



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 21st September 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports new modelling suggests subsidising weight-loss drugs could pay for itself through health savings within five years. Health Minister Mark Butler is committed to listing the drugs on the PBS for eligible patients.
- The **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports four people were killed in separate domestic violence-related incidents across NSW over the weekend. A lawyer for a man accused of killing his 90-year-old grandmother said his client was experiencing side effects from weight-loss drug Ozempic. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [Herald Sun](#), [The Guardian](#)
- The **[Age](#)** (page 1) reports advocates are calling for dedicated housing and mental health support for young people experiencing homelessness, warning vulnerable girls are being exposed to sexual exploitation.
- The **[Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports Tasmania's public health system has lost 19 mental health beds after a fire forced the closure of a ward at Burnie's North West Regional Hospital, with patients relocated to other services.
- The **[Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 3) reports police and federal authorities are investigating an alleged assault on an elderly resident at an Adelaide nursing home, the fifth alleged attack at the facility in 18 months.

- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 4) reports Tasmania's nurses' union is calling for urgent hospital reform amid lengthy emergency department waits and elective surgery delays.
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 5) reports a world-first \$4.2 million cancer research laboratory will open in Sydney to examine why some tumour cells survive and spread.
- [ABC Online](#) reports less than half of Australians living with dementia were diagnosed within a year of seeking help, according to the first national survey of people with dementia and their carers.

MINISTER BUTLER

Subsidising weight-loss drugs could pay for itself

The Australian, General News, 21/09/2026, Penny Timms, Page 1

The cost of publicly subsidising weight-loss drugs such as Mounjaro and Ozempic for people with obesity in Australia would be paid for by health savings in just five years, according to exclusive analysis, prompting calls for the government to "urgently" conduct its own modelling. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler previously estimated 600,000 people were accessing the drugs via the private market.

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New study shows gaps in HIV testing and diagnosis

OUTinPerth, General News, 21/09/2026, Graeme Watson

Figures released this week show that Australia still faces gaps in HIV prevention. [...] In 2024 the Australian government launched the Ninth National HIV Strategy with Health Minister Mark Butler restating Australia's commitment to eliminate blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections by 2030.

[Read More](#)

Aged care algorithm faces scrutiny over lack of human override

Inside Ageing, General News, 20/09/2026, Amy Clarke

A government algorithm used to determine funding levels for older Australians receiving Support at Home packages was the subject of an 11th-hour change after officials discovered assessors could not legally override its recommendations, according to freedom-of-information (FOI) documents. [...] The issue prompted an emergency briefing for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae and Health Minister Mark Butler shortly before the tool was introduced.

[Read More](#)

New breast cancer treatment option listed on PBS

PS News, General News, 20/09/2026, Chris Johnson

A new drug will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from next month to expand access to treatment for a range of women's health conditions. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the expanded listing meant Triptorelin would be available as an alternative monthly treatment at PBS prices.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

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MINISTER RAE

Aged care algorithm faces scrutiny over lack of human override

Inside Ageing, General News, 20/09/2026, Amy Clarke

A government algorithm used to determine funding levels for older Australians receiving Support at Home packages was the subject of an 11th-hour change after officials discovered assessors could not legally override its recommendations, according to freedom-of-information (FOI) documents. [...] The issue prompted an emergency briefing for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae and Health Minister Mark Butler shortly before the tool was introduced.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

New Medicare mental health centre

www.centralcoastsun.au, General News, 20/09/2026

The Federal Government is expanding access to free mental health care on the Central Coast, with the new Medicare Mental Health Centre in Tuggerah now officially open. Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Member for Dobell, Emma McBride, announced the opening today.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

New breast cancer treatment option listed on PBS

PS News, General News, 20/09/2026, Chris Johnson

A new drug will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from next month to expand access to treatment for a range of women's health conditions. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the expanded listing meant Triptorelin would be available as an alternative monthly treatment at PBS prices.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Aged care algorithm faces scrutiny over lack of human override

Inside Ageing, General News, 20/09/2026, Amy Clarke

A government algorithm used to determine funding levels for older Australians receiving Support at Home packages was the subject of an 11th-hour change after officials discovered assessors could not legally override its recommendations, according to freedom-of-information (FOI) documents. [...] The issue prompted an emergency briefing for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae and Health Minister Mark Butler shortly before the tool was introduced.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Agony and love in fight against time

The Australian, General News, 21/09/2026, Lillian Saleh, Page 6

For days, young Lincoln wouldn't let himself go to sleep, terrified that every time he closed his eyes he'd "lose a bit of Dad". His father Cam had just become the youngest person at his local hospital diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia (FTD), a neurological disorder that affects personality, behaviour and language

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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

Fury over aged-care patient 'assault'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 21/09/2026, Andrew Hough, Page 3

An Adelaide female aged carer is under police investigation over claims she assaulted an elderly resident, in the fifth alleged attack at the same nursing home in the past 18 months. Detectives have launched an investigation into claims the agency worker assaulted the female resident, aged in her 80s, at the Bene Aged Care Italian Village, St Agnes, in July.

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Government's aged care funding just doesn't add up

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 21/09/2026, Darren Birbeck, Page 30

On September 2, the Government announced that funding for residential aged care in 2026-27 will only rise by 2.55 per cent from October 1. It is a decision that has shocked the sector, at a time of peak demand for residential aged care beds, due to a combination of an ageing population, a shortage of new homes being built and an increasing number of people in hospital waiting for a bed.

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Migration debate needs more nuance

Canberra Times, Editorials, 21/09/2026, Page 18

One Nation and the federal government have finally unveiled their long-awaited, and apparently internally contested, immigration policies ahead of the next election. [...] One Nation proposes cracking down on the ability of skilled temporary migrants working in the health and aged care sectors to bring spouses and children to Australia.

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'Every day I lose a bit more of Dad'

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 21/09/2026, Lillian Saleh, Page 2

For days, young Lincoln wouldn't let himself go to sleep, terrified that every time he closed his eyes he'd "lose a bit of Dad". His father Cam had just become the youngest person at his local hospital diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia, a neurological disorder that affects personality, behaviour and language.

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When special minutes count

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 21/09/2026, Zoe Waters, Page 14

Every minute of every day has the potential to become a memory. [...] In 2026, Dementia Australia estimates 446,500 Australians are living with dementia.

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Veteran nurse Shirley Gunn stranded in ambulance after two-year wait

for aged care bed

The Mercury, General News, 20/09/2026, Brad Crouch and Lauren Novak

A retired nurse, who gave five decades of service to the state's health system, is caught in her own healthcare nightmare. Shirley Gunn, 81, has spent two years in various hospitals waiting for an aged care bed, as dementia fanned other mental health challenges.

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

[Read More](#)

'It's a terminal gig': Glenorchy advocate Lil Mirtl opens up on living with dementia

The Mercury, General News, 20/09/2026, Sue Bailey

Lil Mirtl has dementia. She is also very busy, positive and continues to inspire others.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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First Australian dementia survey reveals long waits for diagnoses, overwhelmed carers

ABC Online, General News, 21/09/2026, Paige Cockburn

Less than half of Australians living with dementia received a diagnosis in the first year, with crucial early warning signs sometimes missed by health professionals, a landmark new survey has found. The Living with Dementia report is the first time Australians with dementia and their carers have been surveyed, and experts have urged governments and healthcare professionals to pay close attention to the findings.

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Travellers Aid is the little-known service helping generations of people find their way

ABC Online, General News, 20/09/2026

It has helped generations of Victorians and visitors through two global pandemics, migration waves, vastly changing times and a recent V/Line shutdown But it is likely you have never heard of Travellers Aid, a vital cog in Victoria's public transport system that helps more than 110,000 people a year.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Ex-bankrupt boss of collapsed \$60m NDIS firm, Zaffar Khan sells business system and boasts of Bollywood fame

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 20/09/2026, Julie Cross

An ex-bankrupt who founded an NDIS company which collapsed owing \$60 million is selling tickets for a workshop on how to be a business successful – and claiming he is the inspiration for an upcoming Bollywood movie. While former cleaner and taxi driver Zaffar Khan has seemingly moved on from the Cocoon SDA Care disaster – which up-ended the lives of scores of Australia's most vulnerable people – he may yet face a rude awakening, with the group's liquidator expected to bring legal action against him.

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

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'All about adapting': how this burlesque dancer got back on stage

Canberra Times, General News, 20/09/2026, Petlee Peter

When her second-hand motorised mobility scooter finally gave out in June, burlesque artist Empress

Eyrie was left heartbroken and "stranded at home". [...] Diagnosed in 2018, Ms Eyrie recalled her harrowing ordeal trying to navigate the NDIS bureaucracy.

[Read More](#)

'Disappointed' disabled Canberra community fears early NDIS cut onslaught

ABC Online, General News, 20/09/2026, Georgia Roberts

Canberra community members are concerned that the closure of a local NDIS program does not bode well for the disability community ahead of looming federal cuts to the scheme. Carers ACT will close its hub disability day program and NDIS support coordination service at the start of October, citing operating costs and funding arrangements, with advocates worried it may not be the last.

[Read More](#)

Jailed Hervey Bay support worker Daryl Patrick Miller banned for life from NDIS

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 20/09/2026, Rebecca Nicol

A jailed support worker who gave drugs to one of his former clients with the mental capacity of a child and performed sexual acts on him has been banned from the NDIS for life. Daryl Patrick Miller, 42, was sentenced at Hervey Bay District Court in May this year after pleading guilty to one count of wilful and unlawful exposure to a person with an impairment of the mind to an indecent act, indecent dealing with a person with an impairment of the mind, wilfully exposing a person with an impairment of the mind to an indecent object or film and indecently dealing with a person with an impairment of the mind.

Also reported by: [Fraser Coast Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

Shame of Defence waste as veterans pay the price

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 21/09/2026, Page 18

Australia's national security has never been more important as we face an increasingly hostile world from rogue nations and cyber criminals. [...] Meantime Veterans' Affairs Minister Matt Keogh was accused of penny pinching after capping veterans' allied health care at \$5000 before backing down after enormous backlash.

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

Sonic Healthcare's Best Practice leads cash call for medical AI biz

Australian Financial Review, General News, 20/09/2026, Sarah Thompson

The country's biggest GP software provider Best Practice has led a \$5.4 million capital raising for Medcast, an artificial intelligence-powered search engine for clinicians.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 20/09/2026, Fauziah Ibrahim and Johanna Nicholson

Interview with Dr Danielle McMullen, Federal President of the Australian Medical Association. McMullen discusses the Government's latest Intergenerational Report. She says a growing life expectancy is a good reflection on a country overall, but for doctors, they need to ensure they are prepared for a larger generation of older people.

Continuing interview on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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Toxic metals in illegal tobacco

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 21/09/2026, Shashi Baltutis, Page 9

Illicit tobacco products sold in South Australia could contain dangerous levels of toxic metals including uranium, as an investigation has been launched following new research. A study by the University of Auckland reveals they contain elevated levels of several harmful substances, including the cancer-causing heavy metal cadmium.

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

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The hope-giving medicines for those living with migraines

Canberra Times, General News, 21/09/2026, Peter Jean, Page 3

Like the spinning blue circle on a computer screen when something stops working - that's how Karen Fisher describes the imminent arrival of a migraine. [...] About 3.9 million Australians suffer from migraines, according to data published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Tissue for our issues

West Australian, General News, 21/09/2026, Sophie Gannon, Page 14

Spring is arguably the most beautiful time of year but for one-in-five who suffers from hay fever, the season is bringing more sneezing, itchy eyes and sleepless nights than perfect weather and flowers. And with pollen levels beginning to rise across the metropolitan area, Perth Allergy clinic's Susan Carr says there is already a big increase in West Aussies seeking help as their allergies flare up.

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'Pushed, kicked, spat on': ED staff demand 24/7 security as violence hits record levels

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 20/09/2026, Melissa Cunningham

Victorian emergency room doctors and nurses are being increasingly assaulted at work, with the number of violent workplace incidents reported at public hospitals soaring 44 per cent in the past three years. [...] The most recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showed in the 2024/25 financial year at least 230 healthcare workers were hospitalised after being assaulted at work in Victoria.

[Read More](#)

NSW Premier Chris Minns speaks out after three women allegedly murdered in 10 hours

7News.com.au, General News, 20/09/2026, Demi Huang

NSW Premier Chris Minns has spoken out after three women were allegedly murdered in domestic violence-related incidents across the state within just 10 hours. [...] "According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, a woman was killed every 11 days in 2024-25 by her intimate partner."

[Read More](#)

Three women killed in separate alleged domestic violence incidents across NSW

News24 Australia, General News, 20/09/2026, Stamatina Notaras

Three women have died in separate alleged domestic-violence-related incidents across New South Wales within 24 hours. [...] "According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, a woman was killed every 11 days in 2024-25 by her intimate partner," Ms Sloane added.

[Read More](#)

At 64, living in a sharehouse gave Marg a 'better perspective of the

world'

The Senior, General News, 20/09/2026, Phoebe Loomes

After making the decision to share-house in her 60s, Melbourne woman Marg Lange said her world suddenly feels much bigger. [...] Loneliness has been linked to conditions including mental illness, dementia and high blood pressure, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Melbourne dad reveals how routine blood test caught aggressive prostate cancer at 52

The Australian, General News, 20/09/2026, Paige Fryer

Nearly 29,000 Australian men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2025, yet one Melbourne man had no idea he was among them until a simple blood test changed everything. At just 52, Greg Jacobs felt perfectly healthy and was doing what he did every year; visiting his GP for his annual health check.

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

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Sunshine Coast mother has healthy baby after chemotherapy while pregnant

ABC Online, General News, 20/09/2026

Already 14 weeks pregnant, Jya Banks never imagined she would be able to keep her unborn baby when she was diagnosed with advanced blood cancer. Scans found growths in the Sunshine Coast mother's neck, her under-arms, chest and abdomen.

[Read More](#)

The three genetic tests that could help you live a long healthy life, according to Perth genetic counsellor

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 20/09/2026

When it comes to living a healthy life to a ripe old age, knowledge of our genetic health could be a powerful tool. Lifestyle factors — environment, diet, activity and habits like smoking — are known to have a major impact on health and longevity.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Dangers on the street

Age, General News, 21/09/2026, Wendy Tuohy, Page 1

To hear how 21-year-old Annie kept herself alive after fleeing a violent family home at 14 is to glimpse the fraught nature of just getting by for young women left to fend for themselves. The way she can now describe having to resort to what the youth homelessness and mental health sector calls "survival sex" to find shelter, with no shred of self-pity, is as distressing as it is humbling.

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More schools curbing student screen time as test scores decline

Age, General News, 21/09/2026, Alex Crowe, Page 1

Schools are being pushed to curb classroom screen time amid increasing student anxiety and declining test scores, but experts warn that hasty bans could undo the benefits of teaching with tech. [...] As

academic results have declined, reports of mental health issues among Australian students have risen a trend policymakers have linked to increased time online.

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Blaze guts NW mental health unit

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/09/2026, Rob Inglis, Page 1

Tasmania's public health system is down 19 mental health beds after a serious fire tore through a ward at the North West Regional Hospital in Burnie, forcing the unit's closure for the foreseeable future and resulting in a woman being charged with arson. Emergency services were alerted to the blaze at the Spencer Clinic about 6.20pm on Saturday, with firefighting crews arriving at the scene within minutes.

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Mental health assessment ordered for murder accused

Daily Advertiser, General News, 21/09/2026, Kabel Dawes, Page 4

A Bethungra man accused of a fatal attack on an elderly couple has again faced court and been ordered to undergo a psychological assessment to determine if he is fit to plead. The matter of Ross Moran Dallow was mentioned before Judge Tony Murray in Wagga Local Court last Wednesday.

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IMMUNISATION

Aussie mothers issue urgent warning as pneumococcal cases hit 20-year high

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 20/09/2026, Lauren Robinson

Two Australian mothers have bravely spoken out in a bid to raise awareness and help save other families from being caught in the dark. [...] "Childhood immunisation rates have slipped from where they were a few years ago, and on-time immunisation has slipped too," he said.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Private health reforms can ease sector's woes

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 21/09/2026, Natalie Davis, Page 27

The federal government's private health reform agenda is an important opportunity to respond to pressures in our health system.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Weapon against cancer

Daily Telegraph, General News, 21/09/2026, Page 5

Australia has a world-first cancer research laboratory to examine tumour cells in extraordinary detail and determine why some rogue cells survive, spread and kill. The new \$4.2m Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ARCF) Single Cell Cancer Proteomics Laboratory opens today.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

Cancer funding for kids

Herald Sun, General News, 21/09/2026, Jordan McCarthy, Page 19

Young cancer survivors are praising a State Government announcement to fund research targeting new treatments to improve outcomes for children with cancer. Minister for Medical Research Anthony Carbinas announced that four Victorian researchers will share \$2.25 million through the Children's Cancer CoLab's Transformative Therapies Impact Program.

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

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Wave of new research helps those at risk of dementia control their destiny in old age

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/09/2026, James Vickers, Page 18

For those of us entering our senior years, the news that dementia is now ranked as the number one cause of death in Australia may stoke the unsettling anxiety that this might happen to us. [...] Exciting areas of research from the Wicking Centre have also been focused on identifying 'biomarkers' to assist in diagnosis.

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Kids' pain off charts

West Australian, General News, 21/09/2026, Sarah Spina-Matthews, Page 12

A ground-breaking report has revealed more than 80 per cent of children say pain disrupts their sport or extracurricular activities. The 2026 Kids in Pain Report: Pain Lives Here Too also found about the same number said it impacted their sleep and mental health.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Filling a service gap

Cairns Post, General News, 21/09/2026, Samuel Davis, Page 11

Application approved for dental practice in Edge Hill Healthcare services in a leafy Cairns suburb have been bolstered, with an application to open a new medical facility approved this week. [...] The application was approved in the same week that a UQ Health study revealed kids growing up in areas that don't fluoridate their drinking water have worse rates of tooth decay than children in areas that do fluoridate.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 20/09/2026, Fauziah Ibrahim and Johanna Nicholson

Interview with Kudzai Kanhutu, Infectious diseases expert from the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. Kanhutu discusses the research into whether GLP-1 agonists such Ozempic could be used to treat drug and alcohol addiction.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Funding call putting abused women at risk

Central Western Daily, General News, 21/09/2026, Orlander Ruming, Page 3

Women escaping violence in western NSW are being placed at great risk of harm as demand for legal services greatly outstrips availability, and funding requests are ignored. [...] "Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander people have shorter life expectancy, and we want to help close that gap," WNSWCLC principal solicitor Patrick O'Callaghan said.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#)

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St John staying connected

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 21/09/2026, Page 5

Optus is marking 18 months in partnership with St John, helping the charity deliver healthcare to rural Queensland thanks to 200 mobile phones and six Starlink kits. [...] This is particularly important for the travelling St John Eye Van, a mobile optometry clinic hauled around rural Queensland by a truck to deliver eye care, with a particular focus on preventing blindness among Indigenous people with diabetes.

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Uncle Benjamin 'BJ' Cruse's fight for justice after alleged historical healthcare abuse

ABC Online, General News, 20/09/2026, Nakari Thorpe

Uncle Benjamin 'BJ' Cruse says he has lived with a lifetime of trauma stemming from a few days in hospital. [...] As a young boy, he was treated for dysentery, an intestinal infection which causes severe diarrhoea, with his siblings at Macleay District Hospital on the New South Wales Mid North Coast.

[Read More](#)

Trailblazing eye surgeon Kris Rallah-Baker took on the establishment and won

ABC Online, General News, 20/09/2026, Leisa Scott and Erin Semmler

The moment an eye patch is removed after cataract surgery and a patient can see clearly again: that's the moment of fulfilment for eye surgeon Kris Rallah-Baker. It's even more rewarding for Australia's first Indigenous ophthalmologist to experience that "patch off" moment in remote Indigenous areas because Kris knows he's not just helping the patient but an entire community.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Nurses push for ED fix

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/09/2026, Rob Inglis, Page 4

Long emergency department wait times and delayed elective surgeries have prompted the state's nursing and midwifery union to formally call on the state government to improve access and patient flow in the beleaguered public health system. The Department of Health's daily Health Dashboard shows a median of just 41 per cent of emergency patients were seen within a clinically recommended time frame across the state's four major public hospitals between September 10-16.

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'I can deliver'

Border Mail, General News, 21/09/2026, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

An extra \$100 million will be spent on the upgrade of Albury hospital if the Coalition wins November's Victorian election, with services stripped from the original plans restored. Victorian Opposition leader Jess Wilson outlined her plans to The Border Mail in an exclusive interview outside the hospital in East Albury during a weekend visit.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Nurse's scare on walk to work

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/09/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 1

A nurse manager at the Royal Hobart Hospital has told how she was "petrified" after being threatened by a man with a pair of scissors, and an oncology nurse was hurt after being assaulted on his way to work. Paramedic and Hobart councillor Ryan Posselt, who is running for lord mayor, said he had been told of many "disturbing" incidents of RHH staff being assaulted, threatened and harassed while travelling to and from their shifts.

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Nurses in work ban over pay disputes

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/09/2026, Page 7

Tasmanian public sector nurses will begin workplace bans on Monday after the union claims state government missed a deadline to put a bargaining offer on the table, escalating a dispute over pay and conditions. After more than 50 hours of negotiations and no replacement enterprise agreement offer from the government, HACSU says nurses have had enough and are now moving to a first round of industrial action designed to pressure the government while keeping patient care at the centre.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Beyond 2060: living longer, less kids

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 21/09/2026, Noah Secomb, Page 5

Australian households will shrink but more people can expect to live well into their 90s, according to the latest update to forecasts of the country's long-term future. [...] The report laid out the case for further investments in Medicare, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and the recent rollout of urgent care clinics, he said.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail UK \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail UK \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Perth medical student creates app to help Australians manage medications

7News.com.au, General News, 20/09/2026, Asher Gibson

A Perth medical student has created an app to help Australians manage their medications after watching his mother and grandmother struggle to keep track of their prescriptions. Rishi Yogesan, 22,

teamed up with his father Yogesan Kanagasasingam to build MediRemind from their kitchen table, and it's already been downloaded more than 1000 times in just six weeks.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor practice' 'cannot

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 21/09/2026, Lucy Rutherford, Page 14

A Mid North town doctor who previously had restrictions placed on her licence is no longer registered and cannot legally practice in Australia. [...] At the time, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) website stated that conditions were imposed on Dr Dissanayake on April 24, 2026.

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

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Ozempic claim in alleged murder

The Australian, General News, 21/09/2026, Jack Nivison, Page 6

A man charged with the murder of an elderly woman had been experiencing side-effects relating to Ozempic, with his lawyer raising his "fitness" to a bail court. [...] Appearing in bail division court on Sunday afternoon, Mr Mitnik's lawyer, Javid Faiz, said his client, who appeared via audiovisual link, had been experiencing side-effects as a result of taking Ozempic.

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

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Stabbing horror

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/09/2026, Harriet Alexander, Page 1

The stabbing death of a preschool aged child in the Blue Mountains capped a brutal spate of domestic violence-related deaths over the weekend, with four people killed in separate incidents and two small children fighting for their lives. [...] The incident became the fourth domestic violence-related incident in 24 hours, including a woman found decapitated in her home and an elderly woman allegedly stabbed to death in Bondi by her grandson, who claimed he was suffering the side effects of Ozempic.

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Shocking, violent murders spark outrage

Herald Sun, General News, 21/09/2026, Jake McCallum, Page 5

Three women were allegedly slaughtered by men known to them in just 10 hours on Saturday, sparking fresh outrage over Australia's domestic violence crisis. [...] His lawyer cited Ozempic use and a cancelled psychologist appointment in court.

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Reta, Wegovy, Mounjaro: inside the booming weight-loss race for a

smaller waist

The Border Mail, General News, 20/09/2026

Matt Winchester used to avoid having his photo taken. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has warned consumers about products containing retatrutide, also known as "Reta", which are being marketed online for weight loss.

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Three men charged with domestic violence-related murders after three women killed in separate incidents in NSW

The Guardian, General News, 20/09/2026

Three men have been charged with domestic violence-related murders after three women died in separate incidents during a horror 12-hour period in New South Wales. [...] He noted an appointment with a psychologist was cancelled a month ago and his client had been taking the medication Ozempic, which "had an effect on him".

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

Why not eliminate Williamtown PFAS at the source?

Newcastle Herald, General News, 20/09/2026, Grant Scott

Williamtown has been Australia's reference case for PFAS for more than a decade. It gave the country the phrase "red zone", the first residents on tank water, the first class action, and now the Commonwealth's \$2 billion claim against 3M.

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