



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 13th April 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#) (page 1) reports that health workers at Queensland's public hospitals have expressed concern about safety risks posed by inadequate maintenance.
- The [Sunday Tasmanian](#) (page 1) reports that the Tasmanian government will legislate for the Macquarie Point stadium development to bypass standard planning processes.
- The [Sunday Telegraph](#) (page 1) reports that many Sydney 2000 Games venues still in competition use are underfunded and at risk of closure.
- The [Sunday Age](#) (page 2) reports that Melbourne's pollen season is growing longer, prompting fears of increasing incidence of thunderstorm asthma.
- The [Sunday Age](#) (page 4) reports that Victoria's fertility clinics may be underreporting IVF complications, with only about 20 per cent of hospitalisations from ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome disclosed.
- The [Sunday Herald Sun](#) (page 5) reports that the closure of Port Phillip Prison's hospital this year will force dangerous prisoners into the public system.
- The [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#) (page 5) reports that mosquito-borne diseases in Queensland have spiked after record flooding, with more cases between January and March this year than

in all of 2024.

- The **Sunday Herald Sun** (page 7) reports health professionals are warning that melanotans promoted on social media as tanning products are unapproved, unregulated and potentially dangerous. *Also reported by: Sunday Telegraph, Sunday Mail Brisbane, Sunday Mail Adelaide*
- **ABC News** (online) reports that the Prime Minister's election pledge for a 120-bed aged care home in Darwin is a rehash of plans first announced by the Northern Territory government in 2021.

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## MINISTER BUTLER

### Spotlight on IVF regulation over embryo mix-up

Canberra Times, Other, 12/04/2025, Rachael Ward, William Ton

IVF regulation is in the spotlight after a mix-up that led to a women giving birth to a baby not related to her, with little chance the genetic parents can claim custody. [...] IVF regulation is a state issue however the incident prompted scrutiny at a national level, with federal health minister Mark Butler vowing it would be discussed at the next health minister meeting if the government is re-elected.

*Also reported by: Daily Mail Australia (Online), and syndicated widely online*

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## MINISTER WELLS

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## DEPARTMENT

### Home aged care package reform a concern for older Australians as costs set to rise

ABC Online, Other, 12/04/2025, Fiona Blackwood

Federal government reforms to aged care are just months away and there's growing anxiety among

some older Australians about what it will mean for them financially, as co-payments for home care are about to be introduced. [...] In a statement, the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care said people on existing home care packages, dating from September last year, will be no worse off and the government will help anyone who can't afford to pay the new fees.

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

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## Aged care in crisis as families wait for help

Area News, General News, 12/04/2025, Saffron Howden, Page 11

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. [...] But the waiting list for approved home care packages had blown out to nearly 82,960 nationally by the end of December 2024, according to the federal health department.

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## Clinical trials can transform health care but Australia's system needs an overhaul, doctors say

ABC Online, Other, 12/04/2025, Janelle Miles

Eamon Lynham collapses on the polished wooden floor of the family home he shares with his parents — mum Pam and dad Anthony, a respected surgeon and former politician. Minutes earlier, the 27-year-old youngest of four Lynham sons was rinsing cups in the kitchen sink. [...] The vision is that the website will be supported by a staffed office, likely to be within the federal health department.

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## VACCINES

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Labor's 'plan' to build a new aged care facility in Darwin has been promised for years

ABC Online, Other, 12/04/2025, Lillian Rangiah

On his first visit to Darwin during the election campaign, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese promised \$60 million to build a 120-bed residential aged care facility in the Top End. While Labor billed it as a "new", locked-in announcement, Territorians have been waiting for the facility for four years.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Longer pollen season, more thunder asthma

Sunday Age, General News, 13/04/2025, Wendy Tuohy, Page 2

An increase in the length of Melbourne's pollen season due to the effects of climate change will likely cause more incidents of weather conditions that produce potentially deadly thunderstorm asthma, researchers say. Melbourne is already the allergy capital of the world, with government data showing about 31.8 per cent of residents experience allergic rhinitis.

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## Over-50s call for a national plan to tackle impact of ageism

Sunday Times, General News, 13/04/2025, Rachael Ward, Page 9

There's a push for a national plan to tackle ageism, with the majority of people over 50 demanding better support ahead of the Federal election. [...] About 4.2 million Australians were aged 65 or older as of June 2024 according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, which is about one in six people.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Voice of truth on Albo

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 13/04/2025, Piers Akerman, Page 81

Voting is a matter of trust and Anthony Albanese's record shows he can't be trusted. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's 2022-2023 report paints a shocking picture: Indigenous women are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised due to domestic violence than non-Indigenous women.

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

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## Keep on running on the road to health

Sunday Canberra Times, Editorials, 13/04/2025, Page 26

Today's The Canberra Times Marathon Festival will be an uplifting affair. There will be all sorts of inspiring stories behind each individual effort, not just in the marathon but in the less gruelling distances. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimated that a quarter of Australians aged from two to 17 were "living with overweight or obesity".

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Hospitals on the brink

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 13/04/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Taylah Fellows, Page 1

Frontline health workers say Queensland's neglected hospitals are falling apart, with unsafe drinking water, animals urinating in stored bedding and mould among the issues. The shocking claims come as it can be revealed the cash allocated to maintain \$30bn worth of assets across the state has remained largely the same for more than a decade.

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

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### Cut tit-for-tat and fix health

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 13/04/2025, Page 68

It's no secret Health Minister Tim Nicholls has been handed a basket case of a portfolio. After almost 10 years under the Labor government, our public hospital system, as we reveal today, can only be described as a shambles neglected hospitals with crumbling foundations, lifesaving cancer machines constantly breaking down and in one central Queensland hospital the water is not even safe enough for patients and staff to drink.

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## Hospital bed safety fears

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 13/04/2025, Shannon Deery, Page 5

Prison officers say killers, rapists and other violent criminals will be thrust on to public hospitals after the pending closure of the state's only prison hospital. Corrections Victoria sources have warned the planned closure of the 40-bed Port Phillip Prison hospital this year will mean scores of the state's worst offenders will be forced into the public system for specialist treatment.

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## Clinics might have hidden IVF incidents

Sunday Age, General News, 13/04/2025, Grant McArthur, Page 4

Victoria's fertility clinics may be vastly underreporting the true levels of dangerous complications from IVF treatments, a government report reveals. The industry is under intense scrutiny across Australia after it was revealed this week that a Brisbane Monash IVF clinic had accidentally implanted the wrong embryo and a woman gave birth to a child that was not biologically hers.

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

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## 'Don't lose faith in IVF joy'

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 13/04/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 6

Renowned IVF pioneer Alan Trounson says the horror mixup in which a woman give birth to a stranger's baby should never have happened, but that human errors occur and he still has faith in IVF. Professor Trounson, a former scientific director of Monash IVF and leading stem cell expert, was part of the very early team to achieve Australia's first successful IVF pregnancy in 1980.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#). Related coverage: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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## TikTok helped me end 14 years of pain

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 13/04/2025, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 30

Ashie Luke attributes TikTok and Reddit to her ultimately receiving diagnoses of endometriosis and a blood disorder, after 14 years of suffering with chronic pain. [...] One in six Australians consulted social media for health advice instead of visiting a medical professional, a recent survey found.

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

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## Mel honoured to deliver joy

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 13/04/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 24

Mel Cushen reckons she has the best job in the world. [...] As patient and family support co-ordinator for the Mary Potter Foundation, she works in North Adelaide's Mary Potter Hospice with patients facing the end of life, and their families, ensuring dignity, choice and even distraction from the inevitable.

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

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## Why we've set a diary date for heartbreak

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 13/04/2025, Amanda Blair, Page 53

My mother-in-law is dying and, according to her palliative care specialist, her life will probably end on Easter Saturday. Initially she said she'd like to go out on Good Friday, but we talked her down from that date as the obvious jokes about Jesus would be hard to ignore.

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## Billions pledged: What the parties are promising for your health this election

SBS, Other, 12/04/2025, Julia Abbondanza

From Medicare funding to mental health support and medicine affordability, here's what the Labor, the

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Blues fix a short, sharp shock

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 13/04/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 23

It's the shock that saves and a top psychiatrist says films such as *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* have given it a bad rap. Ramsay Clinic Adelaide has opened an electroconvulsive therapy suite that Dr Tom Paterson says is literally a life-saver for patients suffering severe depression who have not responded to other treatments.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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### Small business owners too overwrought for mental health

Canberra Times, Other, 12/04/2025, Katelyn Catanzariti

Small business owners simply don't have time for mental health. They're head of operations, head of marketing, head of sales. They keep customers happy and suppliers and overheads paid, and complete an average of 15 hours of government paperwork every week.

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### Esus Centre: Inside the innovative WA eating-disorder treatment centre working to break the toxic bond

West Australian, Other, 13/04/2025, Jade Jurewicz

An addict rarely seeks help for the compulsion that consumes them. Their vice metastasises through every crevice of their lives — their habits, work or school, social life and body — until it dictates every thought and action.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### 'Stop the exodus of workers'

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 13/04/2025, Elizabeth Pike, Page 31

A shortage of nurses, bus drivers, teachers and cops on the Northern Beaches has been caused by the lack of housing affordable for the average worker, as calls mount to set new developments aside for essential workers or risk "hollowing out" local communities. The Minns government has been urged to dedicate as affordable housing at least half of the 1000 apartments set to be delivered in a significant redevelopment of the Frenchs Forest Town Centre near Northern Beaches Hospital.

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

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## Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital to cut jobs at cancer centre due to funding reduction

ABC Online, Other, 12/04/2025

Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital plans to cut 13 positions at its cancer centre this month, according to hospital documents. The positions set to be made redundant are philanthropically funded roles at the hospital's Children's Cancer Centre (CCC).

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Lib hopeful now Dr No

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 13/04/2025, Shannon Tonkin, Page 25

There is nothing quite as impressive on a political candidate's CVs as the golden prefix of "Dr". So it's understandable why Liberal Greenway candidate Rattan Virk was pitched as "Dr Virk" to voters by herself and leader Peter Dutton. [...] We did our own research, and according to AHPRA, Dr is not a "protected title" but "If the title "Dr" is used in advertising and does not refer to a registered medical practitioner, then ... it should be made clear which profession the practitioner is registered in, for example Dr Lee (osteopath)."

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

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### 'It is a blessing they found this'

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 13/04/2025, Jonathon Moran, Page 5

What she initially thought would be a standard procedure based on an abundance of caution turned out to become a serious health scare for model and TV personality Laura Dundovic. The 38-year-old is still awaiting biopsy results after doctors found 15 polyps when she underwent a colonoscopy on Monday.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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### One thing every Australian woman must do now

NEWS.com.au, Other, 12/04/2025, Rachel Toyer

Statistically speaking, reading this story will save someone's life in 2025. Every year, more than 3000 Australians die from breast cancer. It is the cancer most likely to kill an Australian woman. And a confronting and sad part of these statistics is that early detection can significantly reduce these figures – but around half of Australian women are not accessing these services.

## SPORT

### Libs dig in

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 13/04/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 1

The state government will introduce special legislation to fast-track approval for a Macquarie Point stadium. The move will bypass the state's planning system and force parliament to make a call on the \$775m project before the Tasmanian Planning Commission hands down its final report into the project in September.

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### Sydney's Olympic venue crisis

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 13/04/2025, Peter Jenkins, Page 1

Olympic sports are warning future gold medals are at risk without serious government help as major venues from the Sydney Games fall into disrepair or face closure. The Sunday Telegraph investigation has revealed the Dunc Gray Velodrome, the Olympic Aquatic Centre and the International Archery Park are all in danger of disappearing as elite competition arenas.

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### Footy club concussion hit

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 13/04/2025, Fergus Ellis, Page 20

A former player is suing a local football club claiming he suffered multiple concussions and it "ought to have known" the long-term consequences of his injuries. James Agius, 29, is suing Barwon Heads Football and Netball Club for damages following a short stint with its team in the 2022 season.

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### \$3m to boost local footy

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 13/04/2025, Charlie Dadds, Page 18

A total of 37 community football clubs, including 20 in regional South Australia and 17 in metropolitan Adelaide, will receive \$3m in funding to help strengthen their facilities. This year's grants, through the second round of the South Australian Football Facilities Fund, will go toward key infrastructure projects including upgrades for spectators at eight venues, new lights at nine ovals, and new scoreboards and goalposts at 18 venues.

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### Sports dominate the campaign trail

Sunday Examiner, General News, 13/04/2025, Joe Colbrook, Page 3

Sports and community infrastructure was the order of the day as Tasmanian candidates continued their federal election campaigns. A Peter Dutton-led government would invest \$5.1 million into recreational facilities in and around Perth, Lyons candidate Susie Bower said on April 12, while Labor candidates announced an \$8 million investment in the Domain Tennis Centre.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Could this Aussie purple plum hold the key to preventing dementia?

ABC Online, Other, 12/04/2025, Pip Courtney

Scientists at three Australian universities believe a dark purple plum bred in Queensland could help delay, or even prevent, dementia. Researchers at the University of Wollongong, the University of



Queensland and Victoria University are testing juice from the Queen Garnet plum to see if it can protect the brain.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### State feels mozzie sting

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 13/04/2025, Isabella Pesch, Page 5

Queensland recorded more cases of severe mosquito-borne illnesses, including malaria and dengue fever, in the first three months of 2025 than there were throughout last year. The state has seen an explosion in mosquito-borne infections following record flooding, increased travel and relaxed mitigation measures.

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

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### Two new cases in measles outbreak

Sunday Times, General News, 13/04/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 13

Two new cases of measles have been confirmed in WA as authorities continue to urge people to get vaccinated. The two cases visited several locations while infectious between April 6 and 11, including Bunbury Regional Hospital on five separate occasions.

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

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### GPs warn of earlier than usual 'severe' flu season in Australia

ABC Online, Other, 12/04/2025, Ashlee Aldridge, Sarah Krieg, Sandra Moon

Doctors say now is the best time to get a flu shot amid a surge in influenza cases across Australia. The number of lab-confirmed flu cases recorded nationally between January and March this year was 59 per cent higher than the same time last year, according to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

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### Accord reached 'in principle' over tackling future pandemics: negotiating body

NEWS.com.au, Other, 12/04/2025, AFP

WHO members on Saturday reached agreement over how to tackle future pandemics after three years of discussions, the co-chair of the negotiating body told AFP. "We have an accord in principle" and the final version will have to be okayed by the various member states, Anne-Claire Amprou, who is also French ambassador for world health, said.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Fake tan could make you sick

Australians are being warned about the rise of an unregulated tanning market, with users turning to tablets, nasal sprays, and injections. [...] In the 2024-25 financial year to 31 March 2025 the TGA requested the removal of over 12,000 unlawful advertisements from digital platforms, which includes a number of social media profiles dedicated to advertising melanotan products.

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

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Spinach salads back on supermarket shelves amid E. coli probe

ABC Online, Other, 12/04/2025, Justine Longmore

Spinach and mixed salad products are back on the supermarket shelves and safe to consume after a widespread recall due to E. coli. The potentially fatal shiga-toxin producing E. coli (STEC) was found in two pre-packaged spinach products during routine food safety checks in Queensland last month. [...]

Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) said its investigation into the outbreak, which was discovered via routine searches, was continuing.

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