



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 26th August 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler believes only 0.4 per cent of people would leave their private health insurance because of the changes the Federal Government is implementing to the private health insurance rebate for people over 65 years old. *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#)
- **[The Australian](#)** (online) reports that older Australians are increasingly preferring to have their elder care in their own home instead of moving into nursing facilities, which is creating significant opportunities for healthcare providers but also changes to expenses and regulations.
- The **[Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports that experimental peptides have seen increasing use in young people who often find them on social media, but there are serious risks attributed to the unapproved drugs. Unknown contaminants in these drugs are causing adverse health affects, including the risk of heart attacks.
- The **[Canberra Times](#)** (online) reports that veterans oppose the Federal Government's plan to cap their allied healthcare spending at \$5000 a year, arguing that they could easily exceed that cap depending on their level of required care.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that the supply of chemotherapy drugs to patients in regional Australia is facing a bottleneck as the companies contracted to make and distribute the compounded medicines warn they can't continue without an urgent funding injection, due to the

MINISTER BUTLER

Labor's insurance rebate change 'entraps' 1.2 million pensioners

The Australian, General News, 26/08/2026, Noah Yim, Page 1

Labor says 1.2 million pensioners will be affected by its decision to scrap the private health insurance rebate for over-65s, a figure the government says it worked out only after stakeholder pressure, and that it still does not have a "reliable" final number. [...] When contacted for comment, Health Minister Mark Butler's office maintained that it projected only 0.4 per cent of people would leave private health insurance because of the changes.

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

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Cutting over-65s' rebate will add pressure on ACT's public hospitals: Libs

Canberra Times, Other, 24/08/2026, Jasper Lindell

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

Croakey, Other, 25/08/2026, Charles Maskell-Knight

As a new position statement from the Australian Medical Association calls on specialist medical colleges to make fees more transparent, predictable and fair, the latest National Report Card from the National Mental Health Commission finds that cost is an increasing barrier to mental healthcare. [...] Department of Health, Disability and Ageing Co-design the future of aged care Application Programming Interfaces 29 August Department of Health, Disability and Ageing Inclusive Communities Fund Consultation 31 August Therapeutic Goods Administration Improvements to the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code 3 September Therapeutic Goods Administration Proposed changes to Required Advisory Statements for Medicine Labels 4 September Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Draft Assisted Reproductive Technology Standards 6 September Therapeutic Goods Administration Adoption of International Scientific Guidelines in Australia R01-2026 11 September Department of Health, Disability and Ageing Public consultation to help inform a possible "commissioning" approach for part of the Supported Independent Living market 13 September Therapeutic Goods Administration Proposed changes to support automated decision making for applications to change listed medicines 14 September Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee Public consultation on items to be considered by the PBAC in November 2026 16 September Department of Health, Disability and Ageing Public consultation on items to be considered by the PBAC 16 September Office of the Gene Technology Regulator Commercial supply of a genetically modified multivalent vaccine for chickens 25 September Department of Health, Disability and Ageing Medical Research Future Fund Reducing Health Inequities Mission – Consultation on the Roadmap and Implementation Plan 25 September Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Draft National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (third edition) 25 September National Health and Medical Research Council Nutrient Reference Values – Public Consultation on Draft Recommendations – Vitamin B6 Nutrient Reference Values – Public Consultation on Draft Recommendations for Sodium 30 September Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee Rapid Review of PBS medicines for relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis 1 October Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Requirements in the draft National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards to improve the cultural safety and quality of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 2 October Therapeutic Goods Administration Consultation on sharing more information about medical devices 2 October Medical Services Advisory Committee Surgical

Procedures for Gender Affirmation in Adults with Gender Incongruence Breyanzi (lisocabtagene maraleucel) for the treatment of large B-cell lymphoma Implantation of an active middle ear implant (Vibroplasty) for treatment of mixed and conductive hearing loss Supervised oral food challenge in patients with suspected food allergy Genomic testing for the diagnosis of primary immunodeficiency Procedures for the implantation and refill-exchange of the Port Delivery System with ranibizumab to treat neovascular age-related macular degeneration 9 October Department of Health, Disability and Ageing New Framework Planning and NDIS Supports 14 October House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Disability Inquiry into the access to and affordability of medical specialists 16 October Therapeutic Goods Administration Additional public consultation on amending the Poisons Standard regarding ethylene oxide, propylene oxide and epichlorohydrin 26 October Author details Charles Maskell-Knight PSM was a senior public servant in the Commonwealth Department of Health for over 25 years before retiring in 2021.

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NDIS: 160,000 frauds cut

Ipswich West Moreton Today, Other, 25/08/2026

The Australian Government says a bill with 66 amendments to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, which passed the Senate last week, will secure the legislation, making it cleaner, more sustainable and removing those rorting the scheme from support altogether. [...] At a press conference held last Tuesday, Health Minister Mark Butler conceded the NDIS had grown too big.

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Insurers push levy hike as rebate bill nears Senate vote

Insurance Business Australia, Other, 25/08/2026, Jonalyn Cueto

Private Healthcare Australia (PHA) is pressing the federal government to raise the Medicare Levy Surcharge on high-income earners as an alternative to legislation that would strip higher private health insurance rebates from Australians aged 65 and over. [...] A bill already before the Senate The surcharge proposal responds directly to the Private Health Insurance Amendment (Modernising the Private Health Insurance Rebate) Bill 2026, introduced by health minister Mark Butler on June 25.

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PSA seeking to strengthen clinical governance in pharmacy practice

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 25/08/2026

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has launched a national consultation to review and update the Clinical Governance Principles for Pharmacy Services, inviting pharmacists to help shape one of the frameworks guiding the profession. [...] The review and update of the Clinical Governance Principles are supported by the Minister for Health and Ageing, Hon Mark Butler MP, and the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing under the Strategic Agreement on Pharmacists' Professional Practice.

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Women's health committee to hear experiences from across Australia

Nursing Review, Other, 25/08/2026, Stefanie Schultz

A new Senate Select Committee will examine some of the most pressing issues affecting women's health, with fertility, postpartum healthcare and women's pain among the key areas set to be investigated. [...] However, Assistant Minister for Health and Ageing and Assistant Minister for Women Rebecca White is encouraging women to speak up about their experiences of the nation's reproductive healthcare system.

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CHSP secured till 2029 as Labor listens to feedback

Nursing Review, Other, 25/08/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The aged care sector is shifting its focus from securing the future of the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) to shaping what comes next, following the federal government's decision to extend the program until June 2029 and retain it as a standalone service. [...] The announcement, made last week by Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, ended the

uncertainty surrounding the future of CHSP and was widely welcomed by providers, consumer advocates and clinicians.

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ABC Radio Perth, Drive, 25/08/2026, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, on major changes coming to the National Disability Insurance Scheme after Federal Parliament passed a suite of reforms last week. Butler says children with autism will continue to be enrolled on the NDIS until the end of 2027, but he notes that they will be moved to the Thriving Kids program from 1 January 2028 because the NDIS was set up with the intention of supporting people with significant and permanent disability, and not people with low to moderate support needs. He also says the NDIS will continue to grow, but they need to get it under control, and he insists that the scheme will still be the biggest social program in Australia.

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

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

Aged-care algorithm 'failing elderly'

Cairns Post, General News, 26/08/2026, Julie Cross, Page 16

The secret aged-care algorithm determining how much funding older Australians receive to stay in their own homes, largely relies on just 23 of the 622 questions asked during an assessment, an inquiry has heard. [...] Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae said the previous system "resulted in older people with the same needs receiving different outcomes depending on where they lived and who did their assessment".

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

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Aged care groups welcome two year extension of support program

Plains Producer, General News, 26/08/2026, Kalli Batzavalis, Page 8

Aged care and older persons advocacy groups have welcomed the Australian Government's decision to retain the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) as a stand-alone program until 30 June, 2029. [...] Federal Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, said the extension would provide older Australians with certainty while the Government planned for the future of CHSP.

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

Croakey, Other, 25/08/2026, Charles Maskell-Knight

As a new position statement from the Australian Medical Association calls on specialist medical colleges to make fees more transparent, predictable and fair, the latest National Report Card from the National Mental Health Commission finds that cost is an increasing barrier to mental healthcare. [...] Department of Health, Disability and Ageing Co-design the future of aged care Application Programming Interfaces 29 August Department of Health, Disability and Ageing Inclusive Communities Fund Consultation 31 August Therapeutic Goods Administration Improvements to the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code 3 September Therapeutic Goods Administration Proposed changes to Required Advisory Statements for Medicine Labels 4 September Australian Commission on Safety and

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CHSP needs to reflect communities it serves

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 25/08/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

If a redesigned Commonwealth Home Support Program is to be truly integrated and community-based, local government needs to be involved, says Age Discrimination Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald. [...] The government said last Thursday it was now its preference to keep CHSP as a standalone program, and Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae confirmed to conference delegates ahead of Mr Fitzgerald's keynote that consultation on the program's redesign will be opening "within the next month or so."

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Consultation on future of CHSP opening soon

Community Care Review, Other, 25/08/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Consultation on a redesigned Commonwealth Home Support Program will begin "within the next month or so," says Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae. Appearing on day one of the Invox CHSP national conference on Monday morning, Mr Rae emphasised that the government wants "everyone" involved in the CHSP planning process.

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CHSP secured till 2029 as Labor listens to feedback

Nursing Review, Other, 25/08/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The aged care sector is shifting its focus from securing the future of the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) to shaping what comes next, following the federal government's decision to extend the program until June 2029 and retain it as a standalone service. [...] The announcement, made last week by Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, ended the

uncertainty surrounding the future of CHSP and was widely welcomed by providers, consumer advocates and clinicians.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Women's health committee to hear experiences from across Australia

Nursing Review, Other, 25/08/2026, Stefanie Schultz

A new Senate Select Committee will examine some of the most pressing issues affecting women's health, with fertility, postpartum healthcare and women's pain among the key areas set to be investigated. [...] However, Assistant Minister for Health and Ageing and Assistant Minister for Women Rebecca White is encouraging women to speak up about their experiences of the nation's reproductive healthcare system.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Women's health committee to hear experiences from across Australia

Nursing Review, Other, 25/08/2026, Stefanie Schultz

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Cutting over-65s' rebate will add pressure on ACT's public hospitals: Libs

Canberra Times, Other, 24/08/2026, Jasper Lindell

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 the 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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Much-needed home for elderly cancer patients sitting empty and unused

MSN Australia, Other, 25/08/2026

Yvonne always dreamed of offering a home away from home for people going through cancer

treatment. It was meant to be a safe place where they could rest and be cared for.

[Read More](#)

PBAC knocks back new dupilumab proposal for kids AD

The Limbic, Other, 25/08/2026, Emma Koehn

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee has rejected a revised proposal for a dupilumab PBS listing for children with chronic severe atopic dermatitis, more than four years after the treatment was first considered for subsidy. [...] "LEO Pharma remains committed to achieving a PBS listing for Anzupgo for Australians living with chronic hand eczema and we are working with the PBAC and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to that goal," the company said in response.

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'Significant barriers' to GP aged care

The Medical Republic, Other, 25/08/2026, Alyssa Talakovski

The RACGP is urging the government to address "administrative barriers" to GP care in residential aged care homes (RACHs) and structural discrimination of Australians as they age. In its latest position statement, the RACGP called on the government to support sustainable GP-led care for older people as they enter RACHs, with three main asks across 20 recommendations.

[Read More](#)

Private health reforms a chance to address referrals: RACGP

The Medical Republic, Other, 25/08/2026, Holly Payne

The RACGP says members "regularly" raise concerns about policy and guidance inconsistencies when patients are admitted into Hospital in the Home (HITH) programs – but the incoming private health reforms present an opportunity for change. Last month, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing released the first in a set of three consultation papers looking at options to reform the private health sector.

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PSA seeking to strengthen clinical governance in pharmacy practice

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 25/08/2026

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has launched a national consultation to review and update the Clinical Governance Principles for Pharmacy Services, inviting pharmacists to help shape one of the frameworks guiding the profession. [...] The review and update of the Clinical Governance Principles are supported by the Minister for Health and Ageing, Hon Mark Butler MP, and the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing under the Strategic Agreement on Pharmacists' Professional Practice.

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Cancer respite facility stands ready but still can't open

Your Life Choices, Other, 25/08/2026, Abigail Abrugar

It began, as so many good things do, with one determined woman and a shopping-centre petition. Yvonne Cuschieri knew loss intimately.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Alarming reason many seniors are giving up aged care

Sydney Morning Herald, Money, 26/08/2026, Rachel Lane, Page 26

The most worrying thing about the new aged care system is not that people are paying more for care. It is that some are deciding they can't afford care at all.

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

Inquiry exposes aged care funding algorithm as 'fatally flawed'

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 26/08/2026, Julie Cross, Page 6

The secret aged care algorithm determining how much funding older Australians receive to stay in their own homes, largely relies on just 23 of the 622 questions asked during an assessment, an inquiry has heard. Health data expert Professor Kathy Eagar has exposed the massive fail, saying seniors are being put through exhaustive hours-long interviews, only for the system to give minimal weight to the majority of the information gathered.

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Next healthcare growth story happening at home as Australia ages

The Australian, Other, 26/08/2026

The growing preference of older Australians for care at home is creating significant opportunities for healthcare providers, but reforms to aged care and the NDIS are forcing operators to rethink how they deliver services and where they can grow. As more Australians live longer, the demand for healthcare, aged care, disability support and services that allow people to remain living independently at home is expected to increase.

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

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ANMF wants for-profit aged care under 20% within a decade

HelloCare, Other, 25/08/2026, Jakob Neeland

A new national survey shows for-profit providers scoring worse on staffing, ratios and care time than their not-for-profit and public counterparts, and the union representing aged care workers says the answer is structural, not just more funding. Australia's aged care sector has spent three decades moving towards privatisation.

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Support at Home an 'utter unmitigated disaster'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 25/08/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The extension of the Commonwealth Home Support Program is "incredibly welcome," but does not signal the work is over, says Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care Senator Anne Ruston. Kicking off Monday's afternoon session at the Invox CHSP National Conference 2026, she said that the decision to extend CHSP was not one the government made willingly but was the result of sustained sector advocacy.

[Read More](#)

Support at Home a "public policy failure": Ian Yates

The Weekly Source, Other, 25/08/2026, Caroline Egan

When the former Inspector-General of Aged Care kicked off the Adelaide hearing of the Senate Inquiry into Support at Home, he did not mince his words. "By almost any and every measure, Support at Home has to be judged a public policy failure," said Ian Yates AM.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Queensland NDIS provider Ican Support Services placed into liquidation

Cairns Post, Other, 25/08/2026, Chloe Grimshaw

The company behind a Queensland NDIS provider has brought in liquidators, just five years after first becoming registered. An Australian Securities and Investments Commission notice showed the

company Ican Support Services Pty Ltd had been placed into liquidation, with Andrew Juzva appointed to complete the winding up.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

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POPULATION HEALTH

A deadly craze

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/08/2026, Rob Inglis, Page 1

When Dr Tim Jones recently treated an 18-year-old heart attack victim, he was confronted with the potentially deadly effects of an experimental drug that has public health authorities on high alert. The Hobart GP was careful to protect the heart attack victim's privacy but said they had been injecting an unapproved weight loss medication called retatrutide, which has been linked to six cases of acute liver damage in Victoria since January.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Australia joins global blood crisis as supplies fall to critical levels

7News.com.au, Other, 25/08/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Blood supplies are now under critical pressure around the world, prompting an unprecedented international call for donors. Australia has joined two other nations tonight, warning they may need to prioritise patients to keep up with demand.

[Read More](#)

Hervey Bay veterans' leader slams 'harmful' \$5000 federal health cap

Cairns Post, Other, 25/08/2026, Rebecca Nicol

Hinkler LNP MP David Batt and Hervey Bay RSL sub-branch president Brad Gray held a joint press event on Tuesday where they slammed Federal Veterans' Affairs Minister Matt Keogh and the federal proposal to cap veterans health services, though Mr Keogh's office says the proposed changes would actually increase the allied health services available to veterans. As part of the 2026-27 budget the federal government announced from July 2027 there would be an annual \$5000 cap on veteran card holders accessing services that provide a range of specialist care for ex-service men and women's mental and physical health.

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

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Ignoring this common complaint could be doubling your dementia risk

The Senior, Other, 25/08/2026, Phoebe Loomes

While it might seem easy to put off regular health checks, experts are warning that ignoring even the early stages of hearing loss could be doubling your risk of developing dementia. Retired IT teacher Phil Brown first started to notice his own hearing was faltering after his 70th birthday.

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How blood test could simplify MS diagnosis

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/08/2026, Genevieve Holding, Page 10

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 brain 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.

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

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NT on cusp of history over VAD legislation

Northern Territory News, General News, 26/08/2026, Fia Walsh, Page 5

Thirty years after the NT became the first place in the world to legalise voluntary euthanasia, Territorians are once again on the cusp of making history to restore the rights of the terminally ill. Seniors group Council on the Ageing NT said it was "exhausted, relieved and happy" to reach the milestone after years of advocacy.

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

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Dawn of the mRNA cancer vaccine: What lies ahead?

The Australian, Other, 25/08/2026, Natasha Robinson

Cancer medicine is on the crest of entering a revolutionary era as evidence of success for an mRNA vaccine in preventing the recurrence of melanoma looks certain to be replicated with other cancers. US biotech giant Moderna's announcement that its personalised vaccine, known as intismeran, prevented melanoma recurrence when given in conjunction with the immunotherapy drug Keytruda electrified the stockmarket and triggered enormous consumer interest in mRNA vaccines for other cancers.

[Read More](#)

'Can't pick up your kids': Veterans living with lifelong health impacts of service concerned about \$5000 cap

Canberra Times, Other, 25/08/2026, Dana Daniel

Former special forces soldier Matt Pettit served more than a decade in the Australian Army, including tours of Afghanistan and Iraq. "I've got bad knees, bad back, bad shoulder, bad hearing, all that kind of stuff," Mr Pettit, who relies on weekly physiotherapy to stay mobile, said.

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

[Read More](#)

Assisted dying clause gagging doctors set to be debated

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 25/08/2026, Lloyd Jones

A proposed gag on doctors raising voluntary assisted dying with patients is a safeguard against terminally ill people being coerced into ending their lives, a territory's chief legal officer says. Northern Territory Attorney-General Marie-Claire Boothby introduced the Rights of the Terminally Ill bill to parliament for a second reading on Tuesday.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Pilbara locals to receive life-saving suicide prevention training amid rising youth mental health concerns

Lifeline WA is set to deliver a series of free youth mental health and suicide prevention training programs in Karratha and Dampier next month, equipping adults with the confidence to support young people experiencing mental health challenges. The program will run from September 14 to 18, helping adults gain practical skills to recognise signs of mental distress, have supportive conversations, and connect young people with professional help.

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IMMUNISATION

FIVEAA, Mornings, 25/08/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with GP Dr Emily Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick says vaccination rates for measles have dropped around the world, and she also states that 93% of the Australian population is vaccinated for measles, but it's not high enough because measles is a highly contagious infection. She says vaccination rates and awareness of measles should be increased in the country.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Channel 9, Nine News, 25/08/2026, Michael Thomson

A simple eye test is helping detect Alzheimer's disease 20 years before symptoms start. Alzheimer's Research Australia and University of Western Australia researchers are now working to create a portable version of the camera so it can be used by GPs across the country.

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

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2GB, Afternoons, 25/08/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with University of Queensland Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology Group Leader Associate Professor Seth Cheetham. McLaren says mRNA vaccines are being designed to train the patient's immune system to recognise and attack their own cancerous tumour, and there are questions about whether cancer vaccines could become a common avenue for Australian cancer patients. Cheetham says there is hope that the clinical trial led by Melanoma Institute's Professor Georgina Long, which involved over 1000 melanoma patients, will stop the cancer from returning, and he also adds that the mRNA technology is key to producing cancer vaccines.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'Enough is enough': 121 Indigenous Victorians have died by suicide in the past five years

The Guardian, Other, 25/08/2026, Douglas Smith

On the steps of Victorian parliament stood 121 empty chairs, marking the number of Indigenous lives lost to suicide in the state in the past five years. All of these deaths, the state's peak body for Aboriginal health said, came after the final report of the royal commission into mental health in March 2021.

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From fear to survival: Creating a culturally-safe approach to Aboriginal cancer care

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 25/08/2026, Orlander Ruming

You can survive a cancer diagnosis. That's the message Rod Hammond and Daymon Bell want Aboriginal communities to understand.

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

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Big deal to lure health workers

Daily Telegraph, General News, 26/08/2026, Harrison Finlay, Page 9

A multimillion-dollar offer is driving thousands of health workers out to the bush to fix regional medical shortages. At his first Bush Summit since becoming the state's leader in 2023, Premier Chris Minns pledged the incentive to fill gaping holes in the regional workforce, offering a \$20,000 scheme for key health professionals to move from the city.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 25/08/2026, Alicia Loxley

Frustrated doctors at Monash and Eastern Health have walked off the job this afternoon, escalating their battle for better pay and conditions. The union says it's on the brink of a statewide strike if the Victorian Government doesn't make an offer.

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2GB, Drive, 25/08/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with Little Wings CEO Claire Pearson. Maynard says there are concerns that kids are not being diagnosed with conditions that could be treated early due to a shortage of paediatricians, and he notes that Little Wings is trying to cover all of the gaps. Pearson says the need for paediatricians has been growing every year, and 12 communities in NSW are still waiting for more doctors, and she also cites the importance of Little Wings' role in bringing doctors to regional areas where their services are needed.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

ABC News, News Breakfast, 25/08/2026, James Glenday and Emma Rebellato

Interview with Rachel Gray, veterinarian, University of Sydney. Compere says there are fears for the endangered Australian Sea Lion amid the country's bird flu outbreak. Gray recalls her time in Antarctica, where there were dead Southern Elephant Seals and Fur Seals due to the bird flu. She states that there's very little to be done to mitigate the extent, but she admits that they need to keep up surveillance and testing.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Critical threat to chemotherapy drug supplies as manufacturers buckle

The Australian, General News, 26/08/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

The supply of chemotherapy drugs to patients in areas across Australia is facing a critical threat as companies contracted to make and distribute the compounded medicines warn they can't continue without an urgent funding injection. Third-party licensed compounders supply about 60 per cent of the cancer medicines market nationwide and provide access to complex cancer medications, in particular to patients outside the major cities.

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Groundbreaking T1D drug hits PBS hurdle

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 25/08/2026

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has declined to recommend PBS listing of Tzield (teplizumab), just months after the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved the treatment as Australia's first non-insulin therapy shown to delay the onset of symptomatic type 1 diabetes (T1D) (PD 27 May).

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Tripping in an MRI: What brain does on magic mushrooms

Age, General News, 26/08/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 4

It promises to cure stubborn depression, alleviate anxiety, free people from addiction and, in one single-person case study, seemed to restore the ability of a woman with advanced Alzheimer's to talk and recognise loved ones. Psilocybin - the active ingredient in magic mushrooms - and other psychedelics have long promised to revolutionise mental health treatment and usher in an enlightened age of mind-altering medicine.

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