



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 1st April 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Age** (page 1) reports that the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has warned that a surge in “reassurance” ultrasounds offered by private clinics are putting unborn babies at risk, potentially leading to stillbirths, late-term abortions or incorrect diagnoses. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#)
- **The Australian Financial Review** (page 1) reports that there are concerns that Healthscope could be split up and unprofitable hospitals closed, as international hedge funds vie for controlling stakes in the troubled hospital operator. Health Minister Mark Butler has declined to comment on the future of the company, but has said that the process is being monitored, with a focus on optimising outcomes for Australian patients.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 1) reports that NSW Health budget allocation figures for local health districts for the current financial year have revealed that residents of Western Sydney have been allocated \$2087 in per-capita funding, or \$1134 less per head than residents of the Sydney local health district, prompting criticism from medical staff who have pointing to the funding disparity as a cause of bed block and short-staffing.
- **The Courier Mail** (page 1) reports that Queensland Health's director-general has warned that the department's budget is being stretched dangerously thin, with repairs and replacements for

critical hospital infrastructure such as the main lifts in Townsville Hospital being delayed in order to prioritise higher-risk assets. *Also reported by:* [Townsville Bulletin](#), [Cairns Post](#)

- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 2) reports that Brisbane 2032 president Andrew Liveris welcomed the Queensland State Government's decision to reduce the number of members who sit on the organisation's 24 member board, saying it was important to become "more agile and more efficient with our decision-making".
- **[The Age](#)** (page 2) reports that the new head of Sport Integrity Australia will target cocaine use among athletes, as well as highlighting the need to restore trust in the anti-doping organisation WADA, which includes Sports Minister Anika Wells on its executive board. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#)
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has launched an urgent investigation into alleged price gouging by private health funds, after HCF made use of a regulatory loophole known as "product phoenixing" to raise its premiums by 35 per cent.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that a \$4.9 million government-funded trial will investigate a new drug designed to reduce the risk of developing brain and kidney disease when using heart-lung machines after heart surgery.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that Victoria's elective surgery waitlist grew by 9.4 per cent from June to December, reaching 62,878 patients. Experts said the official numbers don't include a "hidden waitlist" of patients awaiting placement, with Victoria's chief surgical advisor Ben Thompson saying they are working to improve its visibility.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that nurses and other healthcare staff at NSW hospitals are paying up to \$35 per day for parking while they remain on waitlists to access staff carparks, following a change to pandemic-era policies which provided free staff parking.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 4) reports a measles outbreak in WA continues to grow as the Department of Health says they are yet to find where the first case originated.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has announced a \$150 million election campaign pledge to support the funding of a \$300 million healthcare centre at the Flinders Health Precinct in Adelaide's southern suburbs. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [ABC Online](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

HCF chief resigns with a warning for healthcare

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 01/04/2025, Michael Smith, Page 17

The chief executive of one of the country's biggest health insurers says the hospital system must deal with soaring costs even if it means fewer beds, as she warns against private equity being allowed to buy into healthcare.

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

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Healthscope break-up fears intensify

Australian Financial Review, General News, 01/04/2025, Michael Smith, Page 1

The arrival of international hedge funds in the contest for Healthscope is increasing concerns among doctors and landlords that the country's second-largest private hospital operator could be broken up, creating a healthcare crisis.

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

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A safe pair of hands

Age, General News, 01/04/2025, Paul Sakkal, Page 1

The Anthony Albanese who stood in the courtyard last Friday ready to call the election has come a long way from the opposition leader who flubbed his first appearance on the 2022 campaign when he

couldn't remember the cash rate. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler is Albanese's surprise secret weapon.

Also reported by: [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [South Western Times \(Online\)](#), [Bunbury Herald \(Online\)](#), [Busselton Dunsborough Times \(Online\)](#), [Geraldton Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#), [North West Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [Great Southern Herald \(Online\)](#), [Business News WA \(Online\)](#).

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Perth funds give Border hope

Border Mail, General News, 01/04/2025, Ted Howes, Page 3

A federal government injection of \$200 million to upgrade a hospital in Western Australia has spurred hope in the fight for a new greenfield hospital for Albury-Wodonga. [...] "This is a positive step in the right direction, and we'll continue to put pressure on the federal health minister [Mark Butler] in relation to this issue".

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

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Waive HECS for bush psychs

West Australian, General News, 01/04/2025, Marjorie Collins & Caroline Hunt, Page 34

As we head to a Federal election on May 3, health has been placed at the forefront, with both major parties promising more than \$8 billion for Medicare rebates to see a GP. [...] Even Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has described the plight of people with severe mental illness as "a stain on our nation".

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Anthony Albanese targets key Adelaide seat with \$150 million for new health centre

Adelaide Now, Other, 31/03/2025, Samuel Clench

Health Minister Mark Butler has asked the Department of Health to "urgently investigate" private health funds, which continue to exploit a regulatory loophole to raise premiums. The loophole — product phoenixing — is a practice that involves health funds closing a policy and opening an almost identical one at a higher price.

Also reported by: [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Manjimup-Bridgetown Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [North West Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [South Western Times \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Reader ask: How are you making mental health services more affordable?

Herald Sun, Other, 31/03/2025

Mental health services remains a hot topic during the federal election campaign, with questions around affordability continuing to swirl. [...] During a visit to an eastern Perth hospital on Monday, Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler answered a reader question on mental healthcare accessibility.

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

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Private health funds slammed for 'price gouging' on insurance premiums despite warning from minister

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2025, Rachel Clayton

Health Minister Mark Butler has asked the Department of Health to "urgently investigate" private health funds, which continue to exploit a regulatory loophole to raise premiums. The loophole — product phoenixing — is a practice that involves health funds closing a policy and opening an almost identical one at a higher price.

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AMA backs transparency push but says fee tool overhaul must go further

Surf Coast Times, Other, 01/04/2025, Angus Smith

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) has welcomed the federal government's commitment to improve transparency around private health costs but says broader reform is needed to address rising out-of-pocket expenses. [...] The AMA is in discussions with Health Minister Mark Butler's office and the Department of Health and Aged Care to ensure the site supports informed financial consent and patient financial literacy.

Also reported by: [Bellarine Times \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Times \(Online\)](#).

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Polls tilt towards Labor as campaign gets into full swing

The New Daily, Other, 31/03/2025

Labor has surged ahead of the Coalition in polling, with primary support for the conservatives on a slump, as leaders begin crisscrossing the nation on the election campaign trail. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler claimed a vote for Labor was a vote for a stronger Medicare.

Also reported by: [WEB InQueensland \(Online\)](#).

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Residents demand action at powerful hospital rally

The National Tribune, Other, 31/03/2025

Approximately 500 people gathered at Albury's QEII Square on Saturday, March 29, to rally for a new single site, greenfield hospital on the border. [...] The rally follows meetings between Albury and Wodonga representatives and the Federal Minister for Health, Mark Butler on Wednesday, March 26 and NSW Health Minister Ryan Park on Thursday, March 27.

[Read More](#)

Psychiatrist to lead Queensland hormone therapies review

The Mandarin, Other, 31/03/2025, Dan Holmes

Ruth Vine has been appointed leader of an independent review into Queensland's approach to gender affirming care. [...] Three days after Queensland's review was announced, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler commissioned a comprehensive review of the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents.

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ABC, ABC News, 31/03/2025, Syan Vallance

Private health insurers are set to raise premiums across all levels of cover beginning Tuesday. CHOICE Data Analyst Mark Blades comments on the issue. Meantime, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has ordered his department to investigate ongoing phoenixing by health funds.

Also reported by: [ABC \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC \(Canberra\)](#).

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ABC News, The World, 31/03/2025, Girish Sawlani

Compere says health insurance premiums will rise on Tuesday, but says a loophole in the pricing regulations means insurers can close old policies and open new ones with no restrictions on pricing [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has ordered his department to investigate ongoing phoenixing by health funds, and says it's shameful.

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ABC News, ABC News Hour, 31/03/2025, Joe O'Brien

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has called for an investigation into private health funds that are using a loophole to raise premiums, also known as product phoenixing. This comes as CHOICE conducted an investigation into the practise.

Also reported by: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 31/03/2025, Matt Shirvington & Natalie Barr

Interview with Matt Bowen, ING. Bowen warns health insurance premiums are going to rise by 3.73% from tomorrow. He recalls Federal Health Minister Mark Butler approved this increase in 2024 after health funds said their costs were rising by 8% to 10%.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#).

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Channel 9, Nine News, 31/03/2025, Michael Thomson

The federal government has pledged \$200 million towards expanding the Midland Health Campus in WA. Health Minister Mark Butler says the extension will meet the growing needs of people in Perth's north-eastern suburbs.

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NBN Tamworth, NBN News, 31/03/2025, Gavin Morris

Health Minister Mark Butler announces an extension of Midland Health Campus. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese says Peter Dutton will cut Medicare to find \$600 billion for his nuclear energy plan.

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MINISTER WELLS

Sport's top cop links cocaine to integrity risk

Age, General News, 01/04/2025, Chris Barrett, Page 2

The new chief of Sport Integrity Australia has warned that taking cocaine increases athletes' susceptibility to being exploited by criminal groups as she spearheads the fight against drugs and corruption. [...] Benson said it was right for people to question decisions, and that Australia used its place on working groups and the WADA executive committee (on which Sports Minister Anika Wells sits) to push for improvements in the system.

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

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Games board members set to be culled

Courier Mail, General News, 01/04/2025, Hayden Johnson & Chris Burns, Page 2

Organisers of Brisbane's Olympic and Paralympic Games insist it is business as usual despite the axe hanging over the heads of one dozen high-profile business and sports leaders. The 24-person board will be reduced, likely to near 14 members, to improve decision-making.

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Major funding granted to Mala'la Health Service

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 31/03/2025

The remote aged care service in Maningrida, Northern Territory, has secured \$12.8 million in funding to upgrade buildings and improve a sensory dementia garden, among other works. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said: "This \$12.8 million will help create better facilities for older Australians in Maningrida, building more homelike environments for residents and giving them access to comfortable, modern amenities and more liveable spaces."

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

New First Nations headspace to open

Moreton Daily, Other, 31/03/2025

Young people in Moreton Bay will have access to a new Australia-first mental health service, focused on supporting local First Nations people. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride said the Federal Government is growing headspace to 174 services, with 91 in regional communities.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Dodgy migration agents 'got automatic green light'

The Australian, General News, 01/04/2025, Natasha Bitá, Page 8

Home Affairs automatically registered migration agents it suspected of criminal activity and dismissed hundreds of complaints without investigation, a parliamentary inquiry has revealed. [...] Apart from Home Affairs, the committee critiqued the regulatory performance of DISR, the Department of Health, the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission and the tax office.

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

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Libs seek funding inquiry on Clare

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/04/2025, John Rolfe, Page 10

The auditor-general has been asked to investigate the federal government's \$3.35 million injection into a Muslim agedcare home whose operator is backing Labor MP Jason Clare. [...] "The Department of Health and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission undertook an independent assessment and recommended this funding to the government through the MAP," she said.

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Mosque backs Clare after \$3.35m pledge

Adelaide Now, Other, 31/03/2025, John Rolfe

An aged-care home established by a Western Sydney mosque secured a special multimillion-dollar federal funding deal shortly before the mosque publicly endorsed Labor cabinet minister Jason Clare, who faces the first serious challenge for the seat of Blaxland in 18 years – from an independent backed by new political movements The Muslim Vote and Muslim Votes Matter. [...] It's understood the affiliated Gallipoli Home Aged Care facility next door was notified by the Department of Health in February that it would receive \$3.35 million of urgently needed funding.

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

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Private health funds slammed for 'price gouging' on insurance premiums despite warning from minister

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2025, Rachel Clayton

Health Minister Mark Butler has asked the Department of Health to "urgently investigate" private health funds, which continue to exploit a regulatory loophole to raise premiums. The loophole — product phoenixing — is a practice that involves health funds closing a policy and opening an almost identical one at a higher price.

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Australian Government enforces cigarette stick health warnings while menthols phased out

Cairns Post, Other, 01/04/2025

Aussie smokers will be reminded of the consequences of the harmful habit beyond the packaging, with the introduction of new warning labels on individual cigarette sticks. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care said one of eight on-product health messages must be duplicated on opposite sides of the filter of every cigarette.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bunbury Herald \(Online\)](#), [Manjimup-Bridgetown Times \(Online\)](#), [Geraldton Guardian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Cost of diagnostic testing is a barrier for some patients

Kyabram Free Press, Other, 31/03/2025, Kate Walters

About a year ago, Danni Whitfield found a small lump in her breast during a self-exam. [...] A spokesperson for the federal Department of Health and Aged Care said the government recognised breast imaging was an important tool in the investigation of breast cancer symptoms.

Also reported by: [Benalla Ensign \(Online\)](#).

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Will the government's caretaker mode impact aged care reform?

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 31/03/2025, Alex Jacobs

Caretaker conventions are now in place for the Australian Government after Prime Minister Anthony Albanese formally announced that the 2025 federal election will take place on Saturday, May 3. [...] Hello Leaders contacted the Department of Health and Aged Care to find out how the caretaker conventions could impact progress.

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VACCINES

ABC Radio Brisbane, Evenings, 31/03/2025, Kelly Higgins-Devine

Interview with Dr Norman Smith about vaccines. A caller asks when and if the Moderna vaccine will be available in Australia. Dr Swan says the new vaccine will be made to Australia but notes the virus mutates very quickly and new vaccines are often no longer the latest or most effect. He says the core vaccine is still very effective.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Evenings, 31/03/2025, Kelly Higgins-Devine

Interview with Dr Norman Swan discussing the origins of pandemics. He says the evidence points towards the wet market in Wuhan being the source, with cultures taken from cages, while the Wuhan

Institute of Virology being much less likely for a number of factors, including that the strains of Covid they were testing were not the same as the SARS-CoV-2 that causes Covid-19.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Baby boomers downsizing is a true win-win, but are they actually moving out of their big, family homes?

The New Daily, Other, 31/03/2025, Simon Kuestenmacher

Every now and then, a column topic comes along that perfectly illustrates the collision between personal lifestyle choices, public policy, and our national demographic challenges. Downsizing in retirement is one such topic.

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Australia will vote on May 3, could this be a turning point for healthcare?

Aged Care Insite, Other, 31/03/2025, Stefanie Schultz

The nation will head to the polls on May 3 to decide on the next Prime Minister of Australia, in what will be a key moment for the healthcare sector. After much anticipation, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called the general election on Friday, after his Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, delivered the Labor party's fourth federal budget just three days prior.

[Read More](#)

SaH costs may push people to hospital

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 31/03/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The government's ageing-in-place policy aims in part to prevent older people from having to enter residential care or hospital, but changes to the fee structure in the new Support at Home program could see the opposite, warn stakeholders. Around 300,000 Australians are currently receiving a home care package, but the new Support at Home funding model and fee structure could have unintended consequences on the very services that allow people to age at home, industry insiders have told Australian Ageing Agenda.

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Funding on hold, care at risk: The hidden crisis in aged care reassessments

HelloCare, Other, 31/03/2025, Jakob Neeland

In Australia's aged care sector, time is both a measure of care and a lifeline for funding. Yet, as fresh data from Mirus Australia reveals, providers are facing unprecedented delays in the reassessments that unlock vital subsidies under the Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) system.

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Bids for Brookfield's retirement village operator Aveo are in

The Weekly Source, Other, 31/03/2025, Ian Horswill

The Canadian multinational investment firm with over US\$1 trillion of assets under management placed its retirement village owner/operator up for sale in June last year Bids for Aveo closed on Friday last week, The Australian reported. With a \$3 billion plus tag being touted since last July, the companies reported to be interested are Charter Hall, Scape, Oxford Properties, AustralianSuper and GIC.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Ciggie warning sticks

Courier Mail, General News, 01/04/2025, Page 3

Australia will be just the second country in the world to introduce health warnings on every individual cigarette. The eight warnings, such as "causes 16 cancers" and "poisons in every puff", will be written on the filter.

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

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Gene therapy Alessia's life saver

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/04/2025, Tyson Jackson, Page 3

Little Sydney girl Alessia was dealt a cruel blow when she was diagnosed at birth with a rare muscle disease that, in some cases, can be deadly. But her parents fought for her to become the first child in Australia to have her spinal muscular atrophy treated with a special gene therapy injection.

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What drives women to drink

Herald Sun, General News, 01/04/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 13

A "hunger hormone" that regulates appetite has been found to also trigger binge drinking and alcohol abuse, but only in women. In a study published in Nature Communications, The Florey researchers found the hormone ghrelin not only gave women the munchies, it could also drive excessive alcohol consumption.

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Origins researchers start work on new early childhood tool to identify 'flourishing' kids

West Australian, Other, 31/03/2025, Bethany Hiatt

Sifting through contradictory advice can be overwhelming for many WA parents, but a new online tool will allow them to easily check if their kids are on track during their critical early years of development and pick up any problems well before they start school. Researchers from Origins, Australia's biggest longitudinal birth study, are developing the tool to help parents find out if their child is flourishing — and to give them advice on early intervention if they are falling behind.

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As Victoria's surgery waitlist grows, so do concerns over a 'hidden' queue

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2025

Two years ago, Brian Mier thought the stares and embarrassing questions about the lumps on his forearm and shoulder might soon be at an end. [...] According to national data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), Victoria had been one of only two states that improved its performance on getting through the elective surgery waitlists in the 2023/24 year, with the other being the Australian Capital Territory.

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'Tough on crime' policies hurting children as governments urged to rethink

National Indigenous Times, Other, 31/03/2025, Dechlan Brennan

An increasing number of state and territory governments are enacting laws which will see children as young as ten spend time in jail, as data reveals almost two-thirds of all young people in detention are Indigenous. [...] Data released late last week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) found on average, First Nations young people entered youth justice supervision at a younger age than non-Indigenous young people.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Opthea in world of pain as trial fails

The Australian, Business News, 01/04/2025, Cameron England & Valerina Changarathil, Page 19

Melbourne biopharma Opthea will abandon a second major clinical trial into the treatment of wet, age-related macular degeneration, a week after revealing a trial of its flagship compound sozinibercept had failed. The company last week said the COAST trial, which was evaluating the efficacy of the compound in combination with another drug, aflibercept, over the course of a year, had failed to show that the treatment worked.

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Regional women's endometriosis battle

Daily Advertiser, General News, 01/04/2025, Elka Devney, Page 4

Young women with endometriosis in country NSW say regional healthcare is failing them and are demanding better support and resources. Brooke Watts, Molong, regularly presented to her local emergency room as a teenager only to have her desperate pleas for help dismissed.

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Diabetic Aussies

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 01/04/2025, Page 4

One in 15 Australian adults (6.6 per cent) have diabetes, up from one in 20 (5.1 per cent) a decade earlier, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Males are more likely to have diabetes than females, and adults living in the most disadvantaged areas are more likely to have diabetes than those in the least disadvantaged areas.

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'I've had my uterus, ovaries and bowel removed, but there's still no cure for endometriosis'

The Courier Mail, Other, 31/03/2025, Jo Barry

Endometriosis is a silent crisis, and I know this all too well. I've had my uterus, ovaries, and part of my bowel removed, but there's still no cure, no clear path forward. I've spent years navigating a medical system that doesn't have enough answers, let alone a real solution. I've been left with a broken body and an unbroken determination to make sure others don't have to endure what I've gone through.

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Skin cancer diagnosis trial to upskill GPs, use AI in Loddon Mallee

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2025, Tyrone Dalton

Andrew Crossman first noticed a rough patch of skin on the tip of his nose in 2019. The tennis coach and avocado farmer was naturally concerned, having spent a lifetime in the sun, but had always worn a hat.

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Queensland women share concerns on long wait times for diagnostic breast cancer tests

Cairns Post, Other, 31/03/2025, Nikita McGuire

Queensland women with lumps in their breasts are being subjected to wait times in excess of a month for scans to find out if they are cancerous or not. Experts say that the issue is not only one of being given timely treatment if a cancer is confirmed, but the torturous waits are damaging womens' mental health.

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

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Bush battle: 'If they listened, early diagnosis could have saved my ovary'

Daily Liberal, Other, 31/03/2025, Elka Devney

Dismissed. Overlooked. Ignored. If doctors had heard Brooke Watts' desperate pleas when she consistently presented to the emergency room as a teenager, her life could have been different.

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Cost of diagnostic testing is a barrier for some patients

Shepparton News Online, Other, 31/03/2025, Kate Walters

About a year ago, Danni Whitfield found a small lump in her breast during a self-exam. [...] According to the Cancer Council , early detection is the best way to improve survival for those with breast cancer, which is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia.

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PRIMARY CARE

Healthscope deal not all about money

Australian Financial Review, General News, 01/04/2025, James Thomson, Page 1

The battle to save private hospital operator Healthscope is shaping up as one of the deal stories of the year. In the blue corner is perennial deal maker David Di Pilla, who has a lot of skin in this game.

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\$150m ALP health centre fillip

The Australian, General News, 01/04/2025, Rhiannon Down, Page 7

Anthony Albanese will invest in a new \$300m medical centre in Adelaide, as the Prime Minister intensifies his attacks on Peter Dutton over Medicare. Mr Albanese will on Tuesday announce a \$150m investment to fund the Flinders HealthCARE Centre in Adelaide's south, continuing health as a key focus of his campaign.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Just give us a lift

Courier Mail, General News, 01/04/2025, Taylah Fellows, Page 1

Queensland Health is in such a dire financial state that broken elevators can't be replaced, let alone 2200 new hospital beds delivered, the state's top health bureaucrat has revealed in a sobering warning to the state government. Department of Health director-general David Rosengren (left) said the \$29bn health budget had been stretched so thin, he was unable to sign off on a contract to replace broken elevators at Townsville Hospital.

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

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Hospital bedlam in in our west

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/04/2025, Madeleine Bower, Page 1

Western Sydney residents are allocated a startling \$1134 less per person for services in their local public hospitals than their neighbours in the eastern suburbs, as clinicians reveal they are forcing patients out of hospitals early amid a massive shortage of beds. NSW Health budget allocation figures for local health districts in this financial year reveal residents of communities across the Western Sydney Local Health District (LHD) are budgeted \$2087 in per-capita funding, with \$2.426bn allocated for 1.162 million people.

Airport precinct lands new hospital

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/04/2025, Elizabeth Pike, Page 6

Plans for a major hospital to open within the new Western Sydney Aerotropolis are taking off as the Minns government shifts into full throttle ahead of the opening of Sydney's new airport. The Daily Telegraph can reveal planning and site selection analysis for the new public hospital, which will be located within the 11,000ha hub surrounding the new Western Sydney International Airport, is under way after a \$15m state government investment.

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Birthing unit a must for the Hills

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/04/2025, James O'Doherty, Page 7

Calls for a full maternity ward at the long-promised Rouse Hill Hospital is "gathering momentum," a federal Labor frontbencher says. Greenway MP Michelle Rowland has broken ranks with the Minns government over plans for the hospital, launching a petition urging her state counterparts to fund a birthing unit there.

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White hoping for Lyons share of community support

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/04/2025, Duncan Abey, Page 9

A re-elected Albanese government will pour \$2.25m into the Sorell Community Cultural Precinct, Lyons hopeful Rebecca White has promised, with the former state Labor leader saying the funding would secure two separate projects, and help preserve a vital part of the region's history. Joined on the hustings during the first week of the campaign by federal Member for Franklin, Julie Collins, Ms White committed to providing \$1.7m to fund a community space to celebrate art, culture, heritage and natural environment, and another \$500,000 to relocate the local Men's Shed to a new purpose-built space.

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

Building won't deter greenfield hopes

Border Mail, General News, 01/04/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 2

Medics have told Wodonga's mayor that a new double-storey complex could be used to house wards while a larger upgrade of Albury hospital was paused. The so-called Northeast building is the first element of a \$558 million upgrade of the hospital to be carried out with the tender process to begin soon and construction due to start later in 2025.

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Health top of mind as PM takes battle to the wild west

Central Western Daily, General News, 01/04/2025, Page 7

The prime minister is hoping for a clean bill of political health as he tries to shore up Labor support with a hospital announcement in WA. [...] "This means more free trips to the doctor, cheaper medicines and more urgent care clinics where all you need is your Medicare card, not your credit card," he said.

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Palliative care beds pledge

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/04/2025, Luke Griffiths, Page 1

A Geelong end-of-life facility will get the funds it needs to deliver eight additional palliative care beds if the Liberal Party forms government, as new research shows softening support for the Coalition across the region. Darcy Dunstan, the Liberal candidate in Corangamite, announced a \$2.7m commitment on Monday at Anam Cara House.

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Battle lines drawn around cost of living

Launceston Examiner, General News, 01/04/2025, Joe Colbrook, Page 4

A year-long cut to fuel prices now, an ongoing tax cut in 2026, or a "big, bold progressive policy

agenda" funded by corporate tax hikes are all on the table. [...] Labor's Franklin candidate Julie Collins said the party had delivered benefits to Tasmanians over the past three years - new Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, fee-free TAFE places and power bill subsidies.

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Promises won't help regional patients

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 01/04/2025, Ciara Bastow, Page 6

A Federal Budget sweetener giving Australians increased access to bulk billed GP visits is still a long way off, despite what the Prime Minister says, warns a regional doctor. The federal government pledged \$7.9 billion over four years to expand bulk billing to try and deliver 18 million bulked billed GP visits each year.

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'It's getting worse and worse': Young Perth mother with terminal cancer stuck in ED for 36 hours

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 31/03/2025, Sarah Brookes

A dying mother battling an infection and agonising radiation burns has been forced to wait 36 hours for a bed, part of it in a corridor, in another example of the crisis facing Western Australia's health system. Shar Christoff Harris, 37, was diagnosed with invasive lobular carcinoma, a form of breast cancer, in 2023 and has documented her journey on Tiktok.

[Read More](#)

Pilbara residents fight for disability support as services remain out of reach

West Australian, Other, 31/03/2025

Imagine you are stranded in the middle of the desert with no food, water or shelter. Along comes someone and says, "We've got food, water and shelter, but you will have to travel 1200km to access it".

[Read More](#)

Private maternity ward closure shrinks birthing choice for Central Coast women

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2025, By Sarah Forster, Emma Simkin & Mary-Louise Vince

Kathryn Wray was one of the last women to give birth in the Gosford Private Hospital's maternity ward when she welcomed a baby girl on Friday. Ms Wray chose private obstetric care because she wanted an elective caesarean section.

[Read More](#)

'Everyone's rock': Mum of 6, Sandra Shipley, 55, dies after leaving Grafton Hospital

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 31/03/2025, Toni Moon

When Ken Baker took his partner Sandra Shipley into Grafton Base Hospital's emergency department he said "I expected to get help and it just didn't happen". What he didn't expect was that Ms Shipley would die later that night, despite believing she could have five more years to live.

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

[Read More](#)

Border disability provider seeks change to reflect 'true cost' of regional care

The Border Mail, Other, 31/03/2025, Beau Greenway

Kirinari has welcomed the 2025-26 federal budget presented by the Australian government, including \$423.8 million across five years for programs to support people with a disability. Also in the budget was \$291 million for aged care, \$7.9 billion to extend GP bulk billing, \$644 million to establish 50 new urgent care clinics, \$9.3 billion to help combat homelessness and maintain and repair social housing, as well as \$17.1 million in funding to enhance the National Disability Insurance Agency's ability to detect fraud.

Channel 7, Seven News, 31/03/2025, Susannah Carr & Rick Ardon

The federal government will tip in 200 million of the \$355 million spend on Midland Hospital, which services the north eastern suburbs. The expansion will add 60 more inpatient beds, two more operating theatres, a new ICU and as well as the new emergency department.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Building mental health resilience

The Australian, General News, 01/04/2025, Penny Timms, Page 8

For the first time in a long time, construction worker and father of four Kaine Thompson feels completely comfortable. But getting to this point has not been easy.

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Pill, depression linked

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/04/2025, Page 2

Women who start taking a hormonal contraceptive pill soon after childbirth are at a higher risk of developing depression in the first year of their child's life. A Copenhagen University Hospital team followed the contraceptive choices of more than 600,000 women in Denmark after having their first child, with 40 per cent of the women beginning to take the Pill within a year of their child's birth.

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

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

Biting, fights: School violence at record levels, report says, pushing principals to brink

SBS, Other, 31/03/2025, Cameron Carr

More than 1,000 principals surveyed reported being a victim or witness of physical abuse in 2024, and a similar number were at risk of self-harm, occupational health problems or serious impact to their quality of life. Associate professor Paul Kidson from ACU was an investigator for the Principal Occupational Health and Wellbeing survey 2024, which flagged the highest level of school-based violence since the report began in 2011.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Five-year medical degrees from QUT

Courier Mail, General News, 01/04/2025, Page 14

The Queensland University of Technology has announced it will offer a five-year medical degree aimed at school leavers as well as third-year uni students, with the first intake of 48 starting from 2027. QUT would join the University of Queensland, Griffith University, Townsville's James Cook University and the Gold Coast's Bond University in offering medical qualifications.

New path for state's doctors

Courier Mail, General News, 01/04/2025, Margaret Sheil, Page 37

Queensland's unique demographic and geography means we experience challenges in meeting the primary healthcare needs of every Queenslanders, but especially those in outer metropolitan and some regional areas of the state. Trained doctors are central to this challenge and Queensland's health workforce must grow by 30 per cent by 2032 to meet the demands of our growing population.

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Kicked, punched, spat on: violence against emergency staff increasing

The Australian, Other, 01/04/2025, Hannah Wilcox

After almost 30 years working as an emergency department nurse, Colette Duff starts her shifts expecting to receive or at least witness violence. She has seen staff thrown against walls, punched, kicked and spat on.

[Read More](#)

Burnt-out Cloncurry doctor ready to quit, leaving GP clinic in limbo

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2025, Emily Dobson & Zara Margolis

The owner of the only doctor clinic in a rural Queensland town says he is quitting for the sake of his mental health amid Australia's worsening doctor shortage. Cameron Hoare has managed multiple commitments in Cloncurry, a town of 3,500 people about a two-day drive north-west of Brisbane, for the past decade.

[Read More](#)

NSW nurses struggle for parking at hospitals amidst fight for better pay

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2025, Jesse Hyland

Before she was given access to the staff hospital car park, Sydney nurse Ruby Tilley was forking out a chunk of her pay to get to work all while facing abuse and threats from strangers. Ms Tilley was on a waitlist for staff parking at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) in Camperdown for close to three years.

[Read More](#)

Aged care pay rises help ease cost-of-living pressures

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 31/03/2025, Robert Fedele

NSW Assistant in Nursing (AIN) Marta Frasca is among thousands of aged care workers across Australia now experiencing the direct benefits of recent wage increases flowing through the sector. "I no longer have to pay my electricity bill or car registration in instalments or call up to request an extension – I can pay upfront, so, that is a big help," the New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) member says.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Trade Minister Don Farrell prepared for 'any outcome' ahead of Donald Trump's April 2 Liberation Day tariffs

The Australian, Other, 31/03/2025, Jessica Wang

The Albanese government is preparing for "any outcome" that arises from US President Donald Trump's 'Liberation Day' tariffs, however changes to Australia's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and biosecurity measures will be strictly off the negotiating table. The announcement set for April 2 could have major ramifications on Labor's re-election bid, with Australians set to head to the polls on May 3.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

Albanese talks health in the west as Dutton brings energy campaign to Bowen's seat

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2025, Tom Crowley

Anthony Albanese's re-election bid has brought him to Perth, where he will seek to capitalise on the popularity of the state Labor government as he begins the first full week of the federal campaign with the focus squarely on health as a series of newly released opinion polls show a shift in his direction. [...] The details of Mr Trump's "liberation day" remain shrouded in mystery, but his threat to put "reciprocal" tariffs on countries he believes are penalising American exporters has been linked to Australia's GST and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

[Read More](#)

Thousands missing out on cheaper medicines through two-for-one scripts

Newcastle Herald, Other, 31/03/2025, Damon Cronshaw

Thousands of Hunter residents are missing out on cheaper medicines because they're not getting 60-day scripts from their GPs. However, Hunter residents who have been issued 60-day scripts have saved \$2.9 million from September 2023 - when the federal scheme began - to February 2025.

[Read More](#)

What transpired at the inaugural GP-Pharmacists Symposium?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 31/03/2025, Chloe Hava

The PSA hosted the General Practice Pharmacists Symposium in Melbourne on Friday 28 March, bringing leading voices and over 100 delegates together to explore the evolving role of pharmacists in general practice. It is the first General Practice Pharmacists Symposium hosted by PSA, following 2 years delivered by the WentWest PHN in New South Wales.

[Read More](#)

Medicines affordability 'an endemic issue'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 31/03/2025, Anthony Zehetner

Medicines affordability is a more significant issue than people realise, and could have "devastating effects" on people's health, Patients Australia chief executive, Lisa Robbins, warns.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

It is time to embrace defragmented virtual care models

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 31/03/2025

Australian GPs need support and funding for collaborative online consults with non-GP specialists, writes GP Dr Morgan Rayner. 'Relying on letters, emails, My Health Record information, and discharge summaries does not allow a meaningful dialogue between clinicians.'

[Read More](#)

3AW, Afternoons, 31/03/2025, Tony Moclair

Interview with Professor Karen Price, former National president of the Royal Australian College and current chair of the General Practise Council of the AMA. Price believes the cost of living crisis has an impact on people going to see a doctor. She calls to lift Medicare rebates across the board.

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Warnings as private ultrasound use booms

Age, General News, 01/04/2025, Henrietta Cook, Page 1

A boom in private baby scanning clinics that sell "reassurance" ultrasounds to expectant mothers across Australia is leading to stillbirths, late-term abortions and incorrect diagnoses. [...] Australasian Sonographers Association chief executive Tony Coles called for sonographers to be registered under the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia, one of 15 boards overseen by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

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

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Former Tasmanian doctor found with child exploitation material disqualified

Burnie Advocate, General News, 01/04/2025, Matt Maloney, Page 4

A former Tasmanian doctor who was convicted of possessing child exploitation material will not be able to practice as a health professional for four years. Luke David Stuart Hamilton had his medical registration suspended in 2021 after Tasmania Police searched his home and found a laptop, iPad and portable hard drive with several thousands of files of child exploitation material.

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Dr Adrian Cruz Asinas cleared to practise despite child porn stash

The Courier Mail, Other, 31/03/2025, Nicola McNamara

A Queensland doctor has been permitted to practise again after police busted him with a sick stash of child porn involving children as young as three. [...] According to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), Asinas acquired a Doctor of Medicine in the Philippines in 2002 and joined the Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in 2018.

[Read More](#)

Tasmanian prison psychologist suspended for inappropriate relationship with released ex-client

The Mercury, Other, 31/03/2025, Duncan Abey

A Tasmanian psychologist who self-reported an inappropriate relationship with a client – whom she first treated while he was an inmate at Risdon Prison – has been officially reprimanded, and suspended from practicing for six months. [...] In January 2021, the psychologist made a self-notification to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, reporting misconduct in breach of ethical guidelines in relation to her behaviour in NSW.

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

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Nurse under investigation over alleged assaults on elderly residents

HelloCare, Other, 31/03/2025, Jakob Neeland

An Adelaide nurse is under police investigation following allegations she assaulted elderly residents in her care at an aged care facility. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has stated that it cannot comment on individual cases unless information is already in the public domain.

[Read More](#)

'Deliberate disregard' for professional standards

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 31/03/2025, Megan Haggan

A pharmacist dispensed inappropriately to a patient who was receiving huge amounts of Stilnox from multiple prescribers – as well as benzodiazepines. The pharmacist, who had practised for more than

30 years at the time of the behaviour in question, fronted the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal over his unsafe dispensing, dispensing S4s without a [...]

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Kelsie Prabawa-Sear: Teenage girls are struggling with health and it's not their fault

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 31/03/2025, Kelsie Prabawa-Sear

Recent social media trends would have us thinking that teen girls are the fittest and healthiest they've ever been. The likes of hot girl walks, Pilates princesses, what I eat in a day, skin care routines, smoothies – the list goes on.

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

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SPORT

Victory's troubles flare

Herald Sun, General News, 01/04/2025, Ben Higgins, Page 2

A Melbourne Victory supporter serving a life ban was allowed into an NPL Victoria match in Shepparton on Saturday where he and fellow fans allegedly aimed homophobic slurs at rival players and let off flares. The man, part of the ultra group Horda and the bigger North Terrace supporter group, was one of several fans banned following the ALeague pitch invasion in 2022.

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Libs chip in \$1m to save course

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/04/2025, James O'Doherty, Page 3

Peter Dutton's federal Opposition has joined the fight to save Moore Park Golf Course, committing \$1m to build a multi-sport "youth recreation zone" as part of a plan to keep an 18-hole course layout at the site, while still delivering 15ha of new public space. Opposition sports spokeswoman Anne Ruston made the commitment at Moore Park Golf Course yesterday, alongside Liberal candidate for Wentworth Ro Knox.

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Report 'underplays' benefits

Herald Sun, Sport, 01/04/2025, David Killick, Page 53

The proposed Macquarie Point Stadium would add \$1.86bn to the state's debt over a decade and could trigger a credit rating downgrade for the government, an independent assessment panel has found in a scathing report. The Tasmanian Planning Commission's panel released its Draft Integrated Assessment Report on the stadium project on Monday afternoon.

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

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Howdy labor

Cairns Post, General News, 01/04/2025, Tim Little, Page 1

The federal ALP government has refused to commit to funding the NRLW Cowboys expansion to Cairns. The Coalition announced \$15m for a high performance training facility in the Far North on

Monday.

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Funding promise brightens club's future

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 01/04/2025, Page 9

Funding for a North Queensland community sports centre is on the cards, if the LNP is elected. Federal member for Dawson Andrew Willcox announced an election pledge of \$500,000 to upgrade facilities at the Home Hill Community Sports Club.

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\$2m promised for rugby change rooms

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 01/04/2025, Nikita McGuire, Page 9

Having played rugby for three years and fallen in love with the sport, 18-year-old Jenna Poole said an election funding pledge to create better female change rooms at her clubhouse would be a "great benefit". Herbert MP Phillip Thompson pledged \$2.2 million if re-elected for the construction of female amenities and change rooms at Townsville Rugby Union's centre on Hugh Street, which hasn't been updated since 1978.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 31/03/2025, Matt Shirvington & Natalie Barr

High profile figures on Brisbane's 2032 Olympics board could be sacked, amid concerns the board is simply too big to make effective decisions. It has been suggested to the government by the Independent Review that they need to seriously cull the numbers on this board. Right now it has 24 members made up of people from government, sporting stars and high profile business people.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

\$4.9m drug trial targets hidden dangers of heart surgery to brain and kidney function

The Australian, General News, 01/04/2025, James Dowling, Page 3

Patients at risk of brain and kidney injuries after heart surgery will be extended a new lifeline as a government-funded study seeks to prevent the pervasive yet little-known risks posed by heart-lung machines. Heart-lung machines left almost half of all heart surgery patients in a state of post-operative delirium, which could precipitate depression and mood disorders, while another 30 per cent were left with kidney injuries, a Florey Institute study found.

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No quit link to birth defects

Courier Mail, General News, 01/04/2025, Page 7

Quit-smoking medicines such as nicotine patches and varenicline do not increase the risk of major birth defects in babies. A National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre study suggests there is no evidence infants exposed to nicotine replacement therapy, varenicline and bupropion have higher rates of major congenital malformations.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Exercise to beat cancer

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/04/2025, Page 17

Exercise could potentially reduce the recurrence rate of breast cancer. Researchers at Western

Australia's Edith Cowan University found that despite the advances made in breast cancer treatment, recurrence remains common and continued to contribute to higher mortality risks.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Changes to ARC grants will make it harder for Australia to combat Trump chaos, researchers warn

The Guardian, Other, 01/04/2025, Donna Lu

It will be tough to attract international research talent if prestigious Australian Research Council fellowships are axed under proposed changes, researchers say, with lack of funding making the nation not "match fit" to take on Trump-led uncertainty. The overhaul proposed axing most standalone positions in favour of shorter fellowships that are "embedded" into projects.

[Read More](#)

Research roundup

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/04/2025

A retrospective analysis of linked hospitalisations and emergency department presentations data shows high rates of potentially avoidable medication-related hospitalisations in First Nations people in Queensland.

[Read More](#)

Study to tackle meds risks in aged care homes

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 31/03/2025

A new pharmacist-led study will trial medication safety rounds in aged care homes to prevent medication-induced harm and improve resident care. The study is a direct response to recommendations in the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety to implement pharmacist models of care in aged care homes.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 31/03/2025, Cheng Lei

Interview with Susanne Tegen, Chief Executive, National Rural Health Alliance. Tegen discusses the Alliance's call for the Government to close the funding gap between rural and urban populations, following research revealing rural populations have shorter life expectancy, suffer more diseases and get less access to healthcare.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Nuclear waste a \$14bn big hole

Courier Mail, General News, 01/04/2025, Clare Armstrong, Page 6

The Coalition's failure to account for the handling of radioactive waste from its nuclear power plan has blown a \$14bn "hole" in its costings, Labor has claimed, as both sides clash over energy modelling. Transporting the waste produced by the seven nuclear power stations the opposition has pledged to build by 2050 the same way Australia currently does at its only research reactor would cost an average of \$345m a year or \$13.8bn over 40 years of operation, which is the average age of reactors in the US.

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WA's measles outbreak still spreading

West Australian, General News, 01/04/2025, Page 4

The number of cases of measles in Western Australia has risen to 10, with Westfield Carousel Shopping Centre listed as one of 12 new exposure sites by the Department of Health. Authorities are still searching for the "patient zero" of the current cluster and are urging the public to be mindful of symptoms.

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Alarming early start to the flu season

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 01/04/2025, Judith Kerr, Page 3

Queensland is bracing for what is expected to be a recordbreaking flu season, with health professionals issuing an urgent call for parents and pregnant women to get vaccinated this month. With flu cases already on the rise across the state, the state government has introduced free flu vaccinations for all residents aged over six months, setting it apart from other states and territories that only offered free flu shots to at-risk groups under the federal government's National Immunisation Program.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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Parents urged to vaccinate young children against the flu as cases begin rising in SA

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2025

Parents are being urged by health authorities to get children under the age of five vaccinated against influenza as cases in South Australia begin rising ahead of winter. According to the SA Health website, there have been 2,324 cases of the flu recorded in the state so far this year — 690 more than the same time last year.

[Read More](#)

Deadly disease returns: Tuberculosis mutates against drugs made to kill it

The Senior, Other, 31/03/2025, Anthony Caggiano

Tuberculosis has returned as the world's deadliest infectious disease caused by one type of bug, amidst rising resistance to treatment and the world's focus on COVID-19 dropping. But Australian-based researchers including University of Queensland 's Professor Antje Blumenthal are trying to find better ways to stop it.

[Read More](#)

Hordes of genetically modified insects set to be released in Australia: 'They can smell you'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 31/03/2025, Michael Dahlstrom

Dengue fever is at record levels around the globe, with this trend now beginning to be reflected in Australia as the mosquito species that carries the virus spreads. It means a simple bite could soon trigger symptoms worse than an annoying itch, with victims often experiencing pain behind the eyes, headaches, muscle aches, and nausea for over a week.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 31/03/2025, Tiffany Warne

SA health authorities have warned parents as the state is facing the worst start to a whooping cough season in nearly 15 years. This comes amid calls for free flu vaccines amid a rise in the number of flu cases. SA Health Minister Chris Picton expresses concern about the lower number of parents getting their children vaccinated against flu.

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There are calls tonight for free flu vaccinations for all South Australians, ahead of what's expected to be one of the worst flu seasons on record. SA Opposition Leader Vincent Tarzia has commented on the issue. The SA Opposition and Pharmacy Guild are calling for every South Australian to get the jab free of charge in a statewide blitz one month before winter.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Let's hear it for Apple AirPods as affordable, trendy hearing aids

The Australian, Technology, 01/04/2025, Jared Lynch, Page 24

In crowded, noisy venues I often find myself smiling and nodding instead of listening to a conversation. I'm not being rude, it's just I can't hear what's being said. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration approved the test in December.

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

Urgent warning for regular Botox users as complaints over cosmetic therapists skyrocket Urgent warning for regular Botox users as complaints over cosmetic therapists skyrocket

7news.com.au, Other, 31/03/2025, Caleb Taylor

A leading Sydney plastic surgeon has called for Botox to be more heavily regulated as complaints about bad procedures pile up. [...] Seven cosmetic practitioners and clinics are under investigation by the health complaints watchdog for procedures including botched fillers, butt injections and infections, according to a report in The Sunday Telegraph.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacogenetic screening to optimise antidepressant drug therapies in young people

Medical Forum, Other, 31/03/2025

Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) is among the leading causes of disability in Australian youth, with a rising number of young people seeking treatment and support for their mental health each year. Antidepressants are often a first-line treatment for those suffering from moderate to severe depression, and with the prevalence of MDD rising so too are prescription and consumption rates of antidepressant medications.

[Read More](#)

'Unprecedented' update to antibiotic guidelines

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 31/03/2025

The first tranche of a major update from Therapeutic Guidelines has been released, with a focus on infections treated in primary care. The newly updated guidelines include changes to drug recommendations for common infections widely seen in general practice.

[Read More](#)

Stepping down safely: deprescribing gabapentinoids in practice

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 31/03/2025, Chloe Hava

Pregabalin is being used far beyond its approved indications. With rising concerns over safety, the focus is shifting to careful, individualised deprescribing strategies. Gabapentinoids, such as pregabalin and gabapentin, were registered by the Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) in the early 2000s for epileptic seizures and neuropathic pain.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 31/03/2025, Matt Shirvington & Natalie Barr

Interview with plastic surgeon Jack Summers discussing a rise in cosmetic injectable operators. He says the TGA is looking into the industry to see how it can be regulated, but says there are a lot of players and it is a complex industry with RNs, GPs, specialists and even dentists all working with injectables that come in a range of schedules.

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Channel 9, A Current Affair, 31/03/2025, Allison Langdon

There is a severe shortage of Concerta, a crucial ADHD medication in Australia. This comes as the Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved other sources of Concerta from Switzerland, but they're not on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 31/03/2025, Renee Krosch

Compere discusses Apple AirPods being approved to be used as hearing aids. She says Apple AirPods can be a much cheaper alternative to hearing aids at \$300 instead of up to \$3000 for aids from an audiologist.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Perth biotech gets European boost for cannabinoid medicine therapy

West Australian, Business News, 01/04/2025, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 31

WA biotech company Neurotech has secured the backing of the European Commission for its oral cannabinoid drug therapy aimed at treating Rett syndrome, a rare genetic disorder affecting the way the brain develops. The Anthony Filippis-led company on Monday announced it had received a so-called orphan drug designation in Europe for its lead drug candidate, NTI164, to treat the neurological disorder.

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FOOD STANDARDS

'How can this happen?' Sydney local slams 'gross' McDonald's buy X "Avoid QVB Macca's" "Ewww" How can this happen?

The Courier Mail, Other, 31/03/2025, Cassidy Pearce

A Sydney McDonald's restaurant has come under fire after serving a seemingly raw chicken burger was served to a local patron. The burger, served at Sydney's QVB location, prompted the poster to speak to management, though he says the issue wasn't adequately addressed.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#)

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AICIS

Authorities remove more than 75 tonnes of toxic sewage balls, sand from Sydney's beaches

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/03/2025, Thomas Sargeant & Remy Varga

Authorities underwent a massive sweep of Sydney's shoreline so people could enjoy lifesaving clubs and beaches free of the so-called 'tar balls', and they unearthed a dirty secret. More than 75 tonnes of toxic sewage balls and sand were removed from the waters off beaches in Sydney's eastern suburbs during a multiagency government cleanup operation.

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

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