) (page 8) reports that Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls unveiled a new transit hub at Redland Hospital, which aims to increase treatment spaces, and also announced the rollout of new mental health nurses into emergency departments across the state.
- [**ABC Online**](#) reports that a National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance study found that almost seven per cent of the population was susceptible to measles in 2019, raising concerns of more measles outbreak in the future and urging people to update their vaccination.
- [**ABC Online**](#) reports that an independent review of Tasmania's voluntary assisted dying laws is currently examining whether the legislation remains effective and needs improvement, amid increasing, with its final report due by November 1.

MINISTER BUTLER

Pep talk cops a jab

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/08/2026, Jessica Wang, Page 1

Content creators hawking unregulated performance and appearance-enhancing peptides have been put on notice after the drugs regulator seized more than \$120,000 worth of illegal products allegedly linked to an influencer. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler urged Australians not to purchase unapproved peptide products, especially from online or overseas sources.

Also reported by: [*Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)*](#), [*Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)*](#), [*Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)*](#), [*Herald Sun \(Online\)*](#).

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'Shonks and grifters' booted from NDIS as government pursues reform to save scheme

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/08/2026, Nick Newling, Page 4

More than 100 criminals and "dodgy consultants" operating within the National Disability Insurance Scheme have been banned as Labor seeks to crack down on fraudsters amid ongoing negotiations over the future of the \$56 billion scheme. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, who announced changes to both youth participation in the scheme and its overall size in speeches over the past 12 months, is seeking to restrict eligibility to those who can prove permanent impairment from 2028.

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

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

Perfect storm for anorexia

Cairns Post, General News, 17/08/2026, Maria Bervanakis & Gillian McNally, Page 8

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.

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Contract awarded for new \$167m WA surgicentre

WEB Inside State Government, Other, 16/08/2026, Kelly Nealon

The WA Government has awarded the forward works contract for the \$167 million Bentley Health Service Surgicentre to Cooper & Oxley. [...] "In partnership with the Cook Government, I'm delighted to see this project progressing to expand elective surgery capacity across south-eastern Perth," said Federal Health Minister, Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Minister leaves the door ajar over delaying enforced exits from NDIS

The Australian, General News, 17/08/2026, Jack Quail, Page 5

NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister has left the door open to postponing participants' exits from the National Disability Insurance Scheme if alternative support services are not yet established. The Albanese government plans to pass its sweeping legislative overhaul of the \$52.6bn disability program through parliament this week, which proposes tightening eligibility criteria, thereby removing about 300,000 participants' access to the scheme.

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

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'Shonks and grifters' booted from NDIS as government pursues reform to save scheme

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/08/2026, Nick Newling, Page 4

More than 100 criminals and "dodgy consultants" operating within the National Disability Insurance Scheme have been banned as Labor seeks to crack down on fraudsters amid ongoing negotiations over the future of the \$56 billion scheme. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, who announced changes to both youth participation in the scheme and its overall size in speeches over the past 12 months, is seeking to restrict eligibility to those who can prove permanent impairment from 2028.

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

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Labor confident of an NDIS deal despite backlash over reforms

Canberra Times, General News, 17/08/2026, Noah Secomb, Page 14

Labor has downplayed concerns state-based disability supports won't be ready when needed as the government pushes contentious reforms through Parliament. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said a deal between the government and the Coalition to pass the changes was getting close.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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

Provider accused of claiming \$4m in NDIS funds banned in major crackdown

The Australian, Other, 17/08/2026, Clareese Packer

An NDIS provider has been banned from providing services in Australia after allegedly claiming \$4m in funds from participants who had not even heard of the company, nor received any services from it. [...] Minister for the NDIS Jenny McAllister said "working in the NDIS is a great privilege, and if you abuse that privilege you will be kicked out of the scheme".

Also reported by: [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Final deals close on gambling, media and NDIS overhauls

Canberra Times, Other, 17/08/2026, Noah Secomb

Sweeping reforms to disability support, gambling advertising and media funding could finally pass parliament after months of political horse-trading. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said increased powers for the commission legislated in April have successfully weeded out the "shonks and grifters".

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

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NDIS minister 'confident' deal can be struck to reform costly scheme amid crackdown on dodgy providers

Anthony Albanese will return to Canberra on Monday hoping for deals on reforms to NDIS, gambling and news media bargaining with Coalition the most likely partner to hammer out backroom compromises. NDIS minister Jenny McAllister on Sunday gave the strongest indication yet that a deal would be struck with Opposition leader Angus Taylor, saying she was "confident" the reforms to rein in the ballooning scheme could be reached as parliament returned.

[Read More](#)

NDIS minister says government 'not contemplating' need to delay cuts

ABC Online, Other, 16/08/2026, Holly Tregenza

The NDIS minister has refused to commit to delaying participants' exit from the National Disability Insurance Scheme if alternative services are not yet in place, while insisting the government will not leave people without support. Jenny McAllister told Insiders the government "had time" to make sure safety net supports were ready before the projected removal of hundreds of thousands of people from the scheme in 2028.

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Government admits NDIS reforms will impact families, downplays fears over state readiness

SBS, Other, 16/08/2026

Labor has downplayed concerns that state-based disability supports won't be ready when needed, as the government pushes contentious NDIS reforms targeting fraud and spending through parliament. A government-led Senate inquiry on Friday recommended National Disability Insurance Scheme changes should be passed with no substantial alterations.

[Read More](#)

Government 'confident' it can secure agreement with Coalition on NDIS

Capital Brief, Other, 16/08/2026

The news: NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the government is "confident" it will secure a deal with the Coalition on changes to the NDIS. Speaking to ABC Insiders on Sunday morning AEST, McAllister said the government had been "in really close discussions with the coalition actually for some time now, and they have been extremely constructive".

[Read More](#)

ABC, Insiders, 16/08/2026, David Speers

Interview with NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister. McAllister says she is confident that the Federal Government will reach an agreement with the Coalition around the proposed changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. She also refused to commit to delaying removing participants from the scheme until new state-based supports are in place, but she insists that people will not be left without support.

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

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ABC Radio Melbourne, 12:00 News (Weekend), 16/08/2026

Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme Jenny McAllister has refused to commit to delaying removing participants from the scheme until new state-based supports are in place, but she says people will absolutely not be left without support. All states and territories except Queensland have agreed to start building new supports for people who will be forced off the scheme from 2028.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

Inside the aged care algorithm deciding support for older Australians

ABC Online, Other, 17/08/2026, Anne Connolly & Ninah Kopel

The last time 96-year-old Audrey Staniland was assessed for in-home aged care funding was with a human clinician more than a decade ago. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae told Four Corners that the algorithm draws on the data it needs.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

'It's not fun

Canberra Times, General News, 17/08/2026, Jasper Lindell, Page 1

Caitlin Tough knew there was something wrong. But she had to battle for more than a decade to get the endometriosis diagnosis she needed. [...] And I think federally, we've talked about Dan Repacholi as the special envoy for men's health.

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[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged care reform: A horse designed by a committee?

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/08/2026, Darren Birbeck, Page 22

The final report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety included 148 recommendations for reforming the aged care system. There were more than 10,500 public submissions, 23 hearings over 90 days, and the final report had five main volumes across eight separate publications.

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Sick and tired of discharge failure

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/08/2026, Bridget Archer, Page 21

It should come as no surprise that if you are an older Tasmanian who is well enough to be discharged and leave hospital, you should be able to do so. Unfortunately, we continue to see too many older

Tasmanians stranded in hospital for weeks, sometimes months, waiting for commonwealth services that should already be available.

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Aged care, one of the trickiest financial decisions a family will ever make

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 17/08/2026

As Australia's population ages, more and more people face the challenge of helping a parent move into aged care. It's stressful for many reasons, but what people often overlook is that it can also be one of the trickiest financial decisions a family will ever make.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Director accused of NDIS fraud plot

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/08/2026, Jacinta Round, Page 4

The director of an organisation providing services under the nation's disability scheme is the second person arrested for an alleged \$5m fraud plot, after he was nabbed while trying to leave the country. The man, 38, was arrested at Adelaide Airport on Friday and charged with obtaining confidential participant information from a National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) staff member, Australian Federal Police (AFP) revealed.

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NDIS director in airport arrest over fraud

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/08/2026, Andrew Hedgman, Page 12

An Adelaide NDIS provider director allegedly tried to flee overseas after authorities uncovered a scheme that siphoned about \$5m from disability funding. The 38-year-old was arrested at Adelaide Airport by the Australian Federal Police on Thursday and taken to the Adelaide City Watchhouse.

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Ella has finally found a community of friends. NDIS cuts mean she could soon be alone again

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 16/08/2026, Grant McArthur

Ella jolts around in her chair playing pigeon simulator. [...] Brought together by the National Disability Insurance Scheme – or, more in particular, genU's NDIS-funded Gamer program – the unlikely Geelong friends have intensely different personalities but a very similar need: to build social skills, confidence and ways to navigate the world outside.

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Hands On Studio celebrates 30 years as artist hopes Julia Gillard portrait will hang in parliament

ABC Online, Other, 16/08/2026

Hands On Studio artist Stephen Corsini has big aspirations for his portrait of former prime minister Julia Gillard. [...] Hands On Studio relies on the funding its participants receive through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), which helps cover the costs of staff and materials.

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As melon-gate raged, Albanese quietly cut deals in parliament. The PM should make some noise this week

Last week's melon-gate controversy was a pretty unedifying spectacle for everyone involved. [...] Despite a vocal campaign from the Greens and crossbench, reforms to trim billions from NDIS spending forecasts will also pass before long with Labor and Liberal approval; so too the news bargaining incentive, which will have no problems passing.

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AFP make a second arrest over alleged NDIS fraud ring

Daily Mail UK, Other, 17/08/2026, Ashley Nickel

A second member of an alleged National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) fraud ring accused of scamming the government out of \$5million of taxpayer money has been arrested. Australian Federal Police officers arrested the man, 38, at Adelaide Airport on Friday as he prepared to leave the country.

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

AFL safety coming to a head

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 17/08/2026, Michel Margalit, Page 24

Muddled. Exhausted. Another new venture. Another failed venture. Another failed relationship. Time and time again over the last few years while working on the concussion class action, my team and I have sat down with past footballers suffering concussion injuries, who have opened up their hearts over kitchen tables and on lounge-room couches.

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Brisbane Airport expands global connections and regional lifelines

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 16/08/2026, Cameron Atfield

Queenslanders will have daily access to Kuala Lumpur from October, with Malaysia Airlines increasing Brisbane services and introducing its new Airbus A330neo on the route. [...] The facility, located between the airport's parallel runways, is expected to become Australia's largest dedicated aeromedical hub when it opens next year, housing aircraft and operations for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, LifeFlight, Retrieval Services Queensland, and the Queensland Police Service Aviation Capability Group.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Older Aussies running for lives

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/08/2026, Andrew Hedgman, Page 11

More older Australians are lacing up as running becomes less about speed and more about staying strong, sharp and physically capable in later life. Research is increasingly showing that running at an older age can help preserve fitness, support brain health, strengthen bones and maintain independence, provided training is managed properly.

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Perimenopause HRT boom: Is it helping or harming women?

The Australian, Other, 16/08/2026, Deborah Cohen

One grey afternoon in Nottingham in the autumn of 2023, Jodie Salt, a 44-year-old leadership coach, should have been giving a presentation to a team of executives. Instead she was stranded in a client's bathroom feeling "humiliated, powerless and deeply ashamed".

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One Nation senator says parents who support their trans children are engaging in 'child abuse'

The Guardian, Other, 16/08/2026, Josh Butler

One Nation senator Tyron Whitten has claimed parents supporting their children who identify as transgender are engaging in "child abuse", telling a fringe YouTube show: "there's male, there's female, and then there's mental illness". Guardian Australia has unearthed several incendiary comments from Whitten and fellow One Nation senators Pauline Hanson and her longtime lieutenant Malcolm Roberts, about transgender Australians.

[Read More](#)

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

The New Daily, Other, 16/08/2026, Zohra Lassi & Engida Yisma

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

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[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Archbishop tackles ABC on VAD stance

The Australian, General News, 17/08/2026, James Madden, Page 1

The Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Anthony Fisher, has demanded an explanation from the ABC over its handling of the euthanasia debate. Archbishop Fisher has accused the national broadcaster of breaching its editorial policy, as the controversial issue returned to the political spotlight last month, by failing to provide a diversity of views and misrepresenting the church's stance.

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

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Screen time driving surge in disease

Age, General News, 17/08/2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 5

It's not easy avoiding screens in 2026, but Sonia Robertson says she has no choice. The 59-year-old suffers from dry eye disease, a painful and debilitating condition often triggered or exacerbated by device use.

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Laws being reviewed as demand for voluntary assisted dying in Tasmania increases

ABC Online, Other, 16/08/2026

Night shift in a hospital isn't for everyone, but for former Launceston midwife Gaye Crick, there was nothing quite like it. "She'd work night duty and just come home on a high from delivering all the babies of Launceston," her daughter Laura Crick said.

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Voluntary assisted dying let Roz Hervey choreograph her final act, daughter Tilda recording her last wish

ABC Online, Other, 16/08/2026, Sarah Grant

As she looks down the barrel of the camera, Roz Hervey faces her imminent death with composure and determination. "I am ready," the Adelaide-based dancer and artistic director states calmly as her husband Geoff Cobham and children Tilda and Huey Cobham-Hervey watch on.

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Woman's haunting video hours before she chose to end her life

Daily Mail UK, Other, 16/08/2026, Ashley Nickel

A woman who chose to end her own life through Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) used her final hours to call for Australia to remove the barriers around it. Roz Hervey, 58, was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in 2022 and told she had just two years to live.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Our vets locked in a new battle

Courier Mail, General News, 17/08/2026, Jessica Wang, Page 1

The mother of a former navy petty officer who died by suicide while waiting for a psychology appointment through the Department of Veteran Affairs says more veterans will die waiting for the help if Labor continues its \$5000 cap on allied health services. Julie-Ann Finney, who was instrumental in establishing the Royal Commission Into Defence and Veteran Suicide, will on Monday join advocate groups led by Fair Care for Veterans, Coalition and Greens MPs and Independent senator David Pocock at Parliament House to protest the healthcare cap that comes into effect next July.

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

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Mental health nurses tackle hospital crisis

Cairns Post, General News, 17/08/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 6

Highly trained nurses will be placed on the frontline at the Cairns Hospital emergency department to de-escalate distress in mental health patients and help get them vital care sooner. As increased numbers of mental health patients attend 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.

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Full house for mental health forum

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 17/08/2026, Rosa Griffith, Page 3

A popular youth mental health forum is visiting the regions for the first time, with the upcoming Kalgoorlie-Boulder seminar fully booked out. Zero2hero is bringing its In Your Head program to Goldfields Art Centre on Thursday, August 20 with 675 students set to attend from eight local high schools.

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

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Are the parents alright? Why raising children feels harder than ever

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 16/08/2026, Wendy Tuohy

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. Thirty years on from when a Californian sociology professor coined “intensive parenting” for the engagement-heavy style that became the benchmark for western child-rearing, parent educator Muir sees people struggling – sometimes “sinking”.

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Former AFL player Scott Watters on 10 years of changing lives with LifeChanger

West Australian, Other, 16/08/2026, Glen Quartermain

Football has taught Scott Watters many life lessons and shaped the former West Coast, Sydney and Fremantle midfielder's way of thinking. Throughout 206 AFL, State and WAFL games as a player and

another 114 as a coach with WA, St Kilda, and Subiaco, Watters became fascinated by the conditions that allow people to thrive.

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Marielle Smith opens up about postpartum anxiety as she pushes for health inquiry

ABC Online, Other, 17/08/2026, Clare Armstrong

As Marielle Smith gave birth to her son she felt like a "warrior" and marvelled at the "life-changing" miracle of having a child. But soon after this "amazing" experience followed a physically "excruciating" and mentally isolating one, as problems with breastfeeding led to postpartum anxiety.

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Blackburn English Language School gardening project aims to grow mental wellbeing

ABC Online, Other, 16/08/2026, Philippe Perez & Alice Walker

For the first time since he left Africa, 16-year-old Albert Lotemo is delighted to have his hands in the dirt. Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo and raised in Zambia, he would work every day on a bountiful harvest as part of his agriculture studies.

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Ali came to me seeking help for disordered eating. The real issue was a relationship built on control

The Guardian, Other, 17/08/2026, Ahona Guha

Ali* initially came to therapy for disordered eating. She was a young and diffident woman.

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[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

We can all learn from those who take a different course

West Australian, General News, 17/08/2026, Andrew Miller, Page 13

Many years ago, I learnt to sail on slow yachts, which is a humbling way of becoming cold, frightened, seasick and injured while being yelled at by men who seem to be compensating for an apparent lack of influence elsewhere. [...] We still have much to learn though, from our friends who sail the other side of the course, starting with the idea that we cannot survive and prosper alone we need a healthy community, including vaccine-derived herd immunity, in which to raise healthy children, mind and body.

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Warnings of possible measles outbreak as study finds 1.7 million Australians are vulnerable

ABC Online, Other, 17/08/2026, Caitlyn Gribbin & Rachel Carbonell

An estimated 1.7 million Australians are not protected against measles, putting the country at risk of more outbreaks, according to new analysis from the peak immunisation research organisation. The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) study found almost seven per cent of the population was susceptible to measles in 2019.

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Australian health experts fear US vaccine scepticism is catching on as 'anything Trump says filters through'

The Guardian, Other, 17/08/2026, Nick Visser

Australian medical experts have warned a shift in child vaccination advice in the US is not grounded in science and could undo decades of public health advances. The US president, Donald Trump, signed

an unprecedented executive order calling for American children to be vaccinated against fewer diseases, suggesting a link to autism despite no evidence.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Calvary's bid for hospitals

Newcastle Herald, General News, 17/08/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

Calvary Health Care is bidding to take over two private hospitals in the Hunter, raising fresh questions about the future of the troubled Mater. The not-for-profit Catholic organisation is leading a consortium that aims to acquire 16 private hospitals, backed by Pacific Equity Partners, in the Healthscope sale.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Take a break and work better

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/08/2026, Madeleine Keck, Page 7

Taking a trip to the fridge while working from home has benefits beyond warding off hunger, with a new study finding "microbreaks" actually make employees more motivated and energised. University of Queensland researchers found workers who incorporated microbreaks alongside tasks that actively strategise their workload recorded the highest levels of wellbeing, work performance and vitality.

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

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Boost for Parkinson's research

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 17/08/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 5

Parkinson's disease researchers based at the University of Wollongong will be able to supercharge their work with new equipment funded with a \$1.5 million donation. The Parkinson's Research Foundation (PRF) has funded an imaging platform known as the Opera Phenix and a workstation at UOW's Molecular Horizons institute.

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2GB, Weekends, 16/08/2026, Luke Grant

Interview with WEHI Associate Professor Justin Boddey. Grant says scientists at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research have created an experimental revolutionary treatment for malaria. Boddey states that there are over 770,000 cases of malaria happening in Australia, and they are now excited about the future where they will be able to give communities a single shot of a drug that allows people to be immune to the disease brought by a mosquito bite.

Also reported by: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'Disgraceful': Aussie rocker calls out Joe Rogan for laughing at petrol sniffing awareness video filmed by

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/08/2026, Cydonee Mardon

Australian rocker Adam Thompson has extended an invitation to Joe Rogan after he made light of a song created with Indigenous Australians in a remote Outback community: Educate yourself before you mock. During a recent episode of the world's most listened-to podcast, Rogan and guest Andrew Wilson - an online commentator and host of The Crucible - chatted about a video addressing petrol sniffing before playing the clip on screen, laughing and poking fun at its premise.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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Joe Rogan called out for laughing at video for Indigenous health

Daily Mail UK, Other, 16/08/2026, Caitlin Powell

American podcast host Joe Rogan has been criticised after he made fun of a song written with Indigenous Australians to raise awareness about substance abuse.

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[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Death sparks triage concerns

Herald Sun, General News, 17/08/2026, Mark Murray, Page 8

A coroner has raised concerns about Victoria's ambulance triage system after a Geelong woman died waiting for paramedics who were delayed by a phone-screening process that could not reach her because she was alone and unconscious. Sheridan Louise Burnell died from a drug overdose at her home in Lara in January 2021, about 90 minutes after a friend called triple-0 to report she had overdosed on prescription medication, court documents have revealed.

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

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Brave daughter steps in as stroke unnoticed for 10 days

Herald Sun, General News, 17/08/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 11

A Melbourne ultra-marathon runner whose stroke went undetected for 10 days has revealed the subtle sign alongside his daughter's advocacy that saved his life. Ashley Bartholomew's stroke could have been mistaken for heat exhaustion when he collapsed on a hot January day and then was cleared after a stroke assessment.

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

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Hospital hub to free up beds

Courier Mail, General News, 17/08/2026, Judith Kerr, Page 8

A hospital transit hub, built in just three months, is the latest move in an \$80m statewide push to free up beds and ease pressure on Queensland emergency departments. Health Minister Tim Nicholls unveiled the expanded facility at Redland Hospital as the government also rolls out 53 specialist mental health nurses into emergency departments under a separate \$93.1m four-year program.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Hospitals slash ramping

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 17/08/2026, Chelsea Bunting, Page 13

Two Gold Coast hospitals have slashed their ambulance ramping times in the past year, despite seeing a rise in the number of patients. Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH) and Robina Hospital have recorded their lowest quarterly ambulance ramping rates on record.

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

New midwife role could boost regional healthcare

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 17/08/2026, Zachary Probert, Page 5

Darling Downs Health has employed their first endorsed midwife, marking the achievement as a first in the region's public health system. Jessica Stone, based in Dalby, knew she wanted to be a midwife in high school but through her study found all the ways she could use her passion.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Pay rises boost recruitment but workload crisis still fuels worker shortages

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/08/2026, William Elliott

Young Aussies looking for a secure career could be overlooking some of the jobs we need most, with starting salaries of up to \$90,000 failing to fix shortages in essential services. [...] A first-year registered nurse or midwife in the NSW public health system now earns \$1566.70 a week, equivalent to about \$81,468 a year in base pay.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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The Territory's primary health professionals who go 'above and beyond' celebrated in Darwin

Northern Territory News, Other, 16/08/2026, Lottie Hood

Some of the Territory's most compassionate and dedicated primary health professionals have been celebrated in Darwin. On Friday, August 14, a host of NT professionals and services were honoured at the 2026 Northern Territory Primary Health Network (NT PHN) Health Professional of the Year Awards.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

The cut-throat wearables battle is about more than tracking your fitness

Australian Financial Review, Other, 16/08/2026, Brent Crane

The year is 2035. You, like most people you know, have a small, button-sized device implanted in your forearm.

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Trial of nurses who allegedly threatened to kill Israelis delayed over expert witness row

The Australian, Other, 16/08/2026, Bimini Plessner

The trial of the Sydney nurses accused of threatening Israeli patients has been vacated after the prosecution introduced a last-minute expert report on the Israel-Palestine conflict. The criminal trial of two nurses who allegedly threatened to kill Israeli patients has been pushed back due to duelling testimony from expert witnesses over the Israel-Palestine conflict.

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Bankstown nurses who allegedly threatened to kill Israelis set for fresh trial date after expert evidence dispute

News24 Australia, Other, 16/08/2026, Conor Breslin

The trial of two former Bankstown Hospital nurses accused of threatening Israeli patients is unlikely to begin this month after a judge accepted arguments over late expert evidence. Sarah Abu Lebdeh and Ahmad Rashad Nadir were due to face a five-day trial from August 31.

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[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

Australia made me a villain

Herald Sun, General News, 17/08/2026, Peter Rolfe, Page 1

Novak Djokovic has spoken of his bitterness at being made "villain of the world" by Australians who kicked him out of the country for refusing to be vaccinated during the Covid-19 crisis. Ten-time Australian Open champ Djokovic has opened up about the "bad experience" of being deported on "health and good order grounds" in 2022.

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

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Penguin death sparks flu fears

Herald Sun, General News, 17/08/2026, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer, Page 5

Authorities are "doing everything" they can to stop H5 bird flu infecting Australia's poultry farms following the death of a penguin on Phillip Island. H5 bird flu is a highly contagious strain of avian influenza and has killed hundreds of millions of farmed and wild birds since its rapid global spread in 2021.

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Deadly bird flu tally on the rise

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/08/2026, Molly Appleton & Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer, Page 3

Tasmania's bird flu toll has risen to six since Wednesday after two crested terns found in North-West Tasmania were detected with the virus. The birds, one located in Burnie and the other at Sulphur Creek near Penguin, both tested positive for the catastrophic disease on Saturday.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Doctors who see a use for peptides

Australian Financial Review, General News, 17/08/2026, Euan Black, Page 3

Harrison Weisinger is a rare voice in the debate over peptides: a local doctor who acknowledges their risks and often-overstated benefits, but who sometimes prescribes them.

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Kirin dining out on weight-loss boom

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 17/08/2026, Michael Smith, Page 15

The Australian executive in charge of Japanese brewer Kirin Holdings' fastexpanding health products empire says the booming uptake of weight-loss drugs is turbocharging sales of the company's vitamins, supplements and nutritional food products.

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

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Doctors trump influencers

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 17/08/2026, Page 34

The popularity of peptides is one of those internetdriven phenomena that can fly under most peoples' radars yet wind up causing real havoc in others' lives. [...] So it is not surprising that the Therapeutic Goods Administration and NSW Police have acted to seize imports of the stuff, most recently stopping what was said to be about \$120,000 worth of peptides that one unnamed influencer allegedly imported to on-sell to followers.

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2GB, Healthy Living, 16/08/2026, Dr Ross Walker & Adam Buncher

Walker says The Daily Telegraph has reported that the use of GLP-1 weight loss drugs such as Ozempic, Mounjaro, Wegovy, Trulicity and Saxenda has resulted in over 60 Australian deaths and nearly 2800 adverse events, which have been reported to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, while Buncher states that the latest numbers are alarming. Walker also says he believes that the long-term dangers of untreated obesity and untreated diabetes can really outweigh the risk of the medications, and he cites that diabetes and obesity patients are urged to take GLP-1 medications with proper medical supervision.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Hot hydration brands chase big bucks amid global wellness boom

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 17/08/2026, Campbell Kwan, Page 14

Dietitians say most everyday consumers don't need electrolyte powders. But a wave of hot Australian hydration brands are betting that won't stop people buying their products, as society's growing obsession with wellness drives booming growth.

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

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Push on to shake up 'best before' and 'use-by' dates

Canberra Times, Other, 16/08/2026, Annabelle Banfield

As a kid, Emma Williams' favourite dinner was McDonalds. But now a mum-of-two with a backyard full of chickens, she's desperate for her family to avoid packaged foods and is making it her mission to minimise food waste.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Number of venues issued with food safety warnings doubles in two years

Canberra Times, Other, 16/08/2026, Lucy Arundell

The number of food safety warnings issued to Canberra's restaurants, cafes and pubs has doubled in two years while dozens of closure orders were made in the past 12 months. Food venues across the ACT were hit with 267 improvement notices in 2025-26, a more than 25 per cent increase on the previous financial year and double the number issued in 2023-24, according to the Health and Community Services Directorate.

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Pastry shops are displaying their buns uncovered – just don't bite the merchandise

The Guardian, Other, 16/08/2026, Yvonne Lam

uns that bare all, and eclairs exposed to air: in Australia, a new wave of pastry shops are doing more than baking and selling their creations – they're displaying them, in single units, completely uncovered. You'll find them on counters, risers, concrete slabs, shiny surfaces, and mini podiums, minus glass or Perspex barriers, like mini art exhibits.

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[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

Dirranbandi residents urged to boil all water after treatment plant malfunction

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 16/08/2026

A remote south-west Queensland town has issued an emergency alert and is trucking in bottled water after raw river water entered the drinking supply. Balonne Shire Council issued an emergency boil water alert at 8pm on Saturday after a malfunction in the water treatment plant at Dirranbandi, about 450km south-west of Toowoomba.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

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