



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 16th April 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 3) reports the Federal Government has pledged \$17 million towards free mental health support for new parents, as research shows post-natal depression affects one in five new mothers and one in 10 fathers. Health Minister Mark Butler said becoming a parent was a profound change and for many parents it could be overwhelming.
- The **[Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 15) reports drug manufacturer Eli Lilly has threatened to withdraw tens of millions of dollars from Australian clinical trials unless the Federal Government speeds up the process to approve medicines for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 4) and **[The Australian](#)** (Online) lead coverage reporting CT scans may be contributing to tens of thousands of cases of cancer a year, according to a study of US data by the Institute of Cancer Research in London, with the authors warning doctors not to be complacent about the radiation risk the scans pose.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 6) reports an independent study of the Medicare Urgent Care Clinics has found that even though up to 334,000 hospital visits had been avoided in a year, it could not determine that emergency department waiting times and visits had dropped as a result, while the RACGP states boosting existing GP services would have been more efficient than establishing 87 new facilities.

- [ABC Online](#) and [Radio National](#) report young homeless people are experiencing high rates of self-harm and suicide because they can't access early mental health intervention resources, according to research by the Melbourne City Mission and Orygen.
- [The Daily Mail](#) (Online) leads coverage reporting Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has visited his fourth Urgent Care Clinic so far this election to promote Labor's healthcare policies, while noting that the clinics have provided free care to 1.3 million Australians.
- [ABC News](#) leads coverage reporting almost \$5 million of illegal tobacco has been seized by Victoria Police, the Therapeutic Goods Association and the Australian Taxation Office in raids on 12 tobacconists this week, with 14 people charged on summons.

MINISTER BUTLER

NSW Healthscope saga full of contradictions

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 16/04/2025, Michael Smith, Page 25

Healthscope caught the Minns government off guard last week when it offered to dissolve its joint ownership at the Northern Beaches Hospital, years before the agreement to operate the facility ended.

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Mental health boost for parents

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/04/2025, Madura McCormack and Clare Armstrong, Page 3

New mums and dads will get free mental health support before and after the birth of their child under a \$17m Labor election promise to help Australians adjust to life with children. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said becoming a parent was a profound change and for many parents it could be overwhelming. "These Perinatal Mental Health Centres will provide families needing that extra support for free," he said.

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Don't ignore private hospitals to fix our health mess

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/04/2025, Brett Heffernan, Page 13

Is Australia's health system humming along so nicely that a daily cash splash is all that's needed in this election? A billion funding injection here, a \$10 million prop up there? [...] Despite knowing this for two-and-a-half years, federal Health Minister Mark Butler has left it until the federal election to pledge that insurers must restore the traditional funding ratio to private hospitals or be regulated to do so.

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'I don't want to talk about poo but I have to': Ryan Mann advocates for himself and others with stomas

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/04/2025, Evangeline Polymeneas

Father-of-one Ryan Mann said he would rather not speak about how he goes to the toilet but feels it is important to stand up for the people in Australia who have a stoma, after calls for more funding went unanswered. [...] After experiencing difficulties with the products available in Australia, Mr Mann, along with over 1000 people, wrote to Health Minister Mark Butler on November 20, 2024, but received no response.

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MINISTER WELLS

Storm breaking barriers for female talent

NRL.com, Other, 15/04/2025

Melbourne Storm is paving the way for more women and girls to play, coach and referee rugby league

in Victoria with the backing of the Australian Government. Storm CEO Justin Rodski, Captain Harry Grant, and a group of young players and referees – Mahlia Davys, Pearl Potesio, Taylor Marama and Deandrea Morgan – joined Minister for Sport, Anika Wells, at AAMI Park to officially launch the Breaking Barriers program.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

New free mental health clinic opens at Mt Barker

The Mt Barker Courier, Other, 16/04/2025, Joseph Moore

A new free, walk-in mental health support service has opened in the Hills. Co-funded by the Federal and State governments and operated by Summit Health, the new Mt Barker Medicare Mental Health Centre is staffed by qualified mental health professionals including nurses, social workers and peer support workers. [...] The Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride, said the provision of access to psychologists and psychiatrists would be achieved for every centre through an online service.

[Read More](#)

Support for kid's mental health

Grapevinenewsonline.com, Other, 15/04/2025

The Central Coast Kids Hub in Tuggerah will be the first of four Kids Hubs being rolled out across NSW as part of a \$35.8 million joint investment by the Australian and NSW Governments to support children's mental health. Assistant Minister Emma McBride said, "For kids experiencing mental health or wellbeing challenges, it's important that they have a safe place to access support and care.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

Nurses contribute to success of Urgent Care Clinics

Winchelsea Star, General News, 15/04/2025, Page 30

An evaluation of Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (UCCs) provides evidence that the clinics provide care for illnesses and injuries that are urgent but not life-threatening and reduce expensive visits to hospital emergency departments. ACN CEO, Adj Prof Kathryn Zeitz, said the evaluation by the Department of Health and Aged Care shows that nurses make a significant contribution.

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The role of allied health in delivering reablement and wellness services

HealthTimes, Other, 15/04/2025

As Australia prepares for the new Aged Care Act and strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards from July 1, 2025, re-ablement and wellness are emerging as guiding principles in aged care reform. [...] Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, ELDAC offers practical, evidence-based resources to guide clinicians through the complexities of aged care reform.

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'It's just a matter of time': national measles warning

The Medical Republic, Other, 15/04/2025, Amanda Sheppard

Concern is rising about the number of cases of the disease rarely seen in Australia. See how PHNs are faring when it comes to vaccination rates. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, as of January 30, the national vaccination coverage rate for all five-year-olds was 93.76 per cent.

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VACCINES

Shortage of Long COVID clinics

ABC Online, Other, 15/04/2025, Kathleen O'Connor

An increasing number of Australian doctors are walking away from their general practice to open their own long COVID clinics. GPs who are interested in long COVID say the number of patients desperate for treatment is soaring.

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

Researchers at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne are one step closer in finding a cure for long COVID. WEHI laboratory head Dr Marcel Doelfinger says tests on lab mice revealed that a drug originally aimed at preventing acute illness was found to also block long COVID symptoms. Long COVID patients like Phoebe Kinrade express hope in the development as the human trial phase nears.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 14/04/2025, Spence Denny

Interview with ABC resident medical expert Dr Norman Swan, discussing the long-term impacts of repeated COVID infections. He says the virus can damage multiple organs, including the heart, brain, and kidneys, and increase the risk of long COVID and cardiovascular diseases. While vaccines may not completely prevent infection, Dr Swan says they dampen the immune system's harmful responses, making severe illness and long COVID far less likely.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

The difference between retirement villages and aged care

Age, General News, 16/04/2025, Rachel Lane, Page 27

From July 1, aged care homes will start charging an exit fee up to 10 per cent over five years making them look a little more like retirement villages. But while both can provide you with accommodation and care, that's where the similarities often end.

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

Big changes are planned for aged care in 2025. But you'd never know

from the major parties

HelloCare, Other, 15/04/2025, Alex Jacobs

There has been little new in pre-election promises for Australia's aged-care workers, providers or the 1.3 million people who use aged care. In March, Labor announced A\$2.6 billion for another pay rise for aged-care nurses in addition to previous pay increases

[Read More](#)

Scape reportedly in exclusive talks to buy retirement village operator Aveo

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/04/2025, Ian Horswill

The student accommodation provider, working with Macquarie Capital and Deutsche Bank on due diligence, is likely to call on the two banks and Scape's capital partners to buy the \$3 billion plus business owned by Brookfield. Brookfield put Aveo up for sale in June last year and the Australian Financial Review reported on Monday it "granted Scape exclusivity following a frenetic final round of bidding".

[Read More](#)

3AW, Mornings, 15/04/2025, Tom Elliott

Interview with Echo Law senior associate Dr Lauren Meath, discussing a recently launched class action suit against Bupa Aged Care over its alleged failure to meet legally required and contractually promised standards of care across its facilities between July 2019 and April 2025. Despite the findings of the Aged Care Royal Commission, Dr Meath points out the persistence of the same systemic issues. Dr Meath notes that the class action suit focuses on inadequate staffing levels and care minutes.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 15/04/2025, Leon Compton

Interview with Christian Homes Tasmania CEO Glenn Hardwick, discussing Kingston's newly approved aged care facility which will serve as a midway between a retirement village and a nursing home. Kingsborough Council unanimously approved Christian Homes' application for a facility with 75 rooms and 60 assisted living apartments. Hardwick says the facility suits people who are worried about moving into full-time residential aged care.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Petition launched to introduce exclusion zones around Brisbane schools to curb vape sales

4BC, Other, 15/04/2025, Sofie Formica

Member for Cooper Jonty Bush has started a petition calling on the Brisbane City Council to introduce exclusion zones around schools to prohibit the sale of vapes, tobacco, and e-cigarettes. Ms Bush told Sofie Formica on 4BC Afternoons, "I would say almost every school now has got a vape shop operating within a five-minute walk to them."

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Channel 7, Seven News, 15/04/2025, Max Fatcher and Sarah Greenhalgh

Queensland Health is spending millions to try to protect people in the flood zone from Japanese encephalitis. The killer disease is carried by mosquitoes, which right now are exploding in numbers.

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CAT scans cause cancer

Herald Sun, General News, 16/04/2025, Page 4

Tens of thousands of people are developing cancer every year from overuse of computed tomography (CAT) scans, research has found. Such scans use radiation to take detailed images of the body that can help with the diagnosis of cancer and heart disease or detect broken bones.

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Change the game on cancer diagnosis

Canberra Times, General News, 16/04/2025, Jeff Dunn, Page 12

Prostate cancer is Australia's most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death in men. Each year, around 4000 men lose their lives to the disease and that number is set to grow unless we take action.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#)

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Overuse of CT scans 'causes thousands of cancers a year'

The Australian, Other, 15/04/2025, Eleanor Hayward

Tens of thousands of people are developing cancer every year as a result of the overuse of computed tomography (CT) scans, research has found. Such scans use radiation to take detailed images of the body which can help with the diagnosis of cancer and heart disease or detect broken bones after an accident.

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These STIs can increase your risk of dementia

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/04/2025, McKenzie Beard

Rates of STIs are rising in Australia One in six Australians will get an STI. Some will also get an increased risk of memory issues.

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Hidden crisis in gynaecological cancers affecting women

Daily Liberal, Other, 14/04/2025, Maeve Bannister

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.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 15/04/2025, Aislin Kriukelis

Researchers from Brisbane's QIMR Berghofer and Germany could be a step closer in providing treatment for osteoarthritis after they uncovered 513 new genetic links to osteoarthritis, bringing the total to 962. The study also identified 700 effector genes involved in the development of osteoarthritis, which afflicts 2 million Australians, and factoring in obesity and sleep-wake cycles. They also found that 470 existing medications targeting those genes could be repurposed for osteoarthritis treatment.

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Radio National, Life Matters, 15/04/2025, Hilary Harper and Beverley Wang

Interview with Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia research head Prof Jeff Dunn, discussing Australia launching the world's first national guidelines for early detection of prostate cancer. He says having such guidelines will provide better, more consistent advice for GPs and specialists and encourage PSA testing for men aged 50 and over or earlier for high-risk groups. Prof Dunn hopes the guidelines will also dispel outdated stigmas like fear of digital rectal exams.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, AM, 15/04/2025, Sabra Lane

New findings published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that CT scans may account for 5 per cent of all cancer cases, based on data from 61 million Americans. RMIT University senior lecturer Dr Pradip Deb says that while the findings align with past studies, he cautions that the modelling doesn't account for patients' pre-existing conditions. AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen says CT scans remain vital tools when used properly, with alternative imaging methods considered when appropriate.

Also reported by: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#), [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

NSW Healthscope saga full of contradictions

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 16/04/2025, Michael Smith, Page 25

Healthscope caught the Minns government off guard last week when it offered to dissolve its joint ownership at the Northern Beaches Hospital, years before the agreement to operate the facility ended.

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Holes in Albo's clinic claims

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/04/2025, Clare Armstrong and Madura McCormack, Page 6

Labor has no proof its \$750m Medicare urgent-care clinics have reduced waiting times at hospital emergency departments, even as Anthony Albanese pledges to roll out more of the facilities. An independent review into Labor's signature health initiative found even though up to 334,000 hospital visits had been avoided in a year due to the new clinics, it could not conclude emergency department (ED) wait times and visits had dropped as a result.

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

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

Doubts over true value of facilities

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/04/2025, Clare Armstrong, Page 6

No one in their right mind is going to complain about getting a bulk-billed GP appointment, but that doesn't mean healthcare spending should avoid public scrutiny. However, Labor is clearly betting on voters being more focused on the sheer relief of only having to hand over a Medicare card to pay for a trip to one of their 87 urgent-care clinics than what the ultimate cost of the scheme really is.

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

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Coalition lifeline for RCH service

Herald Sun, General News, 16/04/2025, Jade Gailberger, Page 6

A specialist unit for complex colorectal diseases at the Royal Children's Hospital will be thrown a \$1.2m lifeline in a Coalition election pledge for youngsters needing vital care. The opposition is also pledging to permanently fund the world-leading unit, which was quietly disbanded earlier this year, as part of a new five-year health deal with the state.

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Buoyed PM touts Aussie values not 'Americanised' health

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/04/2025

Riding high in the polls, the prime minister has returned to familiar territory - spruiking his government's healthcare record while warning against "Americanisation" of the system. Anthony Albanese visited his fourth Medicare urgent care clinic of the campaign at Bridgewater in the Tasmanian electorate of Lyons, which Labor holds on a 0.9 per cent margin over the Liberals.

[Read More](#)

'Screaming in pain': toddler's 20-hour wait at hospitals

Canberra Times, General News, 16/04/2025, Petlee Peter and Lanie Tindale, Page 1

A mother whose baby waited 20 hours to get her arm cast after being dislocated is calling for better paediatric services in Canberra's north. Shaina Sharma said her 22-month-old injured her left arm on Canberra Day while playing at their home in Florey. The mother rushed her child to the nearest emergency department at North Canberra Hospital, arriving at around 12.30pm.

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Labor pledges \$3.8m to keep Interchange open

Canberra Times, General News, 16/04/2025, Dana Daniel, Page 2

The Albanese government has unveiled a \$3.8 million pre-election pledge to safeguard the future of the Interchange Health Co-operative, after a new temporary operator was found for the Tuggeranong GP and allied health clinic that provides care to thousands of vulnerable Canberrans. About 4900 patients - including those experiencing homelessness, with mental health conditions and substance abuse disorders - who had been left stranded by the shock closure of one of Canberra's only remaining bulk-billed GP clinics last week have been advised their care will continue as the administrator seeks a permanent buyer.

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\$130m upgrade to RHH may only be Band-Aid

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/04/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 2

Work on a crucial \$130m upgrade of the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) emergency department is set to begin this year, with the state government promising the revamp will reduce wait times and patients' length of stay. The Health Department has lodged a development application for stage two of the hospital's redevelopment and has released concept images of the planned ED works.

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Hospital lifeline

Cairns Post, General News, 16/04/2025, Arun Singh Mann, Page 1

A plan to "rescue" the Cairns hospital expansion is imminent as the state government claims the build was on track for a \$378m blowout, and less beds than promised. But Queensland's Health Minister Tim Nicholls said there would be no changes to the scope of the project, guaranteeing an additional 96 beds and four new surgical theatres.

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Private-public hospital sale probed to avoid big windfall gain

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 16/04/2025, Page 11

A private hospital operator's push to sell a facility back to the public will be probed as officials insist the under-fire firm cannot be rewarded with a windfall. Healthscope proposed to sell the 488-bed Northern Beaches Hospital back to the NSW government and end a public-private healthcare partnership, the likes of which Premier Chris Minns has outlawed moving forward.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 15/04/2025, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

WA Health Infrastructure Minister John Carey announced a \$4.3b package to upgrade Perth's major hospitals, with the new Women's and Babies Hospital getting top priority. Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital will have 10 more ICU beds and an emergency room makeover. The hospital's emergency medicine director, Tom Cassidy, welcomes the changes. The St John of God Midland Public Hospital will get \$325m in funding, while the emergency room at the Royal Perth Hospital will receive \$100m.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Heat link to mental health harm

West Australian, General News, 16/04/2025, Page 17

Rising temperatures across the country could increase the burden of mental health concerns by almost 50 per cent by 2050, a new study has shown. The research from the University of Adelaide found high temperatures contributed to an annual loss of almost 8500 "disability-adjusted life years", or 1.8 per cent of the total burden of mental and behavioural disorders in Australia.

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

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Mental healthcare costs weigh on youth

Ballarat Courier, General News, 16/04/2025, Page 7

Caring for mental health is hitting young people hardest in the hip pocket, with algorithmic social media bleeding into their lives and a cost-of-living crisis weighing on their wellbeing. Those are the findings of a study by behavioural science non-profit System 2, which shows out-of-pocket costs increased by 80 per cent for young people in Australia accessing Medicare-subsidised mental health services.

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Advocates call for urgent youth homelessness reform

ABC Online, Other, 15/04/2025, Shalailah Medhora

Every four days a young homeless person aged 15-24 dies, and the majority of those deaths are due to suicide. Experts say young vulnerable people are bearing the brunt of dual crises: the skyrocketing costs of housing and pressure on the mental health system.

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Queensland transgender youth hormone therapy review

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/04/2025, Elodie Jakes

Experts are warning of major impacts for transgender children, including decreased school attendance and increased suicide attempts, if a clinical review into Queensland youth gender healthcare is extended. In January Queensland Health launched a review into the Cairns Sexual Health Service after concerns were raised about the prescription of puberty blockers to a 12-year-old within the clinic.

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

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 15/04/2025, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

The latest Resilient Youth State of the Nation report shows a slight improvement in mental health stability among Australian children for the first time since reporting began in 2019. The report surveyed over 149,000 students from 800 schools nationwide.

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Radio National, Life Matters, 15/04/2025, Hilary Harper and Beverley Wang

A new report by Orygen and Melbourne City Mission titled 'Home in Mind' reveals high rates of suicide and self-harm among young homeless people due to the inaccessibility of mental health services. Orygen policy head Vivienne Browne says service systems are overwhelmed.

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No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

JCU 'the blueprint' for regional doctors

The Australian, Higher Education, 16/04/2025, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 21

Locally trained doctors are the "best solution" to the rural GP shortage, as James Cook University leaders urge the federal government to look to them as "the blueprint" for producing graduate doctors who want to work in regional and remote areas. JCU Vice Chancellor Simon Biggs said the government and opposition, having committed to addressing the critical need for GPs around the country, should "invest in universities with a proven track record for producing graduates who take on careers in general practice and other generalist disciplines in communities that need them most".

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Tasmania sees healthcare workforce shortages

The Australian, Other, 15/04/2025

General practitioner Dr Emil Djakic said the health care system is facing a "shortage of workforce" employees across health care practices. Dr Djakic said the government needs to "evolve systems" to cope with the demand of health care facilities in Tasmania.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Bitter pill as Eli Lilly chief slams PBS delays

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 16/04/2025, Michael Smith, Page 15

Eli Lilly says it could pull tens of millions of dollars invested in Australian clinical trials unless the federal government dramatically cuts the time it takes to put new drugs onto the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

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Brisbane Greens MP joins OnlyFans to 'make people pay attention' to HIV prevention drug policy

The Guardian, Other, 16/04/2025, Josh Taylor

Stephen Bates spruiks free PrEP and PEP proposal on subscription platform best known for adult content, as well as on dating app Grindr. The Greens MP Stephen Bates has joined OnlyFans – a first for an Australian politician – as the party pushes to make the HIV prevention drugs PrEP and PEP free.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 15/04/2025, James Glenday and Bridget Brennan

US President Donald Trump will soon implement tariffs on pharmaceutical products that could further damage relations with Australia. American drug makers lobbied to have Australia's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme singled out as a concern.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

2CC, Canberra Live, 15/04/2025, Leon Delaney

Live cross with Nine Radio federal politics reporter Zac de Silva, discussing the closure of the Tuggeranong Interchange Health Co-op on Monday and Federal Labor's \$3.8m pledge to re-open it. Federal Finance Minister Katy Gallagher and local MP David Smith announced the pledge, although uncertainty remains as the clinic remains closed on Tuesday.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Drive, 15/04/2025, James Findlay

Interviews with Australian National University general practise emeritus professor Kirsty Douglas and Federal Finance Minister Katy Gallagher, discussing the closure of the Tuggeranong Interchange Health Co-op on Monday and Federal Labor's \$3.8m pledge to re-open it. Prof Douglas warns more patients could end up in already strained emergency rooms if the bulk billing clinic remains closed. Meanwhile, Gallagher assures that there are ongoing efforts to ensure continuity of care for the 5000 patients who rely on the clinic despite the funding being put on hold while under caretaker mode.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Mater nursing tutor Evan Carter disciplined for touching and sexual remarks

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/04/2025, Judith Kerr

A Queensland nurse educator has been formally reprimanded by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal after being found to have engaged in professional misconduct toward nursing students under his supervision, with extended time out of practice preceding the ruling. Evan Carter, a 60-year-old registered nurse with more than three decades of experience, faced disciplinary action following multiple substantiated allegations of inappropriate behaviour while employed as a clinical tutor at Mater Education in South Brisbane.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

ABC, ABC News, 15/04/2025, Amy Greenbank

Port Adelaide player Willie Rioli will take a personal leave following racist and homophobic comments made against him on social media. The AFL Players Association condemned the comments.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 15/04/2025, Natalie Forrest

Port Adelaide player Willie Rioli will take a personal leave following racist and homophobic comments

made against him on social media. The AFL Players Association condemned the comments.

Report continues on: [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#).

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Channel 7, Seven News, 15/04/2025, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

Port Adelaide player Willie Rioli will take a personal leave following racist and homophobic comments made against him on social media. The AFL Players Association condemned the comments.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 15/04/2025, Michael Thomson

Port Adelaide player Willie Rioli will take a personal leave following racist and homophobic comments made against him on social media. The AFL Players Association condemned the comments.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 15/04/2025, Aislin Kriukelis

Queensland Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie announced that the State Government will proceed with the construction of the controversial Redlands Whitewater Centre despite community opposition. Shadow Treasurer Shannon Fentiman wants to know how the locals view it and who is going to pay for it.

Queensland Fire Commissioner Stephen Smith welcomed the announcement because it will also double as a training facility for emergency services.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

ABC News, News Breakfast, 15/04/2025, James Glenday and Bridget Brennan

Researchers at the University of Queensland are recruiting overweight labradors and golden retrievers to explore the link between gut health, obesity, and brain function in dogs. For 28 weeks, participating pets will follow a diet and exercise plan, wear activity trackers, and complete cognitive puzzles with the help of treats.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Charles Darwin University partnership strengthens training at Garrthalala Bush University

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/04/2025, Gary Shipway

Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation (Laynha) and Charles Darwin University (CDU) have partnered to strengthen training delivery at the Garrthalala Bush University. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will allow for CDU First Nations Pathway programs into health, arts, education, engineering, science, law, business, or accounting be offered at the bush university, and other identified sites across 30 homelands, for the first time.

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

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Closing the Gap review “must not come at the cost of equity, cultural safety, or self-determination”

The National Indigenous Health Leadership Alliance has reaffirmed its position on Indigenous affairs ahead of the upcoming federal election and following the publication of key documents, including the Productivity Commission review and Close the Gap Day report. A partnership of Indigenous health and wellbeing organisations committed to dismantling systemic barriers within Australia's mainstream health system, the National Indigenous Health Leadership Alliance (NIHLA), says it welcomes all commitments to improve the effectiveness, accountability, and outcomes of government investment in Closing the Gap.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 15/04/2025, Sharnelle Vella and Bob Murphy

A new report from Infrastructure Victoria and VACCHO shows 82 per cent of buildings operating Aboriginal community-controlled health services across Victoria are in bad shape. It recommended around \$150m in infrastructure investment to urgently get underway. A State Government spokesperson said the next Budget will focus on supporting frontline services.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

New findings on RSV jab

Northern Territory News, General News, 16/04/2025, Page 3

Just one dose of the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine could help protect people aged over 60 through three seasons of the virus, according to an Australian and international trial. The study, published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, found the vaccine was 82.6 per cent effective in the first RSV season, dropping to 56 per cent in the second season and 48 per cent in the third.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Summit Pharmacy fined by TGA

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/04/2025

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued four infringement notices totalling \$75,120 to Queensland-based Summit Pharmacy for the alleged unlawful manufacturing of medicinal cannabis products. Summit Pharmacy has paid all four infringement notices. The infringement notices followed an inspection by the TGA and Queensland Health in Aug last year that found the pharmacy was manufacturing medicinal cannabis oils in bulk amounts, in alleged contravention of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 15/04/2025, James Glenday and Bridget Brennan

Victoria Police, the Australian Tax Office, and the Therapeutic Goods Administration launched a week-long blitz of 12 tobacco stores across Melbourne. The raids led to the arrest of 14 people and the seizure of nearly \$5m worth of illicit tobacco. Over 14,500 vapes were also seized. All suspects will be charged on summons.

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Channel 9, Today , 15/04/2025, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

At least 14 people have been arrested during a week-long raid of 12 tobacco stores in Melbourne. The Viper Task Force netted illegal vapes, cigarettes, and over \$22,000 in cash.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 15/04/2025, Jennifer Keyte

Detectives from Viper Task Force, the Australian Tax Office, and the Therapeutic Goods Administration launched a week-long blitz of 12 tobacco stores across Melbourne. The raids led to the arrest of 14 people and the seizure of illegal cigarettes, vapes, cash, and weapons. All suspects will be charged on summons.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

Global desalination leader Veolia to double operational capacity in Australia

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/04/2025, Taylah Fellows

Australia must urgently invest in desalination and recycled water projects or risk running dry, with global water demand forecast to outweigh supply for five billion people by 2050. [...] There is also significant opportunity for investment in recycled water, however, public perception of the technology has delayed this market, despite rising concerns over PFAS contamination.

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

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ABC, 7:30, 15/04/2025, Sarah Ferguson

Tuesday night's edition of 7.30 takes a look into the concerns of Blue Mountains residents over the high levels of PFAS detected in the local water supply. Sydney Water assured locals that water from the Medlow Dam was safe to drink but high PFAS concentrations were detected in their blood tests, which led to a class action suit. Suspicions rose further when Sydney Water's managing director, Roch Cheroux, resigned amid ongoing investigations by Water NSW and a state parliamentary inquiry.

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

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