



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 3rd April 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (online) reports domestic medical manufacturing is increasing on the back of support from the National Reconstruction Fund and Medical Research Future Fund as the country moves to reduce its reliance on global supply chains, with Health Minister Mark Butler noting the COVID pandemic highlighted the need to produce the latest vaccines in Australia.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) leads coverage reporting NSW public hospital doctors will strike for three days next week as they continue to fight for a 30 per cent pay rise and improved conditions, while the NSW Government has offered a three per cent rise.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (online) reports 28 per cent of public school students in NSW have been identified as having a disability, driven by a rise in diagnoses of autism and social and emotional disabilities and leading to calls for more tailored support and funding in the education system.
- **[SBS](#)** reports a new COVID variant now accounts for 20 per cent of reported cases in NSW with changes to the genetic structure of the LP.8.1 version believed to enable it to spread more easily, as Australia records almost 45,000 COVID cases to date this year.
- **[Channel 7](#)** leads widespread coverage reporting a trial of a concussion app has shown it can detect concussion among athletes with 100 per cent accuracy by analysing their eye

movement, with hopes the app will soon form part of the concussion-testing protocols for AFL and NRL players.

- **The Herald Sun** (page 5) leads News Corp coverage reporting an international study of 280,000 people has found a shingles vaccine may decrease the risk of dementia by 20 per cent, adding to evidence linking herpes virus infections such as shingles with a higher risk of developing dementia.
- **The Canberra Times** (online) leads coverage reporting the AMA is calling for changes to laws around voluntary assisted dying to enable doctors to provide services via telehealth, a move which the peak medical body believes would benefit people living in regional and remote areas and those who may not have easy access to in-person consultations.
- **The Geelong Advertiser** (page 1) reports Victorian Labor MPs are concerned by a proposed move by the Geelong City Council to stop providing in-home personal and home care services to around 3,000 elderly people after an independent review recommended specialist aged care providers would deliver the best standard of care.

MINISTER BUTLER

Why 'Americanisation' has become Labor's sledge

Australian Financial Review, General News, 03/04/2025, Tom McLroy, Page 1

If there was any doubt about how Labor would play the Donald Trump card during this election campaign, the past 24 hours have dispelled it

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

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Trans youth treatments stay

Northern Territory News, General News, 03/04/2025, Zizi Averill, Page 10

The Territory government has dismissed calls to deny trans and gender-diverse teenagers access to "lifesaving" hormone treatments and puberty blockers. [...] In January, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said new national guidelines for gender-affirming care would be released by the National Health and Medical Research Council in mid-2026.

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Made in Australia: ASX firms boosting local health and medical manufacturing

Herald Sun, Other, 02/04/2025, Nadine McGrath

Healthcare and medical manufacturing in Australia is gaining momentum with ASX companies at the forefront of growth. Healthcare and medical manufacturing in Australia is gaining momentum supported by initiatives from federal and state governments CSL, IDT Australia, Optiscan and Trajan Group among healthcare companies with manufacturing facilities in Melbourne [...] "Covid taught us how important it is to have the capability to manufacture the latest vaccines here in Australia," federal health minister Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

South Australia delivers on Kids Hubs, boosting early intervention and mental health

The Sector, Other, 02/04/2025, Freya Lucas

"The Marion Kids Hub is good news for families in southern Adelaide who have a child struggling with their mental health and wellbeing," Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said. "Families will be able to get the wraparound care they need – delivered locally and free by a team of experts."

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Saved by the bell: Grief service gets three-month extension

Griefline's phone counselling and online operations will continue until June 30, after the essential service was threatened with closure due to a funding slash. "With just 24 hours to go before its scheduled closure, Griefline has received confirmation that Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care, has agreed to provide additional funding for our helpline to continue operating," Griefline chief executive Kate Cahill told the Community Advocate.

[Read More](#)

Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 02/04/2025, Kim Millar

NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant is concerned more children will end up in hospital due to a global rise in measles cases and dropping vaccinations. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says they cannot be complacent about the importance of protecting babies from serious diseases.

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2SM, Breakfast, 02/04/2025, Ron Wilson

Interview with Griefline Chief Executive Kate Cahill about the closure of the bereavement support service following a lack of sustainable funding from the Federal Government. Cahill says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has intervened and provided Griefline \$300,000 in funding to continue trading for this financial year.

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ABC Newcastle, Drive, 02/04/2025, Jenny Marchant

Marchant says the Australian Men's Shed Association Executive Officer David Helmers is calling for more money for men's health programs generally across the country and for its organisation. She states Federal Health Minister Mark Butler believes in men's sheds and helping men and boys find social support mentally and physically.

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ABC Radio Hobart, 17:00 News, 02/04/2025

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, and Labor candidate for Braddon Anne Urquhart visited Burnie this afternoon and pledged \$8m for the Burnie Health Hub. Shortly after, Liberal candidate Mal Hingston announced that the Coalition will match Labor's funding commitment for the allied health service precinct at the former university campus in Northern Tasmania.

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MINISTER WELLS

Albo's posts with Abbie Chatfield under probe

MSN Australia, Other, 02/04/2025

[...] Sport and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells agreed Victorians particularly those commuting from the outer suburbs were feeling cost-of-living pressures keenly. "I have talked so much about the different measures over the past three years that we're doing that, but, I mean, I was out in Victoria in some of those outer metro suburbs a week or two ago, and it's good for us to get around and see it, feel it, experience the commute during peak hour," she said.

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DEPARTMENT

Labor says Dutton's public service cuts are from the 'DOGE' handbook. Here's where jobs could go

WA Today, Other, 02/04/2025, Natassia Chrysanthos and Olivia Ireland

Just a quarter of public servants hired since Labor came to power have been in Canberra, which will force Peter Dutton to cut 34,000 jobs from the rest of Australia or gut the capital city's bureaucracy to achieve his target for reduced government spending. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has grown by 2084 workers since it was the Department of Health under the Coalition, to 6967 workers, while there are 4367 employees in other health agencies.

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Is our digital health agenda getting too big not to fail?

The Medical Republic, Other, 02/04/2025, Jeremy Knibbs

If there was to be a big fat "whoa, look what happened here" warning sign for our energetic and ambitious health system interoperability architects in the Australian Digital Health Agency and the Department of Health and Aged Care, it was this week's Health Services Daily story out of WA about the collapse of a well-intended but big, complex, expensive and ambitious interoperability project to build a new eReferrals platform.

[Read More](#)

NBN Coffs Harbour, NBN News, 02/04/2025, Gavin Morris

A new University of Newcastle program aims to upskill nurses in training, which Tamworth Hospital's Sam Gardner hopes encourage them to work locally. This comes after the Department of Health and Aged Care found NSW will have a shortfall of about 8000 registered nurses by 2030.

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LA FM, 12:00 News, 02/04/2025

After the Federal Health Department expanded the definition of infertility, Single women and same-sex couples will now be able to access Medicare rebates for IVF.

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ABC Radio Canberra, 08:00 News, 02/04/2025

Federal Health Department data shows there were 421 flu cases reported in Canberra in the first quarter of last year, up almost 40 per cent. That's risen to 580 for this year. The Royal Australian College of GPs' Dr Emily Rushton says any natural immunity for the flu has gone away during the pandemic.

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VACCINES

Free flu vaccines as cases soar to record high

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/04/2025, Mara Mellits

Australia is in the grip of a record influenza wave, while COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses are also circulating widely. But there are ways to beat the bugs.

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A new COVID-19 variant is on the rise in Australia. Here's what we know about LP.8.1

SBS, Other, 02/04/2025, Thomas Jeffries

More than five years since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, we're still facing the regular emergence of new variants of the virus, SARS-CoV-2. The latest variant on the rise is LP.8.1. It's increasing in Australia, making up close to one in five COVID-19 cases in NSW.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Land lease giant GemLife tests appetite for IPO

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 03/04/2025, Page 18

Over-50s resort living player GemLife reckons it sold more homes last year and has a bigger pipeline than the \$957 million Lifestyle Communities. Now it's ready to test fund managers' appetite for an initial public offering.

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Tips to avoid stress, heartbreak

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 03/04/2025, Tom O'Callaghan, Page 6

So your adult children are badgering you about aged care, thanks to the Bendigo Advertiser's irritating decision to harp on about it in a new series on our aged care crisis. Part one looked at how people can be "stuck" in hospital due to lack of planning alongside a comment piece on why we don't want to talk about "ageing".

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City moves to axe aged care

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03/04/2025, Luke Griffiths, Page 1

A secret meeting will decide whether Geelong council continues to provide aged care after 300 workers were told that their jobs are in jeopardy because of City Hall's plan to exit a service that helps thousands of vulnerable residents across the region.

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

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Should Australian aged care homes do more to accommodate smokers?

HelloCare, Other, 02/04/2025, Jakob Neeland

For many elderly Australians, residential aged care is their home, a place where they expect to live with dignity and as much autonomy as possible. Person-centred care, a cornerstone of the aged care sector, aims to respect individual preferences and needs.

[Read More](#)

Don't get left behind on allied health

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 02/04/2025, Natasha Egan

Support at Home offers providers an opportunity to pivot into the allied health, reablement, and restorative care space, with benefits for both organisations and their clients, the department will tell Positive Ageing Summit. The Support at Home program manual's focus on reablement and wellness shows the government values allied health and therapy and expects the aged care sector to increase its offerings in these areas, positive ageing advocate Dr Tim Henwood tells Australia Ageing Agenda

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Unpacking aged care reform: Timely Summit to future-proof aged care

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 02/04/2025, Alex Jacobs

As Australia's aged care sector enters an era of unprecedented reform, providers will soon face a decisive transitional period as the new Aged Care Act ushers in unprecedented change. Yet many questions remain unanswered as providers and industry leaders juggle countless priorities and seek innovative solutions to help maintain financial sustainability, workforce stability and high-quality care.

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4BC, Afternoons, 02/04/2025, Sofie Formica

Interview with Fair Work Ombudsman Anna Booth about the Federal Government announcing a \$2.5 billion wage increase for 60,000 aged care nurses after more than \$40.5 million was recovered for 22,000 unpaid workers last financial year. Booth says workers who are not directly employed might be misclassified as independent contractors and not receive their payments through an enterprise agreement or the national employment standards.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 02/04/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson about calls to ensure aged care remains a national priority for Labor and the Coalition ahead of the federal election. Symondson says that in the last three years there have been wage increases, a new aged care act, and recommendations from the Royal Commission implemented but there are 83,000 people who cannot access services, a majority of aged care providers losing money, and a workforce crisis to be resolved.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Fines for illicit tobacco operators to increase 10-fold

Cairns Post, General News, 03/04/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 5

Illicit tobacco and vape operators will face on-the-spot fines of up to \$161,300 from today – a whopping 10-fold penalty increase – as the state government attempts to financially cripple the booming black-market industry. Health Minister Tim Nicholls said the changes were made to protect Queensland children and take away the financial incentive for illegal "chop shops" to operate as police grapple with increasing cases of tobacco shopfronts being firebombed and ram-raided.

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Record 221,000 NSW public school students diagnosed with disabilities

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/04/2025, David Barwell

The number of public school students identified as having a disability has hit a record high in NSW amid surging rates of young people diagnosed with autism and social and emotional disabilities. More than one in four NSW public school students are now identified as having a disability, sparking calls for more specialist teachers to be added to classrooms to keep up with demand.

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

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'Most people don't die from old age, they die from chronic disease'

Newcastle Herald, Other, 02/04/2025, Damon Cronshaw

NIB Foundation will give \$1 million to Hunter Medical Research Institute for projects on chronic disease, mental health and knee replacements. The move comes amid a big rise in these health concerns, partly due to the ageing population, obesity epidemic, economic inequality and isolation. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimates about 15.4 million people have at least one long-term health condition.

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New research reveals stress affecting sleep for one in two Australians

2GB, Other, 03/04/2025, Phil O Neil

For Stress Awareness Month, Phil speaks with Shannon Webb, psychologist at The Banyans Healthcare, about new research revealing that over six million Australians (25 per cent) lose sleep due to work worries. Experts stress the vital link between sleep and stress, as Australians report higher stress levels than the global average—48 per cent experience high daily stress compared to 41 per cent worldwide, and 61 per cent of workers suffer burnout, exceeding the global average of 48 per cent.

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Gold Coast vape stores shut, products seized in health authority raids

ABC Online, Other, 02/04/2025

Gold Coast smoke shops have been forced to shut after a city-wide crackdown targeting allegedly illegal tobacco and vapes. Gold Coast Health says a coordinated operation by its public health unit on retail stores on Tuesday resulted in the seizure of thousands of vapes and allegedly illegal tobacco products and the closure of five tobacconists.

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Women's health gains impact female-dominated professions

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 02/04/2025, Natalie Dragon

For predominantly female professions, recent gains under Federal Labor for women's health means more affordable reproductive health for nurses and midwives, with further commitments made by the Albanese Government if re-elected. For 55-year old registered nurse Allison, menopause was instrumental in her resignation from the profession.

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Star Ratings under fire: Are they hiding the truth?

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 02/04/2025, Alex Jacobs

A blistering report has put the Aged Care Star Ratings system on notice yet again after finding that the majority of aged care facilities with instances of non-compliance have still secured three or four-star ratings. The report penned by Adjunct Professor Rodney Jilek, "Groundhog Day" The Continuing Failure of the Aged Care Star Rating System, states that no progress has been made to improve the transparency, accuracy and ease of use of the Star Ratings System.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 02/04/2025, Ashleigh Gillon

Interview with University of Sydney Lead Study Author Bridie Osborne about a new study revealing at least 45.6 per cent of youths are living with a chronic disease or developmental conditions due to unhealthy habits. Osborne found that an unhealthy lifestyle and poor mental health can alter the gut microbiome, triggering an immune response.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 02/04/2025, Sally Sara

Interview with Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use Lead Study Author Bridie Osborne about new research finding almost half of Australian teenagers suffer from chronic

disease or a developmental condition. Sara states that the study was published today in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health and links these conditions to unhealthy habits.

Continuing interview on: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, 02/04/2025, Joel Rheinberger

Interview with Tasmanian Health Service Deputy Manager Occupational Therapy Kate Kearney about advice on fall prevention. Kearney says occupational therapists look at factors related to the person, the environment, and the occupational activities that they do when it comes to addressing risk factors for falls. She states approximately 30 per cent of people over 65 have at least one fall a year and people with conditions like Parkinson's or dementia also have an increase of falls.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 02/04/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with University of Sydney Lead Study Author Bridie Osborne about a new study revealing an increase of youths living with a chronic disease or developmental conditions due to unhealthy habits. Osborne says they captured data that looks into nutritional intake, exercise, screen time, alcohol, tobacco use, and sleep, which are key contributors to ill health later in life.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Helping with the unseen struggles

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 03/04/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 18

A mum-of-two who was juggling work in the health sector, a family business and as a volunteer specialist firefighter trainer has told of being "terrified" once given an incurable blood cancer diagnosis. She has also shared the reality of now living with "scanxiety", eight years after her diagnosis at 48, ever fearful of what the next set of tests will reveal.

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One in three cancer care errors

Courier Mail, General News, 03/04/2025, Page 20

Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Australian cancer care patients have a one-in-three risk of something going wrong during their care. In countries around the world, evidence suggests people from CALD backgrounds are at increased risk of harm as a result of the health care they receive when compared with the general population.

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

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Cancer unit's funds run dry

Cairns Post, General News, 03/04/2025, Arun Singh Mann, Page 3

Cairns' cancer centre will need \$1.5m annually from the federal governments for five years to survive, it has now been revealed. The Far North's Cairns-based state members of parliament have explained what being "champions" of a local cancer centre means in real terms as the focus turns towards the federal election campaign for funding commitments.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 02/04/2025, Spence Denny

Interview with South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute psychologist and PhD student Natalie Tuckey about the mental and emotional impact of the blood cancer multiple myeloma. Tuckey says myeloma only accounts for about 1 per cent of cancers with about 3,000 people in Australia each year being diagnosed with the condition. She states they are launching a survey for people with

myeloma and MGUS so they can raise awareness of the challenges cancer can bring and providing mental health support.

Continuing interview on: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

Controversy over calls to allow voluntary assisted dying via telehealth

Canberra Times, Other, 02/04/2025, Anthony Caggiano

There's a renewed push for doctors to be allowed to use telehealth for Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) services ahead of the federal election, though one group fears it's leading people down a path to "assisted suicide". Australian Christian Lobby chief executive officer Michelle Pearse said the country has "devalued life" by allowing VAD across the nation and was concerned changing current laws would increase risk of elder abuse.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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LNP slammed over 'undeliverable' Bundaberg Hospital

The Mercury, Other, 02/04/2025, Lexa Smith

Queensland Premier David Crisafulli has doubled down on his commitment to delivering the new \$1.2 billion Bundaberg Hospital, brushing aside claims the project has been scaled back and beds cut. The hospital - for which early work has begun - was set to be a game-changer for the region, with more than 400 beds, including 320 overnight beds, as well as expanded emergency and operating theatres, additional outpatient services, and a rooftop helipad for emergency medical airlift.

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Government invests in more nurses and midwives with planned hospital upgrades

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 02/04/2025

The Albanese Labor Government has pledged hundreds of millions to expand major public hospitals in Western Australia and South Australia in a bid to improve healthcare access and increase the number of highly skilled health workers, including nurses and midwives, to meet growing demand.

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Sixty-day scripts slow to find favour: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 02/04/2025, Jo Roberts

With a significantly lower-than-expected uptake, an RACGP expert says this could be caused by software impediments, complexity over medication eligibility, and patient views. A projected 45 per cent uptake in 60-day prescriptions by 2023–24 has come in at just 30 per cent, a new study shows.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 02/04/2025, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers discussing his criticism over Federal Opposition Peter Dutton and his federal policies. Chalmers says that that Labor does not want to see the Americanisation of the nation's health system nor for the strengths of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme to be traded away.

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SBS, World News Australia, 02/04/2025, Janice Petersen

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese recently announced an \$8.5b Medicare pledge and is now spruiking an \$8m urgent care clinic in Burnie together with Labor candidate for Braddon Anne Urquhart. Federal

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton also made an \$8m mental health youth announcement in Melbourne.

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Sky News Live, Credlin, 02/04/2025, Peta Credlin

Interview with Liberal candidate for Corangamite Darcy Dunstan about \$3m committed for a palliative care centre in Geelong. Dunstan says the Anam Cara House is a not for profit organisation which provides end of life services to palliative patients and is determined that it will not become another of Labor's broken promises.

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 02/04/2025, Laura Jayes

Interview with Liberal candidate for Robertson Lucy Wicks about the fate of urgent care clinics after the federal election. Wicks criticises Labor Member for Robertson Gordon Reid for failing to increase bulk billing in the community, noting that it has dropped by 11.3 per cent under his governance.

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 02/04/2025, Laura Jayes

Interview with Labor Member for Robertson Gordon Reid about the fate of urgent care clinics after the federal election. Reid says Labor created bulk billed walk-in clinics which extended its operating hours for adults and children, which dissuaded them from going to hospital emergency departments. He states Liberal candidate Lucy Wicks has yet to commit keeping the clinics if the Coalition wins government.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 02/04/2025, Sally Sara

Interview with Federal Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong about US tariffs affecting Australia's beef and pharmaceutical industries. Wong says that Labor will continue to protect the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and Australia's biosecurity laws. She questions the extent Coalition Leader Peter Dutton will go into the Americanisation of the Australian health and education systems.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 02/04/2025, Sally Sara

Interview with Greens Leader Adam Bandt about their commitment to spend 1 per cent of the Federal Budget to protect the environment. Bandt says that the Greens are within reach of winning seats across Australia and hopes to create a minority parliament with Labor. He notes that the last time there was a minority parliament, the Greens had helped bring dental for kids into Medicare and is determined to get dental into Medicare for everyone.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicidal at only seven

Courier Mail, General News, 03/04/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 15

Seven-year-olds with suicidal thoughts are among the children reaching out for help to the Kids Helpline and the rise in the number of 11-year-olds at risk of suicidal harm has shocked even the trained counsellors. The launch of the 2024 Kids Helpline Impact Report has exposed the devastating levels of mental health trauma among younger children.

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Trans youth treatments stay

Northern Territory News, General News, 03/04/2025, Zizi Averill, Page 10

The Territory government has dismissed calls to deny trans and gender-diverse teenagers access to "lifesaving" hormone treatments and puberty blockers. [...] In January, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said new national guidelines for gender-affirming care would be released by the National Health and Medical Research Council in mid-2026.

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'Be curious': New campaign aims to improve autism understanding

SBS, Other, 02/04/2025, Biwa Kwan

A new campaign is encouraging Australians to engage in everyday actions to dispel misunderstandings around autism. A survey of more than 1,000 Australians has found 45 per cent had only a limited understanding of the lifelong neurodevelopmental condition.

[Read More](#)

RPA hospital closes HIV psychiatry clinic with 200 patients after staff resignations

The Guardian, Other, 02/04/2025, Natasha May

The resignation of psychiatrists from Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred hospital has led to the closure of a HIV psychiatry clinic with 200 patients, as well as a loss of specialist psychiatrist services for patients in the pain clinic and the most unwell eating disorder patients. [...] Dr Suzanna Goodison, a psychiatrist who resigned from the RPA, said there were about 200 patients discharged from the HIV clinic, and that some of those patients have since had contact with acute care mental health services as they have become unwell, while many others had to be discharged to their GPs.

[Read More](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 02/04/2025, Janice Petersen

A study of 5,000 Australian teenagers has found that almost 50 per cent of those surveyed live with chronic diseases or developmental conditions due to poor mental health and unhealthy lifestyle. Eczema Support Australia's Melanie Funk says hormonal changes during adolescence, heat, sweat, allergens, certain foods, poor sleep, excessive screen time can exacerbate the issue.

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SBS, World News Australia, 02/04/2025, Janice Petersen

Autism Spectrum Australia is marking World Autism Awareness Day by launching a campaign to help people understand how to better support people on the autism spectrum. A survey of more than 1,000 Australians conducted by YouGov has revealed only half believe they have a good understanding of autism. The Federal Government this year released its first Autism Strategy, which includes improvements in diagnosis and support, as well as greater social and economic inclusion.

Report continues on: [SBS \(Sydney\)](#).

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2CC, Breakfast, 02/04/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Autism Awareness Australia CEO Nicole Rogerson about World Autism Awareness Day. Rogerson says she will host a National Autism Summit where they will discuss how to make good policy for all Australians with autism. She states that recent findings show that 40 per cent of adults with autism remain unemployed and 78 per cent of them are still living at home with their parents.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 02/04/2025, Sally Sara

Interview with Lifeline Australia Chair Professor Stephen Moylan about a new initiative with Buildcorp to raise money for Help @ Hand Giving Day. Moylan says recent statistics from the Australian Bureau found suicide as the leading cause of death for young Australians between the age of 15 and 44.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Doctor strike to disable state's public hospitals

The Australian, General News, 03/04/2025, Penny Timms, Page 2

Public hospitals across NSW will be hit by industrial action as doctors walk off the job for three days next week in what is being described as a "crisis" in the state's health system. It's the latest in a series of disputes between medical workers and the NSW state government over pay and conditions, as critically understaffed hospitals try to cope with overcrowded wards and emergency departments.

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Doctors to defy court order and strike for three days over pay

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/04/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 4

Elective surgeries will be paused, clinics closed and hospitals brought to a standstill as doctors defy a court order and strike for three days next week in the latest dispute between health workers and the Minns government. NSW Health and the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation (ASMOF NSW) were called before the Industrial Relations Commission on Tuesday in an attempt to broker a deal after the doctors' union rejected two "insulting" pay offers.

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Sixth surgeon quits Canberra Hospital

Canberra Times, General News, 03/04/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 12

A resigning surgeon warns that a nation-leading medical department is at risk, as he becomes the eighth doctor, and sixth surgeon, to quit working at Canberra Hospital. Alexander Burns resigned from Canberra Health Services on Friday.

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Doctors to stage three-day walkout over hours, staff shortages

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/04/2025, Gabriel Fowler, Page 4

Doctors at John Hunter Hospital will join their colleagues across the state in a three-day strike next week, putting elective surgeries and outpatient clinics onhold. Doctors say they are fed up and allege that staffing shortages, low pay and excessive workloads in public hospitals have reached critical levels.

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Hire local, train local, and nurses stay local

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 03/04/2025, Jonathan Hawes, Page 3

A new program is rolling out in Tamworth to allow local healthcare professionals to upskill without making lengthy trips to metropolitan locations. Run by the University of Newcastle's Department of Rural Health, the Study in Place program aims to address ongoing nursing shortages across the New England region.

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Public hospitals to be left with 'skeleton' crew with ?thousands of doctors to walk off the job

The Australian, Other, 02/04/2025, Nathan Schmidt

Surgeries will be postponed and hospitals left for days with a "skeleton" crew as thousands of doctors prepare to walk off the job amid an ongoing pay dispute. Australian Salaried Medical Officers

Federation (ASMOF) members will undertake industrial action from April 8-10, with public hospital staff reduced to "public holiday levels".

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Doctors in NSW public hospitals threaten three-day strike over pay dispute, defying ban

The Guardian, Other, 02/04/2025, Elias Visontay

Thousands of doctors in public hospitals across New South Wales are threatening to strike for the first time in decades as they seek a pay rise of up to 30 per cent, as the state government warns the action could halt elective surgeries. Doctors have threatened a three-day walkout from public hospitals from Tuesday.

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Mental health workers strike to wrangle better pay deal

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/04/2025

Decked out in glittery cowboy hats and to the tunes of country classics, mental health workers have vowed to continue striking to wrangle a better pay deal following a state government's "insulting" offer. About 200 mental health workers, supported by other union allies, disrupted busy city streets as they marched to Victoria's steps of power on Wednesday to demand better pay and conditions in their enterprise bargaining agreement.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Victoria's nurse ratios to assure patient safety in public health system

The Mandarin, Other, 02/04/2025, Melissa Coade

Stronger nurse-to-patient ratios will enhance safety, improve working conditions, and ensure better care for Victorians. Laws have passed in the Victorian Parliament to put more nurses and midwives on shift — at all hours of the day — as part of new "gold standard" patient ratios.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 02/04/2025, Sandra Sully

NSW public hospital doctors are going on strike for three days, risking fines by the Industrial Relations Commission. Elective surgery will be disrupted in a pay dispute both doctors and NSW Health Minister Ryan Park say is ten years in the making. The NSW Government claims the wage increases would cost \$11b and fuel similar demands from nurses and midwives.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 02/04/2025, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

NSW public hospital doctors are going on strike for three days, meaning elective surgeries will be postponed, outpatient clinics and non-urgent consultations cancelled, and non-urgent procedures rescheduled. Emergency departments and critical care units will continue to be staffed at safe level levels. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park says calls for a 30 per cent pay increase would cost \$11b.

[Play Now](#)

ABC, ABC News, 02/04/2025, Jeremy Fernandez

Thousands of medics at NSW public hospitals will strike for three days next week calling for a pay rise of over 30 per cent in one year and better conditions. The Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation's Dr Mark Priestley says they are underpaid and overworked. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park is offering a 10.5 per cent wage increase over three years.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 02/04/2025, Chris Bath

Interview with Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation Executive Director Andrew Holland

about the NSW Health striking for three days next week in protest against poor working conditions and chronic understaffing. Holland says they have been in formal negotiation and talks with the NSW Government for under a year. He states NSW doctors are paid 30 per cent less than any other state and territory.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Region's healthy savings

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/04/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

Hunter residents have saved \$37 million in cheaper medicines through Albanese government moves to ease the cost of living. This included lowering the price of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicine, reducing the PBS safety net and introducing 60-day prescriptions.

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\$1.5 billion in uncertified PBS claims

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 02/04/2025, Page 1

The Department of Health and Aged Care is reminding pharmacists of their legal obligation to certify their claims for the supply of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines. It comes as the department and Services Australia work with pharmacists and stakeholders to continue to bring down the number of outstanding uncertified PBS claims, with an estimated \$1.51 billion worth outstanding in December last year.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

22yo student in tears over \$12k medical bill only Aussie women cop

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/04/2025

A young Australian woman was left in floods of tears after discovering a medical treatment she needs will cost "every last dollar she has to her name". [...] In Australia, elective egg freezing can cost anywhere from \$5000 to \$15,000 per cycle, with ongoing storage fees of around \$500-\$600 per year, Medicare typically doesn't cover these costs.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Stats tell 'compelling' e-script story

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/04/2025

Electronic prescribing is becoming standard practice in primary care, according to an ADHA official. Uptake of electronic prescriptions is on the rise the Australian Digital Health Agency's (ADHA's) medicines safety program director, Vicki Ibrahim says.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

DAZN wins Foxtel as FIRB ticks \$3.4b deal

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 03/04/2025, Sam Buckingham-Jones, Page 19

News Corp and Telstra have finalised the sale of Foxtel to British sports streaming group DAZN after the deal was approved by the Foreign Investment Review Board last week.

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

Channel 7, Seven News, 02/04/2025, Peter Mitchell

Braineeye Chief Scientific Officer Professor Joanne Fielding says their app is used in the diagnosis and management of concussion with 100 per cent accuracy. The app was developed with Monash University and was tested in a trial backed by the AFL. Braineeye CEO Steve Rosich says as a former AFL club CEO commends the results of the app.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today , 02/04/2025, James Bracey and Sarah Abo

Interview with Braineeye Chief Scientific Officer Professor Joanne Fielding about a new smartphone app that is used in the diagnosis and management of concussion with 100 per cent accuracy. Fielding says the app uses AI and cloud based technology to measure the way the eye responds to simple on screen stimuli. She states the app can be an objective measure of function for potentially millions of amateur players that play in the NRL and AFL.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 02/04/2025, Tiffany Warne

Chief Scientific Officer Professor Joanne Fielding says the Braineeye app developed in Melbourne could become a globally recognised tool used in the diagnosis and management of concussion. A clinical trial of 348 AFL players tracked the accuracy of the app against traditional medical methods. The app was also tested on more than 120,000 members of the public and within sporting clubs like Queensland's Southport Sharks.

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2GB, Mornings, 02/04/2025, Mark Levy

Interview with Braineeye Chief Scientific Officer Professor Joanne Fielding about a new smartphone app that is used in the diagnosis and management of concussion with 100 per cent accuracy. Fielding says the app is a TGA-registered medical device that provides a user with a snapshot of their brain function. She states they have been running studies with the AFL this year and hopes to introduce the app to other codes of sport in Australia.

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3AW, Mornings, 02/04/2025, Tom Elliott

Interview with Braineeye Chief Scientific Officer Professor Joanne Fielding about a new smartphone app that is used in the diagnosis and management of concussion with 100 per cent accuracy. Fielding says the app is a TGA-registered medical device that provides a user with a snapshot of their brain function.

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ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 02/04/2025, Geraldine Mellet

Interview with Braineeye Chief Scientific Officer Professor Joanne Fielding about a new smartphone app that is used in the diagnosis and management of concussion with 100 per cent accuracy. Fielding says the app is a TGA-registered medical device that provides a user with a snapshot of their brain function. She states they tested the app with over 350 players from ten AFL clubs.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Research funds crisis

Herald Sun, General News, 03/04/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 8

Victoria's cash-strapped research institutes have cut the roles of more than 100 scientists working on lifesaving medical research in the last year, a peak body has warned. The Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes Victorian chapter linked the growing number of job losses across the sector to the state government's "record low support" for the true cost of their work.

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

Study to pick up on MND earlier

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 03/04/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 21

In Australia, two people are diagnosed daily with motor neurone disease (MND) but still some indicators are being overlooked, a team of Adelaide researcher say. The Flinders University researchers will now investigate lesser known symptoms of the debilitating disease which is the focus of the annual Big Freeze campaign, in a bid to improve care for those suffering from it and to create a consistent nationwide approach to treatment.

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

New study finds antibiotics can reduce babies' immune response to vaccines due to gut bacteria changes

West Australian, Other, 03/04/2025, Hannah Cross

Giving antibiotics to newborns can impair their ability to take up vaccines, new Australian research has found. The researchers discovered the link in a study of 191 healthy babies they followed from birth to 15 months to track how their immune systems responded to vaccines.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Flu numbers in 'ominous' early surge

Age, Wrap, 03/04/2025, Broede Carmody, Page 1

Recorded cases of influenza in the first quarter of the year have hit an all-time high, as the state enters "uncharted territory" during the winter peak flu season. There were more than 10,000 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases across Victoria in the first quarter of this year, a year-on-year surge of more than 47 per cent and the highest number since regular quarterly reporting began in 2000.

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

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Giving newborns antibiotics affects effectiveness of vaccines

West Australian, General News, 03/04/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 15

Giving antibiotics to newborns can impair their ability to take up vaccines, Australian research has found. Researchers found the link in a study of 191 healthy babies they followed from birth to 15 months to track how their immune systems responded to vaccines.

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Warning on flu season

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/04/2025, 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.

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Shingles jab brain boost

Herald Sun, General News, 03/04/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 5

It works against dementia too, study finds A vaccine already available to treat the shingles virus may also reduce the risk of dementia by 20 per cent. A unique study of more than 280,000 people in Wales, published overnight in the journal Nature, suggests it could be a cost-effective way to prevent or delay new cases of the debilitating condition that affects memory and thinking.

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

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Is Australia heading for a massive measles outbreak?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 02/04/2025, Chloe Hava

From the United States to Europe, India and Southeast Asia – measles cases have been exploding worldwide. In Texas, a measles outbreak with more than 500 cases is ravaging the state – leading to the death of an unvaccinated six-year-old child .

[Read More](#)

Aged between 32 and 59? You might need another measles shot if you're heading overseas

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 02/04/2025, Kate Mcilwain

The state's health chief says many adults will need another dose of measles vaccination, as cases of the disease continue to rise around the world. The NSW Government is calling on people planning to travel overseas during the April holiday period to ensure they and their family are fully protected against measles.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 02/04/2025, Samantha Donovan

Australian health officials are urging people to be alert to the risk of measles after a worrying rise in the number of cases. The World Health Organization estimates more than 100,000 people died from measles in 2023 across the world. Westmead Paediatric Infectious Diseases physician Dr Phil Britton says measles can cause children to have complications like pneumonia, encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain.

Report continues on: [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#).

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Made in Australia: ASX firms boosting local health and medical manufacturing

The Mercury, Other, 02/04/2025, Nadine Mcgrath

Healthcare and medical manufacturing in Australia is gaining momentum with ASX companies at the forefront of growth. [...] Its Melbourne manufacturing facility is cGMP compliant and regularly audited by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Coles, Woolworths, Aldi and IGA recall salad products after E. coli detection

ABC Online, Other, 02/04/2025, Justine Longmore

Packets of salad greens are at the centre of a national supermarket recall over E. coli contamination concerns. [...] Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) said shiga-toxin producing E.coli (STEC) was detected in two pre-packaged, ready-to-eat spinach products purchased from separate Queensland supermarkets during routine public health surveillance.

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AICIS

Pacific Dunes PFAS water test results

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/04/2025, Page 8

The NSW Environment Protection Authority has found no evidence to support a claim that surface water near Medowie is polluted with high levels of forever chemicals. It follows evidence by Pacific Dunes residents Paul Rooms and Michael Walton who told a recent parliamentary inquiry hearing that a surface water sample taken from within the community precinct contained per-and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals, also known as PFAS, at 54 times greater than Australian best practice guidelines.

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