



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 6th April 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sunday Age](#) (page 1) reports that local sports clubs in marginal seats are pressing federal election candidates for funding pledges as the Government and Opposition seek to cultivate community goodwill.
- The [Sunday Times](#) (page 1) reports that a 19-year-old AFL player badly concussed in training last January has refused the advice of the league's Independent Medical Concussion Panel to sign a "medical retirement", choosing to keep playing.
- The [Sunday Herald Sun](#) (page 3) reports that of about \$1.2 million raised by peak charity Endometriosis Australia in 2023-24, it spent \$182,000 on research and \$41,000 on "film production costs". Also reported by: [Sunday Telegraph](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#), [NEWS.com.au](#)
- The [Sunday Tasmanian](#) (page 3) reports that a Tasmanian pensioner has been given a suspended sentence for supplying medicinal cannabis for pain relief, reigniting calls for decriminalisation.
- The [Sun Herald](#) (page 4) reports that BreastScreen NSW will begin breast density reporting from this month, in line with best-practice recommendations from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.

- The [**Sunday Territorian**](#) (page 4) reports that the Federal Government has pledged a new \$10.1 million aircraft to the CareFlight NT aeromedical service, to be delivered within six to 12 months of re-election.
- The [**Sunday Telegraph**](#) (page 5) reports that up to a sixth of residents in 69 of 780 aged care homes in NSW said they "never" feel safe there, according to surveys that go toward facilities' Star Ratings. *Also reported by:* [**Sunday Herald Sun**](#), [**Sunday Mail Brisbane**](#), [**Sunday Mail Adelaide**](#), [**Sunday Tasmanian**](#), [**Daily Telegraph Australia**](#)
- The [**Sunday Territorian**](#) (page 5) reports that Country Liberal candidate for the federal seat of Solomon, Lisa Bayliss has pledged \$3 million to upgrade the Tracy Village sporting precinct in Darwin's north should the Coalition be elected.
- The [**Sunday Age**](#) (page 6) reports that Victorian psychologists treating victims of crime are pushing for the state's assistance scheme to reimburse them directly, instead of requiring vulnerable patients to apply for funding.
- The [**Sunday Mail Adelaide**](#) (page 9) reports that an ongoing shortage of transdermal hormone replacement therapy patches is leaving menopausal and perimenopausal patients unable to access treatment, doctors describing TGA advice to turn away new patients to "preserve available supply" as unhelpful.
- The [**Sunday Times**](#) (page 12) reports aged care advocates warn that a lack of available information risks care providers being unready for the July 1 start of the \$4.3 billion Support at Home program. Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said home care recipients will be receiving information directly from the Department of Health and Aged Care in early April.

MINISTER BUTLER

Endometriosis Australia spent only \$180k on research despite \$1.2m in donations, grants

NEWS.com.au, Other, 05/04/2025, Nathan Schmidt, Isabella Garrido

[...] The Department of Health and Aged Care did not fund Endometriosis Australia for research work.

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler was also provided with detailed questions about the Department's engagement with Endometriosis Australia and whether it thought the funds provided were being spent appropriately, but did not respond before the government entered caretaker mode ahead of the federal election.

Also reported by: [**Northern Territory News \(Online\)**](#), [**West Australian \(Online\)**](#), [**Yahoo! Finance Australia \(Online\)**](#), and syndicated widely online

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Mum of trans teen sues over Queensland's puberty blocker ban

Q News, Other, 06/04/2025, Jordan Hirst

A mother of a transgender teenager has taken legal action against the Queensland government's ban on puberty blockers for trans young people. [...] Amid the backlash earlier this year, the federal government also announced a national review of gender-affirming healthcare. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler instructed the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to conduct it.

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MINISTER WELLS

Worries over at-home care

Sunday Times, General News, 06/04/2025, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 12

Confusion and uncertainty surround the biggest aged-care reforms in almost three decades, with advocacy groups warning some at-home care providers risk not being ready for the sweeping July 1

changes. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the Department of Health and Aged Care would write to home care recipients in early April to provide more information about what they could expect in the lead-up to Support at Home starting.

Also reported by: [The Nightly \(Online\)](#), [Countryman \(Online\)](#), and syndicated across Seven West Media websites

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Crisis in Australia's aged care system

Irrigator, General News, 05/04/2025, Saffron Howden, Page 8

Chris Noack doesn't know where his mum will live when she gets out of hospital. The 79-year-old was coping on her own in a Junee rented house for five years after the death of her husband.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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DEPARTMENT

Endometriosis Australia spent only \$180k on research despite \$1.2m in donations, grants

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VACCINES

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

'Never feel safe' in care

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 06/04/2025, Julie Cross, Page 5

Aged care residents in almost 70 homes across NSW say they never feel safe, a shocking survey reveals. While 57 homes got a perfect score for the question, "Do you feel safe here?", in 69 aged care facilities, up to a sixth of residents surveyed claimed that was never the case.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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We never feel safe in here

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 06/04/2025, Julie Cross, Mara Mellits, Annabel Fleming, Page 34

Aged-care residents in 50 homes across Victoria say they never feel safe, a shocking survey has revealed. While 47 homes got a perfect score for the question, 'Do you feel safe here?', in 50 aged-care facilities up to a fifth of residents surveyed claimed that was never the case.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#)

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We don't feel safe in our aged-care homes

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 06/04/2025, Julie Cross, Page 25

A private aged-care group which was rapped over the knuckles by the regulator for a lack of staff, has two out of the three lowest ranked homes in the state for safety, according to residents who live there. TriCare's Upper Mt Gravatt and Bundaberg facilities, were ranked lowest and third lowest respectively.

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

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We don't feel safe in our aged-care homes

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 06/04/2025, Julie Cross, Mara Mellits, Annabel Fleming, Page 22

One of South Australia's largest aged-care providers has some of the state's lowest-ranked facilities for safety, according to their own residents. In a survey, Estia Health's Hope Valley, Encounter Bay and Daw Park centres were ranked fourth, sixth and seventh lowest respectively.

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We don't feel safe in our aged-care homes

Aged-care residents in almost one in 10 Tasmanian aged-care homes feel unsafe, a new survey reveals. When asked the question, 'Do you feel safe here?' at least one resident from six aged care homes claimed they never felt safe.

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

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Every aged care home in Australia ranked on how safe residents feel

Northern Territory News, Other, 06/04/2025, Julie Cross, Mara Mellits, Annabel Fleming

Aged care residents in more than 200 homes across Australia never feel safe, a shocking survey reveals. While 158 homes got a perfect score for the question, 'Do you feel safe here?', in 216 aged care facilities, up to a fifth of residents surveyed claimed that was never the case.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Slips and misses: exaggerations from Albanese as Dutton gets lost in the Trump tariff blitz

Sunday Age, General News, 06/04/2025, Bronte Gossling, Page 12

Between Donald Trump's tariff blitz, Anthony Albanese's slip off a stage and the Australian Electoral Commission investigating and swiftly clearing influencer Abbie Chatfield of wrongdoing, it's difficult to know where to look since the prime minister called the election one week ago. [...] In fact, data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows hospital spending has consistently increased over the past 12 years, including before Tony Abbott shuffled Dutton out of the health portfolio in late 2014.

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Should this street be made smoke-free? New push for major shift

Daily Liberal, Other, 05/04/2025, Ciara Bastow

There may come a day when residents will be banned from smoking and vaping along Macquarie Street. In Dubbo Regional Council's 2025-2029 Crime Prevention Plan there are 28 actions the council will look at taking to make the region a safer place to live, including one around the investigation into a smoke-free Macquarie Street and in Wellington town centre.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Health charity spends on films

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 06/04/2025, Nathan Schmidt, Isabella Garrido, Page 18

Australia's peak endometriosis charity spent just over 10 per cent of the \$1m it received in donations and government grants on research, splashing almost \$350,000 on consultants and film production. Endometriosis Australia spent \$182,000 on research grants in the 2023-24 financial year, after making more than \$800,000 from donations and \$300,000 from grants, according to a financial statement published to the government's charity commission.

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

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Uterine fibroids are a common medical condition, and for some women it can be devastating

ABC Online, Other, 05/04/2025, Ruby Littler

Anne Johnson spent years trying to have a baby. She fell pregnant six times but wasn't able to carry a child to full term. Ms Johnson never knew her uterine fibroids were affecting her fertility, only learning about the extent of the condition later in life.

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PRIMARY CARE

Docs exposed to disease

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 06/04/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 15

Fed-up Queensland doctors working in some of the state's most high-risk areas without proper protective equipment will hold an emergency meeting with the chief health officer within days. Doctors who have been fighting for improvements in infection control at the state's hospitals for years will put pressure on CHO Heidi Carroll this week to urgently get moving on a plan to protect staff and patients.

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

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Labor pledges another plane

Sunday Territorian, General News, 06/04/2025, Harry Brill, Page 4

Federal Labor has made another healthcare election pledge, promising Territorians a \$10.1m aircraft which it says will support vulnerable patients across the Top End. On Friday, the Albanese government announced it would deliver a King Air B250 fixed-wing aircraft to CareFlight NT between six to 12 months of re-election.

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

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A surgeon, a tiny laser, and a cure to blow your mind

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 06/04/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 22

After almost 50 years of unpredictable, debilitating seizures, Dawn Kenny's once inoperable epilepsy comes down to no more than five minutes. That's about how long a neurosurgeon, using a laser so tiny that it can reach into parts of the brain so hard to reach that it once rendered her condition inoperable, needs to dissolve the responsible brain tissue.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Counsellors left unpaid as victims put at risk

Sunday Age, General News, 06/04/2025, Rachel Eddie, Page 6

Psychologists treating the victims of crime are out of pocket tens of thousands of dollars, as the state's new scheme makes it impossible for them to get paid unless their traumatised clients undertake an onerous, technical process. The Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) has made three budget bids to try to implement a system to allow practitioners to bill the government scheme directly, but these have been knocked back, Department of Justice and Community Safety correspondence obtained by The Age shows.

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Mental illness a drain

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 06/04/2025, Tanveer Ahmed, Page 87

Rising psychological claims in areas like workers compensation and the NDIS are creating a psychological welfare state. The Treasurer Daniel Mookhey is right to take a stand.

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Don't 'shut the bonnet' on speaking up

National Collision Repairer, General News, 01/04/2025, Page 43

The 'Don't Shut the Bonnet On It' campaign is a mental health initiative that supports the discussion around mental health through vibrant shirt designs. MTA Queensland has launched a new custom automotive work shirt in partnership with TradeMutt, the popular workwear brand famous for its eye-catching designs that promote mental health among the blue-collar community.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Child victims made to wait

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 06/04/2025, Lauren Novak, Leon Georgiou, Page 19

Children who have been sexually assaulted are waiting hours to have forensic evidence collected, without being allowed to wash or change their clothes. The dire situation has prompted calls for more trained health workers to conduct examinations and better use of technology to help victims in remote areas.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

More than 20 patients left with incomplete dental care after two WA dentists suspended

ABC Online, Other, 05/04/2025, Mietta Adams and Damian Smith

More than 20 patients have been left hundreds of thousands of dollars out of pocket and with unfinished dental work after their successive dentists were suspended while facing criminal charges. [...] Dr Mahadeva was charged with a criminal offences and had his license suspended by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in July 2024.

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Complaint protections strengthened

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 05/04/2025, Chris Brooker

Ahpra is tightening protections for those who complain about health professionals, while also announcing permanent identification of practitioners who commit sexual misconduct.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Big change for BreastScreen services in NSW

Sun Herald, General News, 06/04/2025, Nigel Gladstone, Page 4

BreastScreen NSW services will start reporting breast density later this month, as evidence grows that this increases cancer risk. Breast density – the ratio of fibroglandular (dense) tissue to fatty tissue – is reported in some jurisdictions, including Western Australia.

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

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SPORT

Sport and politics do mix, at election time

Sunday Age, General News, 06/04/2025, Roy Ward, Rachael Dexter, Page 1

Both major parties are committing hundreds of thousands of dollars to local sports clubs, hoping to capitalise on community goodwill. Across the country, clubs, teams, leagues and local councils are on the hustle for pledges of support.

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

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Coalition vow to upgrade precinct

Sunday Territorian, General News, 06/04/2025, Fia Walsh, Page 5

If elected, the Coalition will spend \$3m to upgrade a popular sports hub in Darwin's northern suburbs, a commitment welcomed as "a massive boost for grassroots sports". Country Liberal candidate for Solomon Lisa Bayliss was at the Tracy Village sporting precinct on Friday to make the announcement, which includes building two full-size football fields with lighting to go towards establishing Hellenic Athletic Club's home ground.

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

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Knockout blow

Sunday Times, General News, 06/04/2025, Craig O'Donoghue, Page 1

A medically-retired AFL youngster is contesting the league's concussion policies, refusing to sign documents that would end his dreams of playing at the highest level. Aiden O'Driscoll is seeking more opinions and brain scans to make an incredible comeback.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Vaccine's surprise dementia effect

In the middle of last year, on a hot and steamy Philadelphia day, Bryce Vissel was sitting in a nearly empty conference room. Most of his colleagues at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference were in the main hall, listening to a presentation on Lecanemab, the much-hyped and ultra-expensive new drug designed to bust amyloid-beta the creeping plaque scientists have long blamed for Alzheimer's.

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

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Perth team puts lethal infection on final notice

Sunday Times, General News, 06/04/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 16

When Professor Jonathan Carapetis says strep A is the "nastiest bug you've never heard of", he's not kidding. It's the fifth most lethal pathogen in the world and causes a mild sore throat for most people but for others the consequences can be life-altering, even fatal.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Parents must act on jabs

Sunday Times, Editorials, 06/04/2025, Page 35

Just over three months into the year and WA already has more than double the number of measles cases recorded last year. It's a sorry statistic that some of our most experienced medical professionals fear could continue to rise as local vaccination rates creep lower and outbreaks overseas run rampant.

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Japanese encephalitis and other mosquito-borne viruses likely to rise after record-breaking Queensland rain

ABC Online, Other, 05/04/2025, Stephen Clarke

Queenslanders are being warned of an expected surge in mosquito-borne viruses after flooding rain, as the state records its second death this year from Japanese encephalitis. With towns like Thargomindah, in Queensland's south-west, still inundated following record rainfall in parts of the state, authorities say it could be weeks before waters completely recede.

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'Measles is back': Case numbers smash 2024 figures, global outbreaks continue

NEWS.com.au, Other, 05/04/2025, Blair Jackson

Victoria and NSW are set to smash last year's measles case numbers and Western Australia has already surpassed its 2024 total in three months. The virus is running rampant in every global region but particularly in south and Southeast Asia.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

HRT supply struggle

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 06/04/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 9

Women across the country are struggling to access "lifechanging" medication, with frustrated doctors saying hormone replacement therapy (HRT) shortages can no longer be ignored. [...] Medicos point to unhelpful advice from the national medicines regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), which includes "limiting initiations in this shortage period will help preserve available supply for existing patients".

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Painkillers without the addiction? The new wave of non-opioid pain relief

The Guardian, Other, 05/04/2025, Ayisha Sharma

In January, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first new type of painkiller in more than two decades. The decision roused excitement across the healthcare sector for a key reason: the drug, which is called suzetrigine and sold under the brand name Journavx, is not an opioid.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Spared jail for 'noble' battle

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 06/04/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 3

A Tasmanian pensioner who helped people ease their pain with medicinal cannabis has been given a suspended jail sentence in what the judge described as a "mercy" sentence. The case has prompted a call for cannabis to be legalised.

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

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