



TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 2nd January 2025

Today's News will not be sent on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, or New Year's Day. Prominent media items captured during this period will be reported in the following day's summary. Access to Isentia's Mediportal will be available during this period and any recurring reports set up in the platform will be delivered as normal.

Please contact writing.support@health.gov.au if you have any questions.

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Age** (page 1) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has said the federal government is set to make Medicare the focus of its election campaign, saying it will continue “to keep working to deliver more doctors, more bulk-billing and more urgent care”.
- **The Australian** (page 4) reports that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee is facing pressure to assess an increased number of medications, following the release of government documents showing the number of drug applications far exceeds the capacity of the committee in the foreseeable future.
- **The Australian** (page 4) reports that newly released national archive documents have revealed the aged care sector under the Howard government was “heavily constrained by regulation,” and “dominated by small providers and by the not-for-profit sector”.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 5) reports that a blood test with the capacity to diagnose endometriosis has been developed by researchers in a collaboration between Perth company

Proteomics International and the Royal Women's Hospital and the University of Melbourne.

- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 3) reports that new data from Medibank has revealed hospital admissions for colonoscopies and gastroscopies was the number one claim for the health insurer in 2024, with orthopaedics the second most common claim, followed by chemotherapy and radiotherapy.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) is set to introduce a new format to help safeguard the future of the multi-sports event, with member countries, including Australia, expected to receive a blueprint for the new model in early 2025.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that Queensland Health has confirmed there were 14,783 cases of whooping cough in the state in 2024, more than the combined number of cases recorded in Queensland over the previous decade.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 4) reports that health authorities have confirmed a third case of measles found in a recently returned traveller to Victoria in the last month, bringing the state's total case numbers to 16 for 2024.
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports that complaints to the ACT Human Rights Commission about health services have risen by almost 20 per cent in 2024, including 324 cases referred by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

MINISTER BUTLER

Abortion in Labor's 'too-hard basket'

The Australian, General News, 02/01/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 3

The Labor Party is showing signs it will run dead on abortion as an election issue, with the Albanese government refusing to respond to a Senate report it received nearly 500 days ago arguing for an expansion of access to termination services in federally funded hospitals. [...] "I work with Ged Kearney and Mark Butler in this area," Women's Minister Katy Gallagher said.

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

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Pressure on PBS advisory body amid flood of drug applications

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 02/01/2025, James Dowling, Page 4

The independent expert body tasked with making recommendations on whether new medications should receive government subsidies under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is under pressure, with drug applications predicted to continue to exceed its capacity to assess them. [...] In advice to Health Minister Mark Butler in October, federal Health Department officials said the PBAC was "resourced to consider 25-27 (major submissions) per meeting, and 77 major submissions total across all PBAC meetings in a single financial year".

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

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New plan extends support nurses to all cancer patients

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 02/01/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 13

When Jade Wendt learnt she had breast cancer, a nurse named Nancy phoned her almost immediately to offer support for what was going to be a long, arduous battle. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said at last year's Pink Test that investing taxpayer funds into the McGrath Foundation made sense because the services it provided would be "almost impossible" for anyone else to replicate.

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

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Medicare needs good policy, not politicking

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 02/01/2025, Page 20

Medicare, for Labor, is a headland achievement and a useful battering ram come election time with the long history of Coalition hostility to a universal health scheme making so-called "Mediscare" tactics a hardy perennial in Australia's political landscape. [...] With Labor and the opposition neck and neck in polling, Albanese is likely to use a set-piece speech to reveal the health promises, but that has not stopped Health Minister Mark Butler breathing life into the old monster.

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Medicare election attack on Dutton

Age, General News, 02/01/2025, Paul Sakkal & Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 1

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is gearing up to make major boosts to bulk-billing, urgent care clinics and the GP workforce as he seeks to turn Medicare into a key plank of his cost-of-living pitch at the upcoming federal election. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said Labor would put Medicare at the centre of its election agenda.

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

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Must improve, has a big year ahead

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 01/01/2025, Page 8

Mark Butler Health and Aged Care Minister: A historic aged care agreement will rein in the cost of the sector in the future, and despite complaints the urgent care clinics model ultimately costs taxpayers more than properly funding GPs, Labor seems to be on to a political winner.

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The uplifting Aussie stories that warmed the nation's heart this year

A Current Affair, Other, 31/12/2024

There's no doubt 2024 has served up its fair share of tragedy. But this year was also proof making noise can make a difference. [...] That was until a campaign to get it here in Australia paid off, with Health Minister Mark Butler announcing children will receive DFMO for free in Australian hospitals.

[Read More](#)

6PR, 21:00 News, 01/01/2025

Interview Medicare and bulk billing is in line for a boost as the Albanese government switches to election mode. Gail Watson has more. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler telling the stage labor would put Medicare at the centre of its election agenda and lay out a plan to keep working to deliver more doctors, more bulk billing and more urgent care.

Also reported by: [6ix \(Perth\)](#)

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MINISTER WELLS

Failure unfurled as cost-of-living swipe at Coalition flags embarrassingly

West Australian, General News, 02/01/2025, Page 6

A Government minister has paused her own press conference to reposition the country's three flags, weeks after Peter Dutton pledged to only stand in front of the Australian flag. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells used a New Year's Day press conference in Sydney to talk up Labor's raft of cost-of-living relief and take swipes at the Coalition's policies and the lack of costed plans.

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Is it really time for aged care? How do I know?

The Australian, Other, 01/01/2025, Stephen Lunn

We may not like it, but if we're not there already, then we're on our way. Ageing is inevitable, and old age is better than the alternative. [...] "Older Australians increasingly want the freedom, support and choice to remain in the home and community they love," Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said in launching the new legislation.

[Read More](#)

'Bowl left-handed': Albanese announces 'Bumrah law' as Konstas gets photo with Kohli at Kirribilli House

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 01/01/2025, Tom Decent

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the possibility of new legislation on Wednesday evening at Kirribilli House to a garden of cricketers, officials and other distinguished guests. [...] Kohli was spotted chatting with Albanese and federal sports minister Anika Wells as Indian players posed for their own personal photos.

Also reported by: [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#)

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Flag mishap momentarily derails Labor Aged Care Minister Anika Wells' New Year's swipe at Coalition

West Australian, Other, 01/01/2025

A Government minister has paused her own press conference to reposition the country's three flags, weeks after Peter Dutton pledged to only stand in front of the Australian flag. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells used a New Year's Day press conference in Sydney to talk up Labor's raft of cost-of-living relief and take swipes at the Coalition's policies — and the lack of costed plans.

Also reported by: [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#)

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Evening News Bulletin 1 January 2025

SBS, Other, 01/01/2025

A range of new reform measures for aged care workers have come into effect with the start of the new year. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says this measure is part of the government's plan to provide financial relief for all Australians, which they hope to continue after the next election.

[Read More](#)

Aged Care Minister Anika Wells' live press conference interrupted to put the Australian, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander flags behind her

Sky News Australia, Other, 01/01/2025, James Harrison

Aged Care Minister Anika Wells' press conference was interrupted on Wednesday when one of her staffer's realised the MP was not standing in front of the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. It comes weeks after Opposition Leader Peter Dutton in December announced he will not hold press conferences with the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander flags on display if elected

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ABC News, ABC News at Noon, 01/01/2025, Dan Bouchier

Press conference with Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells. Wells says new cost-of-living measures will mean "A society defined and uplifted by better aged care, a more secure NDIS and stronger Medicare for everyone. That's the opportunity and the choice that Australians will face in 2025. Over the next three years, we can build on the foundations that we have laid or we can return to the denial, delay and division of the Liberal national parties.

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4BC, 13:00 News, 01/01/2025

Aged care workers have received a wage rise from today as part of a \$5 billion in various reforms, kicking in 340,000 staff will get a pay rise of up to 13.5 per cent. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the sector has long been undervalued.

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

New headspace opens in Armstrong Creek to support youth mental health

Surf Coast Times, Other, 31/12/2024, Angus Smith

The facility, based at the Armstrong Creek East Community Hub, will support young people facing mild to moderate mental health challenges until a permanent centre is built near the Surf Coast Highway. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health Emma McBride said expanding headspace services was critical to meeting the needs of young people, especially in regional areas.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Abortion in Labor's 'too-hard basket'

The Australian, General News, 02/01/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 3

The Labor Party is showing signs it will run dead on abortion as an election issue, with the Albanese government refusing to respond to a Senate report it received nearly 500 days ago arguing for an expansion of access to termination services in federally funded hospitals. [...] "I work with Ged Kearney and Mark Butler in this area," Women's Minister Katy Gallagher said.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Pressure on PBS advisory body amid flood of drug applications

The Australian, General News, 02/01/2025, James Dowling, Page 4

The independent expert body tasked with making recommendations on whether new medications should receive government subsidies under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is under pressure, with drug applications predicted to continue to exceed its capacity to assess them. [...] In November, Health Department secretary Blair Comley said there was "no forward-looking intention" to cap future considerations.

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Whooping cough epidemic breaks records in SA with no end in sight

Herald Sun, Other, 31/12/2024, Brad Crouch

The dangerous whooping cough epidemic is smashing records with no end in sight as cases surged 30 per cent nationally from November to December to hit a record 54,000 cases. [...] Federal Health

Department figures show most cases this year have been in young people aged 10 to 14 years, followed by children aged 5 to 9 years.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Whooping cough horror

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/01/2025, Page 4

2024 was a horror year for potentially deadly whooping cough, with record figures nationally, a frightening surge in South Australia and no end in sight to the epidemic. [...] This was a 30 per cent surge in just one month after the total topped 41,000 on November 8. Federal Health Department figures show most cases this year have been in young people aged 10 to 14 years, followed by children aged 5 to 9 years.

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Fears Australia may face GP shortage as figures reveal almost 10% now aged over 70

The Guardian, Other, 01/01/2025, Donna Lu

Almost 10 per cent of Australia's GPs are aged over 70, new figures have revealed, with concerns that a proposal to introduce health checks for older doctors may worsen workforce shortages. [...] According to data from the federal health department, as of 30 June a significantly higher figure – 16 per cent – of GPs were aged 65 and older.

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

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New year changes to state and federal laws

Shepparton News Online, Other, 01/01/2025, Ryan Bellingham

Regional Victorians and Australians at large will see various changes to state and federal laws in the new year. [...] For others, the extended safety net rose from \$2544.30 to \$2615.50, according to the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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VACCINES

There's a new wave of COVID-19 cases in this Australian state. Here's what's driving it

SBS, Other, 31/12/2024, Aleisha Orr

A little less than half of the COVID cases being recorded in the 'sunshine state' at the moment are the XEC variant. An epidemiology expert says the wave likely made its way from the southern states on the east of Australia.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Coalition spent \$2.2bn on funding for elderly

The Australian, General News, 01/01/2025, Robert White, Page 4

From a rapidly ageing population to rampant inefficiency that was 17 per cent off best-practice providers, the Howard government faced no shortage of crippling issues in the aged-care industry of 2004. A review published the year prior by Professor Warren Hogan of the University of Sydney uncovered an aged-care sector in dire need of investment, the then minister for ageing, Julie Bishop, said in newly released national archive documents.

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

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Promise and opportunity

The Australian, Business News, 02/01/2025, Adam Boyton, Page 20

Australia's Intergenerational Report makes the point that the care and support sector will grow from around 8 per cent of GDP in 2023 to around 15 per cent in 2062-63. That growth will see an extraordinary increase in demand for care-sector workers. The former National Skills Commission forecast a doubling in demand for care and support workers by 2050.

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

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How to reboot your brain to help prevent dementia

Australian Financial Review, General News, 02/01/2025, Liz Hoggard, Page 26

Evidence suggests that more than 40 per cent of dementia is preventable and these 12 steps are a good start.

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Tolls, passports, museums: new year means new prices

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 01/01/2025, Nicholas Osiowy, Page 4

Prospective aged care customers may face higher fees after federal government reforms to increase the sector's maximum accommodation price. From today, aged care providers will be allowed to charge refundable accommodation deposits of up to \$750,000, up from \$550,000 in 2024. A \$130,000 cap on nonclinical payments during a residents' stay will be introduced.

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The changes that kick in from today

Canberra Times, General News, 01/01/2025, Anna Houlahan, Page 4

Workers, carers and students are set to benefit from a range of changes coming into effect on January 1. [...] An award wage increase for aged care workers takes effect from today. Some aged care workers will receive two pay rises in 2025, with award wage increases planned for January and October.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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Australia's prison population is ageing. But should inmates spend their final days shackled to a bed?

ABC Online, Other, 31/12/2024, Natalie Whiting

As the Australian prison population ages, the demand for end-of-life care and treatment for chronic illness is set to increase. Prisoners who are transferred to a hospital for palliative care can be shackled to their beds during their final days, attached with leg or hand cuffs.

[Read More](#)

Bigger welfare payments, more expensive passports, pay rises: All the changes coming on January 1, 2025

9News, Other, 31/12/2024, Daniel Jeffrey

Speaking of wages, aged care workers get more of them from today after the Fair Work Commission approved a pay rise of between 2.3 and 13.5 per cent in 2025. The raise begins today, January 1, but some employees will receive it in two stages, with the second not kicking in until October.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today , 31/12/2024, Nick Coatsworth & Lara Vella

More cost of living relief is on the way for struggling Australians, with a range of new measures kicking

in from tomorrow. Youth Allowance recipients will see at least a \$24 increase, with the Carer's Allowance rising by \$5. Aged care workers will get pay raises, and PBS medicine costs will remain steady under an indexation freeze.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 31/12/2024, Jaynie Seal

Starting January 1, aged care workers will receive a pay increase of at least 2.3 per cent, with some workers getting a second raise in October.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 01/01/2025, Joel Spreadborough

Compere mentions that on 1 January, Australians are expecting an increased welfare payments, a freeze on medicine costs, tax changes, and pay rises for certain industries. He states that all eligible workers in the aged care sector will see a pay rise.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Sobering advice on alcohol challenge

West Australian, Edition Changes, 02/01/2025, Xantha Leatham, Page 8

An international expert has poured cold water on claims the popular initiative leads to reformed relationships with alcohol. Rather, he says scheduling a month off the booze can actually do more harm than good to a person's health. Dr Niall Campbell, a consultant psychiatrist at exclusive rehab clinic the Priory, says too many people do Dry January because it is "fashionable" and use it as an excuse for dangerous year-round drinking habits especially in the months either side.

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Simple steps for a good life

The Australian, General News, 02/01/2025, Fiona Harari, Page 10

You probably move less and expend less energy so you lose muscle mass. Body fat shuffles from your arms and legs to your abdomen. Ageing and eating, says Professor Karen Charlton, is like handling an old vehicle. "It's still moving and getting you from A to B, but it might require a little more effort. So it's more important to maintain that ageing car."

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Health and wellbeing are truly booming

The Australian, General News, 02/01/2025, Stephanie Sekulovska, Page 10

The era of wellness is truly in its prime. It's a cultural trend that has sent consumer demand for health, fitness and travel services soaring. [...] From 2022 to 2023, the proportion of young people drinking alcohol monthly decreased from 34 per cent to 29 per cent, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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

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What you need to do for a longer life

The Australian, General News, 01/01/2025, Stephen Lunn, Page 10

Are we ageing well? What's the baseline? Most of us are doing something right, but enough people aren't to be a serious concern, says Velandai Srikanth, director of the National Centre for Healthy Ageing at Monash University. Professor Srikanth points to the latest Census data about how older Australians self-assess their health about 70 per cent consider themselves healthy.

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The first day is the year's most violent

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 01/01/2025, Alexandra Smith, Page 3

New Year's Day is the most violent day of the year in homes and on the streets, with new data revealing that the number of domestic violence incidents doubles and other assaults soar by 166 per cent amid a toxic mix of alcohol and family and social gatherings. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research data, released last month, reveals that the largest spike for all assaults is on January 1, with the most dangerous hours just after the clock passes midnight.

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

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Secrets to longer life like a bolt from blue

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/01/2025, Jessica Adamson, Page 13

Forget about diets unless they're for healing and embrace the eating habits of our blue zoners eat at the table with others when you can (not in front of the TV), share plates of food, chew like you mean it and stop eating before you feel full. In all five blue zones, people eat a large breakfast and a smaller lunch, and dinner is the smallest meal of the day. Vegetables, fruit, grains and legumes feature prominently.

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Teacher: Kids a pain in the...

Courier Mail, General News, 01/01/2025, Vanda Carson, Page 1

A Brisbane primary school teacher who claims the stress of parent teacher night, naughty six-year-olds and a lack of support caused her irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety and depression has failed in her bid to get workers compensation payments. Laura Stable applied for compensation with WorkCover on April 12, 2021, for her diagnosed adjustment disorder due to anxiety and depression caused by a group of three misbehaving students in her 2021 class of six or seven-year-olds at a school south of Brisbane.

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Why Goss didn't change law

Courier Mail, General News, 01/01/2025, Madura McCormack , Page 1

Public drunkenness remained a crime in Queensland for decades longer than anywhere else in the country after the state government backflipped on a promise for fear of looking soft on crime. Newly unsealed cabinet documents from 1994 revealed the state government led by Labor premier Wayne Goss ultimately chose to keep public drunkenness a crime after months of contemplation.

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Coasting into healthy living

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 01/01/2025, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 9

A woman has revealed how she finally beat her battle with weight when she moved from Canberra to the Gold Coast. Teri Michelle was morbidly obese for most of her adult life, tipping the scales at 160kg at her heaviest.

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

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The no-zempic guide to getting fit and losing inches in 2025

The Australian, Other, 01/01/2025, Peta Bee

Make 2025 the year you lose weight but also get strong and lean. Lose the moobs and the belly fat, the love handles and the paunch, and replace them with lean muscle tissue that will leave you looking years younger but will also fire up your metabolism and enhance your health span. In the pursuit of speedy

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

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'Swimming off' a hangover can be risky, even if alcohol has left your system

Canberra Times, Other, 01/01/2025, Amy Peden, Emmanuel Kuntsche & Jasmin Lawes

Alcohol is one of the main reasons why someone's more likely to die due to drowning. And Australians consume a lot of it, including around the water. The risk of drowning, and injury, including incidents involving alcohol, dramatically increases over the summer festive period - in particular on public holidays and long weekends.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Long-term risks of Depo-Provera drug 'never mentioned', patients claim

ABC Online, Other, 31/12/2024, Alison Branley

More Australian women have come forward with concerns about serious side effects from the popular contraceptive Depo-Provera, with many claiming they were not made aware of the risks of the high-dose hormone. Yesterday, the ABC reported on a possible class action looming over the increased risk of benign brain tumours caused by long-term use of the drug.

[Read More](#)

New year goals: 25 ways to make your life easier, cheaper and more fun in 2025

The Guardian, Other, 02/01/2025, Sarah Ayoub

If you have extras cover in your private health insurance, schedule time to squeeze in appointments for any benefits you have not claimed each year. "Most – but not all – private health insurers reset their extras limits on 1 January each year. Don't forget to check any benefits your partner or kids may still have available to ensure you're getting the most value out of your policy," says iSelect's general manager of health insurance, Andres Gutierrez.

[Read More](#)

Belgium becomes first EU country to ban sale of disposable vapes

The Guardian, Other, 01/01/2025, Jennifer Rankin & Angela Giuffrida

Australia restricted the sale of all vapes to pharmacies last year as part of a series of anti-smoking measures described as world-leading. In the UK it will be illegal to sell single-use vapes from June 2025 in a move designed to combat their widespread use by children and prevent environmental damage.

[Read More](#)

66 days to build better sleep habits: 'By Saturday afternoon I am utterly listless'

The Guardian, Other, 01/01/2025, Natasha May

Growing up in Sydney, I knew the city prided itself on its "first light culture" long before the state government made it the focal point of its tourism campaign. It's hard to miss the golden rays lighting the masses returning in their Lycra from runs in Centennial Park or surfing Bondi's waves long before the work day has even begun.

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Health authorities issue urgent New Year's Eve warning after fake cocaine death in New South Wales

NEWS.com.au, Other, 31/12/2024, Liam Beatty

New South Wales Police will conduct its largest operation of the year to ensure New Year's Eve celebrations go smoothly. Just hours out from a citywide celebration to ring in 2025, New South Wales' health authorities have issued a public warning following a fake cocaine overdose death.

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

[Read More](#)

NSW Health warning after one dies, two hospitalised from drug overdoses this week

7news.com.au, Other, 01/01/2025

NSW Health issued an urgent warning on New Year's Eve after one person died, and two others were hospitalised in a matter of days. Health authorities warned the public about the dangers of unexpected drugs found in cocaine circulating in the state after three severe overdoses in the past week.

[Read More](#)

Adelaide woman's mission to protect others from drink spiking

7news.com.au, Other, 31/12/2024, Lauren Rose

An Australian woman is on a mission to keep others safe from the dangers of drink spiking. Yazmin Favaro, 36, was having casual drinks while on a first date in Adelaide when she found herself in a "state of confusion".

[Read More](#)

Empty seat a painful reminder: 'the scars of road trauma never truly heal'

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 31/12/2024, Monique Patterson

RACV head of policy James Williams said fatigue was also a big contributing factor to road trauma, "According to Australian Sleep Health Foundation, driving after 17 hours without sleep can be the same as driving with a blood alcohol level of around 0.05 per cent," Mr Williams said.

[Read More](#)

'No quick fix': Why Jeanette will never use weight loss drugs like Ozempic again

SBS, Other, 01/01/2025, Caroline Riches & Alex Tarney

Semaglutide drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy are hyped as gamechangers for weight loss with demand driving nationwide shortages. Now the government has restricted access to cheaper replicas, are the potential side effects worth it?

[Read More](#)

From cheers to fears: This is what happens to your body when you have a hangover

SBS, Other, 01/01/2025, Alexandra Koster

If you had too many drinks last night (and well into this morning) and are now vowing to give up the grog in 2025, you wouldn't be the only one. While New Year's Eve sees a spike in drinking across the nation, 2 per cent of Australians are planning on giving up drinking in 2025, according to comparison site Finder's new survey.

[Read More](#)

4BC, Breakfast , 31/12/2024, Dean Miller

A Brisbane Times report highlights a growing trend of young Australians turning away from alcohol. A 23-year-old university student says that she avoids drinking due to the high cost, prioritising essentials like food, rent, and experiences. Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows a 13.1% increase in alcohol abstinence among 18-24-year-olds from 2007 to 2023.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 31/12/2024, Catherine Van Extel

Interview with Caterina Giorgi CEO, Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education, on a growing trend where young Australians are drinking less. Van Extel says recent figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show that young Australians are drinking less, with one in five aged between 18 and 24 barely touching a drink each month. Giorgi says the trend is part of a global cultural shift, with young people in Australia, the US, the UK, and Nordic countries becoming more health-conscious.

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

The engineer who sparked a heart surgery revolution

The Australian, General News, 02/01/2025, James Dowling, Page 2

When biomedical engineer Daniel Timms set out to create an artificial heart, his prototypes were relegated to hospital backrooms and the backyard of his Queensland home. It is a stark contrast from his achievements in 2024, when he revolutionised the field of heart failure, saw wide success through his first medical trials, received one of the largest grants ever provided by the Medical Research Future Fund, and paved the way for a string of historic surgeries.

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

Cummins in the pink about putting family first

The Australian, General News, 02/01/2025, Ben Horne, Page 5

Pat Cummins has revealed the death of his mother from breast cancer has helped shape his decision to put the birth of his second child ahead of this month's Test tour of Sri Lanka. The Australian captain is set to miss at least the first, if not both Tests starting in late January, with Cummins determined to be there for the birth and the early week or two of his new child's life.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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

Border opens up on managing Parkinson's

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 02/01/2025, Daniel Brettig, Page 3

Amid talk of getting one up on Sunil Gavaskar and rejuvenating the team, commentator Allan Border has revealed how he's staying on top of his debilitating disease. When Allan Border gets to the SCG on the morning of January 7, he dearly hopes it will be to hand the trophy that bears his name to Australia's captain Pat Cummins after a 10-year drought.

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

Last year a real pain in the gut for health

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/01/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 3

Large numbers of Australians are turning to surgery to screen for gastrointestinal diseases, as a major health insurer reveals such procedures were their number one claim. Medibank data shows they covered more admissions for colonoscopies and gastroscopies than any other hospital treatment in 2024.

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

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

Hurst slams \$40m plan

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/01/2025, Page 12

A Sydney university has revealed plans to spend more than \$40m building an expanded animal research facility, sparking an angry reaction from animal justice advocates. Macquarie University says facilities planned at the northern Sydney campus will support advancements in research in neurosurgery, degenerative diseases, glaucoma and cancer.

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

Biggest Test yet to take down cancer

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 02/01/2025, Page 24

The McGrath Foundation established by Test great Glenn McGrath, in memory of his late wife Jane first partnered with Cricket Australia and the SCG in 2009. Since then, yearly Pink Tests have raised

more than \$20m to support people who are fighting breast cancer.

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

Bloody good early test

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/01/2025, Page 5

Researchers have developed a new blood test to diagnose endometriosis, a debilitating and chronic condition that affects one in nine Australian women and girls. It occurs when tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows where it doesn't belong, and can cause severe pelvic pain, painful periods, and infertility.

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

Where is the 'mature debate' about impacts of radiation?

Canberra Times, General News, 02/01/2025, Margaret Beavis, Page 30

When it comes to nuclear radiation, there is a clear disconnect between the medical evidence and the views of the Coalition. [...] The current shrill denunciations of potential health risks associated with nuclear power plants as a "scare campaign" may yet prove to be an own goal, as it has drawn attention to the issue.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#)

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

Fever turns deadly

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 01/01/2025, Holly Fishlock, Page 1

Just over a year ago, Townsville mum Terri-Ann Matthews was diagnosed with Ross River virus, sent home and told to rest up. Today, she's preparing to say goodbye to her two young children and husband after h t the 'virus' turned out to be terminal cancer.

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

Channel 9, Nine News, 31/12/2024, Brenton Ragless & Kate Collins

Australian researchers have made a significant breakthrough, developing a blood test to diagnose endometriosis. The condition affects an estimated one in nine Australian women and girls but takes an average of seven years to diagnose. Australian researchers at Proteomics International have teamed up with the Royal Women's Hospital and the University of Melbourne to develop a cost-effective non-invasive blood test after a study of 805 plasma samples.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 31/12/2024, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Professor Peter Soyer, University of Queensland, on the alarming rates of invasive melanoma in Australia. Soyer explains that melanoma, which sees nearly 19,000 diagnoses annually, is the most lethal form of skin cancer but can be highly treatable when detected early. He says while early detection is crucial, there is no national screening program for melanoma due to insufficient scientific evidence.

Interview continues on: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#)

[Play Now](#)

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PRIMARY CARE

Abbott resisted states' emergency rooms push

The Australian, General News, 01/01/2025, Brendan Kearns, Page 4

With a decline in GP clinics providing after-hours services, a huge overpayment from the Family Tax Benefit and a suite of disability reforms, the Howard government had to spend big to tackle their health and welfare problems in 2004, newly released cabinet documents show. Between 2000 and 2003, the number of GP clinics offering after hours services declined by 15 per cent.

Every day, Jack dreads a phone call

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 01/01/2025, Muriel Cummins, Page 11

As an occupational therapist working with NDIS participants with psychosocial disabilities, my job is to identify support needs and develop the personalised strategies needed to achieve meaningful, lasting changes. When Jack and I had discussions, he was clear on what he wanted: his own home, a garden to tend, and maybe even a dog one day.

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

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

Leah faces new hurdle

Courier Mail, General News, 02/01/2025, Ben Dorries, Page 9

Just two years after she nearly died in a shocking race fall at Grafton, Kilner maintains her positive outlook on life as she faces up to a fresh health battle. After being diagnosed with MS, Kilner, 26, learned the chronic neurological disorder gradually damaged the sheath that covers a person's brain and spinal cord nerves.

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

Coma dad fights on

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02/01/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 1

A Tasmanian dad who spent 10 days in a coma and was given a less than 5 per cent chance of survival after he went into cardiac arrest while riding a mountain bike has amazed with his recovery. Warrick "Waz" Bidwell, 51, battled a series of major health complications, but was discharged from hospital just before Christmas and while he faces a lengthy period of rehabilitation, he says the desire to be there for his 15-month old son is what pushes him on.

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

Familymember of crash victims thanks emergency services

Burnie Advocate, General News, 01/01/2025, Sarah Fittock , Page 2

The husband and dad of the Blackstone Heights women, aged 54 and 19, who were in a white Volkswagen at the time of the crash on the Bass Highway near the Christmas Hills Raspberry Farm. "I have nothing but praise for the men and women working in the police, the emergency services and in the two hospitals," he said.

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

Thanks given to emergency services after highway crash

Launceston Examiner, General News, 01/01/2025, Page 4

The husband and dad of the Blackstone Heights women, aged 54 and 19, who were in a white Volkswagen at the time of the crash on the Bass Highway near the Christmas Hills Raspberry Farm. "I have nothing but praise for the men and women working in the police, the emergency services and in the two hospitals," he said.

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

Mystery surrounds death in coast hospital as man faces new charge

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 31/12/2024, William Davis

A 47-year-old woman was found with "non-life-threatening injuries", police said at the time, and was taken to Sunshine Coast University Hospital. The woman died in hospital the following day. An autopsy is yet to be completed.

[Read More](#)

Beau Horan's family honour 16-year-old after snake bite death

The Courier Mail, Other, 31/12/2024, Isabella Pesch

The mother of 16-year-old Beau Horan, who died from a snake bite in November , has detailed the

family's first Christmas without their "goofball" son, taking comfort in how his passing saved four lives. Beau was bitten by a brown snake on the foot on Monday, November 25 at his family home in Wurdong Heights, south of Gladstone.

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

[Read More](#)

Report flags Royal Hobart Hospital radiography rethink

The Mercury, Other, 31/12/2024, David Killick

More radiography services — such as X-rays, ultrasounds, MRI, PET and CT — are increasingly being outsourced to the private sector as the RHH struggles with demand, a report claims. The Department of Health was warned more than a year ago that medical imaging services in the state's south are insufficient to meet current demand and will need significant investment to cope with an increasing and ageing population.

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

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, Credlin, 01/01/2025, Caleb Bond

Panel discussion with Freya Leach and Patrick Carlyon. Compere says there's growing concerns that Australia may soon be facing a GP shortage, with new figures revealing nearly 10% of our nation's doctors are over 70 years of age. He says that the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has slammed the move, describing the proposal as, quote, another regulatory burden unnecessarily imposed on the general practise profession without evidence to support effectiveness. Carlyon points out that over the last few years, there have been notifications which are basically complaints against doctors who are older than 70, that have increased by 81%.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 31/12/2024, Emma Rebellato & Stephanie March

Palliative care expert Professor Jennifer Philip, St Vincent's Hospital, is calling for an end to the use of shackles on prisoners receiving end-of-life care. Prisoners who were taken to hospital for palliative treatment can currently be cuffed to the bed, with the coroner investigating a case in Darwin where a man was shackled during treatment for terminal cancer.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Politics, economics perpetuate mental health system failure

The Australian, General News, 01/01/2025, Gill Callister, Page 9

The Australian's recent series on mental health has documented some shocking stories, on a human and a policy level, from our failing approach to mental health in Australia. It's sad but clear evidence of a system that is not designed to help those most in need. This doesn't happen with other health conditions, such as cancer.

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

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Menzies lessons to end losing cycle

Australian Financial Review, General News, 02/01/2025, Georgina Downer, Page 30

Victorians endure the highest state taxes in the country, from COVID and mental health debt levies to crushing payroll and land taxes.

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

Harnessing grief for greater good

Canberra Times, General News, 01/01/2025, Darcy Watchorn & Marissa Parrott, Page 17

Ecological grief is an emotional response to environmental degradation and climate change, damaging our mental health and wellbeing. It can manifest as sadness, anxiety, despair or helplessness. Or it might bring a profound sense of guilt that we all, directly or indirectly, contribute to the problems facing the natural world.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#).

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Reflecting on big year for defence

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 02/01/2025, Jami Roberts, Page 6

JCU lecturer, Carolyn Heward, warned that the submissions of thousands of veterans to the royal commission into Defence and veteran suicide, risks being wasted if the Government doesn't act in a timely manner following its response to recommendations.

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

Freemasons' grants transform local lives amid rising costs

Shepparton News, General News, 02/01/2025, Page 3

Freemasons Foundation Victoria has unveiled funding of \$710,325 for 29 local projects that aim to uplift and improve the lives of Victorians. The foundation's latest round of its Community Grants Program recognises the urgent need for support amid rising living costs and the increased pressure on mental health services.

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

Kelsie Prabawa-Sear: Why are toddlers so anxious?

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 31/12/2024, Kelsie Prabawa-Sear

The discussion surrounding it can leave us feeling anxious and powerless, like there's little we can do to protect our kids. But the truth is, there are things we can do to foster good mental health in our children — starting much earlier than we might think.

[Read More](#)

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Plight of LGH's overworked nurses

Launceston Examiner, General News, 01/01/2025, Duncan Bailey, Page 2

Staffing issues and a lack of nurses is a serious problem afflicting the country and the world, but the Launceston General Hospital has especially felt the pinch this year. Help wanted While retention has been a long-standing issue, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) sought industrial action at the start of the year over "unmet promises" made by the state government in 2022.

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

'I thought I was in early labour. Then my husband told me he could see my baby's foot.'

Mamamia, Other, 01/01/2025, Belinda Jepsen

While most babies turn head-down as they approach the final month of pregnancy, roughly 3 per cent remain laying head-up in what's known as a breech position. It's usually detected by a doctor or midwife feeling the abdomen or performing an ultrasound

[Read More](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Border physio in three states after coastal expansion

Border Mail, General News, 01/01/2025, Beau Greenway, Page 4

A physiotherapy business founded on the Border eight years ago has continued its rapid growth by taking on clinics in the Sunshine State. Enhance Physiotherapy, which has clinics on Smollett Street in Albury, Lawrence Street in Wodonga, and Lavington's Griffith Road, recently acquired two practices at Hope Island and Mudgeeraba on the Gold Coast.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

From backyards to operating theatres: Daniel Timms is up for The Australian's Australian of the Year

The Australian, Other, 01/01/2025, James Dowling

When biomedical engineer Daniel Timms set out to create an artificial heart, his prototypes were relegated to hospital backrooms and the backyard of his Queensland home. It is a stark contrast from his achievements in 2024, when he revolutionised the field of heart failure, saw wide success through his first medical trials, received one of the largest grants ever provided by the Medical Research Future Fund, and paved the way for a string of historic surgeries.

[Read More](#)

4BC, Breakfast , 31/12/2024, Dean Miller

The government's cost-of-living measures will take effect from Jan 1. Treasurer Jim Chalmers says it will save Australians nearly \$500 million over five years. Among the measures is an indexation freeze on Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) co-payments.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

New-year winners & losers

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 01/01/2025, Shoba Rao, Page 6

The original Medicare safety net (OMSN) threshold will increase from \$560.40 to \$576, which is what you need to reach for Medicare to reimburse you 100 per cent of the Medicare benefits schedule. The extended Medicare safety net (EMSN) threshold will increase from \$2544.30 to \$2615.50. Once reached, you can get 80 per cent of out-of-pocket costs.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Complaints up by 20 per cent

Canberra Times, General News, 02/01/2025, Lucy Bladen, Page 1

A woman whose medical records were inappropriately accessed by someone with a personal connection to her, and a man whose bank account was wrongly closed on money laundering concerns

are among cases dealt with by the ACT Human Rights Commission last year. [...] The commission received 812 complaints about health services, including 324 complaints referred to it by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

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

Dr Pradeep Dissanayake: Melbourne skin specialist jailed for abusing children in cult

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/01/2025, Liam Beatty

A Melbourne doctor used his "God-like" status as a religious leader to prey on the daughters of cult members, a court has been told. [...] His licence to practice medicine was suspended when the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency was notified of the charges.

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

[Read More](#)

Melbourne doctor Pradeep Dissanayake led highly disturbing religious cult

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/12/2024, Aneeka Simonis

A Melbourne doctor led a highly disturbing religious cult in which his followers called him 'God' and he raped and sexually abused their children in secret. [...] Dissanayake's medical license was suspended by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency in April 2022 after charges were laid against him.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

In the red: start-up Aegros needs blood brothers

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 02/01/2025, Yolanda Redrup, Page 14

Aegros, a blood plasma start-up hoping to rival ASX-listed giant CSL, had struggled to make payroll on time for much of the year. This was just another irritation.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#)

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Boy's organs to save lives

Courier Mail, General News, 01/01/2025, Isabella Pesch, Page 14

The mother of a 16-year-old boy who died after a snake bite says she is taking comfort in the four lives he saved through organ donation. Beau Horan was bitten by a brown snake on the foot on November 25 at his family home in Wurdong Heights, south of Gladstone.

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SPORT

New push for Indigenous centre

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 02/01/2025, Page 5

There is a renewed push for a world-class Indigenous cultural centre to be built in Brisbane in time for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics. The Australian reports the move follows decades of stalled planning and the new LNP state government's refusal to guarantee funding.

New year, but same old surf danger

The Australian, General News, 02/01/2025, Summer Liu & James Dowling, Page 3

Lifesavers have warned beach goers and swimmers to "look out for each other" as a spate of drownings between Christmas and the new year raised the summer toll to 36 deaths. Two separate deaths in Queensland solidified appeals for caution, after a 53-year-old woman was thrown into the water while tubing at Emu Creek on New Year's Eve, and at the Gold Coast on Wednesday a woman drowned in a scuba diving accident.

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

Crisafulli under pressure to build 'world-class' Indigenous cultural centre

The Australian, General News, 02/01/2025, Lydia Lynch, Page 5

Tourism and business leaders in Brisbane have joined a push for a world-class Indigenous cultural centre to be built in time for the 2032 Olympics after decades of stalled planning and the refusal of the new Crisafulli government to guarantee funding. Promised for more than 20 years by successive state governments, the centre would showcase art and history of the world's oldest living culture and provide training and jobs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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

Comm Games back on agenda

Herald Sun, General News, 01/01/2025, Julian Linden, Page 9

Australia's feuding states could soon be asked to put their longstanding rivalry to one side and team up to bring the reborn Commonwealth Games back Down Under, thanks to a radical new plan to safeguard the multi-sports event after Victoria almost killed it off. On the verge of being read the last rites after the Dan Andrews government reneged on its promise to host the 2026 edition, the 'Friendly Games' have been given a second life after the Scots stepped in and agreed to run a scaled-down version in Glasgow.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#),

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

Decoding dance of death

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 02/01/2025, Page 14

Ahead of this summer's cricket marathon, Australian captain Pat Cummings held a series of conversations with fellow high-profile leaders about the secrets of their success and from that came the book Tested. In this extract, he discovers how America's Cup champion John Bertrand turned the Aussie Olympic swimming team around helped by commandos and a ballet legend.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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Lex's huge 2025 goal

Courier Mail, General News, 01/01/2025, Portia Large, Page 1

Australian Paralympic hero Alexa Leary is on a mission to inspire people in 2025 even more than she already has by running the New York Marathon. She will face hurdles with the marathon, including problems controlling her right foot and side of her body due to the brain injury suffered in a 2021 cycling accident.

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

Partnerships set for Olympics

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 01/01/2025, Taylah Fellows, Page 6

The LNP government will seek private partnerships for Olympic infrastructure, including for the main stadium, with Acting Premier Jarrod Bleijie conceding the \$7.1bn budget will not be enough to deliver the 2032 Games. It comes after Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner earlier this month penned a

letter to chair of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Authority Stephen Conry AM urging the review board to leverage private investment wherever possible.

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

4BC, Breakfast , 31/12/2024, Dean Miller

Queensland Labor has raised concerns about the potential impact of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on hospital infrastructure projects. A report commissioned by the former Labor government and prepared by consultants from Oxford Economics warns that the demands of the Olympics could jeopardise the timely completion of hospital projects.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

6PR, Mornings, 31/12/2024, Chrissy Morrissey

Interview with Dr Liz Dallimore, CEO, Argenica Therapeutics, on a new drug that protects brain cells during strokes. Dallimore reports the rising incidence of strokes in Australia, with one occurring every 11 minutes, up from one every 19 minutes previously. She explains increasing stroke rates are linked to factors like an aging population and lifestyle choices, including smoking.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 31/12/2024, Catherine Van Extel

Interview with Dr Sarah Jackson, principal research fellow, University College London, on a recent study showing that smoking just one cigarette can reduce life expectancy by 20 minutes. Jackson explains the finding was based on long-term data comparing smokers and non-smokers. She says the loss of life expectancy from smoking has increased over the past 24 years.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Adelaide comic in racism row

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/01/2025, Talara McHugh, Page 1

Stand-up routine jokes stir controversy Controversial Adelaide comedian Bidy O'Loughlin has again found herself in hot water, with a TV star branding her a "racist" after she compared Aboriginal culture to alcoholism. O'Loughlin posted a video from a recent stand-up routine, describing alcoholism as part of Aboriginal lifestyle and making fun of traditional place names.

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

These photos show the natural beauty, tragedy and tension of 2024 in WA

ABC Online, Other, 31/12/2024, Kenith Png

Following the death of 16-year-old Cleveland Dodd in 2023, Western Australia's first recorded death in juvenile detention, his family has been striving for significant change in the youth justice system. This year, several rounds of hearings were held as part of the coronial inquest into the teenager's death, which included evidence from his mother Nadene Dodd.

[Read More](#)

Violence, punitive laws mark horror year for the NT

National Indigenous Times, Other, 01/01/2025, Dechlan Brennan

A horror year for the Northern Territory, beginning with a series of curfews in Alice Springs, has ended

with a record number of people behind bars, as the new CLP government continues to enact policies criticised by many First Nations organisations. 2024 saw Labor lose the Territory election in August, ushering in a new government - backed by NT Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price - which promised harsher laws under the guise of protecting Territorians, however have been slammed by legal, human rights and Indigenous advocates.

[Read More](#)

Prisoner wellbeing improvements “don't go far enough”

National Indigenous Times, Other, 31/12/2024, Callan Morse

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service has acknowledged the Tasmanian Prison Service's commencement in supporting the cultural wellbeing needs of Aboriginal people in custody, however says improvements don't go far enough. It comes as the Tasmanian Custodial Inspector last week released its Adult Wellbeing Inspection Report 2024, citing the Department of Justice's support for 15 of the 18 recommendations and the remaining three in part.

[Read More](#)

Shocking numbers reveal NT's record prison population

National Indigenous Times, Other, 31/12/2024, Dechlan Brennan

More than one per cent of all Territorians are incarcerated as prisoner numbers continue to skyrocket under the new CLP government. A further 84 people have been incarcerated since Christmas eve, Corrections Commissioner Matthew Varley confirmed, as the NT once again broke its prison population record.

[Read More](#)

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Ozempic-like drugs will rule the world

Australian Financial Review, General News, 02/01/2025, Page 27

It is early days, but GLP-1 has all the makings of one of the most successful treatments in history and not just for obesity. Every day seems to bring more exciting news.

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

Measles case at airport

Herald Sun, General News, 01/01/2025, Page 4

A third measles case has been found in a recently returned Victorian traveller in the space of one month, amid growing international outbreaks. Health authorities said the person flew into Melbourne while infectious, and Australia had seen an increase in cases of the disease among travellers in recent weeks.

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

Deadly illness in state's north

Herald Sun, General News, 01/01/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 8

A virus that can cause a severe, life-threatening brain infection is likely circulating in northern Victoria as authorities investigate a suspected case. A “probable” human case of Japanese encephalitis, which is caused by a rare mosquito-borne virus, has been confirmed in the region, health officials said on Tuesday.

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

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Vax rates to blame

Courier Mail, General News, 01/01/2025, Madura McCormack , Page 1

Queensland is grappling with a never-before-seen explosion of deadly whooping cough, with the state recording more cases in 2024 than throughout the past decade. There were 14,783 cases of whooping cough in Queensland in 2024, according to Queensland Health 16 times the 928 infections of 2023.

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

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Law changes to take effect

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/01/2025, David Killick, Page 12

The ban on engineered stone comes into full effect in the new year. Tasmania banned the manufacture, supply, processing or installation of engineered stone from July 30. [...] The ban was implemented after workers became ill with silicosis after exposure to dust.

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

Health alert issued as virus detected near the border

Border Mail, General News, 02/01/2025, Page 2

A potentially deadly mosquitoborne virus has been detected near the Border region and the Murray River. The Department of Health revealed on Tuesday that a resident from northern Victoria contracted Japanese encephalitis.

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

Festival pair to face drug charges

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/01/2025, Abby Walter, Page 7

Two men have been charged after police found what is alleged to be a trafficable amount of drugs during two separate searches at the Beyond the Valley music festival. The festival in Barunah Plains, about 45km from Geelong, began on Saturday and will conclude on Wednesday.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Where is the debate on health impacts of nuclear power?

Newcastle Herald, General News, 02/01/2025, Margaret Beavis, Page 14

When it comes to nuclear radiation, there is a clear disconnect between the medical evidence and the views of the Coalition. Since the 1950s we have known there is a link between X-rays in pregnant women and leukaemia and other cancers in their children. It is not for nothing there are signs in every radiology department asking if you are pregnant.

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

Stay safe from mozzie diseases

Shepparton News, General News, 01/01/2025, Page 2

Victorians are being reminded to take steps to protect themselves against mosquito-borne diseases this summer, with recent wet and humid weather creating ideal conditions for mosquito breeding. Simple steps you can take to keep yourself and your family safe from mosquito bites include: Wearing long, loose-fitting and light-coloured clothing.

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

Health warning issued as Japanese encephalitis case detected in northern Victoria

The Australian, Other, 31/12/2024, Aisling Brennan

A suspected case of Japanese encephalitis has been detected in northern Victoria, prompting Victoria Health to issue an alert about the dangerous mosquito-borne virus. It is the first identified case identified in a human in Victoria this summer.

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

[Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Beyond The Valley drug-checking service proves popular

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/12/2024, Eddie Russell

Festival-goers at Beyond The Valley (BTV) have responded positively to the introduction of pill testing, saying it will create a safer environment. The Golden Plains festival, which runs until New Year's Day, is the first of 10 Victorian events to trial the state government initiative.

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

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Festival drug arrests as pill testing trial starts

Canberra Times, Other, 31/12/2024, Rachael Ward

Two men have been charged with drug trafficking at the first Victorian festival to trial pill testing, while one person has been treated for an overdose. Police allege the pair were found with traffickable amount of drugs during separate searches on Monday at Beyond the Valley, a festival at Barunah Plains about 50 kilometres west of Geelong.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#).

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Summer's first case of mosquito-borne virus detected

Canberra Times, Other, 31/12/2024, Holly Hales

The likely first summer case of a potentially deadly mosquito-borne virus has been identified in regional Victoria. Japanese encephalitis, a flavivirus related to dengue and yellow fever, was detected in a resident in the state's north, the Department of Health announced on Tuesday.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).

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Two men charged as police find cocaine, MDMA, ketamine at Beyond the Valley

ABC Online, Other, 31/12/2024

Two Victorian men have been charged with drug trafficking offences after being searched at the Beyond the Valley music festival on Monday. Police said a 28-year-old South Yarra man was found with 17 MDMA pills, four grams of cocaine, and seven other pills believed to be drugs.

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Warning issued as first Japanese encephalitis case detected in Victoria this summer

9News, Other, 31/12/2024, Emily McPherson

A suspected case of Japanese encephalitis has been identified in a resident of northern Victoria, prompting Victoria Health to issue an alert. It is the first identified case of the mosquito-borne virus in Victoria this summer.

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Health alert issued as potentially deadly virus detected near the Border

The Border Mail, Other, 01/01/2025, Layton Holley

A potentially deadly mosquito-borne virus has been detected near the Border region and the Murray River. The Department of Health revealed on Tuesday, December 31, that a resident from northern Victoria contracted Japanese encephalitis, a flavivirus closely related to dengue and yellow fever.

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Major new ban for Australian homes from tomorrow after years of tradies falling ill

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 31/12/2024, Nick Whigham

Engineered stone had become a common material in the building of Aussie homes over the years, used in kitchen benchtops in properties across the country. But from January 1, the federal government will strengthen restrictions on it, banning imports from entering Australia.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 01/01/2025, Lexy Hamilton-Smith

Victoria's first pill testing trial site has been accessed by more than 700 people at a popular music festival in the state's west. Around 35,000 attended the Beyond the Valley festival west of Geelong.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 01/01/2025, Karina Carvalho

Victorian drug users already lead the national pill testing rate after the program's first festival. The state government says more than 700 patrons had drugs checked at the Beyond the Valley festival, which is nearly double the rate at festivals in other States.

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Channel 9, Today , 01/01/2025, Nick Coatsworth & Lara Vella

An explosive surge in whooping cough cases in Queensland has sparked an urgent health warning from officials, after more cases were recorded in 2024 than throughout the last decade. Qld's Health Department says there were 14,000 cases of whooping cough in the State last year, 16 times the infections of 2023.

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3AW, Drive, 31/12/2024, Shane McInnes

Victoria's Chief Health Officer has issued an alert about the Japanese encephalitis virus, which is likely circulating in the state's north. A probable human case has been identified in a local resident.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 31/12/2024, Rodd Quinn

Interview with Mitch Wilson, Managing Director, Australian Festivals Association, on pill testing trials at music festivals. NSW Premier Chris Minns has recently announced a pill-testing trial at music festivals, set to begin in early 2025. The initiative follows similar trials in the ACT and Victoria, aiming to provide harm-reduction strategies for festivalgoers using illicit drugs. Wilson welcomes the trial, saying that pill testing offers a health-based intervention to educate users about potential risks and encourage safer choices.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Channel 9, Today , 31/12/2024, Nick Coatsworth & Lara Vella

Interview with Dr Michael Bonning, Australian Medical Association, on concerns about an anti-sunscreen movement gaining traction online. [...] Bonning refutes these claims, saying that Australian sunscreens meet stringent safety standards set by the TGA and Standards Australia. He says it could erode public confidence in sunscreen and increase skin cancer risks.

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Terror, tobacco concerns

Herald Sun, General News, 01/01/2025, Olivia Jenkins, Page 5

Potential terrorists, major players in Victoria's escalating tobacco wars and huge drug busts are among the top concerns for federal police heading into the New Year. After uncovering more than seven tonnes of drugs and bringing down a major tobacco smuggling ring in Victoria and Tasmania alone, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) says it will ramp up its efforts to thwart international organised crime across the country.

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