



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 29th August 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Hobart Mercury**](#) (page 1) reports the ACCC has approved Calvary Healthcare's acquisition of Hobart Private Hospital, amid concerns some essential services will cease under the new ownership. *Also reported by:* [ABC Online](#)
- The [**West Australian**](#) (page 1) reports seven competitors were taken to hospital after collapsing at a Hyrox fitness event in Perth, with the AMA WA warning of additional pressure on emergency departments.
- The [**Weekend Australian**](#) (page 3) reports research suggests AI could allow routine mammograms to identify women at higher risk of cardiovascular disease as well as breast cancer.
- The [**Northern Territory News**](#) (page 5) reports health unions are calling for Royal Darwin Hospital to reinstate a Code Yellow, warning ongoing systemic failures are putting patients and staff at risk.
- The [**Daily Telegraph**](#) (online) reports the federal government's plan to reduce private health insurance rebates for older Australians could increase pressure on public hospital waiting lists. Health Minister Mark Butler said modelling suggests at most 44,000 people would drop their private cover.

- [SBS](#) (online) reports a record 2,596 drug-induced deaths were recorded in Australia in 2024, with experts calling for greater investment in treatment and overdose prevention. The Department of Health has been contacted for comment.
- [ABC Online](#) reports hospitalisations for endometriosis have risen 23 per cent over the past decade, with increased awareness, improved diagnosis and advances in medical technology cited as contributing factors. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [West Australian](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Labor's health rebate cuts set to hit thousands of older South Australians in battleground seats

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/08/2026, Brad Crouch

Marginal Labor held federal seats Sturt and Boothby are among electorates most affected by the federal government's plan to slash private health rebates for older Australians. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said independent modelling suggests "at most 44,000 people" would drop private health insurance as a result of the change.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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South Australian Government takes control of proton unit at Bragg Centre

7News.com.au, Other, 28/08/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

The South Australian government will take direct control of a major proton therapy unit that advocates hope will deliver lifesaving treatment at home. [...] The takeover was welcomed by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on Friday.

[Read More](#)

Profit not uncertainty behind CHSP withdrawal

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 28/08/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Tension is rising in Western Australia's Shire of Wagin as ratepayers continue to subsidise Commonwealth Home Support Program services that are operating at a loss. [...] "Minister Butler, in his press release announcing the continuation of CHSP, said that the council can no longer use the excuse of uncertainty to withdraw from CHSP," said Mr Kilpatrick, referring to Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler.

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5 things needed NOW — 6 months on from Simon Gordon scandal

Independent Australia, Other, 28/08/2026, Michelle Pini

It's been six months since a Four Corners program, 'Scarred', broke the story of Melbourne gynaecologist Simon Gordon's alleged surgical mutilation of endometriosis patients. [...] This is an area about which Jess feels very strongly and advocated for in the initial meetings with Mark Butler and Jacinta Allen.

[Read More](#)

RACGP sounds alarm on new clinics

The Medical Republic, Other, 28/08/2026, Alyssa Talakovski

Established GP practices could be put at risk by a \$25 million government plan to fund six new bulk billing clinics in NSW, the RACGP has warned. [...] TMR contacted Health Minister Mark Butler's office for comment on why existing practices were excluded from the incentive, where the minimum of 60 GPs would be sourced from, and whether modelling of the impact of subsidies on surrounding clinics had been undertaken.

[Read More](#)

CHO raises alarm over trans debate

The Medical Republic, Other, 28/08/2026, Holly Payne

Australia's chief doctor, GP Professor Michael Kidd, told delegates at this year's AMA conference that he hopes to see "robust but respectful engagement" with forthcoming advice on the use of puberty suppression in trans and gender diverse young people. Early last year, following a move by Queensland to pause the prescribing of puberty blockers and gender-affirming hormones in public hospital gender clinics, federal health minister Mark Butler tasked the National Health and Medical Research Council with developing national clinical practice guidelines for the care of trans and gender diverse minors.

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MRAC time-tiered rebate review coming in hot

The Medical Republic, Other, 28/08/2026, Holly Payne

The MBS review advisory committee report on GP time-tiered rebates will drop in the coming months, health minister Mark Butler confirmed during his address at the AMA national conference in Melbourne today. [...] Mr Butler also gave a nod to the AMA president's impressive red-and-gold formal academic robes: "no one quite has a set of gowns like the AMA. Not even the Pharmacy Guild ... and they're not known for their humility".

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 28/08/2026, Michael Usher and Angie Asimus

A Federal Senate inquiry is calling for a freeze on tobacco tax increases, warning the illegal market is out of control, but health experts fear changing course could come at a cost. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says Australia probably has the third-lowest smoking rate in the world.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Seven Tasmania \(Hobart\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Seven Orange \(Orange\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#).

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Channel 7, Seven News, 28/08/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

SA Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis admits South Australia's controversial proton therapy project is no closer to being delivered, despite a landmark bailout deal securing the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute's future. Canberra is considering proposals from both Adelaide and Melbourne and potentially funding both, a takeover welcomed by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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ABC Radio Sydney, 07:00 News, 28/08/2026

The Liberal-led Senate inquiry into illicit tobacco is due to hand down its report today, with Liberal Senator Leah Blyth saying it aims to create a roadmap for the Federal Government to tackle the issue. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler maintains that reducing the tobacco excise is not the answer to tackling the black market.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

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MINISTER RAE

The fog of health

Health Services Daily, Other, 28/08/2026, Simon Tatz

"Human in the loop" (HITL) has become a mantra, almost a cliché, when talking about processes involving artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare. [...] The 4 Corners exposé of the IAT in aged care highlights our need to have a face, like the minister for aged care and seniors Sam Rae, to be held accountable for black-box decisions.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Mother load

The Saturday Paper, General News, 29/08/2026, Hannah Bamba, Page 10

The Senate's women's health inquiry will examine Australia's postpartum care, as advocates warn of the risks to new parents of a fragmented system. Hannah Bamba is a writer, peer support worker and reproductive health advocate. [...] Assistant minister for women Rebecca White, Senator Marielle Smith and assistant minister for rural and regional health Emma McBride at Parliament House last week.

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For some Aussies in this regional Victorian town, going to prison has become the only way to access life-saving mental health care.

NEWS.com.au, Other, 28/08/2026, Ella Mcilveen

Susan Roll will never forget the moment her son called her and declared he was either "going to prison, or I'm going to die tonight". [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride told news.com.au the Labor government had delivered \$1.1 billion to strengthen mental health care.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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NBN Central Coast, NBN News, 28/08/2026, Natasha Beyersdorf

The Lake Haven Urgent Care Clinic has expanded its services to cope with high demand from Central Coast residents. Federal Member for Shortland Pat Conroy says today is the celebration of the delivery of \$8.4m that he and Federal MP Emma McBride committed to at the last election.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Mother load

The Saturday Paper, General News, 29/08/2026, Hannah Bamba, Page 10

The Senate's women's health inquiry will examine Australia's postpartum care, as advocates warn of the risks to new parents of a fragmented system. Hannah Bamba is a writer, peer support worker and reproductive health advocate. [...] Assistant minister for women Rebecca White, Senator Marielle Smith and assistant minister for rural and regional health Emma McBride at Parliament House last week.

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A good man isn't hard to find they're everywhere

Weekend Australian, General News, 29/08/2026, Gemma Tognini, Page 22

Last Friday night, I got briefly (and embarrassingly) lost on foot in Paddington. In my defence, it was dark and all the streets look the same to me still, even after nearly five years of living in Sydney. [...] I cheered when I read comments by NSW federal Labor MP Dan Repacholi: "The answer isn't telling young boys they are the problem."

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

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DEPARTMENT

Eczema medicine setback

Geelong Independent, Other, 28/08/2026, Jena Car

There has been a setback in the funding of medication for young children living with severe eczema, including families from the Surf Coast. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing was contacted for comment.

Also reported by: [Ocean Grove Voice \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

This Australian crisis is entering a 'confronting' new phrase

SBS, Other, 28/08/2026, Rachael Knowles

Drug-induced deaths have reached a record high, with older Australians accounting for more than half of the fatalities. [...] SBS News has contacted the Department of Health for comment.

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

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Other, 28/08/2026, 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.

[Read More](#)

DoHDA scales back own GP attendance targets

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 28/08/2026, Jolyon Attwooll

The Federal Health Department has quietly lowered its own benchmark for GP attendances, dropping its target for Australians who see a GP each year from 85% to 80% as patients increasingly access care through other providers. In a revised goal set out in its Corporate Strategy 2026–27, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) reveals it is now aiming for more than 80% of the population to make at least one annual Medicare-subsidised GP visit for 2026–27.

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Government seeks GP views on UCC program

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 28/08/2026, Karen Burge

GPs are being called on to provide feedback on the impact of urgent care clinics (UCC) on their local health systems, as part of a Federal Government review. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) has engaged research firm Nous Group to evaluate the UCC program against nine 'measures of success' agreed by the federal, state and territory governments.

Aged care 'can be sexy'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 28/08/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

After more than 40 years of working in the aged care sector and 21 years as chief executive officer of the Australian Nursing Home Foundation, Ada Cheng says she wants more people to understand that working in aged care "can be sexy, attractive [and] fun." [...] Ms Cheng said she had initially considered turning down the role. She was working for the Department of Health and Ageing and was enjoying the stability of the role.

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Health hands enterprise computing to Leidos in \$91m deal

WEB IT News Australia, Other, 28/08/2026, Ry Crozier

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has contracted Leidos Australia to supply enterprise computing services for the next three years in a deal worth \$91 million. The contract covers compute, storage, data centre network and cloud services to support department applications and digital platforms, according to the original tender documents.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Talk to my agent

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, 29/08/2026, Stephanie Wood, Page 1

You're fast asleep, snoring, dreaming happily that you've quit work, you're somewhere warm, siestas, great books, cocktails at sunset. [...] If, for example, a job ad for an aged-care worker asks for someone with experience in "case management", "holistic health plans" and "person-centred care", and an applicant like Bowler describes broadly similar experience using different language, a human recruiter reading her application might recognise her aptitude for the role.

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

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Aged care investigations recover \$5.3 million for underpaid nurses and care workers

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 28/08/2026, Natalie Dragon

The average underpayment of direct care workers, including personal care workers, enrolled nurses, registered nurses and assistants in nursing, was \$1,478. Of the 22 aged care businesses providing residential and home care services investigated by the FWO, 13 were found to have breached workplace laws in one or more areas.

Similar coverage reported by: [Australian Ageing Agenda \(Online\)](#).

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Project looks at all data to understand final chapter

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 28/08/2026, Natasha Egan

A palliative care nurse practitioner at Catholic Healthcare is investigating how routinely collected information can be used earlier to recognise care needs and help residential aged care staff plan ahead, improve communication and provide better support for residents and their families. [...] "Aged care has been through a long and significant period of reform which has identified problems but also strengthened the sector."

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Govt has used a 'sledgehammer' to meet outcomes

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 28/08/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Former Western Australian Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament Helen Morton delivered a blunt assessment of the government's aged care reform on Thursday at the Senate hearing inquiry into Support at Home, saying while the intent is good, "they've used a sledgehammer to come in with the outcomes, which has just squashed people. Speaking during the morning session of the audio-only hearing in Perth, Ms Morton, said that "it's heartbreaking to see people's disillusionment" with the co-contribution settings.

[Read More](#)

ABC Gippsland, Regional Statewide Mornings, 28/08/2026, Sandra Moon

Interview with Shadow Minister for Regional Health Dr Anne Webster. Moon says people across the Mallee are constrained by the Federal Government's centralised system, which relies on aged care algorithms, and she also states that a man named Lou is now in palliative care because he was unable to receive aged care due to an assessment that found his status unimportant. She notes that Federal Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae must be embarrassed by the Four Corners exposé on aged care, and he should contact the federal agencies to review the algorithm system.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 28/08/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Uniting NSW CEO Tracey Burton, on the Federal Government changing the way it counts the number of people waiting for in-home aged care funding, which resulted in more than 53,000 people being taken off the official waitlist. Oriti says the Federal Government is currently reviewing the aged care algorithm as the waitlist grows exponentially, and he also recalls that the Aged Care Royal Commission delivered its final report in 2021, which detailed a shocking tale of neglect and a significant deficit in historical government leadership. Burton says there are efforts underway to improve the system because the Support at Home program is just a few months old, and she also states that, even though some aspects of the program still need to settle down, the Federal Government is listening to concerns.

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

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

PM pushes big-spending agenda for third term

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/08/2026, Paul Sakkal, Page 1

Anthony Albanese has flagged an expansion of his big-spending social agenda to win a third term, as he prepares to beef up Australia's heavy regulation of big tech to counter what he described as algorithm-driven anxiety and the rise of populism exemplified by One Nation. [...] Albanese did not reference fresh ideas, apart from the \$38 billion NDIS patch-up, to bring the budget into balance.

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

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Here's the reality of NDIS

Kaloorlie Miner, General News, 29/08/2026, Jo Russell, Page 14

There's been a bucketload of commentary lately about the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Everyone the public, policy experts, academics, financial journalists has thrown in their two bob's worth.

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Confused about the NDIS changes? Here's what's coming, and what's still being worked out

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

After legislating controversial reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) last week, the government's plan to cut NDIS participants and save A\$37.8 billion over four years is underway. The legislation tightens access to the NDIS by: altering the way a person's needs are assessed

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PRIMARY CARE

I'm just one more female GP quitting

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/08/2026, Elly Goodsall, Page 33

The federal government has announced that 84.1 per cent of visits to general practitioners are now bulk billed, and has called that progress. [...] In the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' 2024 Health of the Nation survey, nearly eight in 10 female GPs named psychological issues among their three most common patient presentations, compared with just over six in 10 male GPs.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Extreme fitness craze not working out well

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 29/08/2026, Ben Harvey, Page 1

Health authorities are warning about a popular indoor fitness craze in the wake of seven people being rushed to hospital after collapsing at a Perth meet. [...] AMA WA president Kyle Hoath said extreme endurance events "are not something people should enter lightly or attempt without appropriate preparation".

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

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Veterans warn on new cap

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/08/2026, Harry Brill, Page 11

Leading members of Darwin's veteran community say they are deeply concerned by the Albanese Government's plan to clamp down on veterans applying for healthcare benefits. Federal Labor's so-called 'veteran cap' which will be introduced in mid-2027 - will impose a standard \$5k limit on all veterans accessing allied health care.

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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POPULATION HEALTH

AI breakthrough: mammograms might also detect heart disease

Weekend Australian, General News, 29/08/2026, Poppy Koronka, Page 3

Routine breast screenings could be used to detect heart disease, research has found. [...] In Australia, coronary heart disease was responsible for the deaths of 6122 women in 2024, almost twice as many as breast cancer (3178), according to the latest data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare mortality database.

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

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Action needed urgently on sexual choking

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 29/08/2026, Page 30

The death of a 16-year-old girl in a suspected case of sexual choking this week has shone a light on a

pervasive practice that our society has an urgent duty to address. Within the past decade, strangulation has rapidly moved from the fringe into a mainstream sex act that young people have become dangerously complacent about.

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Placing sports stars on pedestals

The Saturday Age, General News, 29/08/2026, Brook Stephen, Page 34

Australia House was a fitting venue to learn the truth about Australians and sport. [...] The figure comes from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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Ban lets smokers literally die out

Daily Telegraph, General News, 29/08/2026, Thomas Sargeant, Page 17

Australia is being urged to follow Britain's lead and bring in a rolling, total smoking ban for young people and NSW Opposition Leader Kellie Sloane said she is "open" to the move. The UK enacted a generational smoking ban this year, blocking those born in 2009 or later from legally buying cigarettes as of 2027.

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Hospital stays rising for endo

Daily Telegraph, General News, 29/08/2026, Page 18

The rate of endometriosis hospitalisations in Australia has increased by 23 per cent over the past decade, surpassing the 5 per cent increase in the rate of all female hospitalisations. Of the 24,700 hospital stays for endometriosis in 2024-25, more than nine in 10 involved a procedure, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, while the number without a procedure increased from 6 per cent in 2015-16 to 9 per cent in 2024-25, reflecting increased access to advanced pain management treatments, the report says.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

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Don't have a voice

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 29/08/2026, Grace Hamilton, Page 92

It's a disease so rare that the number of cases in Australia is a mystery. The estimate being 20 to 25, fewer than a quarter are women, but 14-year-old Harper Patterson is one of them.

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Fatal overdoses are soaring in this regional centre. A coroner says it needs a safe injecting room

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 28/08/2026, Henrietta Cook and Melissa Cunningham

A coroner is calling for a safe injecting room in Geelong after new data revealed the regional city is 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.

[Read More](#)

Liberals slam proposed Geelong injecting room, as coroner's call divides city

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/08/2026, Luke Griffiths

Geelong's conservatives representatives have slammed a coroner's 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".

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

Tobacco laws a 'Christmas present' for crime networks

Canberra Times, Other, 28/08/2026, Noah Secomb

Sticking to the status quo on tobacco laws and taxes risks boosting the trade in illegal products by criminal groups, a former border force officer says. [...] The Labor senators referred to disputed data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare which shows smoking rates are falling.

Also reported by: [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Ten-year rise in women hospitalised for endometriosis

West Australian, Other, 28/08/2026, Emily Woods

The rate of girls and women in Australia being hospitalised for endometriosis has increased by almost a quarter in the past decade, with more than 70 per cent of procedures occurring in private hospitals. There were about 24,700 hospitalisations for endometriosis in 2024 to 2025, a 23 per cent increase from 2015 to 2016, according to new data released on Friday by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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

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More women are being hospitalised for endometriosis. Here's why that could be a good thing

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2026, Veronica Apap

More people are receiving hospital care for endometriosis, according to a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The report showed the rate of women and girls being admitted to hospital for endometriosis had increased by 23 per cent in the past decade.

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Experts call for safe sex education after young girl's suspected choking death

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2026, Emily Baker

Women's health services say they have seen a huge rise in the number of people concerned they have an acquired brain injury after being strangled, including during sex. Experts are calling for greater education on the risks of strangulation following the death of a 16-year-old girl from Sydney's northern beaches, which the ABC understands is related to a suspected sexual choking act.

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Choking is sold to teens as a safe sexual practice. The research says it never is

The Guardian, Other, 29/08/2026, Alyx Gorman

When touching someone's throat, it can only take the pressure of a handshake to cause serious injury, unconsciousness or death [...] When Women's Health New South Wales was funded to improve workforce capacity to respond to strangulation, they ran headlong into this problem. Jackie McMillan, a senior project officer, says: "When we started that work, we realised that we couldn't do that without also talking about sexual choking."

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Tobacco tax call up in smoke as politicians squabble

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 28/08/2026, Noah Secomb

Sticking to the status quo on tobacco laws and taxes risks boosting the trade in illegal products by criminal groups, a former border force officer says. [...] The Labor senators referred to disputed data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare which shows smoking rates are falling.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 28/08/2026, Steve Austin

Austin says new laws targeting black market tobacco have been passed by the Queensland Parliament. An audio clip of Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls was played, in which he says the legislation will allow illicit tobacco and nicotine products to be immediately seized and destroyed.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 28/08/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with AMA SA President Dr Peter Subramaniam. Goodings says radioactive uranium has been detected in a popular illicit Chinese cigarette brand that's sold in Australia. Subramaniam says tobacco is not good for one's health, and he also states that with the increasing access to illicit tobacco, the detection of uranium and cadmium in a brand that is known to circulate in the Australian black market is concerning.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

How cancer experts reduce their own risk

Weekend Australian, General News, 29/08/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 17

Every day in Australia about 465 people are diagnosed with cancer, adding up to almost 170,000 last year, according to Cancer Australia. It's not just a widespread condition, with more than two in five of those who reach the age of 85 being diagnosed with some form of cancer.

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Bowel screening tests aren't glamorous, but they're quick and easy and save lives

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/08/2026, Alison Lai, Page 48

There are some topics we are very comfortable talking about in public. The weather, sport, the cost of groceries, roadworks and what's happening in the lives of our children or loved ones.

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Righting a wrong

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/08/2026, Fia Walsh, Page 1

The Northern Territory parliament has almost unanimously passed voluntary assisted dying laws after days of emotional debate, months of inquiries and decades of fierce advocacy. A handful of CLP backbenchers crossed the floor to vote for changes to the Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill, but ultimately they failed to get the numbers for a single amendment, with Cabinet ministers voting as a block despite an apparent conscience vote.

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A great day

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 29/08/2026, Page 20

Thursday, August 27, 2026 will forever be remembered as the day the Northern Territory finally made right a historic wrong. After 30 long years, the Northern Territory has finally restored the rights of the terminally ill to die with dignity, and end their lives on their own terms.

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'Devastating' cancer won't stop Terry

Central Western Daily, General News, 29/08/2026, Orlander Ruming, Page 4

When Terry Betts was diagnosed with cancer he was determined to stay positive. He was resting his head on his hands thinking when he felt a lump in his throat.

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

Widow labels NT's new VAD laws 'very weak' after proposed amendments rejected by parliament

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2026, Grace Atta

It has been 11 years since Carolyn Marriott lost the love of her life and her partner of two decades, John Bhana. She describes him as a "beautiful man" who was "extremely hardworking" and, like her, found joy in being out on the water.

[Read More](#)

NT passes VAD legislation

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

Nearly 30 years after it was banned by the federal government, the Northern Territory has passed voluntary assisted dying legislation. The Territory first legalised voluntary assisted dying in 1995, becoming the first place in Australia to do so, but the law was overturned in 1997.

Similar coverage reported by: [Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 28/08/2026, Mark Burrows

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, more women across Australia are receiving hospital care for endometriosis than ever before. Compared to previous decades, younger generations are receiving a diagnosis much earlier in life.

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

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SBS, World News Australia, 28/08/2026, Janice Petersen

The Northern Territory has become the final Australian jurisdiction to pass a voluntary assisted dying law, 30 years after being the first to pioneer the idea. The law passed overnight after hours of debate, but terminally ill advocates are disappointed that the legislation has been approved with tight restrictions.

Also reported by: [News24 \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 28/08/2026, Lara Stimpson

Advocates for voluntary assisted dying legislation have criticised the new VAD laws passed in the Northern Territory last night. The bill passed almost unanimously through Parliament, making the NT the last jurisdiction in Australia to legalise the practice.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 28/08/2026, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Prostate Cancer Foundation CEO Anne Savage. Baxter says prostate cancer is one of the most common cancers in men, but Australia has now introduced new guidelines on early detection and management. Savage states that a lot has changed in the management and treatment of prostate cancer over the past 10 to 15 years, and it was time to re-examine the evidence to do better for Australian men because prostate cancer is eminently treatable if it's detected early.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mental health program gives farmers tools to help mates

Border Mail, General News, 29/08/2026, Kate O'Neill, Page 77

Mental health support for farmers doesn't start in a waiting room - it starts in a shed, a paddock or over a cuppa with a trusted friend. That's the philosophy behind AgMind Australia, a peer-led, practical-rural mental health and wellbeing initiative that takes mental health out of clinical settings and into rural communities.

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IMMUNISATION

Shot of hope saved lives

Courier Mail, General News, 29/08/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 24

It was the first vaccine in the world to protect against any kind of cancer and the first dose was administered to a teenage girl at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane 20 years ago this weekend. Gardasil, the human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV), has saved millions of lives around the world and, with screening, is on track to eliminate cervical cancer in Australia.

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

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A 20-year legacy of saving women's lives

Courier Mail, Editorials, 29/08/2026, Page 68

It must rank among Australia's greatest achievements. It is now 20 years since Gardasil, the human papillomavirus vaccine, was first administered, to a teenage girl at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane.

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Twenty years on from Gardasil vaccine launch, Australia on track to eliminate cervical cancer

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2026, Janelle Miles

Twenty years on from the launch of the world-first vaccine against cervical cancer in Australia, more than 800 million doses have been administered worldwide in a breakthrough expected to save tens of millions of lives by early next century. The vaccine, co-developed at the University of Queensland by Ian Frazer and his late colleague Jian Zhou, protects against strains of the sexually transmitted human papilloma virus (HPV), which cause most cases of cervical cancer and genital warts.

[Read More](#)

Some vaccinations could help prevent dementia, heart attacks: research

The Senior, Other, 28/08/2026, Phoebe Loomes

A growing body of research is suggesting vaccinations may have "off target" benefits and help prevent serious conditions like dementia, strokes and heart attacks. The shingles vaccine was recently found to reduce the risk of dementia by up to 20 per cent in a large study of more than 280,000 older people.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Here comes The Calvary

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/08/2026, Rob Inglis, Page 1

The national consumer watchdog has approved the sale of Hobart Private Hospital to Calvary Healthcare, effectively ensuring that pregnancy terminations, gender reassignment procedures, and

voluntary assisted dying services will no longer be offered. The ACCC has ruled Calvary's purchase of the hospital from Healthscope was the only "commercially realistic" option on the table.

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

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Hospital care crucial for all

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 29/08/2026, Page 26

The ACCC may have approved the only viable sale of Hobart Private Hospital, but that doesn't make the outcome completely without controversy. When a city loses both competition and access to lawful medical care, the public is entitled to ask whether market logic has been allowed to outrun patient rights.

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Ramsay's Joondalup contract concerns

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 29/08/2026, Rebecca Le May and Jessica Page, Page 119

Australia's largest private hospital operator has complained about its latest funding deal with the WA Government for Joondalup Health Campus while booking a massive surge in full-year earnings. Ramsay Health Care's net profit for 2025-26 rocketed a staggering 1272 per cent to \$329 million, up from \$24m for the previous financial year.

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

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'Bloody competitive': Welcome to the Olympics for the organ transplant world

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 28/08/2026, Lauren Ironmonger

Next month, 21-year-old Lauren Ball will sprint down the racetrack at Launceston's Northern Athletics Centre in Tasmania, her arms and legs pumping as hard as they can, wind in her hair, and air coursing through her lungs. [...] Lucinda Barry, chief executive of DonateLife (run by the government's Organ and Tissue Authority), encourages anyone who supports donation to register and have a conversation with their family about this decision.

[Read More](#)

ACCC approves sale of the Hobart Private Hospital to Catholic provider Calvary Healthcare

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2026, Jessica Moran

Catholic provider Calvary Healthcare has received approval from the corporate watchdog to buy Hobart Private Hospital, despite concerns patients will no longer be able to access fertility services and gender-affirming care. Hobart Private is a private hospital co-located with and adjacent to Hobart's main public hospital, Royal Hobart Hospital.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 28/08/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Private Healthcare Australia CEO Dr Rachel David. Cenatiempo says the Federal Government has decided to remove the private health insurance rebate for people over the age of 65, and he also states that Private Healthcare Australia estimated that more than three million older Australians could face higher premiums, and up to 62,000 of them are expected to drop their cover. David says older Australians will have no choice but to drop out because they are going to have to pay extra for their health cover, which puts them at risk of joining the public hospital wait lists.

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Early warning of bowel issue

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/08/2026, Page 11

Researchers have uncovered early molecular warning signs of inflammatory bowel disease, revealing the condition can begin before symptoms appear and continue silently even when patients appear well. The WEHI-led study found a hidden flaw that can damage intestinal cells and is present even in patients whose disease is well controlled.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#).

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Wear It Purple Day is about more than a T-shirt. Here's how schools can really include gender and sexuality diverse youth

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 28/08/2026, Jacqueline Ullman, Emily Gray and Victoria Rawlings

Today is Wear it Purple Day – when students and staff across high schools and universities are invited to wear purple items of clothing to recognise and celebrate gender and sexuality diverse (GSD) young people. Workplaces are also encouraged to take part. [...] A 2026 La Trobe University survey asked more than 4,000 high school students across Australia, aged between 14 and 18, about their experiences of sex education, sexual health and school-based relationships.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Is pouring cash into the Gap effective?

Weekend Australian, General News, 29/08/2026, Paige Taylor, Page 8

The Productivity Commission will examine government spending on efforts to reduce Indigenous disadvantage as part of a sweeping review of the national agreement on Closing the Gap. [...] The most recent Closing the Gap data update showed the disparity between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians was widening in four key areas.

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

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Terms of Reference released for second Productivity Commission Review of National Agreement on Closing the Gap

National Indigenous Times, Other, 28/08/2026, Giovanni Torre

The federal government has released the Terms of Reference for the second Productivity Commission Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. The goal of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap is to overcome the entrenched inequality faced by too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

[Read More](#)

Federal funding boost for North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency rehabilitation programs

National Indigenous Times, Other, 28/08/2026, Giovanni Torre

The federal government has announced an additional \$2 million in funding for the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) to support First Nations young people and adults being released from custody and help reduce reoffending rates. [...] The Productivity Commission's latest Closing the Gap Annual Data Compilation Report shows the Northern Territory is worsening against Target 10, adult incarceration and Target 11, youth detention.

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Physio avoids ED visits

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/08/2026, Page 31

Physiotherapist-led care significantly reduces emergency department waiting and treatment times for people with back pain, fractures, dislocations and other musculoskeletal conditions. In a University of Sydney trial, patients were randomly assigned to receive either standard care led by emergency physicians or nurse practitioners or care led by a physiotherapist.

Also reported by: [*The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)*](#).

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5-year pacemaker check gap criticised

Launceston Examiner, General News, 29/08/2026, Annika Rhoades, Page 2

An elderly woman was left without pacemaker checks for five years before her death due to systemic scheduling errors and inadequate communication, a coroner has found. Having investigated the death of 88-year-old Beverley Jane Cox without an inquest, coroner Madeleine Wilson attributed the cause to cardiac failure.

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Why health workers decided to dabble in animation

Daily Liberal, General News, 29/08/2026, Orlander Ruming, Page 3

As outback temperatures soar and emergency room visits spike, two health workers are ditching the medical brochures and turning to animation. Western NSW Local Health District child and family clinical nurse consultant Julia Sharp and sustainability project officer Klara Demaere saw the effect the rising number of hot days was having on local people, and on the western NSW.

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Townsville 'health crisis' deepens as sixteen ambulances ramped at hospital

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 28/08/2026, Emma Cam

Sixteen ambulances were reportedly 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.

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

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ICAC finds former Illawarra Shoalhaven Health director engaged in corrupt conduct

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 28/08/2026, Joel Ehsman

A former senior NSW Health employee in the Illawarra engaged in serious corrupt conduct by fabricating his qualifications for more than a decade, and awarding work to his sister's company, the watchdog has found. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has released its report into Operation Tivoli, which investigated the conduct of former Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD) employee Zoran Ribicic.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Mornings, 28/08/2026, Mark Levy

Interview with City of Parramatta Councillor Georgina Valjak. Levy says patients are once again being forced to wait in hallways for treatment in Blacktown Hospital, and the NSW Government is being accused of fibbing its way out of a broken promise after failing to deliver 600 additional hospital beds in Western Sydney. Valjak states that paramedics and hospital staff are doing a fantastic job, but she and

her 95yo mother were told to wait three to four hours in a queue in a full waiting room, and some patients were sleeping on the floor, which is unacceptable.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Darwin hospital 'state of disaster'

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/08/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 5

Health staff are declaring that Royal Darwin Hospital remains in a "state of disaster" one week after a Code Yellow was lifted and demand it be reinstated. [...] In a joint media statement, the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation NT, the Australian Medical Association NT and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation NT have said RDH is in a "dangerous state of disaster".

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

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

No relevant coverage

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

PBS co-payment freeze 'disinflationary': Guild

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

Freezing the PBS co-payment is the next step for the government in delivering cost-of-living relief, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia says. The federal government is being urged to delay the implementation of indexed increases to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme general co-payment until 2030 to ease cost-of-living pressures.

[Read More](#)

Spotlight on compliance

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

PBS compliance and state regulatory reforms to be the focus of Pharmacy Council of NSW workshop. Changes and developments to regulations impacting pharmacists will be discussed during the Pharmacy Council of NSW's annual session ahead of Pharmacy Connect on Wednesday 9 September 2026.

[Read More](#)

Experts unveil roadmap to close abortion care equity gap

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 28/08/2026

A coalition of medical experts has called on governments to remove significant cost barriers that prevent women from having affordable access to abortion services. [...] 'You're billing in your consultation, but there are also additional costs for the patient, particularly around when an ultrasound is required, and also when you undergo a medical abortion – the MS-2 Step (the medical abortion medication) is on the PBS but you also need to purchase analgesia, and you also need an antiemetic potentially.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 28/08/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Pharmacy Guild ACT Chair Simon Blacker. Delaney says the Federal Government has already reduced the price that consumers pay at the pharmacy for prescription medications on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, but the Pharmaceutical Guild of Australia says the Federal Government needs to do more to ensure that patients can still continue to access affordable medicines. Blacker says he has seen scripts rise from around \$15 to \$42.50 for anyone without a concession card in his work history, and he notes that the \$25 per script will continue to rise if the Federal Government does not intervene and chooses not to freeze it.

Also reported by: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Medicare flaw locks out nurses, drains NDIS for basic healthcare

The Australian, Other, 28/08/2026, Melissa Freeman

A GP in my town can see a patient living with a disability, provide clinical care and, where eligible, bill Medicare for this patient. If that patient comes to me for healthcare – possibly for the same clinical issue – I am unable to bill Medicare.

[Read More](#)

The vital Medicare health check two-thirds of older Aussies are ignoring

The Senior, Other, 28/08/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

A senior medical professional is urging Australians over 75 to sign up for their free medical check amid data showing roughly a third are failing to take advantage of it. All Australians aged 75 and older are eligible for the comprehensive health check through Medicare once every year.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

New framework launched

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

AHPRA and the National Boards have published a revised supervised practice framework. The regulators have also launched a new supervised practice hub to enable a more flexible and contemporary approach to supervision while maintaining strong safeguards for the public. Feedback gathered through public consultation, focus groups and targeted stakeholder engagement helped shape a range of

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 28/08/2026, Girish Sawlani

A dolphin found dead on a beach south of Adelaide has tested positive for the deadly H5 bird flu in what authorities describe as a concerning development. Researchers are worried the virus may spread to Adelaide's Port River, home to one of the world's few urban dolphin populations.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 28/08/2026, Michael Thomson

A child in Perth is battling a case of severe respiratory diphtheria, making him one of the first reported cases in the metropolitan area. WA's regions have recorded 225 cases this year, including two in the metro area, and while the risk to the broader community remains low, the WA Department of Health is encouraging Perth locals to get vaccinated.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Behind the rise of the 'fertility test' – and why doctors say it's misleading women

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 28/08/2026, Lauren Ironmonger

Australia's birth rate is in freefall as more young people delay parenthood or forego it entirely, either by choice or because they miss their fertility window. [...] A TGA spokesperson said all advertising of therapeutic goods must comply with their code and that while they have not approved any AMH self-tests to date, there are a number of laboratory devices on the ARTG.

[Read More](#)

New testing of black-market peptides reveals dangerous dosing levels

ABC Online, Other, 28/08/2026, Rachel Carbonell, Caitlyn Gribbin , and Andi Yu

This time last year, analytical chemist Grace Hamann had never heard of black market peptides. [...] Robyn Langham, chief medical advisor at the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), Australia's medicines regulator, said while test results may show the concentration of a substance with the same components as retatrutide, it could not be considered a replica of the peptide currently in clinical trials.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 28/08/2026, Nakari Thorpe

A chemical testing lab at the University of Queensland has begun testing unapproved peptides, including retatrutide, as demand for the products booms on social media. Meanwhile, the Therapeutic Goods Administration continues to warn against the risks of unapproved peptides.

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

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Radio National, AM, 28/08/2026, Isabella Higgins

Testing of a black market weight loss drug has revealed it contains a much higher concentration of peptides than the label indicates, and experts are now worried it has the potential to be dangerous. Therapeutic Goods Administration Chief Medical Adviser Robyn Langham says the dangers and the safety issues of unapproved products can be enormous.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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