



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 30th August 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[Channel 10](#)** reports the Federal Government has announced an expansion of PBS eligibility for Keytruda, with a multi-cancer listing removing the need for separate assessments and making the discounted drug available for a number of rare cancers. Health Minister Mark Butler said the listing "will mean thousands more" Australians can access the treatment. *Also reported by:* [Sunday Age](#)
- The **[Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)** (page 1) reports Kids Helpline has called for additional funding as new data reveals Queensland's suicide rate among young girls is set to double by the end of the year, with the organisation pointing to bullying as a major factor contributing to the issue.
- The **[Sunday Mail Adelaide](#)** (page 3) reports a submission by Private Healthcare Australia has claimed proposed changes to private health cover rebates will exacerbate public waitlists, predicting over 25,000 people in Boothby and Sturt will be affected by the changes. Health Minister Mark Butler said independent modelling shows 44,000 people "at most" would be affected by the changes nationally, while SA Health noted wait times in the public system have continued to fall.
- The **[Sun Herald](#)** (page 6) reports the NSW government has blamed NDIS and aged care hospital bed block for increasing wait times at emergency departments across NSW. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said record investments of \$2 billion in the residential and home aged care

systems are aimed at freeing up hospitals beds, noting he will continue to work with the states and territories to address the issue.

- The **Sunday Age** (page 1) reports a decade-long, landmark study led by Monash University has revealed the use of statins in those aged over 70 reduces the risk of heart attack and stroke by 30 per cent, with the National Heart Foundation preparing to update its clinical guidelines as a result. *Also reported by:* [Sun Herald](#), [Sunday Herald Sun](#), [Sunday Telegraph](#), [The Guardian](#)
- The **Sunday Territorian** (page 1) reports a report into the implementation of NT Health's Acacia patient records system has alleged a "harmful" workplace culture contributed to the death of IT worker Shaun Joyce, with the 196-page document also finding financial mismanagement, lack of proper oversight and misleading reporting present in the failed roll-out of the system.
- The **Sunday Mail Brisbane** (page 5) reports Queensland residents have been urged to vaccinate against a late flu wave as the state's chief medical officer warns flu cases are yet to hit their peak for the season, noting the needle-free Flu-Mist has already contributed to an 8 per cent increase in childhood vaccination rates.

MINISTER BUTLER

From \$15k to \$25: cancer hope widens as wonder drug hits PBS

Sunday Age, General News, 30/08/2026, Rob Harris, Page 8

For 64-year-old Jenelle Seaman, cancer has become an unwelcome constant in a life spent teaching teenagers science and mathematics and shepherding generations of students through their final years at school. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the expansion would give more Australians access to one of the world's leading cancer treatments.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Labor facing health warning

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 30/08/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 3

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

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The \$3 billion afterthought

Health Services Daily, Other, 29/08/2026, Cate Swannell

Remember back on 22 April when federal health minister Mark Butler stood in front of the National Press Club and unleashed the bombshell that ended up being the most controversial NDIS reforms since the scheme was introduced? He delivered just shy of 4000 words that day.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 29/08/2026, Georgie Tunney

From September 1st, obinutuzumab will be added to the PBS with prescriptions costing no more than \$25, giving new hope to Australians living with lupus. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the new drug would otherwise cost people \$4500 per script.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#).

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

Victor's painful wait highlights battle for more hospital beds

Sun Herald, General News, 30/08/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 6

Victor Ishak spent three nights waiting in Bankstown's emergency department with his left leg swelled to almost double its size, and barely able to walk. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the Albanese government has made record investments in the residential aged care and home care system, including \$2 billion in the year's budget to support 5000 more aged care beds each year.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

How Charlotte's wish being made a reality

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 30/08/2026, Suzan Giuliani, Page 19

A fundraising gala honouring the legacy of 12-year-old Charlotte O'Brien drew more than 500 people, including celebrities and politicians, to raise vital funds for Kids Helpline. [...] The guest list included George Calombaris, federal Education Minister Jason Clare, federal Assistant Minister for Suicide Prevention Emma McBride and NSW Roads Minister Jenny Aitchison.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Union sues Opal Healthcare in Federal Court over alleged breaches at aged care centres across NSW

About Regional, Other, 29/08/2026, Claire Fenwicke

A union is suing a statewide aged care provider in the Federal Court for alleged breaches of mandates relating to the direct care of residents. [...] "[This was] after aged care members uncovered non-direct

care duties were being misreported to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing as direct care," a statement read.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Age-old crisis looms for SA

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 30/08/2026, Tom Bowden, Page 18

Older South Australians are languishing on waiting lists for retirement accommodation, with data revealing almost one in five people nationally looking to make the final move are located in The Festival State. The Retirement Living Council has warned the pipeline of new accommodation for the aged has hit a brick wall, as the recently released 2025 PwC-RLC Retirement Census shows 26,825 Australians are currently on waitlists. SA accounts for about 5000 of these.

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

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Role in helping to ease strain

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 30/08/2026, Daniel Gannon, Page 18

Australia's hospitals and aged care system are under extraordinary strain. A new PwC-RLC Retirement Census points to one part of the solution already hiding in plain sight.

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Old story on housing

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 30/08/2026, Unity Jackson-Muir, Page 22

Waitlists for retirement villages have been blowing out across NSW, leaving would-be downsizers trapped in homes that could otherwise be sold to growing families. Alarming figures have revealed a shortage of spaces within retirement villages has created a major chokepoint within the wider housing market, with nearly 7800 on village waitlists in NSW alone.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Strangers can save lives

Sunday Examiner, General News, 30/08/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 1

All Simon Ansell wants is for his son to have the chance to live the rest of his life with dignity and independence. [...] A spokesperson for the NDIS said they acknowledge the difficult circumstances for many participants and their families managing significant disability and health challenges.

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Why NDIS funding can feel like 'a voucher for a shop that doesn't exist'

Ballarat Courier, Other, 29/08/2026, Gwen Liu

Some Ballarat families have thousands of dollars in NDIS funding, but when the services they need simply aren't available, the money is just a number on paper. Helen Wise, whose 14-year-old child has profound autism, said, "It's like giving you a voucher for a shop that doesn't exist".

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PRIMARY CARE

Harmony Family Medical Centre expands with new multimillion-dollar facility

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/08/2026, Samuel Davis

A husband-and-wife doctor duo have opened the doors to a new multimillion-dollar, state-of-the-art healthcare facility in Cairns this week. Doctors Gagan and Raj Rajpal officially opened the upgraded Harmony Family Medical Centre in Bungalow on Thursday with Senator Nita Green and Member for Leichhardt Matt Smith taking part in the formal proceedings.

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New mums missing out on vital care due to Medicare safety net flaw

7News.com.au, Other, 29/08/2026, Melina Sarris

New mums are missing out on vital healthcare for their babies and themselves simply because of their delivery date. A flaw in the Medicare system means families can face vastly different out-of-pocket costs, a loophole doctors are desperate to change.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Cold comfort

Sun Herald, General News, 30/08/2026, Courtney Thompson & Bronte Gossling, Page 19

She could feel her future children slipping through her fingers. Her fertility specialist was saying she needed to do more. Bloated and financially, physically and emotionally spent, Mollie Bennett had nothing left to give.

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

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Inside the search for a cure for all that ringing in the ears

Sunday Age, General News, 30/08/2026, Angus Holland, Page 24

Diane Green can recall exactly the day unbearable tinnitus entered her life. On December 27, 2025, she suddenly experienced both the loss of hearing in one ear and the unpleasant acquisition of a constant and loud ringing noise that she describes as sounding like Big Ben. She was rushed to hospital in Brisbane, where they tested her for two months, only to conclude they didn't really know what was causing the problem.

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Doctor behind world's first voluntary assisted death, Territorians with lived experience welcome laws

ABC Online, Other, 29/08/2026, Jane Bardon

Thirty years ago, Dr Philip Nitschke helped terminal cancer patient Bob Dent to die in Darwin under the world's first voluntary assisted dying (VAD) legislation. He is greatly relieved to see the Northern Territory finally follow other Australian states in again allowing VAD, after a bill legalising the practice passed in parliament on Thursday night.

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Fight for our girls

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 30/08/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Rose Innes & Emma Cam, Page 1

The number of Queensland girls dying by suspected suicide is on track to double this year as experts sound the alarm on the bullying epidemic. From January 1 to June 30 this year, 11 girls under the age of 18 died by suspected suicide, compared with five during the same period last year.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Helping our kids a priority

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 30/08/2026, Page 64

Queensland kids need our help. And they are reaching out for it. Kids Helpline is being inundated by young people in distress, with counsellors responding to almost 13,000 calls for help in the first six months of this year.

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

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IMMUNISATION

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

NT's hearty endorsement

Sunday Territorian, General News, 30/08/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 10

A Northern Territory dietitian has been hand-picked to join a global team of emerging heart experts to find answers to the world's biggest health challenges. Flinders University researcher Dr Bryce Brickley is one of only two Australians chosen for the 2026 World Heart Federation (WHF) Salim Yusuf Emerging Leaders Programme.

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Gifted 'extra time with my children'

Sunday Examiner, General News, 30/08/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 6

Without the kindness of a stranger halfway across the world, Launceston General Hospital nurse Amy How would have died. [...] A Stem Cell Donors Australia spokesperson said demand for stem cell donations was growing. In 2025, about 1300 Australians searched for a non-familiar donor.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Breakthrough trial on statins

Sunday Age, General News, 30/08/2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 1

Millions of older, healthy Australians could soon be advised to start taking statins after landmark

research found the medication reduced the risk of heart attack and stroke by 30 per cent in those aged over 70. Until now, the benefits of taking the cholesterol-reducing drugs for otherwise healthy adults over 75 had been unclear. As a result, they had not been routinely prescribed as a preventative medicine for this cohort.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Sun Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Statins cut risk for elderly

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 30/08/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 23

Older Australians can cut their heart attack and stroke risk by 30 per cent by taking a common cholesterol-lowering drug, a study has found. The world-first research investigated a key question that has hung over the use of statins for decades, and could change healthcare standards for people over 75.

Also reported by: [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Low-carb and high-fat best

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 30/08/2026, Page 17

A diet that severely limits carbs but is high in fat has the greatest health benefits for people with obesity. After putting people with obesity, prediabetes and fatty liver disease on one of three diets, Washington University School of Medicine researchers say the keto diet beats a Mediterranean and a low-fat, plant-forward diet.

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Asthma puffers safe to use while pregnant

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 30/08/2026, Page 23

It's safe for pregnant women with asthma to continue to use inhaled corticosteroids asthma puffers used daily to prevent attacks during the first trimester. Sungkyunkwan University researchers in South Korea looked at data from about 6000 women who used asthma puffers before pregnancy, about a third of whom continued to use them after becoming pregnant.

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Sweetener linked to heart events

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 30/08/2026, Page 7

A common artificial sweetener is associated with an increased risk of heart attacks and strokes, research has found. Xylitol, a sweetener used in sugar-free foods, toothpaste and chewing gum, has been associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular problems over time.

Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Human face of the crisis in Sydney's ED

That emergency departments are overcrowded and beset by long wait times would not shock NSW residents. But Rachel Rasker's story in today's Herald puts a human face to the crisis, including one man who waited for more than three days at Bankstown Hospital and left before finishing his treatment.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

On front line of crash horror

Sunday Territorian, General News, 30/08/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 4

A crushed car, blood staining the ground and a severely injured driver shouting in pain it's just another day of training for St John NT intensive care paramedic interns. The simulated scene at Marrara Fire Station in Darwin is punctuated with loud noises, distractions and emergency services teams working quickly to save two lives.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

PBS veto a callous kick in the guts

Sunday Times, General News, 30/08/2026, Kirsty Lichtenstein, Page 19

Australians with autoimmune conditions such as Crohn's disease are having to spend tens of thousands of dollars a year for treatment out of their own pocket because of gaps in the taxpayer-funded Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, according to Crohn's & Colitis Australia CEO Leanne Raven. Crohn's disease is one type of inflammatory bowel disease which causes flare-ups anywhere along the digestive tract, from the mouth to the end of the intestine.

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

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

'Culture of fear'

Sunday Territorian, General News, 30/08/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 1

A committee inquiring into the NT government's troubled Acacia IT project has unleashed an damning report into the handling of the project and staff under its care, confirming reports of a "harmful" workplace culture that allowed fear to thrive. The report on Acacia from the Public Accounts Committee was quietly tabled in the aftermath of the historic voluntary assisted dying bill being passed on Thursday, but the contents of the report are disquieting.

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

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Scams Awareness Week: Cyber experts reveal how hackers piece together information before trying to swindle you

7News.com.au, Other, 29/08/2026, Bryce Luff

Australians have been warned about the lingering threat they face in the wake of recent cyberhacks. The country's largest energy retailer Origin, health service network Partnered Health Group, popular telehealth provider Updoc and apartment hotel chain Quest are among the high-profile targets of online criminals since June.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Rogue doctor struck off after he bashed wife, had a patient kill himself, botched Botox jabs, used his young son for fake prescriptions, gave drugs to chaperones and breached Covid laws 100s of times - but we can't tell you who he is

Daily Mail UK, Other, 29/08/2026, Wayne Flower

A rogue doctor who attacked his wife, prescribed himself drugs in his son's name and gave his Medical Board-appointed chaperones prescription drugs has been struck off and banned from seeking re-registration for six years. [...] He also failed to notify the Medical Board within the required seven days after being charged with a more serious injury offence.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Late flu surge is coming

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 30/08/2026, Tayla Couacaud, Page 5

Queenslanders have been told to brace for a late wave in the flu season set to sweep across the state in the coming weeks. According to the latest Queensland Health data, the state recorded its highest weekly count of flu cases last week a 44 per cent increase from the week prior, with hospitalisations also surging in the past six weeks.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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Powders whey off mark

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 30/08/2026, Tayla Couacaud, Page 11

Experts warn weak regulation is failing to keep up with the surging use of protein powders and sports supplements being peddled by influencers, leaving consumers exposed to untested, potentially hazardous products. In Australia and New Zealand, supplements such as protein powders, nutrition bars and sports drinks are not typically regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration but are instead the responsibility of state and territory food enforcement agencies.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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AICIS

City of Palmerston abandon plan to acquire Woodroffe Fire Station amid contamination update

Northern Territory News, Other, 29/08/2026, Harry Brill

Palmerston residents have been assured that a chemically contaminated fire station is “low risk”, with the site still being used to store vehicles and kit. [...] “Feasibility Assessments commissioned by the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security in 2021 identified the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in soil at the site beneath the building slab.”

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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