



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 2nd September 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (online) reports that every state and territory health minister is urging the Federal Government to increase funding towards aged care beds and provisions as the number of older Australians stranded in public hospitals continues to rise. *Also reported by:* [ABC News](#), [Yahoo! News Australia](#)
- **ABC Online** reports that South Australia has become the first state to formally urge the Commonwealth to change a federal law preventing doctors from using telehealth in voluntary assisted dying, despite Health Minister Mark Butler telling parliament he was not convinced telehealth was "well suited to VAD right now." *Also reported by:* [CathNews](#)
- The **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 7) reports that a Federal and SA state government partnership will deliver two new mental health care centres - Northern Adelaide Medicare Mental Health Centre and the Northern Adelaide Kids Hub - which will ease pressure on emergency departments and provide specialised care, primarily for children.
- **SBS** (online) reports that the National COVID-19 Vaccine Program is being wound back, but health experts are warning the public not to take the change as an indication that covid is no longer a health concern. Free COVID-19 vaccines will now be limited to people considered most at risk of severe disease, including the elderly and immunocompromised.

- The [West Australian](#) (page 6) reports that there are calls for the WA Government to fix WA's growing hospital wait times and ambulance ramping. It comes after a family says it endured a 15-hour wait inside an emergency department at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and St John WA recorded 6603 hours of ambulances ramping last month.

MINISTER BUTLER

State ministers demand federal funds for aged care amid stranded patient crisis

The Australian, Other, 01/09/2026, Mackenzie Scott

State and territory health ministers will press the Albanese government to pour more funding into aged care beds as the number of older Australians stranded in public hospitals remains stubbornly high. [...] All states have campaigned for the federal health minister Mark Butler to bolster the Commonwealth-backed aged care sector in addition to the \$25bn boost to hospital funding negotiated at national cabinet in January.

[Read More](#)

Time running out for teen brain cancer patient hoping to access world-first mRNA vaccine trial

ABC Online, Other, 01/09/2026, Fiona Blackwood and Andy Cunningham

Brigette Metzler is holding onto a "sliver of hope" despite her 16-year-old son Coby's devastating terminal brain cancer diagnosis. [...] Coby Metzler is also appealing to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and others.

[Read More](#)

South Australian government defies Albanese, urges change to voluntary assisted dying telehealth laws

ABC Online, Other, 01/09/2026, Lucy Barbour

South Australia has become the first state to formally urge the Commonwealth to change a federal law preventing doctors from using telehealth in voluntary assisted dying (VAD), openly defying the prime minister. [...] The federal government recently blocked debate of a VAD telehealth bill pushed by independent MP Kate Chaney, with Health Minister Mark Butler telling parliament he was "not convinced" telehealth was "well suited to VAD right now."

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

[Read More](#)

Health insurance rebate changes for over 65s tough but needed: minister

The Limbic, Other, 01/09/2026, Emma Koehn

Health minister Mark Butler says the difficult decision to scrap higher private health insurance rebates for over 65s is the right one in an environment where the federal budget must stretch to accommodate the care needs of Australia's ageing population. The minister told the audience at the AMA26 meeting in Melbourne last week that despite industry figures warning the policy would decimate private health access for older Australians, the government's own modelling showed the move would only have a "marginal impact" on private health insurance policies.

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

Croakey, Other, 01/09/2026, Charles Maskell-Knight

Rather than Closing the Gap in incarceration rates, so-called "tough on crime" policies are expanding it; governments wishing to reduce crime should be expanding community mental health services and building social housing, rather than new prisons, The Zap reports this week. [...] Health Minister Mark

Butler announced changes to the Commonwealth's drug and alcohol program in a speech to the Burnet Institute.

[Read More](#)

Midwives slam government for stripping women's 'human right' to homebirth

The Mercury, Other, 01/09/2026, Zoe De Koning

Geelong maternity care advocates have slammed the federal government for stripping women of their "human right" to choose how they birth by ending a 16-year-old insurance exemption. [...] More than 4200 Australians have signed a parliamentary petition, closing Wednesday, calling on federal health minister Mark Butler to urgently convene a stakeholder roundtable and extend the exemption to December 31, 2027.

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

[Read More](#)

Labor ministers have the right idea on telehealth VAD

The Catholic Weekly, Other, 01/09/2026, Michael Cook

After the ALP national conference endorsed the use of telehealth for voluntary assisted dying (VAD) in July, the VAD lobby has strained every muscle to promote it as "a simple, safe and humane reform". [...] Minister for Health Mark Butler has deep misgivings as well.

[Read More](#)

Australia has its first national nursing workforce strategy. Now health leaders must deliver it

Hello Leaders Australia, Other, 01/09/2026, Arun Thomas

When Health Minister Mark Butler unveiled Australia's first National Nursing Workforce Strategy in Melbourne, I was sitting among more than a thousand delegates at the Australian College of Nursing National Nursing Forum. Having a single national framework after decades of fragmented state policies felt like a long-overdue milestone.

[Read More](#)

South Australia pushes for change to assisted dying telehealth law

CathNews, Other, 01/09/2026, Rebecca Comini

South Australia has become the first state to formally urge the Commonwealth to change a federal law preventing doctors from using telehealth in voluntary assisted dying, openly defying Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. [...] The federal government recently blocked debate of a VAD telehealth bill pushed by independent MP Kate Chaney, with Health Minister Mark Butler telling parliament he was "not convinced" telehealth was "well suited to VAD right now."

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Butler advisor asks ForHealth how to 'combat' UCC criticism

Health Services Daily, Other, 01/09/2026, Cate Swannell

Documents reveal a sustained flow of data, policy proposals, and media material between one of Australia's largest general practice operators and Health Minister Mark Butler's office on urgent care clinics and bulk billing.

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McGrath Foundation to roll out dedicated prostate cancer nurses

Nursing Review, Other, 01/09/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The federal government will invest \$46.5 million to expand the McGrath Foundation Cancer Care Nurse program to include dedicated prostate cancer nurses, responding to growing demand for support services as increasing numbers of Australian men are diagnosed with the disease. [...] Member for Hunter Dan Repacholi said the funding would help improve access to care regardless of where men live.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

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

Croakey, Other, 01/09/2026, Charles Maskell-Knight

Rather than Closing the Gap in incarceration rates, so-called "tough on crime" policies are expanding it; governments wishing to reduce crime should be expanding community mental health services and building social housing, rather than new prisons, The Zap reports this week. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced changes to the Commonwealth's drug and alcohol program in a speech to the Burnet Institute.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Ada and family invited to Canberra for Speech Pathology Week 2026

Myrtleford Times, General News, 02/09/2026, Phoebe Morgan, Page 2

Myrtleford's Damien and Bec Kleine and their threeyear-old daughter Ada were recently invited to Parliament House in Canberra to attend Speech Pathology Australia's (SPA) 'Early Intervention. Lifelong Impact' event. [...] Ada spoke to many new people in Canberra, including Rebecca White, Assistant Minister for Women, Indigenous Health and Health and Aged Care, who keynoted the event.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Cessnock locals gain greater access to healthcare

2HD, Other, 01/09/2026

Cessnock residents will now have greater access to urgent medical care, with extended operating hours introduced at the Cessnock Medicare Urgent Care Clinic. [...] Hunter MP Dan Repacholi welcomed the announcement on social media.

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McGrath Foundation to roll out dedicated prostate cancer nurses

Nursing Review, Other, 01/09/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The federal government will invest \$46.5 million to expand the McGrath Foundation Cancer Care

Nurse program to include dedicated prostate cancer nurses, responding to growing demand for support services as increasing numbers of Australian men are diagnosed with the disease. [...] Member for Hunter Dan Repacholi said the funding would help improve access to care regardless of where men live.

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[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Fears for home deliveries

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/09/2026, Zoe De Koning, Page 1

Geelong maternity care advocates have slammed the federal government for stripping women of their "human right" to choose how they deliver their children by ending a 16 year-old insurance exemption. [...] A Department of Health, Disability and Ageing spokesman said Commonwealth-funded scholarships were available to help eligible midwives gain endorsement during the transition period.

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

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'Disappointing' setback for eczema sufferers

Wyndham Star Weekly, General News, 02/09/2026, Page 4

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

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

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New dialysis clinic on way

North West Telegraph, General News, 02/09/2026, Joshua Dowdall, Page 8

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.

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

Croakey, Other, 01/09/2026, Charles Maskell-Knight

Rather than Closing the Gap in incarceration rates, so-called "tough on crime" policies are expanding it; governments wishing to reduce crime should be expanding community mental health services and building social housing, rather than new prisons, The Zap reports this week. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced changes to the Commonwealth's drug and alcohol program in a speech to the Burnet Institute.

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Health scholarship named after Indigenous trailblazer opens

National Indigenous Times, Other, 01/09/2026, Callan Morse

Applications for the 2027 Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship round are now open. [...] Funding is also provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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DoHDA could quantify CHSP's hidden waitlist: Yates

Health Services Daily, Other, 01/09/2026, Cate Swannell

Former acting aged care inspector-general Ian Yates says the federal government has the data to

produce a reasonable estimate of how many older Australians are waiting for CHSP services – but has never published it.

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NSWNMA launches Federal Court action against Opal Healthcare over care minutes reporting

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 01/09/2026

The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) has commenced Federal Court action against for-profit aged care provider Opal Healthcare over its alleged failure to meet mandatory care minute targets and misreported care minutes. [...] The NSWNMA first notified a dispute with Opal in early 2025, before referring it to the Fair Work Commission in June last year, after aged care members uncovered non-direct care duties were being misreported to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing as direct care.

[Read More](#)

2027 Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship round now open: Join the legacy, join the health workforce

Indigenous Allied Health Australia, Other, 01/09/2026, Renae Kilmister

Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) and the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP), supported by the Rural Doctors Network (RDN), are pleased to announce that applications for the 2027 Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Round are now open. [...] IAHA and our partners acknowledge funding provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

'I am 90 and feel ready to give up'

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 02/09/2026, Paul Weston, Page 3

About three-quarters of older southern Gold Coasters say they will be unable to afford private health insurance once the Federal Government removes a rebate. McPherson MP Leon Rebello will unveil the data in his electorate at a Gold Coast town hall meeting on Wednesday.

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More patients stranded as bed-block crisis worsens

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 01/09/2026, Andrew Stafford

A patient has been stranded in a public hospital for almost three years in a state that has become "ground zero" for Australia's bed-block crisis. Health Minister Tim Nicholls has revealed the number of Queensland hospital patients with nowhere to go has almost tripled in four years.

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

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Stronger collaboration essential

Community Care Review, Other, 01/09/2026, Marie Alford

As the number of people living with dementia continues to grow, one of the most important partnerships in our health and care systems remains largely overlooked: the relationship between dementia care providers and emergency services. Police, ambulance, fire and rescue services are increasingly encountering people living with dementia in their daily work.

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Co-contributions leaving people disillusioned

Community Care Review, Other, 01/09/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

People are choosing not to access services that require a co-contribution and it is impacting package utilisation, a Senate hearing has heard. 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.

[Read More](#)

News24, Paul Murray Live, 01/09/2026, Paul Murray

Murray says he hates that the Federal Government made a song and dance about Robodebt, that it's now using an algorithm or a non-human intervention to decide what kind of help older Australians will get. He also states that state and territory Health Ministers are demanding change by calling on the Federal Government to inject more money for more aged care facilities because more older Australians are stuck waiting in public hospitals just to receive aged care.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

City adopts disability plan as cuts loom

Ballarat Courier, General News, 02/09/2026, Nick Powell, Page 2

As the federal government has "stopped listening to people with a disability", Ballarat is taking a deliberate step toward accessibility and inclusion. For the one in five people with a disability across the city, navigating a system designed without their input can be exhausting.

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

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Regional families and carers of young people living with a disability offered new accommodation lifeline

West Australian, Other, 01/09/2026, Julia Petersen

Regionally based families and carers of young people with a disability needing medical treatment in Perth are being offered a new accommodation lifeline. Rocky Bay has opened a new short-term accommodation service in Cottesloe, named Seabreeze Retreat, it is within the service's Lady Lawley Cottage site and provides people aged 12 to 18 with 24/7 support.

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

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Not eligible for NDIS, too old for Thriving Kids. What supports should these young people get?

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 01/09/2026, Emma Cowie and Sophie Goldingay

Major changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) are coming. This includes the launch of Thriving Kids in October.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Putting rural health first

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 02/09/2026, Zoe De Koning, Page 26

A Torquay GP is among 23 doctors nationwide selected to attend a leadership conference in South Australia. Rural generalist Dr Charlene Goodman will fly to Adelaide for the Australian College of Rural

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'We are not taking new patients': GP crisis worsens in the south-west

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 01/09/2026, William Stanley

New Warrnambool residents seeking medical help are being turned away from practices as a shortage of doctors forces clinics to close their books. A Warrnambool man who sought an appointment on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, was told by multiple clinics they were not taking new patients.

[Read More](#)

Government to subsidise PSA prescriber training

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/09/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Graduates of the PSA's pharmacist prescribing course will be able to practice to their full scope in Western Australia, with the state government recognising the program. The Western Australian government will subsidise up to 30 pharmacists to undertake the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA's) Graduate Certificate in Pharmacist Prescribing.

[Read More](#)

WA government backs PSA prescribing course

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 01/09/2026

Western Australians will soon find it easier to "access care", after the state government formally recognised the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) Graduate Certificate in Pharmacist Prescribing. The recognition, granted under the Enhanced Access Community Pharmacy Pilot, allows appropriately trained community pharmacists to diagnose and treat 17 common conditions.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 01/09/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Australian Medical Association President Dr Michael Bonning. Oriti says the Federal Government is considering reducing private health insurance rebates for Australians over 65, and it's estimated that 62,000 older Australians might end their insurance while 200,000 might downgrade their coverage. Bonning says he is worried that it will put more pressure on the public health system, and he states that the AMA wants to ensure that the private health system remains robust and that they are not potentially putting tens of thousands more people into the public health system.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Walking every day? The exercise over 50s need - and most of us miss

The Senior, Other, 01/09/2026, Phoebe Loomes

A long daily walk to keep weight under control is the main health goal for many older Australians, as new research suggests most people over 50 never consider their bone health until it's too late. But new research from the Perth university has found the majority of people over 50 have very little understanding of the simple way to protect themselves from falls and broken bones.

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Why it feels like everyone in Australia is getting sick as hospital visits soar

Daily Mail UK, Other, 01/09/2026, Aidan Wondracz

Aussies have vented their frustration at getting sick despite the end of winter, with vaccine hesitancy blamed for a rise in sick people visiting hospitals in NSW. Sick residents have come forward in droves to complain about a range of symptoms that have left them bedridden.

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Asthma management 'not just about relieving symptoms'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/09/2026

Pharmacists and other health professionals are being urged to encourage patients to focus on treating inflammation rather than asthma symptoms alone. Patients need to be empowered to make the best decisions when it comes to managing their condition, National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) Guidelines Committee chair, Dr Brett Montgomery, says.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 01/09/2026, Peter Overton

New CSIRO data has revealed that there is a protein gap among middle-aged women in Australia, and it could be contributing to weight gain during menopause. The National Science Agency surveyed 1300 women and found that nearly eight in ten reported putting on weight between the ages of 40 and 55.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Cancer age matters

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02/09/2026, Page 11

One of Australia's largest real-world studies of younger adults with advanced bowel cancer has identified important differences between cancers diagnosed before and after the age of 50. The Flinders University-led study, which analysed data from 1691 Australians whose bowel cancer had spread only to the liver, found that younger patients differed from older patients in tumour biology, characteristics and survival outcomes.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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Motor neurone disease notification may help solve mystery about NSW hotpots

ABC Online, Other, 01/09/2026, Nicola Ceccato

Professor Dominic Rowe has cared for countless patients with motor neurone disease (MND) and in 2013 established Macquarie University's MND Research Centre. But there are still things about the as-yet-incurable neurological condition that remain a mystery even to experts.

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South Australian Labor government 'implores' Albanese government to legislate telehealth for VAD care

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 01/09/2026, Michelle Grattan

The Malinauskas Labor government is challenging Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's resistance to making telehealth available in voluntary assistant dying (VAD) care. In a strong letter to the federal Attorney-General Michelle Rowland, South Australia's Health Minister Blair Boyer, and Deputy Premier and Attorney-General Kyam Maher pointed out that the July Labor national conference voted for removing the ban on telehealth's use.

[Read More](#)

The Northern Territory has just voted to legalise VAD. Here's how it will work

Nursing Review, Other, 01/09/2026, Kat Waller, Ben White and Madeleine Archer

Voluntary assisted dying will soon be legal in the Northern Territory, after its parliament passed new legislation on Thursday via a conscience vote. All but one member (who abstained) voted to pass the

bill.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 01/09/2026, James Glenday and Catherine Murphy

The South Australian Government is calling on the Commonwealth to change the criminal code so doctors can use telehealth for voluntary assisted dying services. The Australian Medical Association supports the change; however, some doctors have raised concerns that telehealth could risk coercion.

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2CC, Breakfast, 01/09/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Marc Vandenberg, Senior Audiologist, Hearing Australia. Compere mentions that Hearing Australia has highlighted a gap between Australian men's awareness of hearing health and their willingness to act. Vandenberg points out that people should be checking their hearing every two to three years. He states that hearing loss is a bit of a sign that people are ageing.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 01/09/2026, Leon Delaney

Canberrans are being encouraged to go bold with their hair this month in a show of support for life-saving cancer research. This comes as figures show that more than two in five Australians will have cancer by the age of 85.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Help for mental health

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 02/09/2026, Page 7

Two new mental health care centres will officially open in the northern suburbs today offering free walk-in care - one specifically for children. A federal-state partnership is delivering the new Northern Adelaide Medicare Mental Health Centre and the Northern Adelaide Kids Hub, which officials say will ease pressure on emergency departments and provide specialised care in a calmer, more appropriate setting than an ED.

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Leaders unite over mental health gap

Ballarat Courier, General News, 02/09/2026, Nick Powell, Page 1

Decades of systemic neglect have left Ballarat's most vulnerable patients desperate for help and their carers exhausted. Three of Ballarat's most senior healthcare leaders have united in a powerful call to action to bridge the "missing middle" - the crucial gap in the health system before patients and their families reach breaking point in emergency departments.

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Mental health crisis worsens

Northern Territory News, General News, 02/09/2026, Nicola Bell, Page 18

Ross Blanch has spent 32 years answering some of the toughest calls in the bush, taking more than 20,000 mental health crisis calls. The Southeast Queensland dairy farmer and Lifeline counsellor is now a key point of contact for hundreds of producers, as new research lays bare the worsening mental health toll across Australian agriculture.

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South Australian government launches inquiry into men's health,

suicide rates and social media impacts

ABC Online, Other, 01/09/2026, Rachael Merritt

The South Australian government will launch a parliamentary inquiry into men's health challenges, aimed at tackling "staggering" rates of suicide and the harmful role of social media algorithms. Health Minister Blair Boyer said the joint house committee would seek to improve men's access to services and address the stigma and barriers to seeking help.

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Girls' suicides on upward track as crisis hotline inundated with calls from victims of bullying

The Mercury, Other, 01/09/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Emma Cam and Rose Innes

The number of Queensland girls dying by suspected suicide is on track to double this year as the country's top crisis helpline sounds the alarm on the bullying epidemic. The bullying scourge has taken an unprecedented grip on the state, leaving hundreds of suicidal children turning to Kids Helpline with more than twice as many calls from girls than boys.

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

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Channel 9, Nine News, 01/09/2026, Brenton Ragless

Men's health and wellbeing will be the centre of a new parliamentary committee. The inquiry, to be led by first-term Labor MP Hilton Gumbys, will address mental health challenges among men and suicide prevention.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 01/09/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with ACT Health and Mental Health Minister Dr Marisa Paterson. Delaney says the ACT Government has called upon people with lived experience of the mental health system to provide their feedback for a review of the Mental Health Act. Paterson says the review of the Mental Health Act is a statutory review that is looking for a broad range of feedback, particularly from people who have used the system and had experience with the mental health system in the ACT, and she also states that they hear a lot of feedback regularly about some of the challenges people face and how they can do things better.

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[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

Who can still get a free COVID vaccine? Australia's new rules explained

SBS, Other, 01/09/2026, Mikele Syron

Australia is preparing to wind back its universal COVID-19 vaccination program, but experts warn the change shouldn't be interpreted as a sign the virus is no longer a public health concern. From 1 October, the National COVID-19 Vaccine Program will transition into the National Immunisation Program (NIP), with free COVID-19 vaccines becoming limited to people considered most at risk of severe disease.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 01/09/2026, Lucy Breden

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Deputy Chair Dr Tim Jones. Breden says the COVID-19 vaccination programme is changing from 1 October. Jones notes that the number of people who will be eligible for a free government COVID vaccination will change, but anyone who wants a vaccine will still be able to access one, and he also states that Australians over 75 are still required to have one vaccine every six months for good protection.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Young footy referee died in 'challenging' health system

West Australian, Other, 01/09/2026, Stephanie Gardiner

Robert Murray was a "warm and obliging" young man, a devoted footy referee and avid supporter of his remote hometown team. But at the age of 31, Mr Murray died of pneumonia at the small Collarenebri multipurpose health centre in northwest NSW on May 13, 2022.

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

[Read More](#)

'We want to do everything we can to make sure our babies are the healthiest they can be' - new campaign targets FASD

National Indigenous Times, Other, 01/09/2026, Giovanni Torre

Ahead of International FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) Awareness Day on 9 September, proud Wiradjuri woman and GP-obstetrician Dr Sarah Jane Springer is joining DrinkWise to reinforce the advice that women who are pregnant or planning a pregnancy should not drink alcohol. The campaign is also reiterating that for women who are breastfeeding, not drinking alcohol is safest for their baby.

[Read More](#)

Aboriginal infant died just days after mother became homeless

National Indigenous Times, Other, 01/09/2026, Dechlan Brennan

The death of an Aboriginal infant who died in Mparntwe / Alice Springs in 2024 was preventable, a coroner has found. The 42-day-old girl died from Sudden Unexpected Death of an Infant (SUDI) just one week after she and her 21-year-old mother exited supported housing into "effective homelessness".

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Patients in pain as ED waits stretch

West Australian, General News, 02/09/2026, Jessica Page, Page 6

A surge in ambulance ramping and one family's 15-hour wait in hospital have heaped pressure on the Cook Government. St John WA recorded 6603 hours of ambulances ramped in August, which both the ambulance service and Health Minister Meredith Hammat blamed on high demand.

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

First patients for new \$24m ward at hospital

Northern Territory News, General News, 02/09/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 7

A \$23.95 million ward designed to ease capacity pressures at Royal Darwin Hospital, which has experienced six Code Yellows this year, will welcome its first patients this week. The new 32-bed multipurpose ward will be easing into its opening this week by making 12 beds available to patients needing bariatric, renal and general medical treatment.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 01/09/2026, Natalie Forrest

There are calls for the WA Government to fix WA's growing hospital wait times and ambulance ramping. It comes after a family says it endured an agonising wait inside an emergency department at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Research nurses warn workforce gaps threaten national strategy

Nursing Review, Other, 01/09/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Australian clinical research nurses are calling for greater workforce investment after the release of the National Health and Medical Research Strategy 2026–2036, arguing that the country's research ambitions cannot be achieved without stronger support for the workforce responsible for delivering clinical research and trials. The Strategy, developed through extensive national consultation, outlines a 10-year vision for a research system that improves health outcomes, accelerates innovation and strengthens the translation of discoveries into healthcare policy and practice.

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NSW grows midwifery workforce as maternity reforms continue

Nursing Review, Other, 01/09/2026, Stefanie Schultz

NSW has reported a 10 per cent increase in its midwifery workforce since mid-2023, as the state government continues to expand maternity services while planning for future demand. More than 3,400 full-time equivalent midwives are now employed across NSW, with the Minns government attributing the increase to its broader efforts to strengthening maternity care and improve access to services.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

How does the cancer drug Keytruda work? And how is it different to chemo?

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 01/09/2026

From today, the Australian government will expand Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) access to

the drug Keytruda for three additional types of cancer. This is part of a broader shift away from cancer treatment with traditional chemotherapy drugs that can be less effective and have more intense side effects.

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New COPD, cancer PBS listings

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 01/09/2026

GSK'S monoclonal antibody Nucala (mepolizumab) is available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from today, becoming the first biologic listed for uncontrolled chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Nucala is indicated for use as an add-on to inhaler triple therapy (inhaled corticosteroid, long-acting muscarinic antagonist and long-acting beta2-agonist) for adults.

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What could expanding GLP-1 access on PBS look like?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/09/2026, Sheshtyn Paola

Four-in-10 Australian adults may be eligible to use GLP-1 RA treatment for chronic weight management, a study has found. Nearly eight million Australian adults were eligible for glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist (GLP-1 RA) use for chronic weight management, according to an analysis of data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2022 National Health Survey.

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

New \$162m My Health Record deal for Accenture, despite ADHA audit alarm

The Australian, General News, 02/09/2026, Jack Quail, Page 7

Tech consultancy Accenture has been awarded another \$161.6m contract by the Australian Digital Health Agency to continue operating its My Health Record platform, despite a scathing assessment by the National Audit Office over its past procurement processes. The deal, disclosed on Tuesday, will push Accenture's income from the project to above \$1bn once it concludes work in 2029, with the ADHA maintaining the deal was finalised following an "open market procurement and a rigorous evaluation process".

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Health Check: Testosterone boost for erectile dysfunction house

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/09/2026, Tim Boreham

In one of the life sciences sector's more logical expansion forays, erectile dysfunction house LTR Pharma (ASX:LTP) has teamed up with a US company to supply an oral testosterone therapy to the Australian market. [...] During the pilot, the companies will evaluate physician adoption and patient demand, in view of a potential Therapeutic Goods Administration marketing application.

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

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