



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 3rd March 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Sydney Morning Herald**](#) (page 1) reports secret intelligence reports warned federal governments about the rising instance of illegal tobacco trade in Australia for years, while former border force official Rohan Pike says his efforts to confront the Chinese government about the issue were blocked a decade ago due to "political sensitivities". *Also reported by:* [The Age](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#)
- The [**Herald Sun**](#) (page 1) reports the Australia Medical Association's Victoria branch is lobbying the state government to update its reporting system amidst instances of hospitals not properly investigating potentially preventable child deaths. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#)
- The [**Canberra Times**](#) (page 3) reports low-income earners in Canberra are being told to go to emergency departments to access mental health care due to the prohibitively high cost and poor availability of psychology services.
- The [**Herald Sun**](#) (page 3) scientists at the Hudson Institute of Medical Research have discovered cells that help ovarian cancer survive treatments, leading to hopes of developing better medications. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#)
- [**The Australian**](#) (page 4) Health Minister Mark Butler has rejected claims government plans for 50 new urgent care clinics represent pork-barrelling, saying hospital presentation data decided

the location of the clinics. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#)

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 9) reports the treatment for the debilitating condition Cushing's disease has been added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, while pituitary condition advocates have called on both major parties to commit to a major funding package for improved care and more research.

MINISTER BUTLER

Labor urgent care clinics 'pork-barrelling'

The Australian, General News, 03/03/2025, Noah Yim, Page 4

Two in three of the Albanese government's marquee Medicare urgent care clinics have been set up in Labor-held seats, as Anthony Albanese promises to build another 50 as part of his health-centred election pitch. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Sunday told reporters the first tranche of 50 clinics had a "very even spread, in an electoral sense, across different electorates" and appeared to pass responsibility for the locations of the remainder to state and territory governments.

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

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Vape laws 'simply failing'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/03/2025, Jon Kaila, Page 7

Vapes are being sold in record numbers in Australia, with more flavours available than ever before and the cost just as cheap as before the Albanese government banned them. [...] "Until the Health Minister (Mark Butler) admits the primary driver of the crime is the exorbitant excise rate, then that driver will remain and the problem won't be fixed."

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

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Labor seats win in urgent clinic plan

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/03/2025, Clare Armstrong, Page 12

Half of the 50 extra urgent care clinics promised by the Albanese Government are in Labor-held seats, while another five are in electorates the party hopes to win from the Coalition and the Greens. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler dismissed accusations of porkbarrelling and claimed the distribution of clinics was based on hospital waiting times and were spread across party lines.

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

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Healthier outlook for clinics

Herald Sun, General News, 03/03/2025, Jade Gailberger, Page 10

Three state-run urgent care clinics at risk of closing midyear have been thrown a lifeline under the Albanese government's latest promise to bolster health services if re-elected. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said clinic locations were based on hospital and bulk-billing data, and tried to ensure that four in five Australians lived within 20 minutes of one.

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Sorell and Kingston promised care clinics

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/03/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 10

Three new Medicare urgent care clinics would be opened in Tasmania under a re-elected Labor government, providing free bulk-billed treatment for non-emergency injuries and conditions. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler announced on Sunday that 50 new clinics would be established across the country if the ALP is victorious at the federal election.

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Savings as pill added to PBS

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/03/2025, Zoe De Koning, Page 14

Two of Australia's most commonly used contraceptive pills are now listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, with thousands of women expected to save hundreds of dollars a year. Contraceptive pills Yaz and Yasmin which contain hormones drospirinone with ethinylestradiol were added to the PBS on Saturday, after Health Minister Mark Butler asked the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee to consider extending benefits to the "newer generation" of oral contraceptives.

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

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Sorry, but this is really going to hurt

West Australian, Business News, 03/03/2025, Alexandra Feiam, Page 32

Another private insurance price hike is "going to hurt" more than 14 million Australians, unless they pay attention to the finer details. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler last week confirmed the increase after intervening to lower proposals offered by funds.

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PM vows \$644m boost to clinics

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 03/03/2025, Cameron Micallef, Page 6

Labor has announced a \$644m bid to open 50 more urgent care clinics, building on Anthony Albanese's centrepiece \$8.5bn election promise to boost bulk-billing GPs. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said only a re-elected Labor government would ensure urgent care clinics remained open.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Nurses eye slice of the pie

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/03/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

Nurses and midwives are calling for a fresh slice of private health insurance profits to boost their wages and conditions. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler approved the premium rises last week.

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Urgent care clinic pledge for Maitland

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/03/2025, Josh Leeson, Page 3

Labor has matched the Coalition's promise to open a Medicare urgent care clinic in Maitland if re-elected. The announcement came yesterday as the Albanese Labor government revealed a \$644 million commitment to open another 50 urgent care clinics across Australia. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Coalition could not be trusted to fund urgent care clinics.

Also reported by: [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Patients praise brain cancer nurse support but advocates say funding model means some miss out

ABC Online, Other, 02/03/2025, Andrew Cunningham

Matt Stonham was diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer in 2015, four days before his 30th birthday. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler defended the decision, saying these are "decisions taken at arm's length by the department and that's the proper way to operate a government".

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'It's Burnie's turn to shine': Labor's key health promise for the region

The Advocate (Burnie), Other, 02/03/2025, Emily Williams

Burnie is set to have its own Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, should Labor win the upcoming federal election. The promise is part of a \$644 million commitment which will deliver an additional 50 clinics

across the country. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the government believed in Medicare and making free urgent care available.

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

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Torquay to get Medicare Urgent Care Clinic

Geelong Times, Other, 02/03/2025, Angus Smith

Labor has announced plans to open a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Torquay if re-elected, following strong community advocacy for better local healthcare. [...] Health minister Mark Butler said the clinics have been widely supported by medical professionals.

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Bipartisan support for billions of funding for Medicare

Lilydale Star Mail, Other, 02/03/2025

Each of the two major political parties has backed a major boost to Medicare following the upcoming federal election, with Labor pledging \$8.5 billion in Medicare funding over four years and the Coalition vowing to match it 'dollar for dollar'. [...] "Australia's doctors voted Peter Dutton the worst Health Minister in Medicare history for a reason, Peter Dutton tried to end bulk billing with a GP tax and then started a six-year freeze to Medicare rebates that froze GP incomes and stripped billions out of Medicare," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Labor matches Liberals urgent care clinic promise for Maitland

Maitland Mercury, Other, 02/03/2025

Labor has matched the Liberals' promise of a new urgent care clinic in Maitland in the latest pledge for pledge politicking in the seat of Paterson. Incumbent Paterson MP and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler made the announcement on Sunday aimed at diverting patients from busy hospital emergency departments, such as the new Maitland Hospital.

[Read More](#)

Push for Surf Coast urgent care clinic gains momentum

Surf Coast Times, Other, 02/03/2025, Angus Smith

A petition calling for a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic on the Surf Coast has gained strong community support, with Corangamite federal member Libby Coker leading the campaign. [...] The petition will be submitted to federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

Where Labor plans to build 50 new bulk billing urgent care clinics

SBS, Other, 02/03/2025

The \$644 million proposal aims to deliver extra clinics in every state and territory, but Australia's peak body for GPs has raised concerns about whether the facilities will offer taxpayers value for money. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said an independent evaluation of the impact of the existing clinics was underway and due to report to government in 2026.

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Federal government announces bulk billing splurge, but will it enough?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/03/2025

Doctors groups welcome the multibillion-dollar investment into Medicare but would like to see more investment into more complex general practitioner consults. [...] The Minister for Health Mark Butler made the announcement, calling it "the single largest investment into Medicare since its creation 40 years ago".

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ABC News, ABC News at Noon, 02/03/2025, Melissa Mackay

Federal Labor has pledged an additional 50 urgent care clinics across Australia if re-elected in the upcoming election, under a \$644m expansion of the scheme. General practitioners says Labor is promising the urgent care clinics without modelling being released, but Federal Health Minister Mark Butler defended the decision, saying the programme is working and delivering for Australians.

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

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ABC Radio Sydney, 05:00 News, 03/03/2025

A Four Corners investigation has uncovered the dangerous underworld behind Australia's black market cigarette trade that's costing the federal government billions of dollars. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says until recently, there hasn't been much enforcement.

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2GB, 05:00 News, 03/03/2025

The federal government insists its \$600 million investment into urgent care clinics will ease pressure on the healthcare system. Labor is promising to build another 50 clinics if it's returned to power at the upcoming election. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says the centres will take strain off hospitals.

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VACCINES

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Rollercoaster ride with rare form of dementia

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/03/2025, Melissa Meehan, Page 13

Two years ago, Annette was running a thriving small business and planning her next solo holiday. Today she's mostly confined to her aged care facility, unable to go out unchaperoned. She can no longer trust her legs to keep her upright, relying on a four-wheel walker or sometimes a wheelchair to move around.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#).

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Helping alleviate inflammation and pain

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/03/2025, Page 19

Satisfied customers are spreading the word about the effectiveness of Arborvitae Joint Health. Pensioner Glen Rampton's worsening arthritis left him "virtually a cripple". Now in his mid70s, he had to rely on others just to move about.

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'Awful': Call for better specialist care for dying Australians ?

9News, Other, 02/03/2025, Sarah Swain

Australian actor, author and comedian Jean Kittson's parents were well-placed to die at home in a retirement village on the NSW Central Coast. But Kittson and her family were left traumatised after Elaine and Roy ended up in residential care and died in hospital just a month apart in distressing circumstances.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Tobacco smuggling warnings 'ignored'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/03/2025, Nick McKenzie, Page 1

Secret intelligence briefings repeatedly warned state and federal agencies that the illicit tobacco business was undermining border security as it expanded under the control of dangerous organised crime bosses. The alerts circulated for years before the tobacco wars exploded.

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

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Stalled reform leaves group homes to fester

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 03/03/2025, Page 20

A shadow often falls between words and action, but thousands of our most vulnerable citizens are living dark existences in group homes as governments and the care community fail to control the growing abuse of some residents. A Herald investigation by Carrie Fellner has revealed the shocking and continuing reality endured by people living in group homes.

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Low-income earners priced out of care

Canberra Times, General News, 03/03/2025, Lucy Arundell, Page 3

Low-income earners are being told to go to Canberra's emergency departments for mental health aid as the high cost of psychology services prevents them accessing care. [...] More than 870 psychologists were working in the territory in 2022-23, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Vape ban means vaping everywhere

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 03/03/2025, Page 38

Vaping is largely banned, but it clearly cannot be beaten. Or even taken down by a notch or two. As The Daily Telegraph reports, vapes are currently selling in record numbers throughout Australia. More vape flavours are available than ever before. The cost of vaping is staying resolutely low.

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Dental health is crucial. It's time politicians paid attention

West Australian, General News, 03/03/2025, Adrian Kat, Page 34

In the lead up to the WA State election, dental health has emerged as a significant issue, with both major parties proposing initiatives to enhance dental care access, particularly in regional areas. [...] One in five Australians aged 75 and older have no natural teeth, half have an inadequate dentition to function properly, 25 per cent have untreated tooth decay and 70 per cent have moderate to severe gum disease, reports The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Illawarra pubs are still facing hangover

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 03/03/2025, Nadine Morton, Page 5

O-week at uni might once have been a place for excess drinking and partying, but these days many young people starting their studies are opting for sobriety - and it's part of a growing trend. [...] The percentage of young people who drink weekly also dropped, from 47 per cent to 30 per cent, data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows.

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Disaster planning tailored to babies, toddlers to improve emergency preparedness

ABC Online, Other, 02/03/2025, Adriarne Reardon and Eddie Williams

When it comes to knowing what to do in a natural disaster, many families might have an idea of where they will evacuate to and what they will pack. But gathering supplies with a baby or toddler in tow is a very different situation. From the Black Summer bushfires five years ago emerged a gap in emergency preparedness and resources, specifically among families with infants and evacuation centres which hosted them.

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Doctor Zac Turner uncovers Australians' dirty little secret

NEWS.com.au, Other, 02/03/2025, Zac Turner

An Australian doctor has revealed the bizarre, X-rated treatment that you need to give up immediately – before it's too late. It's important to take care of your joints as you age. Here's a simple solution to make sure they get the love they need. .

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

'I'm not ready to go': more brain surgery for Scolyer

The Australian, General News, 03/03/2025, Hannah Wilcox, Page 3

Former joint Australian of the Year Richard Scolyer will undergo surgery on Monday as his fight ramps

up against his bout of highly aggressive and incurable brain cancer. A recent scan discovered changes in Professor Scolyer's brain almost three years after having the bulk of the grade four glioblastoma tumour removed, and there are fears it may indicate the tumour is growing back.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Hearing Henry

Northern Territory News, General News, 03/03/2025, Taylor Mason, Page 1

Lucy Barras never expected her newborn son Henry to be anything but perfect. So when a routine hearing test at Darwin Hospital revealed no immediate concerns, she and her husband carried on, blissfully unaware of what lay ahead. But three weeks later, a follow-up test confirmed their tiny baby was profoundly deaf in both ears.

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Member for Parkes in recovery after undergoing cancer surgery

Daily Liberal, General News, 03/03/2025, Allison Hore, Page 3

A longstanding member of federal parliament is in recovery after surgery for cancer. Member for Parkes Mark Coulton, who has held the seat for 16 years, is urging the community to be sun-safe after undergoing a three hour surgery to remove his third melanoma.

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Sam Short explains why he is the ambassador for the Swim for a CURE fundraiser in March

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/03/2025, Andrew Dawson

Queensland's world championship winning swimmer Sam Short has leapt at the chance to be an ambassador for the Cure Cancer's Match fundraiser, Swim for a CURE, after recalling his lucky escape from a melanoma diagnosis. Swim for a CURE will run throughout March, calling on the community to adopt a swimmer and donate money depending on how many kilometres they swim during March.

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Residents rally in support of pollution filters on West Gate Tunnel project

ABC Online, Other, 02/03/2025

The Victorian government won't commit to adding filters to ventilation stacks on the West Gate Tunnel despite ongoing concerns about air quality in Melbourne's inner west. [...] "Everyone should be alarmed that our kids have one of the worst hospitalisation rates for asthma in Australia. We need to fix this.

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Bunnings worker's life changes forever hours into her shift

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/03/2025, Matt Jones

A young mum-of-three started her shift at Bunnings thinking it was just like any other day - before she experienced a life-changing medical crisis. Annmaree Patten Lucas, 33, was rushed to hospital after collapsing with low blood pressure at a Bunnings warehouse in Narrabri, north-western NSW , last Wednesday. A follow-up MRI revealed she had suffered a stroke at work.

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PRIMARY CARE

KKR writes \$300m cheque for Family Doctor GP chain

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 03/03/2025, Page 16

KKR's private credit team is coming for Australia's \$30 billion market for general practice medical

services. Street Talk can reveal the private capital juggernaut has agreed terms to invest in Family Doctor Group, a chain of GP clinics set up by former e...

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Medicare Urgent Care Clinic for Darwin if Labor wins election

Northern Territory News, General News, 03/03/2025, Harry Brill, Page 8

If re-elected, the Albanese government is promising to deliver Darwin a second Medicare Urgent Care Clinic as part of a \$644m commitment to open 50 centres across the nation. With Palmerston already home to a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, it is expected the new clinic would start operations in the 2025-26 financial year.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Urgent care clinic promise

Cairns Post, General News, 03/03/2025, Samuel Davis, Page 2

Labor has matched the Coalition's commitment to open an urgent care clinic in Cairns if re-elected, with the location still yet to be determined. The LNP's candidate for Leichhardt, Jeremy Neal, announced on Saturday that an elected Dutton government would deliver the health service for the Far North.

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Election fever: PM off to Canberra but only for a party

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/03/2025, Andrew Brown and Rachael Ward, Page 4

Anthony Albanese has ramped up his campaign on Labor's health record ahead of the federal election, amid rising speculation he could call the poll within days. Labor has pledged \$644 million to open 50 new Medicare urgent care clinics by June 2026, if it wins a second term in office, with more centres to open in every jurisdiction.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Michael West Media \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Labor promises it will open 50 more Medicare urgent care clinics across the country

9News, Other, 02/03/2025

Labor has promised it will open 50 more urgent care clinics as part of its \$8.5 billion Medicare boost. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese today said the Labor government would spend \$644 million to open the clinics if elected in the 2025/2026 financial year.

[Read More](#)

Doctors' body slams \$644m Labor promise of more urgent care clinics - 'no sign they're providing value for money'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/03/2025, Padraig Collins

Doctors have slammed Labor's \$644million promise of 50 more urgent care clinics if it wins the coming election, saying there is no sign they provide 'value for money'. The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) - the peak body for general practitioners - has again raised concerns about one of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's major election ploys.

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More bulk-billed clinics to boost budgets: treasurer

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/03/2025

An increase in the number of bulk-billed urgent care clinics within 20 minutes of homes will take pressure of family budgets, the treasurer says. The federal government has vowed to open an extra 50

clinics by the end of June 2026 if it secures a second term, with polls showing the gap narrowing between the major parties ahead of the upcoming election, which could be called within days.

[Read More](#)

Labor pledges \$644m for 50 new Medicare urgent care clinics across Australia

The Guardian, Other, 02/03/2025

The federal Labor government has vowed to open an extra 50 bulk billing urgent care clinic by mid-2026 if it secures a second term at the upcoming election. The election pledge means most Australians could be living within 20 minutes of a Medicare clinic, Labor has claimed. The \$644m plan aims to deliver extra clinics in every state and territory, however, while the government has released a list of target areas the final sites would be decided independently.

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Improving palliative care for people who use alcohol and other drugs

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/03/2025

There is a need to improve access to and experiences of palliative care for people who use alcohol and other drugs when faced with terminal medical conditions. Effective harm reduction interventions mean that people who use alcohol and other drugs are living longer, and continue to use substances as older individuals.

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Medicare clinics vow: 20 minute drive or less from care

Michael West Media, Other, 02/03/2025

Most Australians could be living within 20 minutes of a bulk billing urgent care clinic, under a federal Labor pre-election promise. The government has vowed to open an extra 50 clinics by the end of June 2026 if it secures a second term, with the polls suggesting a tight race between the two major parties.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 02/03/2025, Fauziah Ibrahim and Richard Davies

The Federal Government has pledged to commit over \$640m to urgent care clinics if it's re-elected. This includes an additional 50 urgent care clinics, which offer only bulk billed consultation and operate on a walk-in basis. This comes after Labor pledged \$8.5b in its second term to lift bulk billing rates, a promise which the Coalition matched.

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

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Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend) , 02/03/2025, Chris Bath

The Albanese Government has announced it wants to build another 50 urgent care clinics if re-elected. PM Anthony Albanese says the Government prioritises people's health.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#).

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

New data shows Aussie kids are in the midst of a mental health crisis

Adelaide Now, Other, 02/03/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker

Exclusive new data shows Aussie kids are embracing the US therapy trend with a staggering more than one in three seeking professional support from a counsellor or psychologist. News Corp

Australia's newly-released Great Australian Parent Survey finds 36.9 per cent of young people have visited a mental health professional.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nurses' union in funding dispute

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/03/2025, Simon Mcguire, Page 13

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Foundation is in a dispute with Primary Health Tasmania over federal government funding for expanding services on the West Coast. In May, the federal government announced it would provide \$4.25m for a three-year model to deliver health services to the West Coast, which involved using nurse practitioners to fill gaps where needed; however, the actual figure is unknown as PHT holds onto the funds it received for the nurse practitioner model.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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RPA to reality: Abi scrubs up for a dream opportunity

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 03/03/2025, Samantha Newsam, Page 1

Constable laughed that she'd be a millionaire if she had a dollar for every time someone has said to her: 'your last name's constable, how funny would it be if you're a police officer'. For the record, she's not. But, she's not in a too dissimilar field in the sense of serving the community, recently starting as a registered nurse at Tamworth hospital.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Hospital pay stoush could get disorderly

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 03/03/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 11

Hospital orderlies seeking pay rises are taking a leaf out of ambulance protests by daubing protest graffiti on SA Health property. The patient services officers now taking industrial action have started writing protest signs on emergency department doors at Flinders Medical Centre (FMC) as paramedics did on ambulances in the leadup to the 2022 state election amid claims they are so overworked and underpaid it is affecting patient care.

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Combatting the GP shortage crisis

Western Advocate, General News, 03/03/2025, Alise McIntosh, Page 1

It's been 10 years since Ochre Health Medical Centre first opened its doors in Bathurst and, since then, it has been through significant change. Though one of those changes is an increase in services, there is still much more to be done to ensure Bathurst isn't significantly impacted by an unprecedented doctor shortage.

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Reimagining systems to elevate women in global health leadership

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/03/2025

Achieving gender equity in global health will require reimagining of how health systems operate, including who leads and the traits they possess, who is valued within the health system and how they are remunerated, and what inclusivity means in terms of knowledge production and its impacts.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Drug's listing a big win

Herald Sun, General News, 03/03/2025, Zoe Smith, Page 9

Australians suffering from the debilitating condition Cushing's disease have scored a huge win after a vital medication was added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. It is estimated up to 1600 Australians are living with Cushing's Disease, with about 41 new cases of the disease diagnosed across the country each year.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Don't blame us, mess is Libs' fault

West Australian, General News, 03/03/2025, Page 11

Anthony Albanese has defended his government's money management and attacked the Coalition's record on Medicare in an interview on Sunday. Speaking to 60 Minutes, the Prime Minister was pushed on whether his job could be on the line over Labor's response to Australia's cost-of-living crisis.

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

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More people are asking generative AI questions about their health. But the wrong answer can be risky

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/03/2025

More people are turning to generative artificial intelligence (AI) to help them in their daily and professional lives. ChatGPT is one of the most well-known and widely available generative AI tools. It gives tailored, plausible answers to any question for free. There is so much potential for generative AI tools to help people learn about their health. But the answers are not always correct.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Fatal exposure

Herald Sun, General News, 03/03/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Hospitals are failing to properly investigate potentially preventable child deaths, prompting calls for an urgent overhaul of the flawed reporting system. The Herald Sun can reveal Victoria's peak doctors' group has been urging the state government to act after its healthcare safety office Safer Care Victoria was left in the dark about cases of serious, sometimes fatal, issues in children's care.

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No 'best practice' in death of infant

Herald Sun, General News, 03/03/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 9

A newborn who died after receiving a lower-than-recommended dose of medicine may have been saved if the hospital had acted quicker, a coroner has found. Amir was two days old when he died at the Royal Women's Hospital from respiratory distress syndrome, pneumonia and a collapsed lung, in August 2020.

Preventable deaths

Herald Sun, Editorials, 03/03/2025, Page 24

The whole point of reform to identify preventable hospital deaths was to ensure any systemic or procedural causes were quickly picked up and rectified. But, as revealed in today's Herald Sun, the systems in place to advise Safer Care Victoria of potentially avoidable deaths appear to fail themselves.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Drones to transform military healthcare

Northern Territory News, General News, 03/03/2025, Taylor Mason, Page 3

Charles Darwin University is leading a groundbreaking project to integrate heavy-fuel cargo drones into battlefield operations, aiming to revolutionise medical supply delivery in war zones. The project, run by CDU's North Australia Centre for Autonomous Systems, is backed by the Queensland Defence Science Alliance.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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DNA, disease and dilemmas: testing genes of newborns

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/03/2025, Rachael Ward, Page 12

Hours after giving birth, Tammie Rees made a decision that saved her daughter's life. The mother of three decided to have daughter Ava checked for genetic conditions in a blood spot "heel prick test" and did not think much of it until it came back with a serious diagnosis.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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SPORT

Vegas a winning gamble for Foxtel

The Australian, Media, 03/03/2025, James Manning and James Madden, Page 20

The relocation of NRL teams to Las Vegas for the league's opening round for the second consecutive year wasn't just a marketing windfall for the sport's governing body. Patrick Delany, chief executive of the Foxtel Group, explained to The Australian from Las Vegas what the initial 2024 initiative meant to the subscription TV platform.

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Touch footy's Olympic dream

Courier Mail, General News, 03/03/2025, Peter Jenkins, Page 1

Rugby league bosses have dropped an Olympic bombshell, revealing radical plans for touch football to be part of the Brisbane Games in 2032. Report P3 Olympic plan touch and go NRL proposal to be part of the 2032 Games Rugby league bosses have dropped an Olympic bombshell, revealing radical plans to be part of the Brisbane Games in 2032.

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

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Coast's swanky new stadium plans

Burnie Advocate, General News, 03/03/2025, Tess Kelly, Page 3

Hobart isn't the only place in Tasmania that has its eyes on shiny new stadium facilities. Across the North-West, new multi-purpose sporting facilities have been earmarked for Burnie, Devonport and Somerset.

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'You owe us a stadium'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/03/2025, Page 2

Matildas and Socceroos players are demanding a new football stadium at Perry Park "in return" for the inspiration the squads have delivered to millions of Australians. An open letter signed by 15 current and former Matildas, Socceroos and Brisbane Roar players has been sent to the state government as it considers the draft Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure review report.

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AFL admits it has lost control of online gambling oversight amid spike in 'integrity risks'

The Guardian, Other, 03/03/2025, Henry Belot

The afl has admitted its integrity system for online gambling is seriously deficient and struggles to identify whether players, coaches and staff are using inside information to manipulate betting markets, in breach of their contracts.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Lifeline for millions in his veins

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/03/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 10

A tall and good-looking man was waiting for Robyn Barlow in a bed bay on the ground floor of the Australian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service at 1 York Street one afternoon in 1967. James Harrison had a deep voice, a lovely smile and he cut a fine figure in his suit.

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

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Hope for ovarian cancer

Herald Sun, General News, 03/03/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 3

An Australian-grown discovery has collared the culprit causing deadly ovarian cancer to return and spread after treatment. Hudson Institute of Medical Research scientist Dr Maree Bilandzic was the first to discover the role of rogue leader cells that she calls the "backseat drivers" of the disease.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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Local MND research initiative is a game-changer

Daily Advertiser, General News, 03/03/2025, Jeremy Eager, Page 2

Wagga neurologist Dr Martin Jude has treated patients with motor neurone disease (MND) for the past three decades. During that time, he said the outcome for someone with the disease has not changed. "We're better at the diagnosis, we're better at treating symptoms, we're better at looking after our patients, but they all still die," he said.

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Promising research in taking 'forever' out of chemicals

Canberra Times, Other, 03/03/2025, Jack Gramenz

So-called "forever chemicals" could be safely and completely destroyed by incineration according to a research effort involving Australian scientists in a bid to combat pollution from the substances. Concerns have been mounting for years about per- and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals, most recently from discoveries in drinking water, as awareness grows about the substances, which do not break down in the environment and are believed to cause significant harm to humans and animals.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Smoking study aims to improve health outcomes for First Nations children

ABC Online, Other, 02/03/2025, James Taylor

When Vanessa Withington's waters broke as she waited for breakfast in a fast-food drive-through, her mind raced through everything she needed to do before giving birth. She had some extra tasks ahead of her as she went into labour because she was taking part in a "trailblazing" study investigating the impact of cigarette smoke on Indigenous infants

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Embedding culture in co-designed chronic disease programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/03/2025, Rona Macniven and Karla Canuto

Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for improving the modifiable risk factors of tobacco smoking, nutrition, alcohol consumption, physical activity, and social and emotional wellbeing can reduce the prevalence of chronic disease. 1 However, health promotion programs have typically focused on the individual level rather than broader actions, such as establishing supportive environments or reorienting health care services.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Council attempts to block music festival

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 03/03/2025, Jonathon Magrath, Page 4

Organisers of a psychedelic regional music festival have been told to cancel the event a week before it was due to be held because of "significant" health and safety concerns. [...] Last year's event was marred by a significant outbreak of shigellosis, which affected more than 250 festivalgoers.

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CHHHS, Far North medical bodies investigate 'record' spike in melioidosis cases

Cairns Post, Other, 02/03/2025, Catherine Duffy

The cause of a 'record-breaking' tropical disease outbreak is under investigation by peak medical bodies, following 12 deaths across North Queensland but what is melioidosis? One in five people are dying of a record breaking tropical disease with more than three times the number of cases reported this year compared to last.

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Sexyland selling unapproved sex performance drugs in Victorian stores

ABC Online, Other, 02/03/2025

Adult store chain Sexyland is selling unapproved sexual performance drugs over the counter at several of its shops in Victoria. Sexyland is supplying tablets and gels advertised to prolong sex for males, with effects similar to Viagra, in at least four of its stores in Victoria — in Geelong, Hallam, Moorabbin and Springvale. [...] The five products are not approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration and are generally illegal to import, manufacture, supply and advertise in Australia.

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When birth control has unwanted side effects, what are your options?

ABC Online, Other, 02/03/2025

For the first time in more than 30 years, a contraceptive pill has been added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). [...] According to the TGA, approximately 9 to 12 per 10,000 women (0.09 to 0.12 per cent risk) taking a contraceptive pill containing drospirenone may develop blood clots annually.

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Botched Botox jabs can be dangerous. Some Australians don't even realise what they're receiving

The Guardian, Other, 02/03/2025, Daisy Dumas

The Sydney cosmetic injectors look the part: social media photos show them mid-procedure, wearing scrubs, clinical tool in hand. [...] As popular as botulinum toxin – the active ingredient in the Therapeutic Goods Administration-listed anti-wrinkle treatments known by a range of brands including Botox, Dysport, Xeomin, Letybo and Nuceiva – has become, its use remains tightly regulated by the TGA, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and state departments of health.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Tried and tested

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 03/03/2025, Nadine Morton, Page 1

Wollongong festival Yours and Owls was chosen to kick-off Australia's first government-led pill testing trial at the weekend, with health workers and chemists inside the gates to go through the process. The free and anonymous service tests the purity and potency of illicit drugs and whether they contain any life-threatening or unknown substances.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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New recommendations for opioid agonist treatment in Australian prisons

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/03/2025

A new consensus statement on opioid agonist treatment (OAT) in custodial settings has been published in the Medical Journal of Australia. Opioid use and dependence are prevalent among incarcerated people in Australia, contributing to high rates of overdose and other harms in this population.

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Fast food chains are mushrooming across Australia – but at what cost?

The Guardian, Other, 03/03/2025, Jonathan Barrett and Natasha May

It wasn't that long ago Australians had only a handful of fast food options. Want a burger? Then it was probably McDonald's or Hungry Jack's. Desire for a chicken dinner would have led you to KFC, Red Rooster or, for those in Western Australia, Chicken Treat. Many will still remember Pizza Hut's phone number jingle – unless you preferred Domino's.

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AICIS

No relevant coverage

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