



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 14th September 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 3) reports University of Melbourne researchers have identified long-term heart rate rhythms that could help predict periods of heightened susceptibility to stress and health conditions. Researchers say the findings could have implications for heart health and the timing of treatments.
- The [Age](#) (page 3) reports calls for improved tram safety after a 78-year-old man died from complications following a fall, with older passengers accounting for 78 per cent of tram-fall hospitalisations between 2020 and 2025.
- The [West Australian](#) (page 3) reports research has found Australian teenagers who use nicotine pouches commonly also experiment with vaping and cigarettes, prompting calls for broader nicotine prevention strategies.
- [The Australian](#) (page 4) reports Deafness Forum Australia has warned Labor's proposed cuts to the private health insurance rebate for over-65s could make cochlear implant processor replacements less affordable. Health Minister Mark Butler had previously advised the organisation that older Australians could rely on the rebate to help fund replacements.
- The [Northern Territory News](#) (page 4) reports St John NT says new ambulances funded through a \$10 million government support package will boost frontline capacity but will not

materially improve response times. The call for longer-term funding follows coronial findings that ambulance delays contributed to two patient deaths.

- The **Hobart Mercury** (page 5) reports construction has begun on a \$14.5 million upgrade to North West Regional Hospital's emergency department amid concerns over wait times and health budget cuts.
- The **Age** (page 11) reports Health Department analysis found specialist out-of-pocket costs have risen at twice the rate of inflation over the past decade. Health Minister Mark Butler said he had asked the Department for advice on options to bring rising costs under control.
- **ABC Online** reports Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia has raised concerns about the transfer of federal funding for specialist prostate cancer nurses to the McGrath Foundation. Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi said funding would be maintained and existing nurses would have the option to transition to McGrath.

MINISTER BUTLER

Insurance cuts risk elderly hearing help

The Australian, General News, 14/09/2026, Lachlan Leeming and Sarah Ison, Page 4

Labor's proposed health insurance cuts for over-65s risks robbing another cohort of a key avenue of care, after elderly deaf Australians were told as recently as December they should rely on the rebate to ensure they can afford replacements for their cochlear implants. [...] After peak bodies representing deaf Australians raised questions over funding for cochlear implant sound processor replacements for over-65s, Health Minister Mark Butler pointed them to that age cohort's private health insurance rebate just four months before unveiling the proposal to slash it.

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

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Specialist medical fees soar above benchmarks

Age, General News, 14/09/2026, Brittany Busch, Page 11

Australians paid more than five times the benchmark price for a visit to a specialist doctor on more than a million occasions last year, the Health Department has found. Health Minister Mark Butler has put "excessive" specialist fees in his sights as Labor attempts to alleviate persistent cost-of-living pressures on Australians.

Also reported by: [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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A funny limp turns into giant steps against cancer

West Australian, Other, 13/09/2026, Katelyn Catanzariti

At first, Kelly Hennessy thought her daughter Mileah was just trying to mimic her beloved older cousin with her "weird, long-legged skip". [...] "It will help bring world-class international CAR-T clinical trials closer to home for Australian children and young people with cancer," Health Minister Mark Butler said in a statement.

Also reported by: [Goulburn Post \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail UK \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Southern Cross \(Online\)](#).

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'Stranded' Far North residents stuck in hospitals due to lack of community care

regiontnq.com.au, Other, 13/09/2026, Luke Mortimer

Dozens of Far North Queensland aged care and NDIS patients have been languishing in the region's public hospitals unnecessarily due to insufficient options for care in the community. [...] State Health

and Ambulance Services Minister Tim Nicholls was due to speak to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler about the "stranded Australians" during a meeting last week.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News (Sunday), 13/09/2026, Peter Hitchener

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has announced that Qalsody, a medication used for MND, will cost \$25 per script following its addition to the PBS. The PBS listing comes as MND awareness reaches more Australians through the work of the late Neale Daniher and the diagnosis of Rabbitohs player Jai Arrow.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

Home support lifeline secured

Local Ipswich News, Other, 13/09/2026

Older Australians relying on help to remain independent in their own homes have been given greater certainty after the Federal Government extended the Commonwealth Home Support Program until 2029. [...] Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae said retaining the program would provide continuity for older Australians while giving providers greater certainty.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Prostate cancer charity worried about specialist nursing care as funding redirected to McGrath Foundation

ABC Online, Other, 13/09/2026, James Vyver

Tens of thousands of men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in Australia every year. [...] In a statement, Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi told the ABC that the transition would be planned to ensure patients "continue receiving care".

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DEPARTMENT

Specialist medical fees soar above benchmarks

Age, General News, 14/09/2026, Brittany Busch, Page 11

Australians paid more than five times the benchmark price for a visit to a specialist doctor on more than a million occasions last year, the Health Department has found. Health Minister Mark Butler has put "excessive" specialist fees in his sights as Labor attempts to alleviate persistent cost-of-living pressures on Australians.

Also reported by: [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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Cosmetic acid set for makeover

Cairns Post, General News, 14/09/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 9

Some over-the-counter treatments for skin conditions could be overhauled amid concern about risks of burns, blindness and even death from an acid ingredient. [...] The federal Health Department has proposed amending the Poisons Standard following a report by the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS).

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Fatal fall sparks calls for improved tram safety

Age, General News, 14/09/2026, Gemma Grant, Page 3

When Garry Ledger fell on a tram and hit his head last August, there were initially no signs of a major injury. [...] Among these hospitalisations, 78 per cent of those injured were aged 60 or older.

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

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Works start as 'aged care crisis' chews up ward space

Burnie Advocate, General News, 14/09/2026, Sean Ford, Page 2

A busy hospital emergency department is getting a \$14.5 million redevelopment aimed at improving access, services and safety. Tasmanian company Vos Construction and Joinery was awarded the contract for the works at the North West Regional Hospital, in Burnie.

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Bene Aged Care Italian Village worker suspended as police probe alleged assaults on elderly residents at St Agnes

Adelaide Now, Other, 13/09/2026, Andrew Hough

An Adelaide aged care home worker is at the centre of a police investigations amid claims three elderly residents were assaulted in their nursing home - a year after other patients were attacked. Detectives are investigating how the men, one aged in his 90s and two others in their 70s, were separately allegedly assaulted at the Bene Aged Care Italian Village, at St Agnes, last month.

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

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As Australia faces an AI-generated future, a human rights act is needed more than ever

The Guardian, Other, 13/09/2026, Julianne Schultz

As we hurtle towards a post-human future, the absence of a human rights act in Australia will put us all at ever greater risk. [...] The human right of the aged to care were again to be rationed – by algorithms, queues for assessments, caps on the number of places and access to providers, by regulations that made delivering services at home or in facilities onerous.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Mum fights Bellarine school

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/09/2026, Olivia Conder, Page 1

A parent says she is prepared to take an Ocean Grove school to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) over a lack of disability inclusion. Sophie Masnata has launched a petition calling on Ocean Grove Primary School, the school council and the Victorian Department of Education to review what she has called a "blanket" approach to excluding external therapists from school grounds

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NDIS slashes Brisbane woman's physical therapy hours against expert advice

ABC Online, Other, 13/09/2026, Janelle Miles

April Coulson went to bed one night as an active, independent teenager and woke up unable to move from the armpits down. A bleed on her spinal cord had left her paralysed.

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ABC News, ABC Evening News (Weekend), 13/09/2026, Meredith Sheehan

Concerns have been raised over the assessment process for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Some advocates are saying that participants are being punished for being independent.

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PRIMARY CARE

No relevant coverage

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POPULATION HEALTH

The top killers of women at every age group

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/09/2026, Euan Black, Page 36

Reducing women's health to reproductive organs and hormones leaves dangerous blind spots in how doctors diagnose, treat, and save female patients.

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Bush medicine a soothing balm for patients in palliative care

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/09/2026, Julie Power, Page 14

Dressed for spring in yellow and pink, Chizuru Sammut stopped to listen to the birds in Sydney's Lane

Cove National Park yesterday morning. She paused to smell some crushed myrtle leaves, which research shows can boost immunity and reduce stress.

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Holy smoke, it's a worry

West Australian, General News, 14/09/2026, Caitlin Vinci, Page 3

Australian high school students are putting their health at risk by experimenting with a dangerous mix of vapes, traditional cigarettes and nicotine pouches, a study has revealed. The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health surveyed 1848 students, including West Australian teenagers, and found most who used nicotine pouches had also tried vaping and cigarettes.

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

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Australian-first women's pain standard for healthcare

The Border Mail, Other, 13/09/2026, Emily Woods

A women's pain standard to set clear expectations for how health services recognise, assess and respond to pain has been launched following an inquiry that uncovered systemic failings. The Australian-first Victorian Women's Pain Standard, announced on Sunday, will be embedded across the state's public health services and aims to give women more consistent and higher-quality care.

Also reported by: [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail UK \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Epilepsy 'pushed under' with years-long treatment wait

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 14/09/2026, Will Nicholas, Page 13

She took cocktails of medications, subjected herself to horrific side effects, and at times endured as many as 20 fits a day. [...] That ignorance, along with faster diagnoses and funding issues, are the subject of a Senate inquiry due to hand down its findings on September 17.

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Tributes for veteran journalist Chris Adams after a career covering Thatcher and Diana

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/09/2026, Danica Clayton

An acclaimed Brisbane journalist and two-time Logie winner has been remembered as a brilliant mind who, right up until his death from dementia on Saturday, was still asking where his production crew was. [...] Helen wishes more could be done for dementia patients, including access to voluntary assisted dying (VAD).

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

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Motor neurone disease in NSW four times global average

The New Daily, Other, 13/09/2026, Aaron Bunch

People across a vast swathe of Australia are developing a deadly disease at more than four times the global average. Researchers found a motor neuron disease (MND) incidence rate of 3.72 cases per 100,000 people annually across western NSW.

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Plastics link to autism, ADHD

Cairns Post, General News, 14/09/2026, David Hannant, Page 7

Exposure to chemicals found in everyday plastics during pregnancy may increase the likelihood of children developing autistic and ADHD traits, research has claimed. A lengthy study conducted at Florey Institution of Neuroscience and Mental Health claims to have established a link between chemical DEHP and neurodivergent conditions.

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

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Under the radar

Daily Liberal, General News, 14/09/2026, Reidun Berntsen, Page 1

Women with ADHD or autism can live years without a diagnosis, and according to clinical psychologist Nicole Sudmalis, an increased awareness of neurodivergent traits is helping people seek answers later in life. [...] Frontline experience While gaining her qualifications, Ms Sudmalis worked in child protection and youth homelessness, an experience that shaped her approach to mental health.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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'Kids are killing themselves': Muslim Undertaker on teen suicide crisis as niece is bullied

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/09/2026, Eliza Barr and Suzan Giuliani

The 11-year-old niece of Sydney's most prominent undertaker has revealed horrific torment by classmates, as her uncle opens up on a spate of teen suicides believed to be linked to schoolyard bullying. [...] On World Suicide Prevention Day last week, Lifeline Australia urged Australians to help bring suicide "Out of the Shadows" by holding compassionate conversations about suicide and planning ways to keep safe during people's toughest moments.

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

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Kyle is riding a skateboard from Melbourne to Perth to Bulli - to save his own life

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 13/09/2026, Ben Langford

Kyle Buchanan is embarking on the kind of journey that seems close to impossible, riding a skateboard 8000 km from Melbourne, to Perth, to Bulli. But he's doing it to save his own life - and maybe someone else's as well.

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Are jurors prepared for the mental health risks of serving on trials?

ABC Online, Other, 13/09/2026, Isla Evans

Some of the most important people in our legal system enter the court with no specific training and are legally prevented from talking about the sometimes gruesome evidence they are forced to see and hear. [...] University of Sydney law professor Arlie Loughnan said that while she had not seen specific instances where the jury's mental health had been at the centre of a decision to grant a judge-alone trial, it made sense to consider it.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Heart in the right place

Herald Sun, General News, 14/09/2026, Brendan Kearns, Page 3

Melbourne University researchers have discovered a link to a secret "unique rhythm" that could change the way we think about heart health. While the well-known circadian rhythm dictates how people feel over a 24-hour cycle, the little understood "infradian rhythm" affects how people feel in cycles over a much longer time frame.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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A medical marvel

West Australian, General News, 14/09/2026, Brooke Rolfe, Page 14

Nine-year-old Perth girl Tilly is like any other child her age with an interest in everything from netball to hair braiding and craft except for one incredible, almost unbelievable, aspect that has left the medical community in awe. [...] The revolutionary world-first gene therapy medicine was their best and only hope, and aged 12 months and two weeks, Tilly underwent the single-dose treatment.

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Young must trust their gut

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/09/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 20

The hunt for causes behind soaring rates of bowel cancer among younger people will be boosted by a \$480,000 grant to the Adelaide arm of a new research program. A \$5.8m Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) is being established to investigate the alarming rise in early-onset bowel cancer, with The Hospital Research Foundation Group committing almost half a million dollars to the Adelaide branch.

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Logos linked to poor diet

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/09/2026, Page 25

A new study suggests liking well-known fast-food and sugar-sweetened beverage brands may be a strong warning sign of a poor overall diet, even among those who rate these brands as unhealthy. The University of Technology research shows repeated exposure to branding can build familiarity and positive feelings that spill over into health perceptions and dietary choices.

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Tilly Page's parents break their silence on her extraordinary childhood dementia journey on 7NEWS Spotlight

7News.com.au, Other, 13/09/2026, Michael Usher

Tilly Page was three months old when her parents were told to take her home and make memories. [...] Tilly is the only child in Australia to have received an experimental gene therapy for her condition, and the youngest in the world.

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Macquarie University's brain surgeons are now training artificial intelligence to think and act like them, changing the way patients are diagnosed. It could mean faster and earlier treatments to tackle brain tumours before they grow out of control.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Purple House building new clinics and expanding services in Red Centre and Top End

Northern Territory News, Other, 13/09/2026, Gera Kazakov

More opportunities for “lifesaving treatment on country” in the Territory are in the pipeline, with a not-for-profit operating a number of remote renal clinics expanding. [...] “This project will create a more efficient, sustainable and culturally safe workplace for our team, in turn making it easier to attract, train and retain staff, with a strong focus on growing our Aboriginal workforce and creating meaningful career pathways.”

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

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How one health service became a community's lifeline when a town disappeared under water

Northern Territory News, Other, 13/09/2026, Lottie Hood

When a town faced its worst flooding in decades this year submerging the local hospital, pharmacy and even stopping most frontline workers in their tracks, everyone was “caught off guard”. [...] In March this year, Wurlu-Wurlinjang Health Service in Katherine inadvertently became the area's most important frontline service when the historic floods hit overnight.

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

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

New ambos hit beat

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/09/2026, Gera Kazakov, Page 4

New ambulances hitting the beat in Darwin as part of a \$10 million government support package aren't going to change wait times, the St John NT chief executive says, as a call is made for more “longterm funding discussions” to be held. The announcement of the new ambulances, set to hit the road on Monday, comes a week after NT Coroner Elisabeth Armitage delivered damning findings showing patients died after waiting up to six hours for an ambulance in the Top End.

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ED work starts amid cuts

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/09/2026, Bridget Clarke, Page 5

Construction work has begun on the North West Regional Hospital emergency department a milestone that comes amid concern over hospital wait times and health budget cuts. Tasmanian company Vos Construction and Joinery will carry out works at the Burnie hospital, due to be completed by 2028.

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50,000 staff hurts returns

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/09/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 11

The state government's own Health Performance Council has savaged its results in a report bluntly warning ballooning staff numbers is resulting in "diminishing returns". [...] "Ambulance ramping, for example, could be significantly reduced by addressing inefficiencies in patient flow, length of stay, and delays in discharge."

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Lucky country, unless you are a high-needs WA baby

West Australian, General News, 14/09/2026, Andrew Miller, Page 13

"Australia is a lucky country run by second rate people who share its luck," wrote Donald Horne in 1964. Judging by our current crop of political leaders, his famous sentiment persists like an unwelcome stain on the national couch.

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Birth of new era for town

Cairns Post, General News, 14/09/2026, Marnie Buchanan, Page 5

Birthing services will return to Cooktown after two-and-a-half years, with the state's Premier declaring too many people "have the name of a highway on their birth certificate" due to the lack of hospital maternity services. Speaking at a community event in Gordonvale on Sunday with local MPs and Health Minister Tim Nicholls, Mr Crisafulli said level 3 maternity services would resume from Monday September 14 at the Cooktown Multipurpose Health Service in "a significant milestone and big step forward."

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

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Nannas say they're not going anywhere

Border Mail, General News, 14/09/2026, Chelsea Wilson, Page 5

A retired nurse of more than 30 years says she continues to fight for a new hospital because she worries for the future and for the healthcare of her children and grandchildren. Julie Kindellan from the Concerned Nannas said although people may be fatigued from "always hearing about the hospital", her group of like-minded, retiree health advocates is not giving up.

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'Journey harder than treatment': Doctors demand end to postcode lottery for cancer patients in Melbourne's west

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 13/09/2026, Himangi Singh

Cancer patients in Melbourne's booming western suburbs are being forced to clock up thousands of kilometres and spend hundreds of dollars just to access daily lifesaving treatment. Doctors, patients, and health leaders have launched a Better Cancer Care campaign demanding both major parties commit to a new public radiation therapy facility at or near Werribee Mercy Public Hospital ahead of the November state election.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

'Unsafe staffing, unmanageable workloads': Thousands of Queensland nurses quit

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/09/2026, Courtney Kruk

The Crisafulli government has defended its efforts to increase frontline health workers after data

showed thousands of nurses had quit crucial positions at public hospitals in recent years. [...] Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU) secretary Sarah Beaman said staffing issues continue to plague hospitals across the state, and were contributing to the recent exodus of workers.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Monetary motivation for health workers

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 13/09/2026, Denika Anderson

Eligible rural health workers will receive financial support and further incentives for each year they remain in the role under a new plan proposed by the Coalition. The Liberal and National parties have pledged \$40m over four years to establish a Victorian Rural Health Workforce Incentive scheme to help regional hospitals attract and keep doctors, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals with \$10,000 upfront, followed by an additional \$10,000 for each year they remain.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

AI early warning system to detect deadly infection

Cairns Post, General News, 14/09/2026, Harrison Finlay, Page 3

A new artificial intelligence "traffic light" system to help identify and evaluate the risk of a deadly infection quicker will be rolled out in emergency departments across Western Sydney. The AI tool named "SAFEWAIT" is a prediction model that helps clinicians evaluate the risk of sepsis sooner, by taking a patient's vital signs, which then use an algorithm to identify which are most at risk and should be urgently treated in an ED.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

New standards set for women's pain after 13,000 shared their struggles

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/09/2026, Wendy Tuohy

Thea Baker has a deep understanding of what women with long-term, undiagnosed pain endure. [...] Healthcare watchdog the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency launched an ongoing investigation into Gordon after The Age revealed allegations in February that he performed unwarranted endometriosis surgeries on women, including full hysterectomies.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

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