



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 28th August 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports a Queensland surrogate has given birth to genetically unrelated twins after conceiving her own child while carrying an IVF embryo for another couple, in a case believed to be an Australian first. *Also reported by:* [ABC Online](#)
- The **[Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 3) reports carcinogenic heavy metals including uranium and arsenic have been detected in a major illicit cigarette brand sold in Australia, prompting calls for urgent testing of black-market tobacco.
- The **[Age](#)** (page 5) reports a Victorian coroner has called for a medically supervised injecting room in Geelong amid rising local overdose deaths and record heroin-related deaths statewide. *Also reported by:* [Geelong Advertiser](#)
- The **[Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 9) reports the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association has launched the first Federal Court case over mandatory aged-care minutes, alleging Opal Healthcare counted laundry and kitchen tasks as direct care.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports a Victorian man has been arrested for allegedly using two businesses and false invoices to funnel about \$700,000 in NDIS funding into his own bank accounts, following an investigation by Victoria Police and the NDIA. *Also reported by:* [Warrnambool Standard](#), [Daily Mail UK](#)

- [ABC Online](#) reports voluntary assisted dying laws are expected to pass the Northern Territory Parliament today, making VAD legal across every Australian state and territory. *Also reported by: [Yahoo News Australia](#)*

MINISTER BUTLER

A long trek for the kids in the bush

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/08/2026, Jessica Wang, Page 8

When Dusty Langby meets Anthony Albanese after he finishes his two-week walk from Warren, NSW, to Canberra, he will implore the Prime Minister to match every dollar he raises to ensure kids in the bush, like him, have access to paediatricians. [...] The pair will cover up to 52 km a day before they arrive in Canberra and meet Mr Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler.

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

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Pushing for Kimba health

Eyre Peninsula Advocate, General News, 27/08/2026, Charlotte Martin, Page 3

Kimba District Council continues its push to change its Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification from six to seven, enabling it to better align Commonwealth health workforce incentives with the realities of its purported health service delivery in the community. [...] Last year, federal Health Minister Mark Butler acknowledged Kimba mayor Dean Johnson's concerns about the MMM classification, however he ultimately said "there is no discretion to change the classification of any location".

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Both the 'worst' GST deal and the NDIS blew out by billions but only one is sacred

ABC Online, Other, 27/08/2026, Jake Evans

Former prime minister Scott Morrison must have been surprised when he was asked by a reporter in 2022, a few months before the federal election, whether he had "neglected" Western Australia. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced earlier this year the government had made the difficult choice to force some people from the scheme to state-run alternatives, and cut the budgets of others, in order to save about \$38 billion over four years and finally slow down growth to a sustainable rate.

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Federal government extends home support

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, Other, 27/08/2026, Eva Kolimar

Older residents in Sutherland Shire can breathe a sigh of relief following the Australian government's decision to extend the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) through to June 30, 2029. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler reaffirmed the government's commitment to listening to community feedback.

[Read More](#)

'Stop using incentives to disguise inadequate rebates': What the RACGP's next president will tell Mark Butler

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/08/2026

Dr Ramya Raman is the newest president of the RACGP, winning the election with 55% of votes. She will begin her two-year term in November.

[Read More](#)

Existing practices 'shutout' of funded bulk-billing clinics: RACGP

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/08/2026, Michelle Wisbey

A blueprint has been released for new fully funded bulk-billing clinics rolling out in New South Wales,

with the Federal Government coming good on its promise to 'intervene in the market'. [...] Detailing the rollout earlier this year, Federal Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler said these regions were selected because of their 'persistently low bulk-billing rates for GP services'.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Statewide Mornings, 27/08/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Pharmacy Guild of Australia SA Branch President Matthew Gillespie on their call for the Federal Government to freeze the PBS co-payment at \$25.00 until 2030. Gillespie says it will help patients afford their medicines amid the cost-of-living crisis. He notes that the PBS price of medicine has been frozen at \$7.70 until 2030 for concession card holders. He notes that they continue to tell Federal Health Minister Mark Butler about the current system's popularity among Australians.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Hundreds of NDIS providers banned after govt crackdown

Canning Examiner, General News, 27/08/2026, Page 4

The NDIS watchdog has issued a record number of banning orders as the Federal Government steps up action against fraud and misconduct in the disability support scheme. [...] Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme Senator Jenny McAllister said authorities were reviewing more claims, receiving more tip-offs, carrying out more investigations and referring more matters to police.

Also reported by: [Armadale Examiner \(Perth\)](#).

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Regional families fear National Disability Insurance Scheme cuts will hit them hardest

West Australian, Other, 28/08/2026, Rosa Griffith

Regional families and service providers say their already limited access to disability support will worsen, following the passing of legislation enabling sweeping cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. [...] A spokesperson for NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister told the Kalgoorlie Miner the Albanese Government was working with the States to have Thriving Kids supports in place by 2028.

Also reported by: [Narrogin Observer \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#), [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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'The next Robodebt': MND patient slams NDIS delays as new laws pass

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 27/08/2026, William Stanley

Every morning, two carers position pillows behind her head so she can sit up in bed. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said there were limited areas within the scheme that use automated systems.

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MINISTER RAE

Federal government extends home support

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, Other, 27/08/2026, Eva Kolimar

Older residents in Sutherland Shire can breathe a sigh of relief following the Australian government's decision to extend the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) through to June 30, 2029. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler reaffirmed the government's commitment to listening to community feedback.

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Free walk-in mental health centre launches on Northern Gold Coast

hottomato.com.au, Other, 27/08/2026, Shanee Holmes

More than 6,000 Gold Coasters are expected to access free mental health support over the next year, following the official opening of a new Medicare Mental Health Centre in Pimpama. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride joined Senator Murray Watt to officially launch the service, which aims to keep pace with the booming population across the northern Gold Coast.

[Read More](#)

Jewish support built into new Bondi mental health centre

J-Wire, Other, 27/08/2026

A permanent mental health centre has opened in Bondi Junction with dedicated support for Jewish Australians still dealing with the impact of the December 14 terrorist attack. [...] The permanent centre was officially opened on Wednesday by Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health.

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ABC Gold Coast, Mornings , 27/08/2026, Nicole Dyer

Interview with Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride. Compere mentions that there's a new Medicare Mental Health Centre being opened up on the Gold Coast. McBride explains that Medicare mental health centres are set up to remove any barriers like wait times and appointments for people who need it. She adds that the area is staffed by 24 people, consisting of mental health clinicians, social workers, psychologists, and counsellors.

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Canberra Conference Unit, Press Conference, 27/08/2026

Press Conference with Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride about the opening of a new Medicare Mental Health Centre on the Gold Coast. McBride says one in five Australians experience mental health challenges that need extra attention. She notes that the new centre is expected to help about 6000 locals. She says she's proud that the Federal Government has invested more than \$1.1b in strengthening Medicare and introducing the Medicare Mental Health Centres.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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Concern over aged care wait

Geraldton Guardian, General News, 28/08/2026, Sienna Seychell, Page 8

Geraldton MLA Kirrilee Warr is calling for urgent action to cut wait times in aged care, citing local concerns and confusion caused by inconsistent government information. [...] According to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the Support at Home program began on November 1 last year.

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Find a meaningful career in home care with support every step of the way

Shepparton News, General News, 28/08/2026, Page 15

Many people don't realise the rewarding and flexible job opportunities available in home care. [...] Funded by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, this program is being delivered in North West Tasmania and Shepparton, Victoria by Ageing Australia.

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Pharmacy confusion

Port Lincoln Times, General News, 27/08/2026, Charlotte Martin, Page 2

There was confusion in Coffin Bay after police and government staff descended on Coffin Bay Pharmacy this week. SA Police (SAPOL) confirmed they attended a premises on Flinders Street in Coffin Bay on Wednesday 19 August to assist the federal government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing while it conducted enquiries.

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AMA calls for clarity

King Island Courier, General News, 27/08/2026, Page 6

The Australian Medical Association has warned against creating a new regulatory regime around medical fees as the Federal Government considers changes aimed at giving patients clearer information about healthcare costs. The AMA's comments follow a Department of Health, Disability and Ageing consultation on fee transparency and informed financial consent, which closed on August 5.

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Prescriber bags

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 27/08/2026, Page 1

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is reminding pharmacists of their obligations when supplying and claiming prescriber bag (doctor's bag) medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). To supply and claim prescriber bag medicines, pharmacists must ensure the order form is completed in duplicate and signed by the prescriber, and only supply medicines listed in Schedule 1 of the National Health (Prescriber Bag Supplies) Determination 2024.

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Regional families fear National Disability Insurance Scheme cuts will hit them hardest

West Australian, Other, 28/08/2026, Rosa Griffith

Regional families and service providers say their already limited access to disability support will worsen, following the passing of legislation enabling sweeping cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. [...] A spokesperson for NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister told the Kalgoorlie Miner the Albanese Government was working with the States to have Thriving Kids supports in place by 2028.

Also reported by: [Narrogin Observer \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#), [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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New Jigalong dialysis clinic to help Martu patients receive treatment closer to home

West Australian, Other, 27/08/2026, Joshua Dowdall

Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service has announced it will be delivering a new dialysis clinic in Jigalong, demolishing old buildings to make way for the clinic and dedicated staff accommodation. The project is being funded by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, with construction expected to start in May 2027 and the facility open in early 2028.

Also reported by: [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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New leadership at Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/08/2026, Callan Morse

Aboriginal health executive Monica Barolits-McCabe has been appointed the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association's (AIPA) new Chief Executive Officer. [...] Ms Barolits-McCabe's career has included senior roles with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA), Flinders University Northern Territory, Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT), Danila Dilba Aboriginal Medical Service and the Australian Government Department of Health.

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Union launches legal action against aged care giant over care minutes

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/08/2026, Caroline Egan

The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association alleges Opal HealthCare breached clause 58 of the Opal Healthcare (NSW) Enterprise Agreement 2023 when it failed to meet care minute targets and misreported care minutes. [...] The union claims Opal HealthCare is not complying with an updated 'Care Minutes Responsibility Guide' published by the Department of Health Disability and Ageing.

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AMA 'unconvinced' on PHI rebate axing

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/08/2026, Holly Payne

Cutting the private health insurance rebate for older Australians will only shift more patients onto overburdened public hospitals, the AMA argues, as pressure mounts on the government to abandon the policy. [...] In its own submission to the senate inquiry , the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing confirmed, for the first time, that the estimated number of age pension recipients who had private health cover was in the 1.2-million-person ballpark.

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DoHDA maps out 10-year digital investment plan

Health Services Daily, Other, 27/08/2026, Cate Swannell

The health department has laid out a decade-long digital investment agenda spanning health, disability and aged care as it moves to a multi-vendor ICT model and builds its internal AI capability.

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DoHDA's CHSP reversal defied Treasury orthodoxy: Fitzgerald

Health Services Daily, Other, 27/08/2026, Cate Swannell

Former Productivity Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald has credited successful sector advocacy with overturning a decade of policy thinking that threatened the Commonwealth Home Support Program.

[Read More](#)

NMSC: common, deadly, preventable

Oncology Republic, Other, 27/08/2026, Lincoln Tracy

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a new report focused on the incidence and mortality associated with non-melanoma skin cancer. [...] "The AIHW is continuing to work with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Melanoma Institute Australia, and the population-based

cancer registries to improve skin cancer data, including multiple primary melanomas," the report concluded.

[Read More](#)

Lilly targets black market retatrutide

Oncology Republic, Other, 27/08/2026, Amanda Sheppard

Eli Lilly has called for tougher action against illegal sellers of retatrutide as Australian regulators grapple with an online market that has already been linked to cases of acute liver injury. [...] Professor Anthony Lawler, deputy secretary of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and head of the TGA, said this operation sent "a clear message to people using social media to promote or supply unapproved peptides- selling or supplying online does not place you outside the law".

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In Practice: DoHDA issues Prescriber Bag guidance

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/08/2026, Michelle Wisbey

This week's In Practice also includes a webinar on mild cognitive impairment recognition, diagnosis and management, the last chance to apply for the Future Leaders Program, and a Lung Cancer Foundation survey. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) has developed an editorial for prescribers in relation to Prescriber Bag ordering for dissemination.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Car allowance boost to offset fuel increase

The Australian, General News, 28/08/2026, Ewin Hannan, Page 8

Thousands of aged-care and disability workers who are required to use their own car to visit clients stand to gain up to an extra \$59 a week after the Fair Work Commission agreed to increase their vehicle allowance from \$1.01 to \$1.05 a kilometre for six months. But a commission full bench rejected a broader ACTU-led claim to increase vehicle allowances in a further 39 awards to \$1.07 per kilometre, finding the evidence by union witnesses in support of the claim "was of little probative value".

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

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Court case threatens to reshape aged care rules

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/08/2026, David Marin-Guzman, Page 9

The country's biggest aged care provider is accused of breaching new Albanese government requirements by counting folding towels and scraping food off plates as patient care in a test case that could serve as a warning for other providers.

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

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Aged care's 'Robodebt'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/08/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 1

A rural Tasmanian senior living with chronic myeloid leukaemia and reduced mobility was left waiting eight months for basic care after an automated government assessment assigned him just 1.5 hours of support a week. With assessment delays, limited local services, the client faced months of uncertainty through reviews and reassessments before eventually receiving urgent level 5 support.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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'Tip of the iceberg': Experts want troubled aged care program changed

The Senior, Other, 27/08/2026, Phoebe Loomes

Older Australians are dying waiting for funding under the troubled Support at Home program, as experts say they have lost confidence in the entire system. Pastoral carer Deirdre Barry said late last year, one of her clients died of pancreatic cancer after spending more than a year waiting for his funding to be approved.

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Could this model help get older people out of hospital?

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/08/2026, Lauren Broomham

A new home care provider is testing a different way to get medically cleared older people out of hospital and safely back home. Sydney and Illawarra-based operator Freewave Aged Care's rapid-response model brings together the practical supports that can hold up a hospital discharge – from transport and home modifications to personal care – with intensive support during the first seven to 14 days at home.

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Burnout pushing workers away, not pay rates

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/08/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Burnout is the driving factor behind aged care workers walking away from a provider, not pay, new data from Mirus Australia shows. The poll of 170 people across 123 aged care organisations, conducted ahead of Mirus Australia's recruitment and retention webinar, shows 52 per cent of respondents had lost a staff member in the last 12 months that they believe they could have kept.

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Unions win vehicle allowance increase for aged care and community workers

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 27/08/2026

Australian Unions have secured an increase in the vehicle allowance paid to community and aged care workers following an application to the Fair Work Commission. The Commission has agreed to temporarily increase the allowance from \$1.01 to \$1.05 per kilometre for workers covered by the relevant aged care and community sector awards.

[Read More](#)

Here's what to keep in mind before and after an aged care assessment

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 27/08/2026

Pressure has been building on the federal government in recent weeks to scrap the algorithm currently being used in aged care assessment decisions. Criticism has been of the algorithm itself, but also the fact there is no possibility for humans to override its final decision.

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

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3AW, Mornings, 27/08/2026, Tom Elliott

Interview with Council on the Ageing CEO Patricia Sparrow. Elliott says 65% of people over 75yo feel digitally excluded. Sparrow says a large proportion of older Australians often talk about their struggle in using digital services. She notes that aside from not using digital devices while growing up, many older Australians also can't afford or access them these days.

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4BC, Drive, 27/08/2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with National Seniors Australia Director of Policy and Research Dr Brendon Radford on the Federal Government's decision to wind back the higher private health insurance rebate currently given to Australians aged 65 and over. Radford says the decision will not only leave older Australians with a lower rebate, but will also leave them facing higher premiums.

Continues on: [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#), [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#).

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6PR, Drive, 27/08/2026, Jamie Burnett

Interview with Juniper Aged Care CEO Russell Bricknell. Burnett says the average wait time for home care packages has blown out, resulting in a Senate committee inquiry and a new campaign for change. Bricknell says the Federal Government needs to fix the Support at Home program to give consumers confidence in the home care setting. He notes that some people are choosing not to get services, either because it's too difficult or it's too expensive, or it's not meeting the needs they have at the moment.

Continues on: [6PR \(Perth\)](#).

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

NDIS cuts 'will hurt'

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 28/08/2026, Rosa Griffith, Page 1

Regional families and service providers say their already limited access to disability support will worsen following the passing of legislation enabling sweeping cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The NDIS Amendment Bill, designed to claw back disability spending, passed Federal Parliament last week, with the changes expected to save \$37.8 billion in the next four years.

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Disability scheme participant 'busted'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 28/08/2026, Andrew Thomson, Page 3

Hamilton police detectives have busted a man over an alleged \$700,000 National Disability Insurance Scheme fraud committed over two years. A joint investigation run by Hamilton Crime Investigation Unit detectives and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) started after a man allegedly defrauded his own NDIS plan between June 28, 2024, and June 30, 2026.

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NDIS reform carer concern

Border Watch, General News, 28/08/2026, Page 18

Recent reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has prompted concern from a key carers body. Carers Australia chief executive officer Joanna Cave said the governments reforms would shift cost and responsibilities onto unpaid carers.

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Concerns raised over program

Border Watch, General News, 28/08/2026, Page 19

Changes are coming for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), but the Australian Medical Association in South Australia (AMA SA) is sending a warning to parents. The association has warned that South Australian families and doctors are being kept in the dark about a new program intended to support young children with developmental concerns.

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Here's how we can prevent these crises before they happen

Canberra Times, Other, 27/08/2026, Lisa Kelly

Two young children were allegedly hurt in Canberra last week, and their family is now living through something no family should have to endure. [...] Right now, the government plans to cut funding for community inclusion and engagement for people with a disability.

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Victorian man arrested over alleged \$700,000 NDIS fraud

A 48-year-old Victorian man has been arrested after being accused of using two businesses to funnel about \$700,000 in National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funding into his own bank accounts. Hamilton Crime Investigation Unit detectives and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) allege the man, who is an NDIS participant, submitted false invoices for services he did not receive over a two-year period.

[Read More](#)

Victoria man faces charges over \$700,000 NDIS fraud

Daily Mail UK, Other, 27/08/2026, Caitlin Powell

A man in western Victoria has been arrested for allegedly scamming the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) out of about \$700,000 using false invoices. An investigation was launched by Victoria Police and the National Disability Insurance Agency after allegations an NDIS participant defrauded his plan between June 28, 2024, and June 30, 2026.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Docs demand we slow down

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/08/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 26

The Australian Medical Association has called for speed limits to be lowered in light of South Australia's rising road toll. AMA state president Associate Professor Peter Subramaniam praised The Advertiser's coverage of the tragic toll, saying it put faces to the numbers 75 South Australians who left home this year and did not come back.

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Qld health workforce plan delay slammed by AMA Queensland

The Courier Mail, Other, 27/08/2026, Tayla Couacaud

Queensland's peak medical body has issued a fresh plea for the state government to release its long-awaited health workforce plan as public hospitals struggle under the weight of persistent staff shortages. The call from AMA Queensland comes after the state government released a workforce gap analysis last year, revealing a shortfall of about 3500 full-time workers across multiple sectors by the end of 2024-25.

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

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Dr Max Mollenkopf hits out at RACGP over accreditation demand for 'climate change champions'

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/08/2026, Jamie Thannoo

Dr Max Mollenkopf says the RACGP has "absolutely stooged practice owners" over its accreditation demands for practices to have "climate change champions". The high-profile GP claimed the new demands were an example of "absurd overreach" by the college and would result in more administrative work and higher costs.

[Read More](#)

Revealed: The new AI standards GP practices must meet to stay accredited

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/08/2026, Rachel Carter

GP practices must have processes for doctors to obtain and record informed patient consent to the use of AI to meet the RACGP's new accreditation standards. The sixth edition of the standards for general

practice, published by the college today, contains a total of 86 mandatory criteria and three 'aspirational' criteria.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Men want challenge, not diet, to lose weight

The Australian, General News, 28/08/2026, Poppy Koronka, Page 8

Men struggle to lose weight on traditional dieting programs because they are primarily aimed at women and seem too restrictive, research has found. [...] In Australia, about 72.5 per cent of men are obese or overweight, compared with 61.8 per cent of women, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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

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Ladies who lunch dish it out for women's health

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/08/2026, Hannah Tattersall, Page 5

Their names might be synonymous with wealth and glamour and the occasional scandal but for the usually private women who comprise The Royal Hospital for Women Foundation's Ladies Luncheon committee.

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Geelong needs injecting room: coroner

Age, General News, 28/08/2026, Henrietta Cook and Melissa Cunningham, Page 5

A coroner has called for a safe injecting room in Geelong after new data revealed the regional city was on track to become Victoria's top hotspot for fatal drug overdoses. The recommendation comes from a damning finding into the December death of a 33-year-old Geelong woman, whose mother found her unresponsive in her bedroom following a drug overdose involving heroin.

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Focus on porn role in death of teen

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/08/2026, Will Paige and Jim O'Rourke, Page 11

The death of a teenage girl, allegedly from strangulation during consensual sex, has led to calls for better sex education and a greater focus on consent culture and the impact of pornography on young boys. [...] The Australian government is spending \$77.6 million over five years to 2028 to support what it described as "age-appropriate, expert developed, evidence-based" consent and respectful relationships education.

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

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Drug deaths hit a high

Herald Sun, General News, 28/08/2026, Craig Dunlop, Page 21

Deaths from Australia's drug crisis have reached a record high including a "particularly troubling" surge in deaths of young cocaine users. The Penington Institute's latest annual overdose report, released on Friday, revealed 2596 Australians, including 690 Victorians, died from overdoses in 2024.

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Mum's womb mates

Courier Mail, General News, 28/08/2026, Vanda Carson, Page 1

A Queensland mother has given birth to her own baby at the same time as delivering a second child via surrogacy for another couple, believed to be an Australian first. The incredible birth of the

genetically unrelated twins was only discovered after a pre-birth DNA test.

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Uranium found in illegal ciggies

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/08/2026, Jon Kaila, Page 3

Toxic chemicals such as radioactive uranium and deadly arsenic have been found in a popular illicit cigarette brand sold in Australia. Chinese product Double Happiness the second-biggest brand of cigarettes sold in the country was found to have high levels of heavy metals that cause cancer.

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

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Sticking Point

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/08/2026, Luke Griffiths, Page 1

A Victorian coroner is calling for Geelong to become home to a medically supervised injecting facility, citing a growing number of heroin overdoses in the region. Simon McGregor made the recommendation after an investigation into the December 2025 fatal overdose of a 33year-old woman in St Albans Park.

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

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

Gap widens: LGBTQIA+ community at risk

Ballarat Courier, General News, 28/08/2026, Nick Powell, Page 2

A lack of "life-saving" healthcare is harming Ballarat's LGBTQIA+ community, who are taking it upon themselves to search for and fund solutions. [...] The most recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reported 79.6 per cent of non-binary participants had experienced suicidal thoughts in their lifetimes, compared with 14.9 of cisgender men and 18.0 of cisgender women.

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

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

Liberals say CBD supervised centre for addicts not solution to growing problem

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/08/2026, Zoe De Koning and Luke Griffiths, Page 6

Geelong's conservative politicians and political candidates have slammed a recommendation to establish a medically supervised injecting centre in the CBD, arguing it is not the answer to the region's escalating drug problem. Liberal Senator Sarah Henderson said while people struggling with drug addiction needed greater support, a permanent injecting facility in the CBD posed a significant risk and was "not the solution".

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Mental health strain for most in prison

Cairns Post, General News, 28/08/2026, Page 10

About three in five Australian prisoners have had a mental health condition at some stage of their life. An Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report found mental health or behavioural conditions were the most common health issue recorded in prison medical records in 2024-25.

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

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

Petition to axe LGBTQ+ school programs

Cairns Post, General News, 28/08/2026, Noah Champion, Page 11

A Sunshine Coast mum is railing against LGBTQ+ support programs in school, describing them as "unscientific ideology being forced...on children". [...] Despite ACON's positive work in support programs and workplace/school inclusion, Ms Pace said "transgender ideology is contentious and not

settled", and claimed 95 per cent of parents agreed that "gender and LGBTQ+ education did not belong in schools".

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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

Women's health expo returns to region

Border Watch, General News, 28/08/2026, Page 11

Women across the Limestone Coast are being encouraged to make their health a priority, with the Limestone Coast Women's Health Collective preparing to host its third annual Women's Health Expo during National Women's Health Week. The Collective brings together local professionals from general practice, fertility and reproductive health, physiotherapy, dietetics, sonography, psychology, nursing and midwifery, working collaboratively to improve access to reliable women's health information, services and support.

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

Fifty per cent of women experience this health condition. Why has nobody warned them?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/08/2026, Sarah Berry

The memory is etched in Monique Vogt's mind. [...] One in three Australian women experiences incontinence, and in about 60 per cent of those instances it is because of prolapse.

[Read More](#)

Queensland mother gives birth to biologically unrelated twins as surrogacy coincides with natural pregnancy

ABC Online, Other, 27/08/2026, Janelle Miles

A woman has given birth to biologically unrelated twins in Australia. The surrogate, already a mother of five, gave birth to a boy and girl last November.

[Read More](#)

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Breakthrough pancreatic cancer drug approved

The Australian, General News, 28/08/2026, Xavier Martinez, Page 8

For four decades, cancer researchers fought to disable a stubborn mutation that made pancreatic cancer a death sentence to little avail. [...] There's a 14 per cent chance of surviving at least five years after diagnosis, according to Cancer Australia.

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

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

Cancer centre funding call

Shepparton News, General News, 28/08/2026, Bree Harding, Page 13

Shepparton's future fully integrated cancer centre was flagged in parliament this week, as local politicians urge the Victorian Government to fund its completion. The Federal Government contributed \$30 million towards design and the start of construction for the cancer centre, but the Victorian Government has so far failed to provide funding to complete this vital project.

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

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

Prescient Therapeutics targets cancer with world-first GGTase-1 inhibitor

The Australian, Other, 27/08/2026

Prescient Therapeutics (ASX:PTX) is at the forefront of this approach with PTX-100, a small molecule which the company says is the world's first GGTase-1 inhibitor to enter clinical development. [...] There are now 28 patients enrolled with a target of 40 evaluable patients at trial sites in Australia, the US and Italy with progress being made to open additional sites in France.

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

[Read More](#)

Voluntary assisted dying legalised in the NT after 30-year fight

Northern Territory News, Other, 27/08/2026, Fia Walsh

Northern Territory parliament has almost unanimously passed voluntary assisted dying laws following days of emotional debate, months of inquiries, and decades of courageous advocacy. A handful of CLP backbenchers crossed the floor to vote for changes to their party's own Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill but ultimately failed to get the numbers, with Cabinet ministers voting as a block despite an ostensible conscience vote.

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

[Read More](#)

NT set to pass voluntary assisted dying laws today, legalising VAD Australia-wide

ABC Online, Other, 27/08/2026, Gemma Ferguson

Voluntary assisted dying (VAD) laws are expected to pass the Northern Territory Parliament today, in a move that will legalise the practice across Australia. The Country Liberal Party (CLP) government's proposed legislation will go to a conscience vote today, with almost all of the NT's parliamentarians standing in favour.

[Read More](#)

Brisbane woman says life saved by free lung cancer scan that found 1.6cm tumour

ABC Online, Other, 27/08/2026, Janelle Miles and Emma Pollard

Suzi Scott was a child when her mother died of lung cancer, aged just 49. [...] Ms Scott is one of more than 117,000 people who have been scanned since Australia's National Lung Cancer Screening Program began in July last year.

[Read More](#)

Hold-out territory passes voluntary assisted dying law

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 28/08/2026, Lloyd Jones

Voluntary assisted dying laws have been passed in a territory jurisdiction following debate over a gag clause barring doctors from raising end-of-life options with patients. The Rights of the Terminally Ill bill passed on a conscience vote in the Northern Territory parliament late on Thursday, with the gag intact.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail UK \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

'I couldn't live without her': Mum's fear during daughter's cancer battle

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 27/08/2026, Alise Gunning

For the past 12 months, Anne Spencer has "worried every day," and every day, she has woken up fearful for her daughter's life. The mother of Tylah Fathers, who, in 2025, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL), a cancer that affects blood and bone marrow, has been with her daughter for every step of her cancer journey.

[Read More](#)

Help patients treat inflammation not just asthma symptoms

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 27/08/2026

The National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) says National Asthma Week (1-7 September) is the

perfect time to help educate patients to focus on treating inflammation, not just asthma symptoms.
“Asthma is one of the most prevalent chronic diseases in Australia, and we need to empower patients so they can make the best decisions to help manage their asthma.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

How horses are helping to treat mental health

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 28/08/2026, Chelsea Bunting, Page 7

A Gold Coast-based equine therapy centre is marking a decade of teaching students and professionals how horses can help people improve their mental wellbeing. Founded in 2016 by psychotherapist Jane Faulkner, Equine Assisted Therapy Australia (EATA) provides mental health training at its Tallebudgera Valley facility.

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Giaan Ramsay's parents push for new safeguards act to overhaul mental health system

The Courier Mail, Other, 27/08/2026, Ann Wason Moore

The family of 17-year-old Giaan Ramsay has proposed sweeping reforms to Queensland's compulsory mental health laws, with Gold Coast MPs backing Giaan's Safeguards Act and calling for its implementation. Mermaid Beach MP Ray Stevens has pledged to take the proposal to Health Minister Tim Nicholls to 'advise on its implementation', while McPherson MP Leon Rebello has also backed the Act's stronger safeguards.

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

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Busselton community have chance to build life-saving mental health and suicide prevention skills next month

West Australian, Other, 27/08/2026, Craig Duncan

South West residents have a chance to build life-saving mental health and suicide prevention skills next month. From September 7 to 11, Lifeline WA will be running a series of free youth-focused training programs ahead of World Suicide Prevention Day.

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

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IMMUNISATION

First case of respiratory diphtheria reported in Perth Metro area sparking urgent vaccine warning

West Australian, Other, 27/08/2026, Caitlin Vinci

A severe case of respiratory diphtheria has been detected in the Perth metropolitan area sparking a fresh vaccination push. The Perth case comes as the wider WA outbreak continues to grow, with 224 diphtheria cases now notified across regional WA.

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

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Government ends universal Covid-19 vaccine program

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 28/08/2026

At-risk patients to retain access to funded Covid-19 shots through NIP as government calls time on NCVP Free Covid-19 vaccinations will continue to be available for at-risk groups through the National Immunisation Program (NIP) from 1 October 2026. In an update for immunisation providers issued on Friday (14 August 2026), the Department of Health,

[Read More](#)

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Ramsay shares surge as CEO's strategic overhaul boosts profit

Australian Financial Review, Other, 27/08/2026, Michael Smith

Ramsay Health Care chief executive Natalie Davis says she is confident admissions will keep growing despite a rise in the number of patients downgrading to cheaper health insurance products, as she delivered on her strategy.

[Read More](#)

Avive mental health hospital reaches milestone ahead of 2027 opening

Adelaide Now, Other, 27/08/2026, Giuseppe Tauriello

A new private mental health hospital is on track to open by the middle of next year after construction of the project in Adelaide's CBD reached a new milestone. [...] It will bring 60 new mental health beds to the former Calvary Hospital site on the corner of Hutt and Wakefield streets, along with psychiatrist consulting suites and dedicated spaces for day programs and outpatient treatment.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

SAHMRI's split decision

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/08/2026, Andrew Hough, Page 8

South Australian taxpayers will take control of a controversial proton beam therapy unit and manage operations as the state's embattled medical institute is broken up. In a landmark "divorce" to be unveiled on Friday, the new taxpayer-funded Adelaide University will "bail out" the flagship South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute but its world-leading "brand and identity" will stay.

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

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Adelaide research could improve how brain cancer and tumours are treated

ABC Online, Other, 27/08/2026

Simran Singh was just 12 years old when excruciating headaches led to her first brain tumour diagnosis. [...] The Adelaide researchers received \$240,000 — the first team to be allocated funding under a new national initiative from the Mark Hughes Foundation Centre for Brain Cancer Research to fast track new approaches to brain cancer and brain tumour treatment.

[Read More](#)

'I'd always been the life of the party. When I went out at 6 weeks postpartum, I knew I had a problem.'

Mamamia, Other, 27/08/2026, Laura Aubusson

Every Sunday morning would start the same way. [...] And research by the University of Sydney's Matilda Centre found 53 percent of postpartum mothers experience levels of anxiety that put them at

high risk of an anxiety disorder.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 27/08/2026, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Menzies Institute for Medical Research Principal Research Fellow Associate Professor Dawn Aitken about the \$5m grant from the Medical Research Future Fund to conduct research into knee and hip osteoarthritis in Tasmania. Aitken says the grant will fund a five-year project across Tasmania to expand access to physiotherapy care for knee and hip osteoarthritis. She talks about the three components of the project.

Continues on: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Kimberley ear health forum puts community-led care in the spotlight

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 27/08/2026, Phoebe Solon

Health professionals from across the Kimberley gathered in Broome for a two-day forum focused on improving ear and hearing health, particularly among First Nations children. The Kimberley Ear Health Education Forum, held on August 20 and 21, brought together Aboriginal health professionals, nurses, audiologists, doctors, medical students and other health workers for training, case studies and discussions about improving care in remote communities.

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

[Read More](#)

New, improved and mobile laundry facilities for remote communities to tackle preventable disease

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/08/2026, Jarred Cross

Remote First Nations communities and homelands across Northern Australia will set up new, or upgrade existing, community laundry facilities, aimed in-part at targeting preventable illnesses. [...] Trachoma, scabies, acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease are among the illnesses it's hoped to combat in remote communities.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

16 ambulances ramped at TUH

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 28/08/2026, Emma Cam, Page 2

Sixteen ambulances were ramped at Townsville University Hospital on Wednesday in a shocking backlog, with at least one patient reportedly left waiting for nine hours. The Townsville University Hospital confirmed it was facing increased demand in its emergency department, along with pressure on inpatient capacity.

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

And another thing ...

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 28/08/2026, Page 32

Reports of 16 ramped ambulances and a nine-hour wait for patients at Townsville University Hospital should alarm every North Queenslander. While Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls and Opposition Leader Steven Miles take turns playing the blame game, this is what a system under severe pressure looks like, and patients are paying the price.

Funding making stays shorter

Daily Advertiser, General News, 28/08/2026, John Hall, Page 2

The benefits of a \$30 million investment in health are being felt in the Riverina through the expansion of high-volume short-stay surgical services at Wagga Base Hospital. The new program supports ear, nose and throat surgery, general surgery, gynaecology, urology and orthopaedic surgeries.

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Minns government accused of 'broken promise' over Western Sydney hospital beds

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/08/2026, Harrison Finlay

The Minns government has been accused of trying to "fib their way out of a broken promise" after failing to deliver 600 additional hospital beds in Western Sydney. It came as a top health bureaucrat conceded that the only new beds that have been delivered were funded by the previous government.

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

[Read More](#)

Construction tender on hold until independent audit on hospital redevelopment

The Border Mail, Other, 27/08/2026, Chelsea Wilson

The tender for the main works of Albury hospital's clinical services building won't be awarded until an independent report is handed down, in what has been called a "significant win for the Albury community". Greens MP Dr Amanda Cohn questioned the NSW health minister on the hospital redevelopment during budget estimates on Thursday, August 27.

[Read More](#)

'Their involvement is pivotal in time-critical conditions'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 28/08/2026, Megan Haggan

New Standards strengthen pharmacy care amid growing pressure on emergency departments, says AdPha The newly updated pharmacy practice standard for emergency medicine has been released by Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) to support best practice for pharmacists working in Australia's busy emergency departments.

[Read More](#)

New Standards strengthen pharmacy care amid growing pressure on emergency departments

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 27/08/2026

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has released the newly updated pharmacy practice standard for emergency medicine to support best practice for pharmacists working in Australia's busy emergency departments. Emergency departments (EDs) are a vital part of Australia's healthcare system, providing care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Similar coverage reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

New nurse prescribers will be responsible for every decision they make, AHPRA says

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/08/2026, Ciara Seccombe

Registered nurses endorsed to prescribe scheduled medicines in partnership with doctors will remain

individually responsible for every prescribing decision they make, regulators have stressed. A small number of nurses — believed to be fewer than 50 — have now received prescribing endorsement from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

King's health call

Border Watch, General News, 28/08/2026, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

Health concerns remain the top priority for Mount Gambier/Berrin's Nicole King. Earlier this year, Ms King pushed forward a petition to highlight training gaps at the Mount Gambier and District Hospital following a disappointing experience.

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UWA intern wins award for international health workplace research after stint in Geraldton

West Australian, Other, 28/08/2026, Sally Q Davies

One University of WA student has received an award for research work she has done addressing health inequality in regional areas, including research in Geraldton. Political science and international relations student Keighlee Burkhardt has been recognised for her research internship with UWA's McCusker Centre for Citizenship.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Diet drugs lift Chemist Warehouse

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 28/08/2026, Michael Smith, Page 17

Cashed-up consumers buying weight loss drugs are driving Chemist Warehouse sales to record highs, filling their baskets with products from dry scalp and indigestion treatments to hydration supplements to counter the side effects of GLP-1s.

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

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Ozempic in a pill could transform the country

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 28/08/2026, James Thomson and Anthony Macdonald, Page 23

It's fascinating how the Chemist Warehouse growth story has suddenly changed.

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

Eczema setback

Geelong Independent, General News, 28/08/2026, Jena Carr, Page 3

There has been a setback in the funding of medication for young children living with severe eczema, including families from the Surf Coast. The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) released its decision on 21 August not to support the latest revised proposal to make dupilumab (brand name Dupixent) available to kids under 12 through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

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Why keeping your essential medicine cheap is a win for health and inflation

Newcastle Herald, Other, 27/08/2026, Trent Twomey

The latest inflation data underscores the pressure facing household budgets across Australia. [...] Following successive reductions to the maximum patient co-payment in 2023 and 2026, Australians have saved more than \$1.4 billion on PBS medicines.

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

[Read More](#)

Guild calls for co-payment freeze

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 27/08/2026

Australians have saved more than \$1.41 billion on medicines since the Albanese Government first cut PBS prescription costs in 2023. [...] In 2026, prescription prices are at their lowest level in 20 years – without the Government's intervention, the cost of a PBS script would now be about \$50.

[Read More](#)

Chemist Warehouse earnings surge on weight-loss drugs

The New Daily, Other, 27/08/2026

Australia's biggest pharmacy chain, Chemist Warehouse, has reported a boom in sales linked to the celebrity-driven trend of weight-loss drugs. [...] "If the government puts it onto the PBS (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme), which is obviously still being negotiated, and the oral dose comes into Australia, I think the market size starts to grow materially."

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Telehealth 'can't beat face-to-face care'

Herald Sun, General News, 28/08/2026, Jade Gailberger, Page 12

Telehealth is not a substitute for face-to-face care for Aussies in remote Australia. That's the warning from Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia federation chief executive, Emma Buchanan, who said health inequalities in our nation were a "significant problem".

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

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3AW, Drive, 27/08/2026, Jacqui Felgate

Interview with Kensington Hill Medical Centre director Dr Elise Davey, discussing the prohibitively expensive costs families face when booking specialist telehealth appointments and repeat prescriptions. Davey acknowledges that charging steep fees or online admin charges for basic routine repeats offers little added value and risks fostering public animosity against doctors. She advises patients to set expectations when booking, build a strong relationship with their doctor, and to seek alternative providers if they feel they are not getting fair value for their care.

Continues on: [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#), [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#).

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Drug overdose deaths at grim new level

Courier Mail, General News, 28/08/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 3

Queensland has recorded its deadliest drug overdose year on record. [...] The Loop Australia chief executive Cameron Francis warned the number of overdoses would rise further due to the removal of drug testing services.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

NSW reviews contract for faulty ambo equipment

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/08/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 18

The NSW government is investigating what options it can enforce under a contract that locks the state's ambulance fleet into using error-plagued defibrillators for a further six years. The Therapeutic Goods Administration has temporarily banned the corpuls3 and corpuls3T defibrillators from sale while they investigate reports the devices unexpectedly shut down and reboot during use.

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

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Move to reduce amount of vitamin B6 considered safe by 72 per cent

ABC Online, Other, 27/08/2026, Tom Hartley

Months after taking vitamin supplements, Dominic Noonan-O'Keefe says he feared he was dying. [...] In November last year the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) — which had conceded it had been too slow to act — moved to pull high-dose B6 products from general sale, while also asking the NHMRC to review the science behind the limit.

[Read More](#)

Vaping is better than patches or gums for quitting smoking – updated review

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 27/08/2026, Wayne Hall

If you've ever been a smoker, you'll know how hard it is to quit. [...] The Cochrane review makes a good case for quitting services to offer vapes to people who have failed to quit smoking using nicotine-replacement therapies and drugs such as varenicline. Australia's drug regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), has not approved any nicotine-containing vapes but people who smoke cigarettes can buy unapproved devices through a TGA special access scheme.

Also reported by: [Medicine Today \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Govt funds drug discovery

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/08/2026

The Australian Government has committed \$7 million in funding to strengthen the nation's drug discovery pipeline. Delivered through a collaboration between the Walter and Elizabeth Hall Medical Research Institute (WEHI), the Bio21 Institute and Therapeutic Innovation Australia, the funding will expand the National Drug Discovery Centre's (NDDC) capacity to provide.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

Hunger for healthier policies

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/08/2026, Shahan Campbell, Page 18

The places we live, work, study and play are important locations for governments to improve population health by curbing unhealthy diets that cause preventable diseases and deaths. [...] Identifying 33 policies 30 from Australia and three from New Zealand with most targeting healthy food retail in schools and healthcare settings, Ms Backman analysed the policies to understand how sustainment was addressed.

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AICIS

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