



# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 10th April 2025

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (Online) reports Health Minister Mark Butler says Australia will not negotiate with the US administration over the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme as President Donald Trump prepares to announce a new tariff on pharmaceuticals, a move that would threaten \$1.6 billion in Australian drug exports.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 9) reports renowned Australian stroke researcher Ben Freedman is calling for GPs to include a 30-second pulse check for atrial defibrillation when checking for high blood pressure, saying the move could help improve diagnoses for people liable to suffer strokes, heart failure and dementia, after his research found that 70 per cent of people with atrial defibrillation also suffer from hypertension.
- **[SBS](#)** reports Health Minister Mark Butler says the Federal Government's promise of an additional \$1 billion for mental health services will include two new mental health services in remote Indigenous communities, noting he hopes Headspace will be able to team up with Aboriginal medical services to deliver the program.
- **[The Australian](#)** (Online) reports an international study by Monash University has found people living in flood-prone areas are over-represented in hospitalisation for diabetes, cardiovascular conditions and cancer for up to seven months after a disaster, with the authors noting health professionals should raise awareness of the increased hospitalisation demands after floods to improve disaster response strategies and health system resilience.

- [Channel 9](#) reports Melbourne researchers have identified a drug that can prevent long COVID in mice, a breakthrough they hope can be developed into a treatment for humans, though it won't address the symptoms of existing sufferers. The scientists are now calling for more funding to launch a trial. *Also reported by:* [Channel 10](#), [Pharmacy Daily](#).
- [The Herald Sun](#) (page 12) reports a University of Queensland study has found the cost of tobacco is disproportionately affecting poorer households, with occupants spending 6.3 per cent of their disposable income on tobacco compared to just 2.7 per cent of people in more affluent areas, which they say demonstrates the complex health and social equity challenges of using high taxation to control tobacco consumption.
- [Newcastle Herald](#) (page 12) reports a loophole has led public hospitals to create aged and disabled "transition units" and classify the occupants as residents in a move that enables the hospitals to charge patients a proportion of their aged care payments or NDIS funding, though neither the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission or the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission has jurisdiction.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Pharmaceuticals to be hit by 'major' Trump tariff, CSL slumps 5pc

Australian Financial Review, Other, 09/04/2025, Michael Smith

Australian drugmakers were scrambling to make sense of US President Donald Trump saying he would announce a "major" tariff on pharmaceuticals in an expansion of his damaging trade war that would hit \$1.6 billion in annual Australian exports.

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### Labor promises new mental health services in \$1 billion election pledge

SBS, Other, 09/04/2025

Two new youth mental health services will be established in remote Indigenous communities if Labor wins the May election. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese pledged a significant \$1 billion investment into mental health services on Tuesday as part of their election pitch ahead of the May 3 poll.

[Read More](#)

### Rebranding or establishing: Mark Butler quizzed over 'new' mental health centres

4BC, Other, 09/04/2025, Peter Fegan

The Federal Government has continued its health splurge, injecting a further \$1 billion into mental health services, on top of Albanese's \$8 billion Medicare promise. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler told Peter Fegan on 4BC Breakfast, "We're using the well-trusted Medicare brand, telling people essentially, this is free of charge.

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### Sky News Live, Newsday, 09/04/2025, Kieran Gilbert

Interview with psychiatrist, former Australian of the Year, and Orygen executive director Prof Patrick McGorry on the federal government's \$1 billion commitment to mental health. McGorry says the funding addresses the missing middle in youth mental health care, which sits between primary services like headspace and hospital-level treatment. He notes that Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler is also focusing on strengthening headspace as part of the broader strategy.

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### Curtin FM, 14:00 News, 09/04/2025

The Australian Private Hospitals Association calls on the Coalition to commit to reforming private health insurance funding. It says both major parties must act on the issue, following Federal Labor's pledge and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's ultimatum to insurers.

*Also reported by:* [2MCE \(Orange\)](#)

## 2GB, Mornings, 09/04/2025, Mark Levy

Levy reports that US President Donald Trump is preparing to announce a major tariff on pharmaceuticals, which could affect \$1.6b in Australian exports. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler warns that briefings from US officials suggest foreign pharmaceuticals might soon face a separate trade investigation.

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## 4BC, Breakfast , 09/04/2025, Peter Fegan

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler says the new funding is to fund the operations of the mental health care centres and they will rent their existing premises. He notes there have already been 36 open, and they have 61 in the pipeline, with the announcement adding another 31. Butler adds they are particularly supporting people with complex needs.

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## ABC Radio Melbourne, Mornings , 09/04/2025, Raf Epstein

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler says the Medicare-funded psychology sessions was always 10 and was increased to 20 during the COVID lockdown period, and the-then government made it clear that it was a temporary measure. He adds they can't double the number of sessions without doubling the number of psychologists, or they'll create a bottleneck, which is exactly what happened when they did that during the COVID period.

*Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#).*

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Labor plan to paint the Coalition as Don's Party

Northern Territory News, General News, 10/04/2025, James Morrow, Page 13

To borrow an old line about God, if Donald Trump did not exist then Anthony Albanese would have to invent him. [...] The next day aged care minister Anika Wells was on with Andrew Clennell, who bailed her up on Labor's trying to paint Dutton as Dickson's answer to Donald Trump.

*Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).*

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### Prices, wait times, reform on pollies' agendas

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 09/04/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Politicians across the spectrum have indicated the aged care sector remains a national priority – with representatives from the Labor Party, the Liberal Party and the Australian Greens all sharing their aims for the sector with Australian Ageing Agenda. [...] Meanwhile a spokesperson for the Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells emphasised to AAA the Albanese Labor Government would always be committed to better outcomes for older Australians.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Cranbourne promised a new Medicare Mental Health Centre

Berwick Star News, General News, 10/04/2025, Violet Li, Page 10

Cranbourne will get a new Medicare Mental Health Centre under a wider \$1 billion election promise if

Labor is re-elected in the election next month. [...] Incumbent Holt MP and candidate Cassandra Fernando highlighted a roundtable with Hon Emma McBride MP, the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, in February last year to discuss mental health issues in Holt and then advocated for a Headspace in Cranbourne.

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## **WIN Canberra, WIN News, 09/04/2025, Jared Constable**

Senator David Pocock announces a plan to fix the ACT's health system, which includes reclassifying GPs. The policy comes after Canberra was told it would miss out on a new mental health centre. Federal Assistant Minister for Regional Health Emma McBride is unable to confirm whether she will help make the changes, as she explains that reviews are being conducted and coordinated by a task force to avoid unintended consequences.

Report continues on: [WIN Canberra \(Canberra\)](#).

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## **ABC Newcastle, 06:00 News, 09/04/2025**

Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health Emma McBride says upgrades to the Newcastle Headspace Centre would allow it to help young people with complex mental health issues. If re-elected at next month's election, Labor has committed \$1 billion to mental health care across the country. McBride says upgrading the Newcastle centre will broaden the type of support available to young people.

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## **ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY**

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## **ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES**

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## **DEPARTMENT**

### **\$82m investment to tackle health worker shortage**

La Trobe University, Other, 09/04/2025

A new \$82 million clinical teaching building at La Trobe University will help relieve Australia's chronic allied health workforce shortage and provide cost-effective healthcare for people languishing on public waiting lists. [...] There are about 300,000 registered allied health professionals in Australia, but the federal Department of Health and Aged Care says there is already a shortage in some allied health areas and demand is expected to grow over the next decade.

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### **New guidance tool for CHSP providers**

Community Care Review, Other, 09/04/2025

The Department of Health and Aged Care continues to release support documents for the sector, with the latest designed to support providers in the lead up to the new regulatory model. It outlines the regulatory changes affecting CHSP providers under the new Aged Care Act.

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## MyMedicare promises better health care. But only 1 in 10 patients has signed up

Your Life Choices, Other, 09/04/2025

MyMedicare is a scheme that encourages patients to register with a regular GP practice to improve their health. But few patients have enrolled. [...] Since MyMedicare's launch in 2023 until March 19 this year, more than 2.6 million patients have registered for MyMedicare, according to Department of Health and Aged Care statistics provided to The Conversation.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News First: Lunchtime, 09/04/2025, Angela Bishop

Interview with psychiatrist, former Australian of the Year, and Orygen executive director Prof Patrick McGorry on the rapid rise in ADHD diagnoses in Australia. McGorry suggests that while making care more affordable for those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds is important, there also needs to be regulation to prevent overdiagnosis. He calls for the RANZGP and the Federal Health Department to address this issue.

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## VACCINES

### Long COVID med on the horizon

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/04/2025

Australian researchers have demonstrated that a new drug compound can prevent long COVID symptoms in mice, which could lead to a future treatment for the condition. The PLpro inhibitor also treats acute COVID better than Paxlovid, the current leading treatment, noted the team from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne.

[Read More](#)

### Channel 9, Nine News, 09/04/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

Melbourne scientists at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute have discovered a new drug that could prevent long COVID-19 after screening 400,000 medications. While it doesn't cure symptoms, the findings have been welcomed by those with the condition.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#)

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### Channel 10, 10 News First, 09/04/2025, Jennifer Keyte

Australian researchers have developed a drug compound that successfully prevents long COVID-19 symptoms in lab mice. This breakthrough offers renewed hope for finding a cure for the debilitating disease.

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

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### The hidden aged-care crisis inside Australia's hospitals

Newcastle Herald, General News, 10/04/2025, Deb Prince, Page 12

Due to system inadequacies hospitals have been forced to create aged care facilities that exist outside the law. Australia's aged care crisis is worse than we think.

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## TPG buys majority stake in home care biz Five Good Friends

Australian Financial Review, Other, 09/04/2025, Sarah Thompson, Kanika Sood and Emma Rapaport

TPG has closed a deal to acquire a majority stake in technology-enabled homecare business Five Good Friends at a \$100 million-plus valuation, as first revealed by this column in December.

[Read More](#)

## Over-65s left hungry, in pain and alone due to sky-high cost of dental care

The Senior, Other, 09/04/2025, Rowan Cowley

Living in pain, avoiding meals, isolating themselves from their communities, sometimes ending up in hospital: these are all too common realities for a growing number of over-65s who can't afford dental care. Advocates and dentists are lobbying for a federally funded dental scheme in the lead-up to the election as shocking data reveals many older Australians are missing out on vital care and living with debilitating oral conditions.

[Read More](#)

## Shocking statistics drive calls for a Senior Dental Benefits Scheme

6PR, Other, 09/04/2025

The Australian Dental Association has run an extensive survey, which showed that two in three people over 65 are delaying going to the dentist because they can't afford it. Council on the Ageing CEO Patricia Sparrow explained to Perth Today host Simon Beaumont the impact this is having on seniors' health as she advocates for a Senior Dental Benefits Scheme.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### A 30-second pulse check could prevent more strokes. So why don't we do it?

The Australian, General News, 10/04/2025, Stephen Lunn, Page 9

It's the lethal one-two that can hasten stroke, heart failure and dementia. But while GPs routinely test for high blood pressure, they too often neglect the other killer punch, atrial fibrillation, even though it is detected with a simple, 30-second pulse check.

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### Endo all that pain

Herald Sun, General News, 10/04/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 1

A simple and painless test for endometriosis is a "big step closer" after Australian researchers confirmed for the first time that a non-invasive test can detect the debilitating disease sooner. Endometriosis affects about one million women in Australia, but because symptoms can be vague it often takes a decade for it to be diagnosed.

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### Ciggies hit poor hard

Herald Sun, General News, 10/04/2025, Page 12

The cost of tobacco is hitting disadvantaged Australian households the hardest. Disadvantaged households are spending 6.3 per cent of their disposable income on tobacco compared with households in the most advantaged areas who are spending just 2.7 per cent, according to The University of Queensland research.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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## How to bring a heart back to life

ABC Online, Other, 09/04/2025

Five months ago Stafford Eades collapsed at his granddaughter's birthday party at a park in Perth. But the quick thinking and actions of family and strangers saved his life.

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## New data reveals surprising shift in Aussie drinking habits

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/04/2025

Australia has a stereotype of being a nation of heavy drinkers. From cracking a few cold ones after work, to ritually heading out to the pub on the weekend, there is no doubt alcohol is a widely accepted part of Aussie culture.

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

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## Comedian's epic comeback to gross heckle

NEWS.com.au, Other, 09/04/2025, Claudia Poposki

A comedian has been praised for how she handled a man who heckled her, with many calling him out for "mansplaining". [...] In Australia, one in three women opted for caesareans in 2022, as per the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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

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## PSA leads national Quality Use of Medicines agenda

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 09/04/2025

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is continuing to drive the national agenda on Quality Use of Medicines (QUM), securing involvement in 7 key projects under the Australian Government's latest Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology (QUDPT) grants. These projects span key health priorities, including palliative care, polypharmacy, and equitable access to medicines, reinforcing PSA's role in delivering best-practice guidance to healthcare professionals and consumers on improving safe and effective medicine use.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Floods raise cancer, diabetes hospitalisations, pointing to post-Alfred health risks

The Australian, Other, 09/04/2025, James Dowling

An international study has shown people living in flood-prone regions spend longer in hospital, are more prone to serious medical issues and shoulder a disproportionate amount of the chronic disease burden. A study by Monash University, published in Nature Water, found that for up to seven months after a disaster, hospitalisations for unrelated health conditions rose an average 26 per cent.

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### Tai chi, yoga and meditation may help lower high blood pressure 'in short term'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/04/2025

Relaxation techniques may help lower high blood pressure – at least in the short term, research suggests. Experts found that tai chi, yoga, meditation and breathing control exercises all helped reduce blood pressure in those with the condition.

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### Diabetes underestimated

New research suggests that the number of Australians living with diabetes may be up to 35 per cent higher than previously estimated, raising critical questions about the size of one of Australia's most serious chronic health conditions. The University of Sydney researchers analysed administrative data from Medicare, hospital records and pharmaceutical claims, with results suggesting there could be more than two million Australians living with diabetes, many of whom are currently missing from the official diabetes register.

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## **Channel 9, Nine News, 09/04/2025, Melissa Downes**

Queensland researchers have found that longer pollen seasons, driven by climate change, are causing hay fever and asthma symptoms to last longer. Their study reveals that grass pollen concentrations in Canberra have jumped by 200% per cent while Sydney has seen a 34 per cent increase, and Melbourne has experienced a 13 per cent decrease.

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## **ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 09/04/2025, Kylie Baxter**

Interview with sport and exercise physician Dr Peter Brukner on the prevalence of insulin resistance in Australian adults. Brukner highlights a recent study that suggests the number of people with type two diabetes in Australia is likely underestimated, possibly reaching two million. He notes that millions more are affected by prediabetes or insulin resistance, which could develop into type two diabetes if not addressed through changes in diet.

*Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).*

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## **PRIMARY CARE**

### **Judge lashes child gender-medicine experts in blow for peak clinic**

The Australian, General News, 10/04/2025, Ellie Dudley, Page 1

One of Australia's foremost child gender medicine experts has been ruled to have misled the Family Court when giving evidence to support a mother who wished to prescribe her child puberty blockers, in an astonishing judgment that calls into question the integrity of one of the nation's peak gender clinics. Justice Andrew Strum's judgment, which stripped the mother of custody and effectively prevented the child from accessing treatment, criticised the approach of hospitals to children questioning their gender, saying the decision to "affirm unreservedly" any child that raises concerns over their gender is "oddly binary".

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

### **Get fixed-cost midwife care into private hospital system**

Australian Financial Review, General News, 10/04/2025, Page 6

The Australian Financial Review asked prominent people to propose one policy initiative they believe political parties should pledge to do, should they win the election.

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### **ADHD medication dire**

Herald Sun, General News, 10/04/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 6

The ongoing ADHD medication shortage has grown even worse as a manufacturing issue disrupts global supply of a key drug for the rest of 2025. The nation's medicine regulator revealed this week that more ADHD medications Ritalin and Artige had been impacted, leaving patients with fewer options.

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## **'You're meant to be representing Canberra, not just Labor': Pocock**

## blasts govt

Canberra Times, Other, 09/04/2025, Dana Daniel

Independent ACT senator David Pocock has blasted the territory's federal Labor MPs and his Senate colleague Katy Gallagher over the state of Canberra's health system, calling for increased funding to address soaring out-of-pocket costs and wait times. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has put health at the centre of his re-election pitch with an \$8.5 billion pledge to expand Medicare incentives for GPs who bulk bill - a pledge matched by Opposition Leader Peter Dutton - and a new urgent care clinic for Woden, and has promised a short-term \$50 million boost to ACT hospitals next year.

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## Hundreds of millions needed to fix Victoria's broken health system

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/04/2025, Shannon Deery

Victoria's health system is at breaking point with the state and federal governments facing urgent calls to find hundreds of millions of dollars to save it. Ahead of next month's state budget, leading health agencies and experts have warned that without a significant funding boost the system will collapse.

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

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## Your private health insurer may soon give you a rebate for these complementary therapies

SBS, Other, 09/04/2025, Jon Wardle

Private health insurers may soon be able to offer rebates for seven complementary therapies previously prohibited. This includes some movement therapies — Pilates, yoga, tai chi and the Alexander technique, which teaches body awareness and posture — as well as naturopathy, shiatsu (Japanese massage) and Western herbal medicine. These are the recommendations from a government-commissioned review chaired by former deputy chief medical officer Michael Kidd.

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## Qld patients latest to benefit from collaborative pharmacist prescribing

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 09/04/2025

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) congratulates the Queensland Government on its recent regulatory amendments supporting the implementation of collaborative prescribing practices across the state — a key pillar of the organisation's patient-centred national advocacy as outlined in Yindyamarra 2030.

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## Funding warning as bulk-billing clinic closes

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 09/04/2025, Morgan Liotta

One of Canberra's last fully bulk-billed clinics has entered voluntary administration after struggling to cover costs and attract enough GPs. The Interchange Health Co-operative clinic in Canberra was placed into voluntary administration this week after experiencing 'intense pressure'.

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## Sky News Live, The Bolt Report, 09/04/2025, Andrew Bolt

Bolt points out that Federal Opposition Leader Peter Dutton effectively called out Prime Minister Anthony Albanese for his repeated use of the Medicare card as a response to complaints about higher doctor fees. Albanese defends his government's actions, stating that Medicare will be strengthened and bulk billing rates will rise again. Dutton counters Albanese's claims, highlighting the decrease in bulk billing rates and increased out-of-pocket costs.

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## Sky News Live, The Kenny Report, 09/04/2025, Chris Kenny

Interview with One Nation founder and leader Senator Pauline Hanson on Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's handling of Medicare. Hanson accuses Albanese of lying about Medicare, claiming the rebate is lower under his government than it was under the Coalition. She also calls out the

government's promise of 87 medical clinics, pointing out that only two run 24/7 despite the pledge for 50.

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## **Sky News Live, The Kenny Report, 09/04/2025, Chris Kenny**

Interview with Federal Opposition Leader Peter Dutton on the Federal Government's claims and disputes regarding hospital funding. Dutton refutes claims made by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese about cuts to hospital funding, stating that funding increased by 16 per cent every year when he was health minister. He then calls out Albanese for lying and believes Labor's ads are misleading.

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## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

### **Cranbourne promised a new Medicare Mental Health Centre**

Berwick Star News, General News, 10/04/2025, Violet Li, Page 10

Cranbourne will get a new Medicare Mental Health Centre under a wider \$1 billion election promise if Labor is re-elected in the election next month. [...] Incumbent Holt MP and candidate Cassandra Fernando highlighted a roundtable with Hon Emma McBride MP, the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, in February last year to discuss mental health issues in Holt and then advocated for a Headspace in Cranbourne.

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### **Healthy commitments**

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2025, Jonathon Magrath, Page 1

A new "headspace Plus" for Bendigo was put on the table by Labor on the same day the Coalition declared it would restore mental health help to 20 sessions. With health on the April 8 campaign trail agenda, Labor's Lisa Chesters, Liberal candidate Matt Evans and the Nationals' Andrew Lethlean focused on upgrades and questions about the delivery of care in regional areas.

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### **Youth Live4Life program helping teens to deal with mental health issues**

ABC Online, Other, 09/04/2025

There are smiles, raucous laughter and friendly greetings in a large room in a Victorian council office building as a group of teenagers sit down to watch a video presentation. This is not your usual school excursion — it's Youth Live4Life (YLFL), a mental health education program that equips young people with the skills to save lives in a mental health crisis.

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### **Will Labor's \$1bn for mental health pledge solve Tasmania's 'unique challenges'?**

ABC Online, Other, 09/04/2025, Kylie Baxter

Tasmania has unique challenges, which should be considered as part of federal Labor's \$1bn mental health pledge, says the chief executive of the Mental Health Council of Tasmania, Connie Digolis. The pledge includes funds to either build or upgrade walk-in Medicare mental health centres and has been welcomed by the national peak body, Mental Health Australia.

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### **Mental health funding receives bipartisan support**

Sky News Australia, Other, 09/04/2025

9 minutes ago Orygen Executive Director Professor Patrick McGorry has praised both Labor and Liberal for being "committed" to mental health. Professor McGorry pointed out the Coalition's policy

covers a "shorter period" but said nonetheless, both parties are on the "right page.

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## General practice 'not recognised' in mental health agreement

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 09/04/2025

Jo Roberts 9/04/2025 4:22:42 PM The RACGP says the Productivity Commission's review of a new national agreement must include the crucial role GPs play in mental health care. Most mental health care in Australia is provided by GPs, says the RACGP.

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## Mental health funding receives bipartisan support

The Courier Mail, Other, 09/04/2025

Now Playing Orygen Executive Director Professor Patrick McGorry has praised both Labor and Liberal for being "committed" to mental health. Video Player is loading.

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 09/04/2025, Spence Denny

Interview with UniSA disability health researcher Dr Betty-Jean Dee-Price about the SA Government providing \$14m to create specialist classes and disability units at state public schools. Dee-Price says that the Disability Royal Commission has made it clear that segregated units and special classes is discriminatory. She states they need to begin valuing and celebrating the diversity that comes with disability and enabling young people not to be perceived as deficit. Dee-Price says it is important for a classroom to have support systems in place, the correct training, the integration of networks like the NDIS and Allied Health professionals, and an adaptive curriculum.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### ABC News, ABC National News, 09/04/2025, Joe O'Brien

Doctors in NSW continue their three-day strike, protesting pay and conditions, and have marched on Premier Chris Minns's office. The government has thanked the Union for its efforts to keep emergency departments operational despite the ongoing strike.

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

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### Channel 10, 10 News First, 09/04/2025, Tiffany Warne

The University of South Australia and Calvary Hospital have teamed up to create a surgical escape room for nurses in SA. The initiative allows graduates to test their problem-solving skills in a high-pressure environment without endangering lives.

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### Channel 7, Seven News, 09/04/2025, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

Over 3000 public hospital doctors in NSW have walked off the job for a second day, cancelling elective surgery, specialist appointments, and cancer treatments. They are demanding changes to pay and conditions, including a 30% pay rise to match wages.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 09/04/2025, Peter Overton

Thousands of doctors have continued their strike action for a second day, demanding better pay and working conditions. Despite the strike, hospitals are performing above the national benchmark, with some doctors returning to work where safety concerns were raised.

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## SBS, World News Australia, 09/04/2025, Janice Petersen

Thousands of public hospital doctors in NSW are on strike for a second consecutive day. The industrial action has led to the cancellation of some surgeries and outpatient appointments.

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## Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 09/04/2025, Ashleigh Gillon

Public hospitals across NSW are preparing for more cancellations as doctors continue their strike for a second day. This marks the first doctors' strike in the state in more than 40 years, with thousands walking off the job over three days.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Wanted: bold ideas

Age, Letters, 10/04/2025, Page 22

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is obviously aiming for a repeat of Bill Shorten's 2016 election campaign. While Labor just failed to win in 2016, the mother of all scare campaigns around Medicare proved hugely effective.

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### A new definition of infertility means women like Sarah can access Medicare rebates for IVF

ABC Online, Other, 09/04/2025

In her mid-30s and single, Sarah McBride was determined to not miss out on motherhood. With her "biological clock ticking", Sarah decided to try to conceive using donor sperm through a fertility clinic.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Tribunal rules on doctor's 'touch'

Herald Sun, General News, 10/04/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 6

A doctor inappropriately touched a medical student multiple times while patients were in the room with them and exploited their "power imbalance", a tribunal has found. VCAT documents show general

practitioner Dr Widana Pushkara Epa sexually harassed a student, and even asked to visit her house, during her placement at a clinic in regional Victoria.

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## Compounder enters enforceable undertaking over semaglutide ads

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/04/2025, Leopold Hamulczyk

Compounding pharmacy group enters three-year court-enforceable undertaking after regulator flags concerns over alleged promotion of compounded weight-loss treatments Your Solution Compounding Pharmacy accepts "its website likely unlawfully promoted the use or supply of prescription-only medicines" including compounded products.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### 'Cure diabetes': Australia on verge of breakthrough

The New Daily, Other, 09/04/2025, Imma Perfetto

Australian researchers are poised to become the first in the world to take pancreatic islet cells from genetically modified pigs and transplant them into human patients. Their goal: To cure type 1 diabetes.

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## SPORT

### SBS, World News Australia, 09/04/2025, Janice Petersen

Traditional owners express devastation over the Queensland government's decision to build Brisbane's Olympic Stadium on Victoria Park, a site of cultural significance. Qld Premier David Crisafulli has acknowledged the state's Indigenous heritage and sees a tourism opportunity in focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

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

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Diabetes prevalence underestimated in Australia: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 09/04/2025, Jolyon Attwooll

Researchers have suggested the number of people living with diabetes could be more than a third higher than officially registered. There could be up to two million people aged over 45 in Australia living with diabetes, new research suggests.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Labor promises new mental health services in \$1 billion election pledge

SBS, Other, 09/04/2025

Two new youth mental health services will be established in remote Indigenous communities if Labor

wins the May election. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese pledged a significant \$1 billion investment into mental health services on Tuesday as part of their election pitch ahead of the May 3 poll.

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## Lack of Coalition policies for Indigenous Australians becomes stark as election nears

National Indigenous Times, Other, 09/04/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Policies focusing on improving the lives of Indigenous people across the country have been largely missing from Coalition campaigning 12 days into the election campaign. Since the election was announced last Saturday, a quiet first week has given way to the Coalition backtracking on plans to force public servants back into the office—blaming a Labor scare campaign—and mirroring many of the policies announced by the government.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Measles warning for SW holiday-makers

West Australian, General News, 10/04/2025, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 1

West Australians heading south for the Easter holiday have been warned to ensure they are protected against a measles outbreak. The Department of Health issued its latest warning on Wednesday after the state recorded its 13th case of measles this year, with eight in the South West region.

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### Vaccination call to help keep hospital admissions down

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2025, Ben Loughran, Page 6

Get a flu jab as part of a "team effort" to keep people out of hospital ahead of a potentially bad season. That was the message that Labor candidate Lisa Chesters was pushing as she lined up to get her own flu vaccination on Monday at UFS Pharmacy in Bendigo.

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### Impact of flu, colds to May

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 10/04/2025, Page 8

Two in five Australian households could be impacted by cold and flu symptoms before the end of May. Coughs are set to emerge as the dominant symptom this year, followed by nasal congestion, pain and fever, according to the Codral Cold and Flu Forecast.

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### Buruli ulcer bacteria found in possum poo years before human cases

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/04/2025, Tamara McDonald

Chris was bitten by a mosquito and ended up needing antibiotics and surgery. He's calling for funding to fight the flesh-eating disease, as new research highlights possums' part in its spread.

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

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### Queensland melioidosis death toll climbs after floods spread soil-borne bacteria

ABC Online, Other, 09/04/2025, Chloe Chomicki

The soil-borne disease melioidosis has claimed the life of another Queensland patient. The Townsville Hospital and Health Service patient is the 26th person to die with melioidosis in Queensland this year.

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## **ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 09/04/2025, Patricia Karvelas**

Interview with Federal Minister for Industry and Science Ed Husic about US President Donald Trump's tariffs potentially affecting Australian pharmaceutical imports. Husic says it is important that people get access to affordable medicines through the PBS and like PM Anthony Albanese has said they will continue to defend it. He states there are only a few pharmaceutical companies that manufacture in Australia with no US pharmaceutical company manufacturing in large volume.

*Interview continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).*

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 09/04/2025, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon**

West Australians travelling during the Easter school holidays are being urged to get their measles vaccinations after 13 cases were recorded in WA this year, eight of which were linked to an outbreak in the south. WA Health Minister Meredith Hammat says anyone who has been to an exposure site to monitor their symptoms.

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## **Channel 10, 10 News First, 09/04/2025, Natalie Forrest**

The WA Health Department has issued a measles warning for travellers ahead of the Easter school holidays after 13 cases were recorded in WA this year, eight of which were linked to an outbreak in the South West. WA Health Minister Meredith Hammat says the increase in cases has been happening globally. West Australians are being urged to stay up to date with their measles vaccinations.

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## **2CC, Canberra Live, 09/04/2025, Leon Delaney**

Interview with University of Queensland infectious diseases physician Dr Paul Griffin about health experts voicing concerns of this year's flu season. Griffin says there have been low rates of people getting their flu vaccine, adding that peak protection from it takes effect four to six months after taking it. He notes that children are at the highest risk of influenza and recommends people get vaccinated for it.

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## **ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 09/04/2025, Renee Krosch**

Interview with NCIRS director Kristine Macartney on the measles warning in Australia. Macartney explains that while the country was declared measles-free in 2014, the disease remains a significant problem worldwide, particularly due to vaccination gaps caused by the pandemic. She highlights the increase in measles cases globally, with a doubling of cases in Europe and significant outbreaks in the United States.

*Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#).*

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## **THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION**

No relevant coverage

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## **OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL**

### **Australia study finds more than one-third of sport supplements contain banned substances**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/04/2025

More than one-third of sport supplements available online in Australia contained substances banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), according to a survey commissioned by the national doping watchdog. The survey tested 200 products including amino acids, protein powders and others marketed as "muscle builders" and "fat burners", Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) said.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### **Sweeteners and preservatives found in popular food and drinks may prevent major organ from working properly**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/04/2025, Emily Joshu

Chemicals added to popular sodas, sauces and desserts can lead to diabetes, scientists warn. While previous studies looked at the harms of individual ingredients, researchers say they have studied the health effects of consuming dyes, preservatives and sweeteners in combination for the first time.

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## AICIS

### **Information 'wasteland'**

Daily Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2025, Taylor Dodge, Page 1

San Isidore resident Tom Hughes dreamt of one day passing his property on the outskirts of Wagga down to his children. [...] Then, in 2018, Mr Hughes said he received a letter seeking permission for someone to visit the property to test for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

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### **Drinking water safe: PFAS levels low**

Shepparton News Online, Other, 09/04/2025

Test results show PFAS levels in Federation Shire water are below the Australian guidelines. Federation Council has released the results of recent comprehensive testing for per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the drinking water supplies of Corowa, Howlong, and Mulwala.

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