



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 19th August 2026

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[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that the Federal Government has reached an agreement to pass NDIS reform legislation, with Health Minister Mark Butler stating that enacting the reforms will require states and territories adhering to an agreement signed earlier this year. *Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review](#), [The Guardian](#), [Courier Mail](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- The **[Canberra Times](#)** (online) reports that NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister has stated that reforms to the NDIS will include "tough new aggravated integrity offences" alongside specific protections for whistleblowers.
- The **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 5) reports that Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae has committed to legislating a "new assessment escalation pathway" to ensure that the aged-care assessment framework works for older Australians with unique circumstances.
- The **[Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports that One Nation leader Pauline Hanson has announced a policy proposal which would reduce the tobacco excise by 75 per cent. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#), [SBS](#)*
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that researchers from the University of NSW have conducted a study which determined that the risks to brain development posed by cannabis continues into adulthood. *Also reported by: [ABC Online](#)*

- The [**Adelaide Advertiser**](#) (page 1) reports that the South Australian Government will make public seven directions which resulted from a review of gender-affirming therapy standards at the Women's and Children's Health Network.
- [**The Guardian**](#) (online) reports that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme's advisory committee has recommended that the Federal Government provide unrestricted PBS access to the drug triptorelin to enable the medications use in the treatment of breast cancer and endometriosis.
- The [**Northern Territory News**](#) (page 1) reports that Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation NT secretary, Heidi Crisp, has stated that medical staff at Northern Territory hospitals are working an extraordinary amount of overtime to ensure patients receive adequate care amid ongoing high demand.
- [**The Australian**](#) (page 4) reports that military veterans are calling for the Federal Government to reverse the proposed implementation of an annual \$5000 cap on allied health costs for veterans. *Also reported by:* [*Daily Telegraph*](#), [*Sydney Morning Herald*](#)
- [**ABC Online**](#) (online) reports that a registered nurse providing testimony to an inquest examining the death of three patients at the Prince Charles Hospital in 2023 has stated that the hospital requires a purpose-built mental health unit.

MINISTER BUTLER

States on the NDIS hook

The Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Jack Quail & Elizabeth Pike, Page 1

State premiers must honour their end of the bargain to reform the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Albanese government insists, after securing bipartisan backing for changes to contain the spiralling cost of the \$52.6bn program. [...] In Canberra after chalking up the legislative win, Health Minister Mark Butler said there was "still much work to do" to progress the government's NDIS reforms, adding it was incumbent on states to hold their end of the bargain to progress foundational supports.

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

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NDIS reforms a significant budget breakthrough

The Australian, Editorials, 19/08/2026, Page 12

By reining in the spiralling costs of the National Disability Insurance Scheme by \$37bn by 2030, the Albanese government has given the budget bottom line a major boost by tackling the spending program that was most in need of reform. [...] The Australian congratulates Health Minister Mark Butler and NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister for returning one of the nation's most important social programs to its original intention: improving the quality of life of severely and permanently disabled Australians, who are some of our most vulnerable citizens.

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

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'Day of deals' as widow tax axed, NDIS costs cut

Australian Financial Review, General News, 19/08/2026, Phillip Coorey, Page 10

The Albanese government says the states' honour is now at stake after it secured the passage of legislation to reform the NDIS, leaving less than 18 months for the establishment of alternative supports for people with mild conditions.

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

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NDIS in further assault on fraud

Courier Mail, General News, 19/08/2026, Ellen Ransley, Page 2

A deal to rein in the ballooning NDIS will put further pressure on Queensland to get on board with the new scheme being set up for children with autism. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the Queensland

government "needs to answer for its inability to live up to the agreement that the Premier signed earlier this year".

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Calls to abolish home care algorithm

Canberra Times, General News, 19/08/2026, Dana Daniel, Page 5

Retired public servant Helen Parkinson wants to keep living in her north Canberra home for as long as possible. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said, when asked why the government would not just "cancel the algorithm", that he was "still a very strong supporter of the idea of a single assessment framework".

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Labor backs a winner and another backflip

West Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 9

Anthony Albanese's gambling Bill has passed Parliament's Lower House, three years after a Labor-led inquiry called for a crackdown. [...] Yesterday afternoon Health Minister Mark Butler expressed his confidence the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026 would pass the Senate last night.

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Mounting crisis in aged care

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 19/08/2026, Julie Cross, Page 12

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.

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NDIS reform likely to pass with 63 amendments, Health Minister Mark Butler says

The Australian, Other, 18/08/2026, Nathan Schmidt

The Albanese government's controversial plan to massively reform the NDIS by cracking down on fraud and booting more than 100,000 people from the scheme will likely pass into law after finding support from the Coalition. Health Minister Mark Butler said on Tuesday afternoon the government was confident the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026 would pass the Senate that night.

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

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Up in smoke: Pauline Hanson's wild plan for \$22 a pack cigarettes

Herald Sun, Other, 18/08/2026, Samantha Maiden

Pauline Hanson has vowed to slash the price of cigarettes by 75 per cent in a move she claims will fight organised crime. [...] Warning that successive tax hikes have opened the door to criminals flogging vapes and illegal cigarettes to school children, she challenged Health Minister Mark Butler to act.

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

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IRT brings new beds to South Coast, Illawarra facilities amid hospital crisis

Herald Sun, Other, 18/08/2026, Tom McGann

A South Coast retirement village has opened 12 new aged care beds as hospitals across the region struggle to find places for older patients who are medically ready to leave. [...] In July, Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler announced IRT would receive \$4.6 million in government funding to bring another 11 beds online across its Edgewood Gardens, Woonona Place and Tarrawanna Court homes.

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

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Federal government passes its NDIS overhaul to deliver 'strong, safe and sustainable' scheme

ABC Online, Other, 18/08/2026, Ewa Staszewska

The federal government will pass reforms that it says will save the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) "from itself" by making it more sustainable and cracking down further on fraud. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler argued the scheme had become a "soft target for shonks, for fraudsters and for sharp practice".

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

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Pauline Hanson vows to slash cigarette prices by nearly \$30 a pack

ABC Online, Other, 18/08/2026, Jake Evans

One Nation leader Pauline Hanson says her party wants to wipe out the booming tobacco black market by slashing the tax on a packet of cigarettes by nearly \$30, bringing it close to the cost of illicit cigarettes. Health Minister Mark Butler conceded last year that the tobacco black market had "exploded" as smokers chased cheaper cigarettes, and caused a wave of crime including arson attacks against retailers by organised crime groups seeking to dominate the illicit trade.

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

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Controversial NDIS bill passes Senate with 'substantial' amendments as Labor and Coalition strike deal

The Guardian, Other, 18/08/2026, Sarah Basford Canales

The government's controversial NDIS bill will pass after "substantial" amendments were agreed to in a deal between Labor and the Coalition, with some of the changes attracting heavy criticism from the Greens, the ACT senator David Pocock and the disability community. Sixty-three government amendments across both houses were introduced as part of backroom deals to pass the bill in the upper house on Tuesday night, the NDIS ministers, Mark Butler and Jenny McAllister, revealed.

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

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MP opens community chemist

Northern Beaches Advocate, Other, 18/08/2026, Dale Cohen

A new community pharmacy has opened at Davidson with support from local MP Matt Cross. [...] Mr Cross wrote to Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler seeking dispensation on behalf of the business for approval, and was invited to cut the ribbon at the opening (image below).

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The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus important consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 18/08/2026, Melissa Sweet

ABC TV's Four Corners program this week raised serious concerns about algorithm-based assessment of elderly people's support needs; however, this is only one of many concerns surrounding aged care, as The Zap reports. [...] Appearing on the Sunrise television show, Health Minister Mark Butler said DHDA "has been working with [the companies sponsoring GLP-1 weight loss drugs] to try and agree a price that they're willing to receive and we're willing to pay on behalf of taxpayers and we haven't been able to agree that price yet".

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Greens win right to debate Support at Home's controversial algorithm

Health Services Daily, Other, 18/08/2026, Cate Swannell

A quarter of a million people are currently waiting somewhere in the aged care system for an assessment, funding allocation or their approved level of care. [...] HSD asked the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, as well as Minister Sam Rae and Minister Mark Butler, for their responses to questions raised by the Four Corners episode but had not received any response by our deadline.

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Patients applaud PBAC nod for goserelin alternative

The Limbic, Other, 18/08/2026, Emma Koehn

Breast cancer patients have welcomed a Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee recommendation to extend subsidised access to the GnRH agonist triptorelin, just months before the ovarian suppression drug goserelin is withdrawn from the Australian market. [...] At the start of August, BCNA convened a roundtable with Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Minister Rebecca White to discuss the need for sustainable therapeutic options for breast cancer patients.

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Hanson proposes 75% cut in cigarette prices

Ticker NEWS, Other, 18/08/2026, Harvey Vargas

Pauline Hanson proposes 75% tobacco price cut to combat organised crime and illegal cigarette trade. [...] Hanson attributes rising crime rates, including illegal cigarettes and vapes sold to minors, to increased tobacco taxes and challenged Health Minister Mark Butler to respond.

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ABC, 7:30, 18/08/2026, Sarah Ferguson

After months of intense negotiations, the Federal Government has clinched a deal with the Coalition on its sweeping changes to the NDIS and legislation to crack down on gambling. Meanwhile, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is now putting pressure on the states to take on the support services for people with mild to moderate disabilities being shifted off the scheme.

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

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 18/08/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Independent Senator David Pocock. Karvelas says the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is expecting that the National Disability Insurance Scheme reforms will be passed tonight. Pocock says it's important that they have a scheme that is sustainable and maintains social licence, but he cannot vote for a bill that has broad, sweeping powers for the use of algorithms and automated decision-making.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 18/08/2026, Peter Overton

Day Hospitals Australia says a proposed health system overhaul could slash wait times, lower insurance premiums and save taxpayers \$250m from overnight stays to day hospitals, but the Federal Government is not convinced. The group presented the blueprint to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler in March, but the Federal Government says it's focusing on broader reforms for now.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#).

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ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 18/08/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Independent Senator David Pocock. Karvelas says the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is expecting that the National Disability Insurance Scheme reforms will be passed tonight. Pocock says it's important that they have a scheme that is sustainable and maintains social licence, but he cannot vote for a bill that has broad, sweeping powers for the use of algorithms and automated decision-making.

ABC Radio Canberra, 17:00 News, 18/08/2026

The Federal Government's overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme is expected to pass the Senate later tonight, while the Coalition will support Labor's sweeping changes to the scheme aimed at saving \$38b. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the bill has been substantially amended, with 33 amendments expected in the Senate following 30 amendments that were supported in the lower house.

Also reported by: [ABC Newcastle \(Newcastle\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [3BA FM \(Ballarat\)](#), [LA FM \(Launceston\)](#), [Hot FM 91.1 \(Sunshine Coast\)](#), [River FM \(Ipswich\)](#), [GOLD 1323 \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC Mid North Coast \(Taree\)](#), [ABC Illawarra \(Wollongong\)](#), [ABC Alice Springs \(Alice Springs\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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The Australian, Editorials, 19/08/2026, Page 12

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

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Pressure on as gambling bill inches closer

The Nightly, General News, 18/08/2026, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 6

Anthony Albanese's gambling Bill has passed Parliament's Lower House, three years after a Labor-led inquiry called for a crackdown. [...] Improving integrity and tackling fraud have been central demands of the Opposition, which were concerns Mr Butler and NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said they were willing to make concessions on.

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NDIS reform likely to pass with 63 amendments, Health Minister Mark Butler says

The Australian, Other, 18/08/2026, Nathan Schmidt

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Warnings NDIS laws will strip disabled people of rights

Canberra Times, Other, 18/08/2026, Lucinda Garbutt-Young & Jacob Shteyman

Dozens of eleventh-hour amendments to a controversial bill designed to claw back runaway disability spending are set to pass the upper house despite outcry from advocates. [...] "There will be tough new aggravated integrity offences, including obtaining funds by deception, providing false or misleading information for abuse of position as a participant's nominee, or for intentionally destroying records," NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister told reporters.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Bega District News \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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Federal government passes its NDIS overhaul to deliver 'strong, safe and sustainable' scheme

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

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Controversial NDIS bill passes Senate with 'substantial' amendments as Labor and Coalition strike deal

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

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NDIS amendment to go ahead in QLD without state sign-off

Freedom2Live, Other, 18/08/2026, Heidi Bain

On Sunday, ABC Insiders host David Speers interviewed Senator Jenny McAllister on the NDIS changes progressing through parliament, set to come into effect in October 2026. The interview covered the Federal Government's progress towards an agreement with the Coalition and what Queenslanders can expect from the amendment implementation, even as their state government has not signed onto the plan due to the minimal time allowed to establish replacement support systems.

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NDIS changes debated in the Senate this week

Freedom2Live, Other, 18/08/2026, Heidi Bain

Debate has begun in the Senate on the government's contentious legislation to reform the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), with Labor hopeful it will pass this week. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said she was upbeat about that happening and expressed willingness to keep talking with the Opposition about any concerns over the legislation.

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Disability community stages 'die-in' in response to NDIS overhaul as Bill proceeds in Senate

Honi Soit, Other, 18/08/2026, Julia Disaffinity

On 17th August, Protect Our NDIS Alliance held a snap rally ahead of the Senate debate on the Federal Labor Government's NDIS overhaul. The National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026 is currently before the upper house with Labor and the Coalition expected to reach a deal to pass the legislation. [...] Eager to be heard, eight individuals went to NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister's office after the snap rally.

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All eyes on Senate this week as Labor tries for NDIS deal with Coalition

PS News, Other, 18/08/2026, Chris Johnson

Debate begins in the Senate today (17 August) on the government's contentious legislation to reform

the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), with Labor hopeful it will pass this week. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister is upbeat about that happening, saying she is willing to keep talking with the Opposition about any concerns over the legislation.

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Triple J, Hack, 18/08/2026, Dave Marchese

Report by ABC political reporter Shalailah Medhora. Greens Senator Jordon Steele-John, who is the only physically disabled person in the Senate, is scathing about the proposed changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, claiming the bill is the end of the NDIS. The changes include tightening eligibility for who can access the NDIS and cutting funding to the program for social and community participation, with Minister for the NDIS Jenny McAllister stating that the changes are needed to safeguard the scheme into the future.

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2GB, 22:00 News, 18/08/2026

Legislation to overhaul the National Disability Insurance Scheme has passed through the Senate. The changes will see thousands of people taken off the scheme to rein in its ballooning cost. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister says the changes will be more effective if the new laws are adopted.

Also reported by: [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#), [2SM \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#), [6PR \(Perth\)](#).

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MINISTER RAE

Calls to abolish home care algorithm

Canberra Times, General News, 19/08/2026, Dana Daniel, Page 5

Retired public servant Helen Parkinson wants to keep living in her north Canberra home for as long as possible. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said, when asked why the government would not just "cancel the algorithm", that he was "still a very strong supporter of the idea of a single assessment framework".

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Works begin on 80-bed East Perth aged-care facility

West Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Sophie Gannon, Page 36

Work has begun on an 80-bed aged-care facility in the heart of East Perth, aimed at supporting older West Australians with a history of homelessness. [...] Federal Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae said the new facility would help bring more aged-care beds to areas they are needed the most, while Perth Federal MP Patrick Gorman said increasing housing supply and investing in aged care were priorities for the community.

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'Not working'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 19/08/2026, Katrina Lovell, Page 1

Jan and Rob Hamblin are like many other pensioners. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said while demand continued to grow, what mattered was how quickly older Australians could access care.

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'Fatally flawed': report triggers renewed call for aged care overhaul

Canberra Times, Other, 18/08/2026, Phoebe Loomes

A bombshell investigative report has detailed a litany of failures with the newly overhauled aged care system, as politicians say Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae is "failing older Australians". Thousands of older people have died waiting for care under the government's Support at Home program, according to a report from ABC's Four Corners.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

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Albanese government reduces in-home aged care waitlist by changing method of counting

MSN Australia, Other, 18/08/2026, Anne Connolly, Inga Ting & Ninah Kopel

A Four Corners investigation can reveal the true number of people waiting for full aged care funding at home stands at almost 154,000 — not 100,000 as officially reported. [...] When Four Corners put these findings to Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, he denied there had been any change, saying "the waiting list has always been manufactured or calculated the way that it currently is".

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The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus important consultations now open

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ABC TV's Four Corners program this week raised serious concerns about algorithm-based assessment of elderly people's support needs; however, this is only one of many concerns surrounding aged care, as The Zap reports. [...] Appearing on the Sunrise television show, Health Minister Mark Butler said DHDA "has been working with [the companies sponsoring GLP-1 weight loss drugs] to try and agree a price that they're willing to receive and we're willing to pay on behalf of taxpayers and we haven't been able to agree that price yet".

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Anne Connolly takes aim at Govt over home care figures

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/08/2026, Caroline Egan

The ABC's Four Corners last night (Monday 17 August) was dedicated to the challenges plaguing the Government's Support at Home program. [...] Connolly repeatedly asked Aged Care Minister Sam Rae about the change, who confirmed: "Once people receive the care package at the level that they have been assessed for, they no longer count on the national priority system."

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Peaks call for action on wait times

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 18/08/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The sector has urged the government to address the growing wait for approved aged care funding, with more than 100,000 people now in the queue and another 50,000 receiving lower interim funding. [...] However, after the reforms were introduced in November 2025, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing changed how it calculates the waitlist and removed those receiving interim funding, Four Corners revealed.

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Revealed: The funding trick behind Labor's "shrinking" aged care waitlist

HelloCare, Other, 18/08/2026, Jakob Neeland

Two months ago, in an interview for an entirely different story, Flexi Care general manager Adrian Morgan raised an issue that I had yet to stumble across. [...] Confronted directly with the discrepancy,

Aged Care Minister Sam Rae continued with the lies and denied anything had changed at all, telling reporters the waitlist has always been calculated the way it currently is.

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Albanese government reduces in-home aged care waitlist by changing method of counting

The World Observer, Other, 18/08/2026

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Patients applaud PBAC nod for goserelin alternative

The Limbic, Other, 18/08/2026, Emma Koehn

Breast cancer patients have welcomed a Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee recommendation to extend subsidised access to the GnRH agonist triptorelin, just months before the ovarian suppression drug goserelin is withdrawn from the Australian market. [...] At the start of August, BCNA convened a roundtable with Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Minister Rebecca White to discuss the need for sustainable therapeutic options for breast cancer patients.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

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Canberra Times, General News, 19/08/2026, Dana Daniel, Page 5

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'Is it human or AI?': son's aged care fear

Newcastle Herald, General News, 19/08/2026, Matthew Kelly, Page 3

Steve Willmott has just notched up 44 interactions with Services Australia staff in an effort to obtain an explanation for his mother's aged care bill. [...] "Any questions about the IAT and aged care needs

assessments should be referred to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing," the spokesman said.

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Patients applaud PBAC nod for goserelin alternative

The Limbic, Other, 18/08/2026, Emma Koehn

Breast cancer patients have welcomed a Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee recommendation to extend subsidised access to the GnRH agonist triptorelin, just months before the ovarian suppression drug goserelin is withdrawn from the Australian market. [...] At the start of August, BCNA convened a roundtable with Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Minister Rebecca White to discuss the need for sustainable therapeutic options for breast cancer patients.

[Read More](#)

Anne Connolly takes aim at Govt over home care figures

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/08/2026, Caroline Egan

The ABC's Four Corners last night (Monday 17 August) was dedicated to the challenges plaguing the Government's Support at Home program. [...] Connolly repeatedly asked Aged Care Minister Sam Rae

about the change, who confirmed: "Once people receive the care package at the level that they have been assessed for, they no longer count on the national priority system."

[Read More](#)

Albanese government reduces in-home aged care waitlist by changing method of counting

The World Observer, Other, 18/08/2026

A Four Corners investigation can reveal the true number of people waiting for full aged care funding at home stands at almost 154,000, not 100,000 as officially reported. [...] When Four Corners put these findings to Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, he denied there had been any change, saying "the waiting list has always been manufactured or calculated the way that it currently is".

[Read More](#)

Departmental restructure formally splits medicines financing from pharmacy services

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 18/08/2026

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's recent restructure could signal that officials increasingly view a program like the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme as two interlocking systems of financing and service delivery. [Paywall]

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Australia's aged-care system remains too reliant on migrant work

West Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Page 8

A dependency on migrant workers to keep Australia's aged-care sector afloat remains a "sleeping issue" that could leave older citizens vulnerable. Migrant workers are the backbone of the domestic aged-care workforce, Ageing Australia chief executive Tom Symondson told an industry event in Melbourne on Tuesday.

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

Call for permanent visa pathways to support aged care

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 19/08/2026, Nick Wilson, Page 2

A dependency on migrant workers to keep Australia's aged care sector afloat remains a "sleeping issue" that could leave older citizens vulnerable. Migrant workers are the backbone of the domestic aged care workforce, Ageing Australia chief executive Tom Symondson told an industry event in Melbourne on Tuesday.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Group aims to fill the dental gaps

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 18/08/2026, Jodie Wolf

Oral health in aged care has sat patiently on the sidelines of policy debate for years. It is acknowledged as important yet often overshadowed by broader concerns around workforce shortages, funding pressures and clinical care priorities.

[Read More](#)

Providers renew calls to fix Support at Home

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 18/08/2026, Natasha Egan

Referring to last night's Four Corners episode, The Waiting Game, Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson said it is heartbreaking to watch older people crying out for the support they need.

“Currently in Australia, more than 200,000 people are waiting for a home care package or waiting to be assessed. [And] 50,000 more are only receiving a portion of the funding they have been promised,” he said.

[Read More](#)

Support at Home ‘not yet delivering’

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 18/08/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Ageing Australia chief executive officer Tom Symondson has opened the peak body’s New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory state conference with a warning that the Support at Home program “is not doing what we all hoped that it would.” For many older Australians, Support at Home is “not yet delivering the promise” it was intended to, he said, and there are a lot of people still waiting to access it.

[Read More](#)

Workplace violence, poor staffing in ANMF aged care report

Nursing Review, Other, 18/08/2026, Stefanie Schultz

A national survey of aged care nurses and care workers has raised fresh concerns about staffing levels, workplace violence and financial transparency across the sector, despite the reforms introduced following the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation’s (ANMF) Pulse Check of the Aged Care Sector: The Real Impact of Reforms surveyed over 3500 aged care workers across Australia, including registered nurses (RNs), enrolled nurses (ENs) and personal care workers.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 18/08/2026, James Glenday and Emma Rebellato

A Four Corners investigation has revealed that more than 150,000 Australians are waiting for some in-home aged care funding. The figures reveal that over 100,000 seniors are waiting after more than 53,000 were scrubbed from the waitlist, after the government changed the counting process.

Also reported by: [2ST \(Nowra\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 18/08/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Anglicare Australia Director Kasey Chambers. Chambers says they are providing care for older Australians, and that Anglicare organisations across Australia run tens of thousands of home packages, but there are not enough packages to support older Australians in need of care. She also says last night’s Four Corners program revealed that the algorithm system that sets the level of care continues to ration care, and she adds that the Aged Care Royal Commission found that the aged care sector should have a rights-based system, which means that older Australians have the right to access aged care.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 18/08/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Older Persons Advocacy Network CEO Craig Gear. Gear says they have seen growth in the number of packages coming into the Support at Home program since the commencement of the new Aged Care Act, and more older people are getting support in their homes, but he also states that there have been some challenges in the implementation of the packages and assessments. He says they need to make sure that people are getting the right care at the right time, but last night’s Four Corners program revealed that there are times when it’s not happening, and he adds that there is a need to look at the prioritisation system.

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Jim, give us a fair deal on GST, gas

The Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Geoff Chambers & Matthew Cranston, Page 1

Queensland Treasurer David Janetzki has told Jim Chalmers to "stand up" for his home state and fix the "unfair" GST carve-up by applying a mining discount that supports unlocking more gas to power Australia's east coast. Mr Janetzki warned on Tuesday that the "fiscal stability of the federation" was under threat from cost-shifting across the NDIS, hospitals and disaster recovery amid concerns GST redistributions penalised Queensland in favour of Victoria and states that restricted new gas supply.

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

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

Treasury's forecasts were nothing but pie in the sky, Doc

The Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Geoff Chambers, Page 1

Jim Chalmers must take Australians for mugs if he expects them to believe Treasury's fantasy forecasts that Labor's budget tax grabs "are likely to have a small impact on rents, with an expected increase of less than \$2 per week". The Treasurer's frustrated reaction to a National Australia Bank client note discussing impacts of the government's housing tax crackdown revealed a politician under pressure over Labor's failure to sell its unpopular May 12 budget.

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

Betting bill will pass but Labor faces new battles

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 19/08/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos & Paul Sakkal, Page 1

Australians who don't want to see gambling ads online will be able to opt out with a new "AdStop" regime but the government will be scrambling to design a workable scheme and deal with privacy concerns as its wagering laws become mired in complexity. [...] The opposition leader also signed off on Labor's National Disability Insurance Scheme overhaul, which was due to pass the Senate last night, in exchange for the government expediting moves to rid a "widow's tax" from tax changes.

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

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

Labor cuts widow tax deal to save NDIS fix

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/08/2026, Ria Pandey, Page 2

Labor is expected to fast-track a carve-out for those affected by the so-called "widow tax" caused by their May budget in order to secure Coalition support for the Albanese government's contentious NDIS reforms. The widow tax - a consequence of Labor's overhaul of the tax system in May - was set to remove grandfathered negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions for co-owners of a property in the case of inheritance or transfer by death or divorce.

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

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

Alleged \$18m NDIS fraudsters

Northern Territory News, General News, 19/08/2026, Page 4

A comprehensive brief is being prepared for a husband-and-wife duo who allegedly embezzled \$18m from the National Disability Insurance Agency. Former National Disability Insurance Agency complex needs assistant director Kingsley Ovuakporieroro Ebelebe and Department of Children and Families worker Ifunanya Genevine Ebelebe have been charged in connection to an alleged seven-year multi-million dollar disability scheme corruption plot.

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

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The way to help our kids thrive

As Queensland prepares to implement Thriving Kids to support autistic children no longer covered by the NDIS, much of the conversation has focused on the new systems that need to be built. But perhaps we're asking the wrong question.

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Support on call at disability expo

Cairns Post, General News, 19/08/2026, Page 8

People in need were connected with a wide array of support services on Tuesday as more than 140 businesses and organisations took part in the Cairns Disability Network Expo. Held at Raintrees Shopping Centre and hosted by the Cairns Disability Network, the expo brought together people living with disability, injury, illness and the ageing community and featured a wide range of service providers including allied health professionals, equipment suppliers and support services.

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Widow tax scrapped in exchange for NDIS reform support

West Australian, Other, 18/08/2026, Jacob Shteyman

A so-called widow tax hidden in the federal government's budget tax reforms will be removed after Labor reached a deal with the coalition. In exchange for closing the loophole, which would have caused divorcees and widows to lose negative gearing entitlements on investment properties, the opposition will support Labor's bill to slash spending on the runaway NDIS.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Labor prepared to fast-track fix to negative gearing 'widow tax'

ABC Online, Other, 18/08/2026, Jake Evans

Treasurer Jim Chalmers says the government is prepared to fast-track a fix to the unintended "widow tax" created by its changes to negative gearing if it will win the Coalition's support to save \$37 billion in NDIS spending. The Coalition is supportive of the massive savings package for the NDIS but has remained in negotiations with the government on the bill, which Labor hopes to pass this week.

[Read More](#)

Tasmanian grandfather left a quadriplegic after horrific cycling crash

7News.com.au, Other, 18/08/2026, Lauren Thomson

A much-loved Tasmanian teacher and grandfather is fighting to return to his house after a catastrophic cycling accident left him dependent on a ventilator and a quadriplegic. Warren McDonough, 70, was riding down his local street in Launceston on February 5 when his front wheel struck a pothole and sent him crashing onto the road.

[Read More](#)

Here's what's set to change as gambling and 'widow tax' reforms greenlit in parliament

SBS, Other, 18/08/2026, Miles Proust

Contentious gambling reforms, including restrictions on incentives and a national register to opt out of online gambling ads, are set to pass after Labor and the Coalition struck a deal. The Labor caucus approved the deal on Tuesday morning, after the government made several amendments to secure Coalition support.

[Read More](#)

Bipartisan deal on gambling includes a review after three years

The Conversation, Other, 18/08/2026, Michelle Grattan

Federal parliament is finally rushing through a package of gambling reforms, after a deal between the government and opposition that includes a review of the operation of the measures after three years.

[...] The gambling deal was part of a wider set of agreements to push through legislation this week on the NDIS and the media bargaining code.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 18/08/2026, Yvonne Yong

The Federal Government's contentious NDIS reforms, which are aimed at curbing the fast-growing cost of the scheme, have passed after securing the Coalition's support. Under the changes, around 300,000 people will be removed from or prevented from accessing the scheme, saving almost \$38b by the end of the decade.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today Early News, 18/08/2026, Jayne Azzopardi

Foluso Omole, director of an Adelaide NDIS provider who has been accused of ripping off millions of dollars in participant funding, has faced court for the first time. He is believed to have planned to escape Australia through a flight to Nigeria before being caught by the authorities.

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PRIMARY CARE

Vets say minister chose 'drinks' over them

The Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Rosie Lewis, Page 4

Veterans' Affairs Minister Matt Keogh has conceded he "got it wrong" by initially refusing to meet with a group of furious veterans demanding the government scrap a \$5000 cap on allied health, after he was accused of prioritising "drinks with the Governor-General" over talking to them. The diverse group of veterans left Canberra on Tuesday warning they had lost faith in the Department of Veterans' Affairs and calling for a meeting with Anthony Albanese and for Mr Keogh to be sacked.

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

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

Gender binding kids halt

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 19/08/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 1

The state government has backflipped on plans to keep secret recommendations of an inquiry into a children's gender treatment scandal after it was exposed by The Advertiser and Sunday Mail. Seven directions will be made public following a review into the systemic failure, with six to be implemented immediately and one to "explore a formal process around a binder fitting service for young people" is on hold.

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Minister: 'I got it wrong on veterans'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/08/2026, Jessica Wang, Page 4

Veterans visiting Canberra to protest a proposed \$5000 cap on allied health services were so disgusted by Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh's treatment of them that it prompted Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to intervene. The fuming veterans visiting Canberra accused Mr Keogh of rolling his eyes and telling them he missed Governor-General Sam Mostyn's drinks reception for her House's address-in-reply to be at the last-minute meeting on Monday.

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

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Frustrated users turn to Starlink

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/08/2026, Remy Varga, Page 11

Elon Musk has emerged as the biggest winner from Australia's bungled NBN rollout and patchy regional coverage as bush families are forced to fork out for the satellite service owned by the world's

richest man. [...] National Rural Health Alliance chief executive officer Susi Tegen said the end of 3G had left thousands of Australians unable to call triple-zero.

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

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Life-changing training

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 19/08/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 1

Dr Christina Gray has two children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and has witnessed firsthand the "life-changing benefits" of a diagnosis. It was one of the reasons the Wollongong general practitioner wanted to undergo ADHD training that became available when the NSW government introduced the first stage of a reform package almost a year ago.

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'Failing us': vets' alarm over plan

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 19/08/2026, Andrew Brown, Page 4

Veteran advocacy groups have accused the federal minister of letting them down over a proposed cap for their health care. Changes outlined in the federal budget will impose a \$5000 annual limit on allied health services for veterans, which Labor says will prevent overcharging and save more than \$700 million to federal coffers.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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

'Betrayal of our veterans'

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 19/08/2026, Andrew McKaysmith, Page 8

Federal parliament erupted as Herbert MP Phillip Thompson launched a scathing attack on Veterans' Affairs Minister Matt Keogh over a new \$5000 allied health cap. Moving a formal censure motion in the House of Representatives on Monday, Mr Thompson warned that the Albanese government was betraying those who served, arguing that politicians used former service personnel for photo opportunities while ignoring their actual medical requirements.

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Veterans urge Anthony Albanese meeting over \$5000 health cap

The Australian, Other, 18/08/2026, Nathan Schmidt

Veterans Minister Matt Keogh has admitted he "got it wrong" after initially refusing to meet with a delegation of calling on the he government to scrap a \$5000 cap on allied health services, after they called for a meeting with Anthony Albanese. Mr Keogh's office told the Coalition of Veterans' Voices last week he did not have time on Monday to meet the group, though he eventually did so later that day.

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

[Read More](#)

Minister denies eye roll at veterans pleading for healthcare funding

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 18/08/2026, Brittany Busch

Veterans' Affairs Minister Matt Keogh has conceded he made a mistake by refusing to meet former defence personnel who are calling for Labor to scrap a cap on allied health service funding, but denied accusations he rolled his eyes at the veterans and refused to shake their hands. The Coalition of Veterans' Voices is in Canberra this week urging the government to abandon an annual \$5000 cap on allied health services for veterans, introduced in the May budget and set to start next year.

[Read More](#)

The six-week plan: how 'incredibly proud' new network boss is tackling big issues

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 18/08/2026, Alise Gunning

New leadership, deep roots, and a fresh vision for regional care - that's what Brendon Cutmore brings to the table as the new CEO for the Western NSW PHN. Covering Western and Far Western NSW, including major regional centres such as Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo, PHN is responsible for the commissioning of Commonwealth funding in major health sectors.

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

[Read More](#)

ADHD risks 'crowding out' telehealth at expense of other psychiatric conditions, Aussie research suggests

Australian Doctor, Other, 18/08/2026, Rachel Carter

An analysis found video prescribing for ADHD medications has grown faster than other psychotropics since 2022. Telehealth prescribing for ADHD is growing faster than telehealth for other psychotropic treatments and risks diverting resources from other psychiatric conditions, research suggests.

[Read More](#)

RIPAA joins forces with rural allies

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/08/2026

The Remote and Isolated Pharmacist Association Australia (RIPAA) has formally joined the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA), a coalition of 57 national member organisations that aim to ensure health policy reflects the operational and clinical realities of practice beyond major regional hubs.

[Read More](#)

Guild backs 'Operation Pulse' expansion as pharmacies report rising retail crime

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 18/08/2026

The Victorian Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed the state government's decision to extend and expand 'Operation Pulse', the policing initiative that sees police and Protective Services Officers (PSOs) patrol major shopping centres across Victoria. The expansion will reportedly see an additional 150 PSOs recruited and regulations changed to "enable PSOs to patrol in more places where there is crime and anti-social behaviour", including local shopping strips.

[Read More](#)

Remote town's GoFundMe campaign to secure GP care

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 18/08/2026, Jolyon Attwooll

Residents of a remote West Australian town left without a GP in June are banding together to raise funds for their own community health clinic. The Kalbarri Development Association (KDA) launched a GoFundMe campaign this month in a bid to help fill the void left by the shutdown of the town's solo clinic in late June.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Economists back tobacco excise cut

Australian Financial Review, General News, 19/08/2026, Grace Lagan, Page 1

Economists have backed One Nation's plan to slash the tobacco excise and freeze indexation for three years, saying it could help disrupt the booming black market cigarette trade and reclaim billions in lost tax revenue.

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

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Huge haul of tobacco after raids on servos

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/08/2026, Josh Hanrahan, Page 5

A nationwide illicit tobacco operation saw more than 100 service stations owned by Metro Petroleum simultaneously raided and resulted in 100,000 cigarettes, 5kg of loose leaf tobacco and 1400 vapes being seized. The massive Australian Border Force investigation "Operation Shorthand" saw 38 servos in NSW searched last Tuesday, among a total of 106 across the country.

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Butt stops with excise

Herald Sun, General News, 19/08/2026, Jade Gailberger, Page 10

The Coalition is considering a policy to slash the tax on tobacco products by 80 per cent as an expert warns more smokers will be "encouraged" to source cigarettes from the booming black market when the excise rises again next month. One Nation leader Pauline Hanson has pledged to cut the excise by 75 per cent in a bid to crack down on the tobacco wars, saying people were "sick and tired of the firebombings, shootings and murders".

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

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

Time to consider tobacco excise cut

Courier Mail, Editorials, 19/08/2026, Page 18

Through the best of intentions, Australian federal governments, with their continual hiking of tobacco excise, have created the perfect conditions for organised crime to thrive. It's a situation with parallels to the prohibition of alcohol in the US in the 1920s.

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Hanson push to cut excise blows away Canberra smokescreen

West Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Charlton Hart, Page 13

It is rare to find clarity in the policy proposals of Pauline Hanson but when Canberra's reckless spending and incompetence turns suburbs into gangland war zones, strange things happen. For years, we have lived in a grey area where illicit smokes and vapes have spilt on to our streets, while our politicians turned a blind eye.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Countryman \(Online\)](#), [South Western Times \(Online\)](#), [Geraldton Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Booze delivery restricted in South Australia

West Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Page 14

New laws restricting online alcohol delivery are among imminent measures following a Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence. About 129 of 136 recommendations were accepted by the SA Government after the year-long investigation, sparked by the deaths of four SA women in a week.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Hanson's tobacco excise cut backed

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 19/08/2026, Sarah Spina-Matthews & Noah Secomb, Page 5

Criminals could seize Australia's entire tobacco market within a year without drastic and urgent government action, an expert warns. Rohan Pike, who founded the Australian Border Force's tobacco strike team, welcomed One Nation's pledge to cut tobacco excise by 75 per cent, returning it to a similar rate in 2015.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Counsellor's fight against loneliness

Newcastle Herald, General News, 19/08/2026, Jessica Belzycki, Page 8

It's not uncommon for Hunter school counsellor Karen Jubb to hear students say they don't have any friends. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that 13 per cent of people aged 15-24 reported loneliness in 2024, which was consistent with pre-2020 levels, while 17 per cent experienced social isolation.

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Cooking up plan to serve better food at childcare centres

Newcastle Herald, General News, 19/08/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 11

More than 90 per cent of Australian childcare services are struggling to meet national nutrition guidelines, Newcastle researchers say. With thousands of children eating up to half their daily food at childcare, change in the sector could foster long-term health gains.

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One Nation's tobacco excise cut a 'premise to boost' corporate profits: Greens

The Australian, Other, 18/08/2026, Ria Pandey

One Nation's proposal to cut the tobacco excise by 75 per cent is playing into the hands of corporations trying to "boost their profits", Greens leader Larissa Waters says. Under the party's proposed changes – which includes the excise cut and a three-year pause on indexation – a \$46.50 legal pack would fall to about \$21 or \$22 to make legal tobacco "competitive" with illegal products.

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

[Read More](#)

How to talk to teenage boys about sex, according to experts

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 18/08/2026, Kimberly Gillan

No sooner does it feel like our sons are starting to grasp their times tables than experts say it's time to start weaving consent, sex and pornography into household conversations. With eSafety Commissioner research showing four in 10 surveyed adolescents first encountered pornography before they turned 13, there's a good chance our boys are seeing explicit content far earlier than we realise, and developmental paediatrician Dr Billy Garvey says it could be giving them a dangerous idea of sex and consent.

[Read More](#)

One Nation vows to bring back cheaper legal cigarettes

West Australian, Other, 18/08/2026, Noah Secomb

Labor is under increasing pressure to lower the tobacco excise as One Nation has promised to significantly cut the tax to stamp out organised crime. The excise currently adds \$1.53 to the cost of every cigarette or around \$2500 per kilogram of tobacco content, according to the Australian Tax Office, with another increase due in September.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Manjimup police close tobacco and vape store after seizing an estimated \$460,000 worth of illegal products

West Australian, Other, 18/08/2026, Craig Duncan

South West police have seized about \$460,000 worth of illegal tobacco and vape products and shut down a Manjimup retailer following two raids. On August 13, Manjimup police supported the Department of Health's Tobacco and Vape Regulation Directorate in further action against Manji Accessories, a tobacco and vape retailer.

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

[Read More](#)

People over 60 face heat exposure danger at lower temperatures, study

suggests

ABC Online, Other, 18/08/2026, Lauren Roberts

As Australians prepare to swelter through a hot El Niño summer, the risk of heat stress also rises. When we age, our bodies are no longer able to cope with heat as well as they once did.

[Read More](#)

A 'huge' trade-off: One Nation's pitch for cheaper cigarettes

SBS, Other, 18/08/2026, Josie Harvey

One Nation leader Pauline Hanson has vowed to slash the tax on tobacco by 75 per cent and dramatically reduce the price of legal cigarettes, arguing the move would curb the booming black market. Illicit tobacco trade in Australia has expanded rapidly since 2020. The value of illicit tobacco attempting to enter the market has soared from \$1.74 billion in 2018-19 to more than \$6.4 billion in 2023-24, according to Australian Taxation Office estimates.

[Read More](#)

Pauline Hanson unveils plan to slash cigarette prices from \$46 to \$22 a pack to crush illegal tobacco trade

7News.com.au, Other, 18/08/2026, Demi Huang

One Nation has pledged to slash the tobacco excise significantly in a bid to undercut the booming illicit tobacco trade and organised crime. Party leader Pauline Hanson announced on Tuesday that One Nation would cut the excise by 75 per cent, pause indexation for three years and pair the measure with tougher action against organised crime.

[Read More](#)

Tax office cracks down on alcohol distiller tax rorts

The Border Mail, Other, 18/08/2026, Jacob Shteyman

It was designed to help spawn a new wave of homegrown craft distilleries but instead it's helping fuel a bootleg booze black market. After repeated warnings from industry that dodgy operators were exploiting the alcohol manufacturers remission scheme, the Australian Tax Office is clamping down.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Life-saving overdose medication accessible anytime

Shepparton News Online, Other, 18/08/2026, Hailey Wight & Brynne Timewell

"It takes less than a minute for the medication to be dispensed." Quick and easy 24/7 access to life-saving opioid overdose medicine is now available through a dispensing machine at Primary Care Connect in Shepparton.

[Read More](#)

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

Nursing Review, Other, 18/08/2026, 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.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, 18/08/2026, Joel Rheinberger

Interview with perimenopause and menopause specialist Dr Hannah Chapman. Chapman says women can tend to be overwhelmed by too much information, but she would encourage women who identify and think that they could be transitioning into perimenopause to explore their options if their symptoms are disrupting their daily life. She notes that body-identical progesterone products are now on the PBS, and they are available for women, citing that menopause hormone therapy is the most effective treatment.

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 18/08/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with cardiologist Dr Clare Arnott. Oriti says heart disease is the leading killer of Australian women, but often the risk goes undetected or untreated. Arnott says the latest data shows that a woman is more likely to present with additional symptoms in addition to chest pain, but she also notes that a female patient suffering a heart attack will take an hour longer than a man to get to hospital, and when the delays are put together, a woman who has a heart attack is more likely to die than a man.

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

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Mum's cancer miracle

Courier Mail, General News, 19/08/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 11

A push by a Queensland doctor to access a new but costly treatment for a patient on compassionate grounds has resulted in the miraculous disappearance of her "terminal" cancer. Candice Argent's outcome highlights how life-changing treatments have been developed but are often priced out of reach for those facing a death sentence.

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

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

Appeal close to Smith's heart

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 19/08/2026, Karlie Rutherford, Page 12

When former Brisbane Lions AFLW player turned Sydney Swan Taylor Smith ran on to the oval in Adelaide for the first time in the red and white at the weekend, her biggest supporter won't be watching in the stands. Smith's father Shaun died suddenly from a heart attack in 2021 at the age of 52.

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

More than 2.6 million Australians will be living with cancer diagnosis by 2050, say scientists

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 18/08/2026, Melissa Cunningham

More than 2.6 million Australians are forecast to be living with a cancer diagnosis by 2050 – an increase of 1 million people over the next 25 years. For the first time, researchers have used scientific modelling to estimate the prevalence of cancer in Australia in the future, including those in active treatment and people who have survived the disease, but require ongoing care.

[Read More](#)

Seniors' group warns NT assisted dying bill's 'gag clause' is censorship as second backbencher breaks ranks

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/08/2026, Fia Walsh

The peak body representing Northern Territory seniors has added its weight to calls for the gag clause and prognosis time frame to be removed from the Rights of the Terminally Ill (ROTI) Bill, warning the proposed model would unnecessarily restrict access and limit informed decision-making. It comes as a second Country Liberal Party backbencher has put her head above the parapet to confirm she will move amendments along those lines, saying the issue was "very important" to her constituents.

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

[Read More](#)

Campaign urges Pilbara residents to act on lung cancer symptoms

Pilbara residents are being urged to act early if they notice any possible symptoms of lung cancer, as Cancer Council WA launches a new regional awareness campaign. The "It is Time to Act" campaign is being delivered through the organisation's Find Cancer Early Program, with a focus on encouraging people to recognise symptoms and seek medical advice as soon as possible.

[Read More](#)

Cancer Council launches new campaign in a bid to highlight lung cancer symptoms

West Australian, Other, 19/08/2026, Rose Patane

Cancer Council WA has launched a new campaign in a bid to highlight lung cancer symptoms and assist with early detection. Forming part of Cancer Council WA's Find Cancer Early program, the "It is time to act" campaign is reminding people in the South West region about lung cancer symptoms which include chest or shoulder pain, unexpected weight loss, lack of appetite, fatigue or weakness and changes to the voice.

[Read More](#)

What debates over voluntary assisted dying tend to leave out

ABC Online, Other, 18/08/2026, Christopher Dudfield

I first encountered the arguments for and against voluntary assisted dying (VAD) long before I encountered it personally. I had formed my own views. I contributed to legislative consultation both as an individual and on behalf of an NGO.

[Read More](#)

Politics with Michelle Grattan: One Nation's David Farley on the migrants his party wants

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 18/08/2026

One Nation is very much centre stage of the political debate, with Pauline Hanson calling for a harder line on immigration, and for Australia's superannuation rules to be "lightened up a bit" so people could access their retirement savings early. [...] On a private member's bill to allow the use of telehealth for voluntary assisted dying services, Farley explained why he voted in favour of it, along with a minority of crossbenchers.

[Read More](#)

David built his retirement dream, then a subtle tremor changed everything

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 18/08/2026, Samantha Newsam

David Smith had not long finished a two-year labour of love building his own caravan when he began noticing a loss of strength and constant tremor in his arm. Making some modifications, the electrical work, which he had done all his life, was twice as hard as it used to be.

[Read More](#)

PBS listing for Zoladex alternative

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/08/2026

At a special meeting to consider changing the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing for triptorelin (Diphereline, Ipsen), the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has recommended the listing be made unrestricted, opening the door to its use across a number of women's health conditions.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 18/08/2026, Alicia Loxley

Four years after his sudden death, Shane Warne's legacy lives on with half a million free health checks now completed, helping catch early signs of heart disease and diabetes. The program began in 2023, and since then, 85% of participants have taken action after completing the test.

[Play Now](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Top public servant forced to reapply for own job

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 19/08/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 6

The South Australian Mental Health Commissioner's job will be advertised on the open market when incumbent Taimi Allan's contract expires at the end of October. Ms Allan began in the position on October 31, 2023.

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

Child-safety trial could reshape social media

West Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Barbara Ortutay, Page 9

Opening arguments are set to kick off in a pivotal trial for Meta Platforms in a California court. Attorneys-general from California, Colorado, Kentucky and New Jersey are seeking extensive financial damages plus changes to how the company operates Facebook and Instagram.

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'Enormous' mental health toll for women

Launceston Examiner, General News, 19/08/2026, Page 3

Women living with endometriosis or ovarian cysts with a hormone imbalance are also experiencing high rates of depression, prompting calls for greater mental health support alongside physical healthcare. Research published by Women's Mental Health Australia on Tuesday reveals almost half of women with endometriosis reported experiencing anxiety.

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'Enormous' mental health toll for women with endo

West Australian, Other, 18/08/2026, Allanah Sciberras

Women living with endometriosis or ovarian cysts with a hormone imbalance are also experiencing high rates of depression, prompting calls for greater mental health support alongside physical healthcare. Research published by Women's Mental Health Australia on Tuesday reveals almost half of women with endometriosis reported experiencing anxiety.

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

[Read More](#)

For Farmers' Sake Episode 3: Gavin Schuster reveals the sad toll suicide has on many farming communities

Adelaide Now, Other, 18/08/2026, Paul Ashenden

In the middle of a canola field just north of Freeling, three men examine a canola crop on the brink of breaking out into a vibrant sea of gold. [...] A National Rural Health Alliance study in 2021 found one Australian farmer died by suicide every 10 days.

[Read More](#)

Mark Zuckerberg's Meta faces astonishing fines in its most dangerous trial yet

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/08/2026, Alex Blair

Meta's most dangerous legal fight yet begins this week, where four US states will argue Facebook and Instagram were deliberately built to be difficult to turn off. It's part of the ongoing fight between big tech and those who believe there's still a lot to regulate, especially when it comes to kids online.

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

[Read More](#)

New ChatGPT parental control features to include alerts for violence and eating disorders

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/08/2026, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis

Teens who use violent prompts or language linked to eating disorders on the world's most popular AI platform will have an alert sent straight to mum or dad, under a suite of new features for under 18s on ChatGPT. US tech giant OpenAI has expanded the suite of 'teen' safety restrictions on its primary product amid mounting pressure from international regulators and scrutiny from Australian authorities, rolling out to young ChatGPT users over the next fortnight.

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

[Read More](#)

Nurse tells coronial inquest into suicide cluster at Prince Charles Hospital 'new mental health unit' needed

ABC Online, Other, 18/08/2026, Emma Pollard

A nurse working at the Prince Charles Hospital told the coroner a "whole new mental health unit" should be built. The registered nurse, whose name cannot be published, was on shift at The Prince Charles Hospital on the day Kendal Quicke, 31, died by suicide in November 2023.

[Read More](#)

Reel-ing it in: Meta is paying influencers to promote teen accounts

The Guardian, Other, 18/08/2026, Johana Bhuiyan

In July 2025, Meta gathered parenting influencers from all over Australia at a waterfront venue overlooking the Sydney Opera House. It was a camping-themed event and in many ways was like any other influencer affair.

[Read More](#)

Qld expands emergency mental health nursing roles

Nursing Review, Other, 18/08/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The state government will fund 53 specialist nursing positions, with the first recruits already in place at Redland, Redcliffe and Hervey Bay hospitals. Queensland hospitals are set to recruit a new cohort of specialist mental health nurses as part of a statewide initiative aimed at improving care for people presenting to emergency departments (EDs) with mental health concerns.

[Read More](#)

Study reveals hidden mental health toll on women with endometriosis and PMOS

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 18/08/2026

New national research shows that nearly 1 in 2 Australian women living with endometriosis or polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS) report depression, adding weight to calls for mental health care to be built into physical health treatment rather than treated as separate. Women's Mental Health Australia's Beyond the Surface 2026 report, which is based on a nationally-representative sample of 9000 women surveyed in April 2026, found that 56% of Australian women are experiencing mental health issues, with a quarter facing severe psychological distress.

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IMMUNISATION

Flu cases spike, two dead

Northern Territory News, General News, 19/08/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 4

The flu season has arrived slightly late this year in the Territory, but as cases start to rise in Darwin, Katherine and East Arnhem, Territorians are being reminded to stay on top of their vaccinations.

Especially after last year's outbreak.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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We're vulnerable to measles

Northern Territory News, General News, 19/08/2026, Andrew Hedgman, Page 8

Australia's shield against measles is showing cracks, with a landmark study finding about 1.7 million people were vulnerable to the virus and warning the gaps could now be even wider. The new Australian research, led by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance, found 6.7 per cent of the population did not have enough immunity to measles in 2019, meaning almost seven in every 100 people were unlikely to be well protected if exposed.

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We can't afford to let measles back in

Courier Mail, Editorials, 19/08/2026, Page 18

It's hard to imagine, but some parents are putting their children's health at risk, either through apparent complacency or because they're being swayed by crackpot science. As we reported yesterday a major new study has warned Australia is in danger of losing its measles-free status because of falling vaccination levels.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#)

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South Australian flu infections double as young woman recounts 11-day hospital fight

7News.com.au, Other, 18/08/2026, Gertie Spurling

An Adelaide woman who spent almost two weeks in hospital battling influenza is urging South Australians not to become complacent as cases surge across the state. Maddie Ellis, 28, was vaccinated earlier this year — but as a recovering breast cancer patient with a compromised immune system, she says the flu hit her harder than she ever expected.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Virus 'paperclip' boosts vaccine power and reach

Australian Financial Review, Features, 19/08/2026, Sian Powell, Page 10

Considered the most lucrative Australian university research commercialisation agreement ever negotiated, the 2025 deal for exclusive rights to the University of Queensland's molecular clamp technology has huge potential for vaccine development.

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Study reveals space travel destroys artery linings

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 19/08/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 9

A 2016 study reached a shocking conclusion for those who dream of space travel: going to the moon might cost you your heart. Researchers wrote in Scientific Reports that 43 per cent of the Apollo

astronauts who travelled beyond Earth's protective magnetic field, exposing themselves to the harsh radiation of deep space, had died of cardiovascular disease.

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Cannabis link to psychosis

Herald Sun, General News, 19/08/2026, Page 4

Cannabis users develop psychosis an average of two-and-a-half years earlier than non-users, according to new research from the UNSW Sydney, prompting calls for greater health warnings. Psychosis - including in schizophrenia and other mental illnesses - can involve delusions, hallucinations and disordered behaviour.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#).

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

Researchers' gutsy move

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/08/2026, Page 8

Australian researchers have grown live models of pediatric patients' digestive systems to investigate solutions for inflammatory bowel disease. Using live tissue and bacteria from the intestine to create miniature 3D 'organoid' models, nicknamed "mini guts", researchers from Monash University and the Hudson Institute of Medical Research have been able to test how and where the specific bacteria in a patient's digestive system can affect tissue and cause inflammation.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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The use of AI in biotechnology is changing faster than the rules governing either technology

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 18/08/2026, Chelsea R. Francek

The recent announcement of novel, viable viruses created by artificial intelligence (AI) was celebrated as a major advance in the fight against antibiotic resistance. But it also raised urgent concerns about regulation.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Meet the man changing healthcare across our region one conversation at a time

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 18/08/2026, Orlander Ruming

Warren Williams doesn't tell hospital staff the right or wrong way of doing things. For Mr Williams, his goal is to walk alongside the health staff and simply have a conversation about how they can best support Aboriginal people and provide culturally-safe healthcare.

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

[Read More](#)

'Adult-centric' violence services not made for children

Canberra Times, Other, 18/08/2026, Emily Woods

Two in five Australian children are experiencing domestic and family violence but most are being left behind because response and support systems are designed for adults, according to a report. More than 200 children's commissioners, frontline workers, researchers and young people have come together to call for urgent action to protect and support children experiencing violence in a national released on Tuesday.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Aboriginal children from the Goldfields playing key creative role in important public health campaign

National Indigenous Times, Other, 18/08/2026, Giovanni Torre

An innovative sand-animation video created by Aboriginal children from the Goldfields is helping spread the word about a project to identify childhood exposure to heavy metals across remote communities. The Heavy Metal Tooth Fairy project led by the University of Western Australia examines baby teeth from children across communities in Boorloo/Perth, the Goldfields and Central Desert regions.

[Read More](#)

For Indigenous people, connection to Country can be a preventive health measure

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 18/08/2026, Joshua Waters

The inherent connectedness between people, land and spirituality runs deep in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It's seen today through art, songs, stories, ceremonies, languages and cultures being revived and practised across the continent. In Indigenous worldviews, there is little separation between these elements of life. Bodies are understood as part of the land itself – of Country – which constitutes the living lands, waters and skies that Indigenous people hold custodial responsibility for.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Breaking point

Northern Territory News, General News, 19/08/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 1

As Darwin and Palmerston hospitals mark their eighteenth day under this year's longest Code Yellow, "wrecked" health staff are telling Territorians to listen to the cries of a health system far beyond distress. Stories of human faeces left on hospital foyer floors, bed numbers sitting above sick patients in recliner chairs instead of beds, "extraordinary" overtime hours and senior staff leaving Darwin "in droves" paint a vivid picture of the current crisis.

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Find a cure

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 19/08/2026, Page 16

It is a shocking reality that Darwin and Palmerston hospitals are marking their eighteenth day under this year's longest Code Yellow. Horrendous and very concerning stories of what work life has become for our dedicated nurses and doctors are alarming.

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

Hospital bed milestone

Cairns Post, General News, 19/08/2026, Peter Carruthers, Page 10

The first major milestone in the \$1bn Cairns Hospital expansion has been reached, with a new 32-bed surgical and trauma ward set to open in the coming weeks. Delivered under the state government's Hospital Rescue Plan, the ward includes 28 surgical and orthopaedic beds alongside four high-care multi-trauma bays.

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NSW targets waitlists with 2,300 additional surgeries

Nursing Review, Other, 18/08/2026

Specialised hospital units across NSW will deliver 2300 additional surgeries over the next year as the state government seeks to break its hospital backlog. High Volume Short Stay services – specialised

hospital units delivering low-complexity, short-stay surgeries – were established in late-2025 through a \$30m injection by the state government.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 18/08/2026, Kate Freebairn

The SA Opposition is calling for the number of patients being cared for in hospital corridors to be made public, just like ramping statistics. A growing number of horror stories are emerging as the public system searches for solutions to handle an overwhelming tide of demand for services.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Remote program closes nursing gap

Australian Financial Review, Features, 19/08/2026, Brittney Levinson, Page 6

Ashleigh Wharton knew from an early age she wanted to stay in the south-west Queensland town of Quilpie where she lived and one day care for the people who had watched her grow up.

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

How this town is solving its worker housing shortage

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 19/08/2026, Katrina Lovell & Thomas Hanway, Page 7

The \$1.3 million construction of three new units to house Timboon and District Healthcare Service staff has begun, but it's not the only works in the pipeline. It's a significant milestone for the project and the town where a shortage of housing for key workers has been a long-running issue.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#)

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Sisters launch unique Geelong health hub to combat professional isolation

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 18/08/2026, Olivia Conder

Two Geelong sisters are hoping to change the way independent allied health professionals work by creating a health hub where practitioners can run their own business without feeling isolated. Speech therapist Montana DeGiacomi and osteopath Sachi DeGiacomi officially opened Health Hub Highton on August 12 after spending more than a year transforming a house at 14 Barrabool Rd into a shared space for allied health professionals.

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

[Read More](#)

How a nurse who thrives in the chaos of ED fought for her colleagues and won

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 18/08/2026, Rachel Chamberlain

In her early thirties, Kathi Hamilton made a drastic career change. She was working in the banking sector, married with two children under 10, and was watching her father battle pancreatic cancer, the disease that ultimately claimed his life.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Senior child doctor faces probe by health regulator

The Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Bernard Lane, Page 7

A distinguished pediatrician who went public with his view that gender-distressed teenagers cannot possibly consent to transgender mastectomies has been hit with a complaint from the health professions regulator. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency surfaced a six-month-old anonymous complaint against Professor Gary Geelhoed within days of him challenging AHPRA over its treatment of Queensland psychiatrist Dr Andrew Amos, who was banned earlier this year from social media commentary on pediatric medical transition.

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

GP fined for prescribing while still banned

West Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Page 5

A GP who wrote more than 100 prescriptions for his patients despite having his medical registration suspended has been fined \$15,000 and ordered to pay \$25,000 in costs.. Dr Patrick Allan Nugawela's medical registration was suspended in May 2023 after the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency discovered he had engaged in professional misconduct.

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

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

Coroner to look at death

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/08/2026, Amber Wilson, Page 9

A coroner has ruled that she has authority to investigate the death of an elderly woman at Launceston General Hospital - whose death certificate was allegedly falsified along with 28 others. Disgraced Peter Renshaw, former executive director of medical services, retired in 2022 under the cloud of numerous scandals emanating from his long tenure at the troubled hospital.

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

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Inquest probes death in 'protective' custody

Northern Territory News, General News, 19/08/2026, Zizi Averill, Page 6

Federal police were questioned in a death in custody inquest examining why a beloved bilingual educator was found slumped in the cage of a paddy wagon, 70 minutes after being arrested for his own 'safety'. The senior Kardu Rak Kirnmu man from Wadeyknown for cultural reasons as Old Man Palla passed away just eight-days after being taken into 'protective custody' at the Darwin Airport on March 30, 2025.

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

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Alleged false death certificate case to be investigated

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 18/08/2026, Ethan James

The death of an 82-year-old woman at a major hospital will be investigated as part of a probe into a doctor's alleged falsification of 29 death certificates. Tasmania's health department had argued the death of Margaret Joyce Binns at the Launceston General Hospital in 2020 was outside the coroner's authority.

[Read More](#)

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

The highly contagious viral bug threatening cruise holidays - and it's not COVID

Canberra Times, Other, 18/08/2026, Sarah Falson

You've spent months locking in excursions, flights and outfits for your dream cruise, but there is one unwanted guest that can derail even the most meticulously planned holiday in hours: norovirus. [...] According to the Australian Centre for Disease Control, the combination of people mixing in closed spaces and longer travel times makes a higher-risk environment for norovirus.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Medical cannabis link to psychosis

The Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

The medicalisation of extremely high-potency cannabis has potentially exposed hundreds of thousands of adults to possible brain toxicity, with the findings of a major new study indicating the drug may act as a "cumulative neurotoxin" that triggers earlier onset of psychosis in vulnerable patients. [...] He said he was concerned at the risks presented to the brain of very high concentrations of THC in many forms of medicinal cannabis, which is being prescribed by doctors under special access schemes despite being unapproved for use by the TGA for all but a small handful of conditions.

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

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Weighty truth for 7.8m 'fat' Aussies

West Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Caitlin Vinci, Page 3

Two in five Australian adults could be eligible for weight-loss medications including Ozempic and Mounjaro because of their size or weight-related health issues, according to research. Lead authors Michelle Dowsey and Cade Shadbolt used Therapeutic Goods Administration advice and data from a national health survey to estimate 7.8 million adults across the country fit the bill to be prescribed GLP-1 medications to manage their weight or prevent heart disease.

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

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Cannabis linked to earlier onset of psychosis, with gap wider in older adults

ABC Online, Other, 19/08/2026, Lauren Roberts

Cannabis-users who develop psychosis in their 30s experience symptoms more than six years earlier on average than people with the condition who don't use the drug, according to new research. [...] She said some providers selling medicinal cannabis claimed to operate under Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) guidelines, claiming to be "fully TGA-approved".

[Read More](#)

PBS should fund drug to treat breast cancer, endometriosis and gender dysphoria, experts recommend

The Guardian, Other, 19/08/2026, Andrew Messenger

Cannabis-users who develop psychosis in their 30s experience symptoms more than six years earlier on average than people with the condition who don't use the drug, according to new research. [...] Like most drugs used in gender-affirming care, triptorelin is prescribed off label and is not approved for that use by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

[Read More](#)

MT2 'Barbie-tan' peptide warning as TGA seizes nasal spray with wildly different doses

7News.com.au, Other, 18/08/2026, Katharina Loesche

Australia's medicine regulator has issued a fresh warning over a nasal spray that gives people a fake tan after testing found wildly different doses in products carrying the same label. [...] Know the news with the 7NEWS app: Download today But recent Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) testing found a popular MT2 product sold online contained vastly different amounts of the peptide.

[Read More](#)

TGA issues urgent melanotan II tanning product warning

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 18/08/2026, Michelle Wisbey

Dubbed 'Barbie drugs' by influencers, laboratory testing has confirmed varying doses of the substance in seized items. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has doubled down on warnings about the risks of melanotan II tanning products – the 'Barbie drug' widely spruiked on social media.

[Read More](#)

TGA in peptide, melanotan raids

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/08/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has seized more than \$120,000 of illicit peptide and anabolic steroid products from NSW residential premises allegedly linked to a social media influencer. The influencer allegedly imported and relabelled products including retatrutide, CJC-1295 and the Wolverine Stack (combination of BPC-157 and TB-500).

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

The costly contradiction hiding in Australian kitchens

SBS, Other, 18/08/2026, Josie Harvey

As Australians look for ways to cut grocery costs, confusing food date labels could be driving people to throw out food that's still perfectly safe to eat. [...] According to Food Standards Australia New Zealand, you can still eat foods for a while after the best-before date.

Recall issued for Mr Chen's Szechuan Chilli Oil amid undeclared allergen

7News.com.au, Other, 18/08/2026

A recall has been issued for a chilli oil sold in a major supermarket nationwide after it was revealed it contained an undeclared allergen. [...] "Any consumers who have a peanut allergy or intolerance may have a reaction if the product is consumed," Food Standards Australia New Zealand said in a statement.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

Blast over defence sell-off 'secrecy'

The Australian, General News, 19/08/2026, Lachlan Leeming, Page 6

Community Strong MP Zali Steggall has lashed the Albanese government over a lack of detail surrounding its sell-off of defence sites around the country, after her bid to access documents detailing environmental assessments and potential contamination at a base in her electorate was blocked. Ms Steggall hit out after her Freedom of Information request for details about HMAS Penguin was rejected by Defence, with the Warringah MP saying she had applied for "basic, site-specific" information about the base, including whether any threatened species live on the heavily forested site.

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

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

3M accused of withholding toxicity of PFAS firefighting foam for decades

ABC Online, Other, 18/08/2026, Xanthe Gregory

A US chemical manufacturer stands accused of withholding evidence that its firefighting products used by the Australian Defence Force were toxic and did not break down in the environment. A mammoth Federal Court claim brought by the Australian government against 3M labels the company's actions "intentional and reprehensible".

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