



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 24th August 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports the South Australia government has opposed the Federal Government's plan to remove the higher private health insurance rebate for people aged over 65, saying it would increase pressure on public hospitals. Health Minister Mark Butler said the change was a "hard decision", but necessary to redirect funding to aged care, while a spokesman said the impact would be small, with 0.4 per cent of people expected to leave private health insurance. *Also reported by: [The Canberra Times](#)*
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that former WA chief medical officer Gary Geelhoed previously alleged that AHPRA did not respond to questions about its impartiality or handling of practitioners that raised concerns about gender-affirming care. An advocacy group reportedly urged Health Minister Mark Butler to investigate the allegation and AHPRA's regulatory practices.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports the Federal Government has been urged to consider linking Centrelink payments for addicted parents to mandatory drug and alcohol rehabilitation, with Indigenous rights lawyer Hannah McGlade saying that government assistance should not be used to fund addictions while children remain in danger.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 1) reports that a Blacktown Hospital nurse claimed the NSW government failed to deliver its election promise to improve emergency wait times at hospitals,

saying they are now in a worse position, while the state government attributed the bed block to the Federal Government.

- **The Courier Mail** (page 3) reports that a study from Griffith University found that GLP-1 weight loss drugs potentially could be used in the treatment of bipolar disorder, suggesting the drugs could protect the brain by reducing the inflammation.
- **The Courier Mail** (page 12) reports that calls to a Queensland steroid user helpline has increased by 200 per cent this year compared to 2025 due to the rising use of illegal peptides promoted by wellness influencers.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 5) reports that an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report found that about half a million Australians have at least one non-melanoma skin cancer removed each year.
- **The Australian Financial Review** (page 29) reports that some women are switching from contraceptives to fertility-tracking apps for birth control due to side effects, with health professionals raising concerns over misconceptions about hormonal contraceptives.
- **Nine.com.au** reports that Victorian Premier Ben Carroll pledged to deliver 10 public dental clinics to provide free dental check-ups and treatments like root canals, if re-elected in November.
- **The Canberra Times (online)** reports that Associate Professor Jane Tiller has been shortlisted for the 2026 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes' Emerging Leader category for her advocacy that helped with the legislation banning life insurers from using genetic test results to restrict cover.

MINISTER BUTLER

State Labor rejects over-65s insurance shift

The Australian, General News, 24/08/2026, Noah Yim, Page 5

Health Minister Mark Butler's home state has come out in opposition to his controversial overhaul of private health insurance, as the industry says the changes will force 200,000 people aged over 65 to downgrade their cover and 62,000 to drop out entirely. South Australia's Labor government now joins the NSW Labor government and the Tasmanian and Queensland Coalition governments in publicly lashing federal Labor's move to scrap the larger private health insurance rebate for those over 65.

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

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

Medical watchdog dodges impartiality questions over activist influence

The Australian, General News, 24/08/2026, Rachel Baxendale, Page 7

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has refused to engage with questions regarding its impartiality, treatment of practitioners who raise evidence-based concerns about "gender-affirming" care, and relationship with transgender advocacy organisations. [...] The failure to engage with crucial questions comes as Professor Geelhoed's article prompted advocacy group Parents of Adolescents with Gender Distress to write to Health Minister Mark Butler, calling upon him and the council of health ministers to establish an independent investigation into Professor Geelhoed's allegations, and ensure AHPRA's regulatory actions "remain strictly limited to genuine clinical risks to patients and do not extend to policing legitimate scientific or clinical disagreement in an area of evolving evidence and significant international debate".

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

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Nurse blasts Minns for broken ED promises

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/08/2026, James O'Doherty, Page 1

The hospitals Chris Minns filmed outside of for a pre-election social media blitz to expose the state's healthcare crisis are now performing worse than they were when Labor was in Opposition, with a whistleblower declaring the Premier has "stabbed (nurses) in the back" since taking power. [...] Health

Services Union boss Gerard Hayes defended the Minns government, saying the “vast majority” of hospital bed shortages are “absolutely” federal Minister Mark Butler’s fault.

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

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Rebate change will ramp up pressure on hospitals: Libs

Canberra Times, General News, 24/08/2026, Jasper Lindell, Page 2

Cutting a rebate for Australians aged over 65 who take out private health insurance is a "cost-shift pure and simple" that will add to the pressure on ACt public hospitals, the Canberra Liberals say. [...] Mr Parton wrote to federal Health Minister Mark Butler on August 20 urging him to reconsider the policy before its proposed start in April 2027.

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A new scheme is about to replace the NDIS for children with autism. Why has Queensland refused to sign up?

The Guardian, Other, 23/08/2026, Andrew Messenger

As parliament debated the future of the National Disability Insurance Scheme this week, Ali Kuylaars was worried. [...] The federal health minister, Mark Butler, said on Thursday that the definition would be the result of "collective work by all governments" and that a draft definition would be provided "within days" to all states and territories.

[Read More](#)

Premier Ben Carroll promises free trips to dentist for thousands of Victorians if re-elected

nine.com.au, Other, 23/08/2026, April Glover

Premier Ben Carroll has promised to provide free dental care to Victorians if re-elected in November, an Australian-first pitch to voters that would cost taxpayers \$230 million over three years. [...] Labor backbenchers have been pushing the federal government for universal dental care under Medicare Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has maintained that free dental care "is not a priority".

[Read More](#)

Commonwealth Home Support Program for low-level aged care services saved, for now

PS News, Other, 23/08/2026, Chris Johnson

The Federal Government has backed down over plans to abolish the Commonwealth program that helps older Australians with the low-level supports needed to keep living at home. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the government had listened to community concerns about the program's future.

Also reported by: [Region Illawarra \(Online\)](#), [WEB Region Canberra \(Online\)](#)

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

School leaders summoned to crisis talks amid rising teenage sex assault charges

Herald Sun, Other, 23/08/2026, Linda Silmalis

Schools are teaching respect inside classrooms while the internet delivers the opposite – now the NSW government is calling an urgent summit to close the gap. [...] Men's health advocate and Labor MP Dan Repacholi said a recent University of Melbourne study, which found nearly a third of teenage boys say equality for women has gone too far, and one in four say feminism should be "resisted with violence", should not be dismissed as kids just saying "stupid things".

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

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DEPARTMENT

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Four Corners faces fresh protest

The Australian, Media, 24/08/2026, James Madden, Page 19

The ABC's flagship current affairs show, Four Corners, has been accused of "platforming" a prominent academic who repeatedly referenced antisemitic tropes on her social media feed in the months leading up to her appearance on the program. In its investigation last week into Australia's aged-care industry, Four Corners featured an interview with Kathy Eagar, an honorary professor of health services research at UNSW and an adjunct professor at QUT.

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

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Two cards that could be saving seniors \$7000 each year

West Australian, Business News, 24/08/2026, Nick Bruining, Page 18

Next month's rise in Centrelink payment rates also heralds an increase to thresholds for the popular Commonwealth Seniors Heath Card. The card is issued to seniors aged 67 or older who fail to qualify for an age pension under the means testing system.

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Keeping your brain fighting fit

For 74-year-old Victorian Vincent Carty, finding happiness in retirement was not about winding down. After suffering from serious heart issues, the former IT professional embraced karate, boosting his fitness and helping him find his own personal zen. "Your life doesn't begin when you retire, you need to adapt to a new way of being, a new way of thinking," the Geelong local told The Senior.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Bipartisan compromise secures reform

Canberra Times, Editorials, 24/08/2026, Page 18

The federal Parliament delivered a rare display of bipartisan cooperation last week. The government and opposition successfully negotiated the passage of significant legislation.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Labor party putting bite on rivals with free dental pitch

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 24/08/2026, Page 2

Victorians are being promised free dental checkups as the opening plank in a cost-of-living election pitch. Premier Ben Carroll says 10 walk-in dental clinics offering services without charge will be established if his government is re-elected in November.

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POPULATION HEALTH

The daily habits that shrink your brain as you age

Australian Financial Review, General News, 24/08/2026, Page 28

Do you find it harder to multitask than you once did? Are you more sensitive to distractions or find that you take slightly longer to process new information? Each of these signs are little hints of midlife brain ageing, something that affects all of us to a certain extent.

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Women embrace birth control apps

Australian Financial Review, General News, 24/08/2026, Euan Black, Page 29

More women are ditching the contraceptive pill in favour of fertility tracking apps marketed as being equally effective at avoiding pregnancies without any side effects.

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Emotional stress linked to women's alcohol usage

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/08/2026, Wendy Tuohy, Page 8

Elliott recognises her former self in some of her clients seeking support to change the way they drink. Many are high-performing, aged in their 40s and 50s, with big jobs, families and numerous stress factors.

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

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States 'dragging feet' on booze restrictions

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/08/2026, Jade Gailberger, Page 2

State and territory governments have been accused of "dragging their feet" on stricter alcohol laws that would help reduce violence against women and children. Almost two years after national cabinet agreed "as a priority" to tighten restrictions on alcohol sales such as banning deliveries between 10pm and 10am and introducing a two-hour safety pause between the sale and delivery of liquor none have come into force.

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

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Chemical leak incident

Herald Sun, General News, 24/08/2026, Page 8

A man has been assessed by paramedics after a chemical leak at Viva Refinery in Corio. Emergency services were called to Refinery Rd just before noon on Saturday following reports of a small chemical leak in a section of pipework at the site.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Warwick farmer spreads message about lung scan

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/08/2026, Erin Blond, Page 5

In rural and remote communities where smoking has become a seasoned habit born many years before, the call for increased lung cancer screenings can often fall on deaf ears. When understanding what causes this initial reluctance, Eleesa Parker a farmer from Warwick believes the push back comes from fear.

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'I cried in front of everybody': How a Magpie's quiet act of kindness stunned a Melbourne mother

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/08/2026, Eleanor Campbell

For Mel Schneider and her kids, it is difficult to do spontaneous things such as a movie night or a family holiday – things most families don't even have to think about. The Melbourne mother of four, whose 15-year-old son, Wil, has defied the odds to survive several rare illnesses from birth, said even the decision to go for a last-minute drive required careful planning.

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

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DNA twist: Grisham fan cracks life-and-death case

Canberra Times, Other, 23/08/2026, Abe Maddison

A childhood obsession with John Grisham thrillers and an ingrained sense of justice were powerful forces for aspiring lawyer Jane Tiller. [...] Her decade-long crusade led to legislation passed in April that has opened the way for genetic testing to become a viable - and life-saving - tool for people with preventable and treatable diseases.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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New mould detection dogs sniff out hidden household dangers on the east coast

7News.com.au, Other, 23/08/2026, Hayley Taylor

Australia now has sniffer dogs dedicated to detecting mould. Sniffer dogs Ivan and Buck are all trained up and will initially be getting to work next month in Canberra, Sydney, Newcastle and on the south

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Skin cancer rates surge

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/08/2026, Page 5

Skin cancer rates have soared, as non-melanoma detections now triple all other cancers combined. An Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report is the first to use data to better estimate diagnosis and deaths from basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma.

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Young-onsets step up as Parkinson's ACT marks 40 years

Canberra Times, General News, 24/08/2026, Megan Doherty, Page 3

It's a changing of the guard that no one wants to contemplate or willingly be a part of, but it's necessary. Parkinson's ACT this week celebrated 40 years of helping the Canberra community and the estimated 3000 local people diagnosed with the progressive, degenerative neurological disorder.

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Dying for a fight

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/08/2026, Harry Brill, Page 1

Doctors should be free to raise voluntary assisted dying with their patients, says former Deputy Chief Minister Barry Coulter, who has urged his very own Country Liberal Party to remove a controversial gag clause from the Rights of the Terminally (ROTI) Bill. Ahead of one of the most highly anticipated parliament sittings in recent NT history, Mr Coulter, who was a member of the 1995 administration that passed voluntary euthanasia, has returned to the debate which he himself had to grapple with more than three decades ago.

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Hope for kids with dementia

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 24/08/2026, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 11

A breakthrough discovery by Australian researchers is giving hope to parents of children with a devastating disease. The medical researchers have found that several TGA-approved medicines now used to treat a range of conditions from severe vertigo and dizziness to adult dementia, might help slow brain damage in kids with deadly childhood dementia, specifically Sanfilippo syndrome.

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Euthanasia laws are overdue for review. A former minister has ideas why

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/08/2026, Matt Dennien

When eligible terminally ill Queenslanders gained legal access to drugs to end their own lives at the start of 2023, a timer in the laws began. "As soon as practicable" after three years, the health minister would be required to review the laws' effectiveness and eligibility criteria.

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Rural communities overcoming fear to join national lung cancer screening program

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 24/08/2026, Erin Blond

In rural and remote communities where smoking has become a seasoned habit born many years before, the call for increased lung cancer screenings can often fall on deaf ears. When understanding what causes this initial reluctance, Eleese Parker - a farmer from Warwick - believes the push back comes from fear.

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Leah lost her baby after open-heart surgery. It started with a tiny cut on her foot.

Mamamia, Other, 23/08/2026, Catie Powers

Leah Ramsey first noticed something was wrong in August 2025. The model was pregnant with her second child when she came down with tonsillitis.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

We had no chance to help our Hailee

West Australian, General News, 24/08/2026, Jessica Page, Page 6

A report on the death of a suicidal Perth teenager has exposed a lack of accessible mental health support and bed shortages. The SAC 1 investigation of Hailee Hildebrandt's death in January has shattered her mother, who claims she's still without answers.

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Rural mental health crisis: Leila McDougall's film sparks national conversation about farmer suicide

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/08/2026, Patrick Carlyon

Leila McDougall sits outside when she screens her movie, Just A Farmer. Partly, she's sick of watching it, given she will hit 200 screenings in Australian towns, big and small, by year's end.

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IMMUNISATION

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Curbs on health science funds 'risking exodus'

The Australian, Business News, 24/08/2026, David Ross, Page 15

Australia risks losing its nascent and growing health sciences and health technology market, says the chief of Melbourne-based start-up incubator and investor ANDHealth. Bronwyn Le Grice said the federal government's changes to tax rules relating to capital gains risked future appetite for companies to stay and grow here.

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

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Chronically ill still gaslit: research

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/08/2026, Kate Aubusson, Page 2

For Jaimie Sheil, an outcome more terrifying than being diagnosed with some awful complication is that when she arrives at an emergency department, doctors will tell her that she is just fine. "It sounds ridiculous," said Sheil.

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

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Weight-loss jabs might free up psych beds

Courier Mail, General News, 24/08/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 3

Queensland researchers have discovered an unexpected benefit to GLP-1 weight loss drugs as a potential treatment for mental health disorders. A study from Griffith University shows that the drugs for diabetes and weight loss may help those diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

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

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Doctor's MS blood test quest

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 24/08/2026, Genevieve Holding, Page 20

A Tasmanian researcher is working to develop a groundbreaking blood test that could help to provide an earlier and easier diagnosis for the chronic disease multiple sclerosis (MS). Postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Tasmania Menzies Institute for medical research Dr Xin Lin is the brainchild behind what will be a multi-year project, using funding from MS Australia and the knowledge of the Menzies' MS research flagship team to develop the new tool.

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Australian twins helping researchers unlock genetic mysteries in groundbreaking study

7News.com.au, Other, 24/08/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Twins are helping Australian researchers crack one of medicine's biggest mysteries: which diseases are genetic and what's triggered by the environment. The groundbreaking study could help unlock more personalised treatment for everyone.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'Link welfare payment to rehab'

The Australian, General News, 24/08/2026, Ros Thomas & Paige Taylor, Page 1

Labor is being pushed to consider putting Centrelink-dependent parents with drug and alcohol issues into mandatory rehab, as the West Australian government faces calls for an inquest into its decision to let three Aboriginal children stay with their addicted mother who later murdered them. Indigenous policy leaders called for change on Sunday, after revelations the WA government failed to remove three Aboriginal children Jamelia, 10, Arnda, seven, and Kelvin, four months from their violent Port Hedland home, where their mother, Margaret Hawke, killed them in a drug-fuelled rampage.

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

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Plan to lift stress on emergency rooms

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/08/2026, Megan Gorrey, Page 3

Emergency department short-stay units will be expanded at six hospitals in Sydney and regional NSW, under a \$130 million state government plan to help ease overcrowding and shorten wait times. An extra 22 spaces for patients requiring short-term observation and quick treatment will be delivered at emergency wards at St George, Campbelltown, Nepean, Maitland, John Hunter and Wyong hospitals in the next 12 months. Up to eight more spots will be added the following year.

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Minns' video hospital pass

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 24/08/2026, Page 30

What is the world coming to when a social media stunt done to win votes doesn't actually wind up solving problems? Here we were thinking that when Chris Minns barnstormed his way to lead the state, all those videos he did rocking up to hospitals and exposing how stressed they were meant things would change. Of course, we had our suspicions at the time.

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Stitt backs controversial new RMH rules

Herald Sun, General News, 24/08/2026, Sarah Booth & Ryan Bourke, Page 8

The Carroll government has defended a Melbourne hospital's decision to reject referrals for their specialist clinics if a hospital closer to the patient offers the same service. The Royal Melbourne Hospital has come under fire after a recent notice to GP clinics detailed "changes (they) were making to the regions it accepts specialist clinic referrals from".

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ED sees just 1 in 4 on time

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/08/2026, Page 7

Only a quarter of patients were seen within the clinically recommended time at the Royal Hobart Hospital's Emergency Department in the past seven days, according to the health department dashboard. Labor health spokeswoman Sarah Lovell drew focus to the data on Sunday, which she said was illustrative not of seasonal demand but consistent government underfunding.

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Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 23/08/2026, Narelda Jacobs

The Royal Perth Hospital will be the first place in the country to manufacture a tumour infiltrating cancer treatment, taking a patient's own cancer-fighting cells, multiplying them into the billions and sending them back in to fight the disease. It's one of two new treatments the hospital's been licenced to produce, offering new hope to patients who've run out of options.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Affordable midwifery unveiled at CDU clinic

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/08/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 3

A new affordable midwifery clinic aimed at helping remedy Darwin's ongoing maternity issues has been launched from the health centre at Charles Darwin University. The newly opened studentled midwifery clinic at the Top End university is providing antenatal and post-natal care at a "significantly reduced" cost for families without Medicare.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

NT government files applications with Fair Work Commission over bargaining dispute with union

ABC Online, Other, 23/08/2026, Joseph Hathaway-Wilson

After more than a year of bargaining with the union representing firefighters and correctional officers, the NT government has filed two applications to the Fair Work Commission (FWC) in a move that could jeopardise its own public sector wages policy. [...] The government is also negotiating with NT medical officers, dentists, nurses and midwives, Territory Generation and Power and Water Corporation employees.

[Read More](#)

Deadly Start program grows North West Queensland's future health workforce

ABC Online, Other, 23/08/2026, Kavina Kumar & Zara Margolis

In the remote Gulf town of Normanton, about 500 kilometres by road from Mount Isa, 17-year-old Melinda Burns grew up watching her aunt care for their community. Her aunt spent 55 years working as a nurse with the North West Hospital and Health Service.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Medical mistakes risk

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/08/2026, Page 10

A new report highlights significant medicine safety challenges facing culturally diverse Australians. Prepared for the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the Adelaide University report found that one in three Australians receiving medicines through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) were born overseas.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

South Australian man Edward Athyr (Art) Bravery hit with pharmaceutical ban, SA Health investigating

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/08/2026, Elizabeth Henson

A man with no registration in any health profession has been indefinitely banned from accessing prescription drugs of dependence after allegedly distributing them "irresponsibly." Inside the shock reason why people with ADHD are turning to cocaine X

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

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Our first mammal dies from bird flu

The Australian, General News, 24/08/2026, Elizabeth Pike, Page 3

The highly contagious H5N1 bird flu strain has been detected for the first time in a mammal on the Australian mainland, marking a significant escalation in the spread of the disease. Agriculture Minister Julie Collins confirmed the case at a press conference on Sunday morning, revealing a long-nosed fur seal had died from bird flu on the Limestone Coast in South Australia.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [News24 Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#)

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ABC News, ABC Evening News (Weekend), 23/08/2026, Meredith Sheehan

Thousands of vaccine doses for the Ebola virus have arrived in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The latest outbreak has killed more than 2500 people in the country.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

'Wellness' craze a risky stab in dark

Courier Mail, General News, 24/08/2026, Andreas Nicola, Page 12

A boom in illegal peptide use has led to a 200 per cent increase in calls to a Queensland steroid user helpline, experts have revealed. [...] A TGA spokesman said they were taking strong enforcement action where unlawful conduct was identified and working closely with the ABF to identify, intercept and assess suspected peptide imports.

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

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Pauline's platform is the death of certainty

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/08/2026, Joe Hildebrand, Page 13

Death to drug dealers that's the One Nation way. At least that's what their official policy states. Or did.

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

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High time to clear air

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/08/2026, Amber Wilson, Page 1

Some days the smell of cannabis will cling to their clothes drying on the clothesline. Other days, especially on frosty mornings, the odour will even waft inside the housemaking them run to shut the windows.

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NSW parliament scrutinises drug testing limits police don't want drivers

to know

ABC Online, Other, 23/08/2026, Alexander Lewis

The number has long been guarded closely by New South Wales police — the concentration of cannabis in a driver's saliva that produces a positive drug test. "They [police] don't necessarily advertise what the level is," roads minister Jenny Aitchison told a parliamentary committee on Friday.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Airline meals just got a whole lot fresher

The Australian, Business News, 24/08/2026, Robyn Ironside, Page 15

An Australian business inspired by a chef's failed attempt to maintain a herb garden is enjoying global success following a major deal to supply fresh greens for airline meals. Greenspace, which runs macrofarms in underused buildings in inner city Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, is the brainchild of entrepreneur Peter Fox, the cofounder of tour booking platform Viator.

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

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