



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 15th April 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (Online) leads coverage reporting Bupa Aged Care Australia is facing a class action alleging it didn't provide minimum staffing levels which constitutes a breach under Australian Consumer Law by failing to provide services that are fit for purpose. Legal firm Echo Law argues Bupa failed to change its practices following the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety which found for-profit centres had systemic understaffing.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports a global study has identified genetic links to osteoarthritis, which affects more than 500 million people, predominantly women. The findings found eight biological processes involving 500 new genetic links that could speed up targeted medications for the disease.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 15) leads News Corp coverage reporting a study by the Edith Cowan University has found children born to mothers who had gestational diabetes are more likely to develop ADHD. The research covered 200,000 children and led researchers to believe acute and chronic maternal inflammation may influence the development of pathways in a child's brain programming.
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** reports the nurses' union is calling on both political parties to make provision for pay rises of up to 35 per cent for nurses working in the private sector,

arguing the claim is based on their work being undervalued due to historic gender assumptions in a move that would affect 250,000 nurses and midwives.

- **Channel 10** reports the AMA is calling for the introduction of a sugar tax on soft drinks, which it claims would reduce sugar consumption by two kilograms per person a year and generate \$3.6 billion. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says both Labor and the Coalition have ruled out a sugar tax.
- **Sydney Star Observer** reports the Federal Government has allocated \$10 million to the LGQTBI+ community for inclusive healthcare if it wins the May 3 election, with Health Minister Mark Butler noting that the queer community knows only Labor will continue to strengthen Medicare for all Australians.

MINISTER BUTLER

Labor Promises \$10 million For Inclusive LGBTQIA+ Healthcare

Sydney Star Observer, Other, 14/04/2025, Lydia Jupp

Labor has dedicated \$10 million to up skill healthcare providers in delivering inclusive LGBTQIA+ healthcare if they win the election next month. "The LGBTQIA+ community knows that only Labor will continue to strengthen Medicare for all Australians," said Health Minister Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

AUSactive welcomes natural therapies being considered for Health Fund rebate reinstatement

Australasian Leisure Management, Other, 14/04/2025

AUSactive has welcomed the latest recommendations from the Federal Government's Natural Therapies Review, which supports the re-inclusion of key modalities such as Pilates, yoga and Tai Chi for private health insurance rebates. ...] AUSactive is strongly encouraging Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, to support these recommendations and endorse their formal implementation.

[Read More](#)

LGBTQIA+ health in focus ahead of election

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/04/2025, Holly Payne

Labor's latest pledge includes a new voluntary accreditation program and funding to upskill doctors and nurses working in queer healthcare. [...] In turn, according to federal health minister Mark Butler, LGBTQIA+ Australians would be able to better identify safe and trusted services.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 14/04/2025, Sharyn Ghidella

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has vowed to fight the US' standalone tariff for pharmaceuticals, in a bid to protect Australia's \$1.6b export industry.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 14/04/2025, Sandra Sully

The AMA is calling for the implementation of sugar tax on soft drinks in a major pre-election wish list. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has said in a statement that the Federal Government and Coalition ruled out a sugar tax.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#).

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MINISTER WELLS

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

NITV, NITV News, 14/04/2025, Breanna Holden

Labor has promised to allocate \$3m towards the construction of the Aboriginal Women and Girls Sport and Wellness Centre in Melbourne. Federal Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Ged Kearney says it will foster sport, have yarning circles as well as social and economic independence programmes as well as female leadership programmes.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

The Prescribed List is buckling under the weight of its own reform

Catholic Health Australia, Other, 14/04/2025

Hospitals shouldn't need to beg insurers to pay for lifesaving surgical tools. But that's exactly what's happening in the aftermath of the reforms to the Prescribed List — a once-stable policy instrument that is now riddled with complexity, delay, and dysfunction. In CHA's recent submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care, Catholic Health Australia (CHA) highlighted serious concerns with the review of surgical guides and biomodels — critical technologies used in complex surgeries like craniomaxillofacial reconstruction.

[Read More](#)

La Trobe University Health Clinic confirms commitment to health innovation

Facility Management, Other, 14/04/2025, Helena Morgan

Work is underway on the \$82 million La Trobe University Health Clinic – set to become Victoria's largest interdisciplinary university clinic – following Plenary's successful financial close. [...] Although Australia has 300,000 registered allied health professionals, the Department of Health and Aged Care predicts a steep decline in certain specialities over the next decade.

[Read More](#)

Australia launches tech-driven overhaul of healthcare data

Proactive Investors Australia, Other, 14/04/2025, Ephrem Joseph

Australia is making bold strides in digital healthcare through Sparked, a national initiative aimed at making health information systems speak the same language. [...] Backed by CSIRO's Australian e-Health Research Centre (AEHRC), and supported by the Department of Health and Aged Care, the

Australian Digital Health Agency and HL7 Australia, the Sparked Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) Accelerator programme is shaping the future of health data exchange.

[Read More](#)

What we do (and don't) know about CDM changes

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/04/2025, Holly Payne

Time is a-ticking on reforms to GP management plans and team care arrangements – but with just over two months left on the clock, the Department of Health and Aged Care is staying mum. The changes, which will see multiple items rolled into a single GP chronic condition management plan, have technically been in the works since voluntary patient registration system MyMedicare was introduced in the 2023 budget.

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VACCINES

2BS, Brekky with Pecky, 14/04/2025, Kerry Peck

Australia's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Tony Lawler, is urging Australians to get vaccinated ahead of the flu season. He says the flu season traditionally runs from June to September but there is already a spike in flu cases.

Also reported by: [4WK \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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2CC, Breakfast, 14/04/2025, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Dr Tony McDermott, Medical Director of Bupa, about the alarming decline in flu vaccination rates. McDermott believes the low rates are a hangover from COVID-19 pandemic. He adds there is a misunderstanding about the COVID-19 vaccine that it is meant to stop people from getting COVID, when it is meant to stop hospitalisation and deaths. He note the flu vaccine is the same.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

'Soul-destroying': Class action lawsuit launched against Bupa Aged Care Australia

The Australian, Other, 14/04/2025, Alexandra Feiam

A class action lawsuit has been filed against Bupa Aged Care Australia, alleging "poor-quality care" in its aged care facilities across an almost-six-year period. Echo Law filed the lawsuit against the major healthcare provider, alleging it failed to provide the quality of care promised to residents and that it was required to deliver under law.

[Read More](#)

Class action launched against aged care provider Bupa

9News, Other, 14/04/2025, Richard Wood

A class action has been launched today against aged care provider Bupa over allegations it provided poor quality services at its residential homes. The Federal Court lawsuit alleges that between July 2019 and April 2025, Bupa Aged Care Australia's homes failed to deliver the standards promised to residents.

[Read More](#)

Class action launched against Bupa Aged Care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 14/04/2025, Stefanie Schultz

An Australian law firm has today announced that it has commenced a class action against Bupa aged care facilities on behalf of residents. Echo Law alleges that from July 1 2019 "Bupa Aged Care failed to provide staffing levels that would meet minimum acceptable standards in each of its aged care homes.

[Read More](#)

Labor pledges \$60 million for aged care in the NT

Aged Care Insite, Other, 14/04/2025

Upgraded mental health care facilities and funds for a new residential care home will form the centrepiece of Labor's grand plan for health services in the Top End, as Anthony Albanese continues to try and rally voters across northern Australia. On Friday, Labor unveiled its Health and Aged Care Plan for the Northern Territory, which includes a record \$60m to support the construction of a new residential care home in Darwin.

[Read More](#)

Action over Bupa care failings

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/04/2025

Bupa Aged Care Australia is facing a class action over poor-quality care at its residential aged care facilities. Echo Law filed the lawsuit today, which alleges that Bupa failed to provide the quality of care promised to residents, and that it was required to deliver under law, between 01 July 2019-11 and April 2025.

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First look at early detection prostate cancer draft guidelines

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 14/04/2025

Jolyon Attwooll 14/04/2025 4:18:11 PM Currently out for consultation, the new guidelines reflect significant changes to the screening process. The question of testing remains a nuanced, individual clinical discussion.

[Read More](#)

Fair Work Ombudsman investigates wages and rights of aged care workers in five states

SBS, Other, 14/04/2025, Edinel Magtibay

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) is currently investigating wage practices and the rights of workers in the aged care sector across Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia, following multiple reports of potential breaches. The FWO reminded the public that there are many free tools and information available for both employers and employees.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Pregnancy diabetes ADHD link

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/04/2025, Page 15

Children born to mothers who experienced gestational diabetes during pregnancy could be more likely to develop attention-deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD), a new study has found. The Edith Cowan University research examined data from 200,000 mother-child pairs in Europe and Australia and found that in children aged seven to 10, those born to mothers with gestational diabetes consistently showed higher ADHD symptoms.

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

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'Give people power to choose'

Canberra Times, General News, 15/04/2025, Jasper Lindell, Page 10

Canberrans should be given the choice to leave instructions to access voluntary assisted dying before they lose their decision-making power to a worsening illness, the ACT Greens say. The Greens' Andrew Braddock said residents in the ACT deserved the right to choose the time they wanted to access the assisted dying scheme if they had a terminal condition or were experiencing an intolerable level of suffering.

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This is the least you need to do to reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 14/04/2025, Sarah Berry

One of the first studies to show the impact of physical activity on heart health came from an observation in the 1950s that conductors on London's double-decker buses had lower rates of cardiovascular disease compared with the drivers. The difference was that the conductors moved about the buses all day, walking up and down the stairs, while the drivers sat the entire time.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Genetic links to osteo offer new hope

The Australian, General News, 15/04/2025, Penny Timms, Page 3

The world's largest study of its type has uncovered new genetic links to osteoarthritis, and provided greater insights into how the disease works, clearing the way for more targeted medications. The genome-wide association study has identified more than 500 new genetic links to the disease, as well as new potential drug targets which could offer relief to millions of patients.

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Children's cancer hub job cuts reversed

Age, General News, 15/04/2025, Broede Carmody and Alexander Darling, Page 1

The Royal Children's Hospital has scrapped its plan to cut 13 jobs at its Children's Cancer Centre. Days after The Saturday Age revealed the hospital's plan to cut the positions, the hospital confirmed it was working with its philanthropic arm, the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation, to continue funding the roles, which include specialist mental health workers, allied health professionals and art therapists.

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Prostate cancer markers show up in spit

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/04/2025, Poppy Koronka, Page 9

A spit test for prostate cancer could be better at detecting the disease than present methods such as blood tests, a study has suggested. The test, which analyses genetic variants in a man's DNA, was better at finding aggressive prostate cancers and reducing false-positive results than other techniques.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Australia leads world in 'proactive' prostate cancer detection

The Australian, Other, 14/04/2025, Natasha Robinson

Mark Jensen had just finished ducking to the nearest tree after teeing off at the golf course when his mates took a humorous dig. "C'mon Jensen, get out of the trees, we've got to play golf here," they ribbed the 55-year-old. It had been the third or fourth time during the day that Mr Jensen had relieved his bladder

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Hidden crisis in gynaecological cancers affecting women

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/04/2025

A hidden crisis is affecting women diagnosed with gynaecological cancer as treatment options vary and survival rates remain some of the poorest. Gynaecological cancers remain among the most lethal for women and include uterine (endometrial), ovarian, cervical, vaginal and vulvar cancers.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

A joint message to the gynaecological cancer community

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 15/04/2025

A new initiative aiming to revolutionise the diagnosis, treatment and care pathway for women with gynaecological cancers is soon to be launched to the Australian public, as we work to secure a significant funding commitment from the federal government. Leading gynaecological cancer organisations, clinical and pre-clinical researchers, and women with lived experience, have joined forces to develop the Gynaecological Cancer Transformation Initiative (GCTI), an evidence based national program with the goal to deliver equitable access to world-class healthcare, improving quality of life and survival rates for all women with a gynaecological cancer.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 14/04/2025, Peter Overton

Experts are calling for a major change in the way Australian men are getting tested for prostate cancer. The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia is seeking feedback on a new plan, which is set to be in practice later this 2025.

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PRIMARY CARE

Years of hard labour goes to waste as health system delivers a crisis

The Australian, General News, 15/04/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

For well more than 20 years, Anusha Lazzari's life was a relentless haze of hard work. The grind of medical school, the long nights of being on-call as a junior doctor, then years of rigorous specialist obstetrics training were followed by countless sleepless nights elivering babies.

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Mother-baby healthcare in need of urgent overhaul

The Australian, Editorials, 15/04/2025, Page 10

While all political parties have shied away from difficult challenges throughout the election campaign, Australia's broken maternity health system is too serious a crisis to ignore. While the system is fundamentally safe, women, their babies and healthcare professionals deserve better than the ramshackle mess that is undermining choices for women in delivery options.

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Doctors turn to AI power

The Australian, Business News, 15/04/2025, Jared Lynch, Page 20

Doctors are increasingly using artificial intelligence to see more patients, using the technology to record consultations and transcribe notes into electronic medical records, helping ease GP burnout. Heidi Health, an Australian medtech backed by the nation's biggest venture capital firm Blackbird, says it has doubled the number of consultations it supports to more than a million in the past four months thanks to Google.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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'Give people power to choose'

Canberra Times, General News, 15/04/2025, Jasper Lindell, Page 10

Canberrans should be given the choice to leave instructions to access voluntary assisted dying before they lose their decision-making power to a worsening illness, the ACT Greens say. The Greens' Andrew Braddock said residents in the ACT deserved the right to choose the time they wanted to access the assisted dying scheme if they had a terminal condition or were experiencing an intolerable level of suffering.

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Treats not so sweet

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 15/04/2025, Page 5

Sweet tooths of all ages are being urged to be mindful this Easter, as the holiday's sugary treats put dental health at risk. More than one-third of children aged five to six years have experienced decay in their baby teeth, and almost a quarter of children aged six to 14 have tooth decay in their permanent teeth, the Australian Dental Association (ADA) reports.

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Urgent care clinic promise for Morisset

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/04/2025, Jessica Belzycki, Page 8

The Coalition government has promised a new urgent care clinic for one of the fastest growing areas in the Hunter if elected. Nationals candidate Sue Gilroy announced yesterday that she planned to open a clinic in Morisset.

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Updated advice issued for cosmetic injectables industry

The Australian, Other, 15/04/2025, Penny Timms

Concerns that nurse-led cosmetics clinics providing anti-wrinkle and filler injectables were operating outside the regulations in Queensland have been alleviated after a months-long review. Queensland Health says in industry guidance updated on Tuesday that the clinics will be allowed to operate even if a prescribing doctor is not physically onsite.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today , 14/04/2025, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

The Australian Medical Association calling for a tax on sugary drinks, saying it would help fight chronic disease. The AMA suggests a tariff of \$0.50 per 100 grams of sugar akin to the policy in the UK, where sugar consumption has now fallen 47,000 tonnes a year.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

After our party the talk begins

Adelaide Advertiser, Edition Changes, 15/04/2025, Kate Uren, Page 8

The party may be over, but plans are already being made to support the mental health of Peterborough's farming community into the future. Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation SA is bringing its Mates, Meals and Mental Health program to the Mid North town, where 1000 farmers and locals joined Premier Peter Malinauskas and Crows legend Tony Modra at The Advertiser's Peter Party on Monday.

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Doing it for the kids

Adelaide Advertiser, Business Journal, 15/04/2025, Giuseppe Tauriello, Page 19

Specialist occupational therapy provider on growth spurt Specialist occupational therapy provider
OTFC Group has broken ground on two new facilities in Adelaide and Melbourne as part of a national expansion plan that will result in it servicing more than 300 clients by the end of the year. The Adelaide-based company led by husband-wife duo Dino and Michelle Mennillo has doubled its client base to 200 over the past two years alone after expanding into Queensland in 2023 and Victoria in 2024.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 14/04/2025, Sally Sara

Panel discussion with Carolyn Nikoloski, CEO of Mental Health Australia and Professor Sam Harvey, Executive Director of the Black Dog Institute. Nikoloski and Harvey discuss mental health policy in the Federal Election. Nikoloski comments on whether the policies have given enough support to deal with shortage in the mental health workforce.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Pay rise for nurses, midwives at Wollongong Private

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/04/2025, Nadine Morton, Page 3

Wollongong Private Hospital nurses have claimed victory after long-running industrial action netted them a 16 per cent pay rise. Nurses and midwives at the hospital and 38 other hospitals owned by Ramsay Health Care, including in Nowra and the Southern Highlands, have been campaigning for 250 days to secure the deal.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#).

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Commonwealth facing calls to fund nurses' private sector pay rises

Australian Financial Review, Other, 14/04/2025, David Marin-Guzman

The nurses' union has called on whichever party wins government to set aside billions of dollars to fund pay rises of up to 35 per cent for private sector nurses, heaping pressure on the federal budget.

[Read More](#)

'Desperate' nurse barred from practicing for 18 months after forging documents

ABC Online, Other, 14/04/2025, Eva Blandis

A nurse who committed "professional misconduct of a serious nature" to gain employment at a hospital on the state's Fleurieu Peninsula, was "desperate to get a job", a tribunal has heard. A judgement handed down in the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal earlier this year found that Syed Husnain, 30, "had not demonstrated reformation of character" when committing the offending after previously being reprimanded for providing health regulatory body AHPRA with a "fabricated" language test result in May 2020.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Doctors call for Medicare rebate revamp

ABC Online, Other, 14/04/2025, Samantha Donovan

The peak body for the nation's doctors, the Australian Medical Association, is calling on the next federal government to make significant changes to the Medicare rebate scheme so patients can spend more time with their GP. In its federal election platform, the AMA is recommending a new seven-tier rebate system be introduced.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

One of 'greatest threats facing humanity'

Canberra Times, General News, 15/04/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 11

A Canberra doctor inspired to enter medicine after surviving cancer as a teenager is fighting what the CSIRO calls "one of the greatest threats facing humanity". Specialists from around the Asia-Pacific convened in Canberra in early April to organise against the rise of deadly bugs and bacteria.

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SPORT

Funding lifeline for Afghani cricketers

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/04/2025, Page 10

Cricket's global bosses have announced funding support for the Afghanistan women's team now exiled in Australia after they fled their homes three years ago to escape the Taliban regime. The International Cricket Council will partner with the national bodies in Australia, India and England to deliver high performance programs aimed at keeping the players in the game.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Combination of drugs could prevent thousands of heart attacks, study suggests

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/04/2025

Giving patients a combination of drugs earlier in their treatment could prevent thousands of heart

attacks, according to a new study. Patients should be treated earlier with statins and the cholesterol-lowering drug ezetimibe, researchers at Lund University in Sweden and Imperial College London said.

[Read More](#)

Combination of two cheap drugs could save lives after heart attack, study finds

The Guardian, Other, 15/04/2025, Andrew Gregory

Thousands of heart attacks or strokes could be prevented and lives saved with a combination of two cheap drugs, a study suggests. Cardiovascular disease is the most common cause of death worldwide, with heart attacks the most common acute event.

[Read More](#)

Pfizer ends development of potential pill obesity treatment

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 15/04/2025, Tom Murphy

Pfizer is ending the development of its potential once-daily pill treatment for obesity before venturing into the biggest and most expensive level of clinical testing. The drugmaker said Tuesday that it would stop studying danuglipron after a participant in one of its trials experienced a possible drug-induced liver injury that ended once the person stopped taking the treatment.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Community health buildings are falling apart

Age, General News, 15/04/2025, Broede Carmody, Page 2

A huge chunk of Victoria's Indigenous community health infrastructure is rundown, crumbling and posing safety risks to patients and staff. More than 40 per cent of the sector's total floor space is in critical condition meaning foundations are failing, there are cracks in walls or portions of roofs could cave in at any moment.

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Millions needed to repair our digs

Herald Sun, General News, 15/04/2025, Mitch Clarke, Page 16

The Alban government is being urged to pour \$150m into fixing a widening Aboriginal health gap after a report found crumbling facilities put patients and staff at risk. A damning assessment of the state's Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, known as ACCOs, which provide health and wellbeing services to Indigenous people, has laid bare the state of "unsafe" buildings.

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New TV series Our Medicine shines a light on First Nations healthcare

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/04/2025, Giovanni Torre

New documentary series, Our Medicine, will shine a spotlight on First Nations healthcare, including ancient healing practices in Western Australia's Kimberley region, when it premieres on 29 May. Narrated by Leah Purcell AM (The Drover's Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson, High Country), the six-part observational series will air on National Indigenous Television (NITV), SBS and SBS On Demand, with funding support from Screenwest and Lotterywest.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Weipa finding raises alarm

Cairns Post, General News, 15/04/2025, Arun Singh Mann, Page 9

Cape York residents are urged to take all precautions against mosquito bites, following the recent detection of Murray Valley Encephalitis virus in mosquitoes at Weipa. Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service public health medical officer Dr Allison Hempenstall said this was the first detection of MVE virus in mosquitoes at Weipa in more than 10 years.

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State feels mozzie sting

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 15/04/2025, Isabella Pesch, Page 8

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.

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Measles outbreak linked to Tim Gurner's luxury spa

Australian Financial Review, Other, 14/04/2025, Mark Di Stefano

Victoria's chief medical officer Dr Tarun Weeramanthri issued an alarming alert over the weekend, about an increase in measles cases in greater Melbourne.

[Read More](#)

Top doctor's warning after spike in flu cases among Aussie kids

9News, Other, 14/04/2025, Joshua Buchwald

Australia's top doctor has urged parents to have their children vaccinated as the number of influenza B cases among children spikes to its highest level in recent memory. More than 7,000 national cases of influenza have been notified for children aged five to nine so far this year, the highest of any age range, data from the Department of Health and Aged Care reveals.

[Read More](#)

Flu cases surge to record highs as vaccination rates stall

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 14/04/2025, Chloe Hava

Australia is experiencing its worst start to an influenza season, with case numbers surging and vaccination rates falling behind across key age groups. Amid early peaks, a rise in influenza B cases, and sluggish immunisation uptake, Australian Pharmacist presents a visual snapshot of how the 2025 flu season is unfolding – and what must be done now to prevent a looming public health crisis.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Channel 7, Sunrise, 14/04/2025, Matt Shirvington and Natalie Barr

Interview with Doctor Samantha Saling, GP, about the Australians using illegal tanning products. Saling says these products are in the form of injections and nasal spray, and are products that aren't regulated in Australia. She adds there is no such thing as a healthy tan, especially with such medications.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Cannabis vapes disguised as pens, lip balm, even airpod cases

They can take the form of a pen that actually works, a lip gloss, a car key or an airpod case. They're called penjamins — deliberately disguised to look like everyday objects, allowing the user to vape cannabis discreetly.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Easter food safety warning

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 15/04/2025, Page 5

Aussies have been issued a renewed warning to take food safety seriously ahead of the Easter break. Citing the growing popularity of 'Fishtok' with young anglers among to the country's estimated 4.2 million recreational fishers the Food Safety Information Council has released food safety advice ahead of the long weekend.

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

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AMA lobbies for tax on fizzy drinks

Cairns Post, General News, 15/04/2025, Duncan Evans, Page 4

The Australian Medical Association is calling for a sugar tax on soft drinks in a major pre-election push. The peak body says the tax would help roll back a surge in chronic diseases linked to the intake of sugar-saturated beverages.

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AICIS

Push for more toxic waste controls at Chevron's WA Gorgon gas project

Age, Business News, 15/04/2025, Emma Young, Page 26

The WA Government's new move to crack down on Chevron's chemical controls in the state's north-west goes nowhere near far enough, say environmental advocates. [...] The Department of Water and Environment Regulation has known about Chevron's use of soil containing toxic 'forever chemical' PFAS there for five years but has only now moved to address it.

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