



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 19th April 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 1) reports a survey by The Age has found over 1500 instances of delayed diagnosis or misdiagnosis due to medical misogyny, according to respondents who say they had concerns dismissed with simple answers such as having anxiety or being overweight despite many having advanced cancers or experiencing years of pain, with the survey coming as AHPRA launches a probe into gender bias against women in the medical field. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports Tasmanians have been left without a major mobile cancer screening unit after the BreastScreen Tasmania bus was removed for repairs, with the 21-year-old vehicle one of two that services 30 rural towns.
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 2) reports members of the Footscray community have called for increased mental health services after a man who charged police with a knife was fatally shot on Thursday.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 3) reports Qld Chief Health Officer Heidi Carroll has warned Queenslanders to avoid being bitten by mosquitos after Central Queensland recorded its first case of Japanese encephalitis virus. *Also reported by: [ABC Online](#)*

- [The West Australian](#) (page 3) reports the mother of an autistic woman has lodged a complaint with the Human Rights Commission against Athletics Australia after her daughter was unable to compete at the Australian Athletics Championships due to her carer not being allowed to guide her to the starting line, despite being allowed to do so in previous competitions.
- [The Saturday Age](#) (page 5) reports the AMA and RACGP have called for an additional \$1 billion to fund longer GP consultations in the Federal Government's \$8.5 billion Medicare election pledge, saying the current policy will incentivise shorter consultations which disproportionately disadvantage women who present with more complex issues such as endometriosis. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*

MINISTER BUTLER

Candidates split on hospital but Haines says it's a no-brainer

Border Mail, General News, 19/04/2025, Madilyn McKinley, Page 18

A north East election hopeful has flagged the idea of a 24-hour GP service to increase healthcare support in Wodonga if a greenfield hospital site was to go ahead. [...] "Associate Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney has been to Wodonga and six of our mayors came and met the regional health minister as well.

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War of words between private hospitals and insurers continues as health minister urges funding change

West Australian, Other, 18/04/2025, Oliver Lane

The battle between private hospitals and insurers is ramping up this Federal election with private hospitals showing materials on their walls asking patients and visitors to write to their local member. [...] The argument has come to the fore again after Health Minister Mark Butler reportedly told a healthcare summit in Sydney he would be pushing for an increase to the ratio of benefit payments from insurers.

Also reported by: [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Geraldton Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [North West Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#), [Broome Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#),

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MINISTER WELLS

\$600m to help Support at Home aged care services

Wangaratta Chronicle, General News, 17/04/2025, Steve Kelly, Page 6

Indi federal election candidates have responded to concerns about aged care home support services, which are increasing in demand amid the growing older demographics within the electorate. [...] Federal Labor spokesperson for aged care, Anika Wells, said in late March that Labor is delivering more than \$600 million to ensure older people can access quality and affordable aged care to stay independent at home for longer, regardless of where they live or if they need specialist services.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

The \$8.5b promise that doctors say will disadvantage women

The Saturday Age, General News, 19/04/2025, Aisha Dow & Kate Aubusson, Page 5

Doctors warn that a significant election pledge from both major parties to increase Medicare payments for doctors could disadvantage women because it disproportionately boosts funding for "standard" length appointments. [...] Medical misogyny has been a focus of Albanese's Assistant Health Minister, Ged Kearney, who in 2023 asked members of the National Women's Health Advisory Council to update the National Women's Health Strategy to tackle the phenomenon.

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

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Candidates split on hospital but Haines says it's a no-brainer

Border Mail, General News, 19/04/2025, Madilyn McKinley, Page 18

A north East election hopeful has flagged the idea of a 24-hour GP service to increase healthcare support in Wodonga if a greenfield hospital site was to go ahead. [...] "Associate Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney has been to Wodonga and six of our mayors came and met the regional health minister as well.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

Bulk-billing boost will play well but only deepen crisis

Weekend Australian, General News, 19/04/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 21

The defining image of this election campaign leaving aside stage stumbles and errant footballs will be Anthony Albanese brandishing a small plastic rectangular prop: the Medicare card. [...] According to a federal Health Department fact sheet, which extends modelling derived from the largest dataset of general practice billing in Australia of 6500 general practices enrolled in the practice incentives program, 4800 GP clinics will be financially better off as a result of the incentives policy.

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

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Mental Health Commissioner visits Coffs

Coffs Coast News of the Area, General News, 18/04/2025, Andrea Ferrari, Page 16

Headspace Coffs Harbour hosted the Mental Health Commissioner of NSW Jennifer Black, and Deputy Commissioner Ian Heffernan, on Wednesday 2 April at their centre in Little Street. [...] All services are funded by the Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Spiralling debts may leave Merriwa aged care with nowhere to call home

Macleay Argus, Other, 18/04/2025, Gabriel Fowler

The future is looking even more uncertain for a Hunter aged care facility which is said to be losing up to \$1 million per year. [...] "Council will also seek to have representatives from the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care attend to discuss available options.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#).

VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged care home losing \$1m a year

Newcastle Herald, General News, 19/04/2025, Gabriel Fowler, Page 16

The future is looking even more uncertain for a Hunter aged care facility which is said to be losing up to \$1 million per year. That's the figure contained in a confidential report about Gummun Place which Upper Hunter Shire Councillors met to consider just before Easter.

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Staying put in an empty nest

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 19/04/2025, Lydia Kellner & Nathan Mawby, Page 24

A whopping 79 per cent of South Australia's empty-nester households have no intention of downsizing and freeing up their larger homes for younger families. And some of the biggest numbers of potential downsizers are sitting on properties in Adelaide's most sought-after school suburbs.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Rehab site bombshell

Herald Sun, General News, 19/04/2025, Stuart Kavanagh, Page 33

Residents of a Victorian town in the grip of an ice crisis say they have been blindsided by the Labor government's plan to build a \$36m rehab centre at a former school site. The state government announced plans for the 30bed alcohol and other drug (AOD) facility in 2022 in Merbein, near Mildura in the state's north, with the former Merbein primary school selected as the preferred site.

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Schools to lose period classes

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/04/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 9

A school education program teaching Tasmanian students about period pain and how to manage it will no longer be delivered in state schools, after the Rockliff government declined a request for a funding extension. The Department for Education, Children and Young People has instead developed its own program to help teach girls and people assigned female at birth about pelvic pain and endometriosis.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

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Social enterprise solving hospitality crisis

The Saturday Age, General News, 19/04/2025, Dani Valent, Page 14

Two problems facing the workforce endemic staffing issues in the hospitality industry and underemployment of disabled people can be solved together, a new report by Melbourne social

enterprise All Things Equal suggests. [...] People with disability are twice as likely to be underemployed compared with those without disability, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Three months to live to be eligible for Support at Home palliative care help

The Senior, Other, 18/04/2025, Anthony Caggiano

People seeking support while living with a terminal illness may be able to get palliative care help through the upcoming Support at Home program. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data showed in 2022-23, people receiving palliative care for some or all of their time in hospital spent an average of 10.2 days there during their stay, compared with 2.7 days for other reasons.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Not in service

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/04/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 1

Hundreds of Tasmanian patients have been left without a vital cancer screening service after a mobile breast screening bus was taken off the road when it was damaged by water. The BreastScreen Tasmania bus was due to be replaced two years ago and the 21-year-old vehicle has now been removed for urgent electrical repairs.

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Fix the bus for health's sake

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 19/04/2025, Page 42

It is well known that Tasmania's health system is under pressure. An ageing population, under funding of primary health care and a shortage of GPs makes it difficult for anyone trying to access care.

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PRIMARY CARE

Medical misogyny's deadly impact

The Saturday Age, General News, 19/04/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 1

Women with life-threatening cancers have been dismissed as anxious, menopausal or malingerers, leading to catastrophic treatment delays in a healthcare system designed predominantly for men, from the earliest stages of research to the questions doctors are trained to ask. More than 1800 women shared their experiences of medical misogyny with The Age in response to a public callout, including more than 1500 accounts of misdiagnosis or delayed diagnoses.

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

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This misogyny must end. We are all equal

The Saturday Age, Editorials, 19/04/2025, Page 26

Women have struggled through history to be treated as the equal of men. Everything has had to be fought for, from being allowed to vote to being allowed to take part in the workforce.

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

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New carpark and further upgrades for hospital

A new 69-space carpark has been completed at the Mount Gambier Hospital, as part of a \$24 million upgrade for the Mount Gambier and District Health Service. The additional parking spaces are available for clinicians, patients and their families and was developed after a need for extra onsite parking options was identified as a key priority during consultation and planning for the hospital's renovation.

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Sink or float?

Burnie Advocate, General News, 19/04/2025, Sarah Fittock, Page 1

An alliance between two leaders is building hope that the closure of a vital North- West service will be reversed. The hydrotherapy pool at the North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) was permanently closed in February unbeknownst to many in the community.

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Inside bumper hospital redevelopment

Central Western Daily, General News, 19/04/2025, Page 4

Blayney's new-look hospital is beginning to take shape. Marking an important milestone in the health service's development, the concrete pour for the first phase of the project has been completed.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#).

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Ambulance ramping doubles in five years

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 19/04/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 12

Ambulance ramping in WA has more than doubled in the past five years, with paramedics forced to spend longer waiting outside hospitals with their patients. The Australian Medical Association's Ambulance Ramping Report Card 2025 revealed the total number of incidents requiring an ambulance nationwide was the highest on record in 2023-24 at 4,443,102.

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Two-thirds not on dental waitlist: ADA

Launceston Examiner, General News, 19/04/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 5

The number of Tasmanians waiting for dental care has dropped by 6000 since 2021, but a dentist said this figure doesn't account for all the people not even eligible to be on the list. Figures from August 2024 showed that 13,790 people were on the waitlist for general dental treatment and waited an average of 1429 days, but health minister Jacquie Petrusma says this number now stands at 11,945 people.

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Stage set for cash splash

Newcastle Herald, General News, 19/04/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

A massive funding injection is needed for stage two of John Hunter Hospital's redevelopment, which aims to "better meet patient, staff and carer needs". Business Hunter CEO Bob Hawes said it was "now timely" for the Minns government to commit to stage two "in forward-funding programs".

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Hospital probe backs up calls by grieving parents

Newcastle Herald, General News, 19/04/2025, Page 14

A scathing report into a hospital where two children died waiting for treatment has prompted fresh calls for a state government to intervene. A NSW auditor-general report on Thursday savaged Healthscope, the operator of Sydney's Northern Beaches Hospital, for failing to meet healthcare standards and not taking actions to stop clinical safety risks.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Deadline looms on hospital

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 19/04/2025, Tom Gillespie, Page 1

Labor has fired back at allegations by the LNP it didn't properly cost the new \$1.3bn Toowoomba Hospital while in government, as the deadline approaches until funding dries up on the active work site in the city's northern suburbs. Labor's treasury spokeswoman Shannon Fentiman launched an extraordinary rebuke at Health Minister Tim Nicholls, after he offered a glimpse last week of the highly anticipated review by infrastructure specialist Sam Sangster of the hospital expansion program that was greenlit under Labor.

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AMA warns of the 'new normal' as ramping continues to rise in South Australia

The Courier Mail, Other, 18/04/2025, Brad Crouch

South Australian patients spent the equivalent of five years stuck on ambulance ramps in 2023-34 and the situation is "getting worse" the Australian Medical Association says. Their new "Ambulance Ramping Report Card" confirms regular reports by The Advertiser that ramping now is on the rise for the fifth consecutive month.

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Yes we Cairns: why Labor think they can win in Far North Queensland

ABC Online, Other, 18/04/2025, Claudia Long

It's hard to reach new heights when you're already six-foot-10. But if former professional basketball player Matt Smith manages to turn the federal electorate of Leichhardt red on May 3, he might just manage it. [...] Despite it being only week two of the official campaign, Mr Smith and his team of scarlet-clad volunteers have been at this for months, spruiking Labor's Medicare urgent care clinics, housing development ambitions and asking potential voters what they want.

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Safe seat syndrome? Why some hospitals get upgrades and others miss out

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 19/04/2025

On his campaign trail, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese pledged A\$200 million to upgrade St John of God Midland Public Hospital in Perth. He promised more beds and operating theatres, and a redesigned obstetrics and neonatal unit.

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Patients unclear about private health insurance tiers

Medical Forum, Other, 18/04/2025

Five years ago this month it became mandatory for private health insurance providers to categorise their policies into one of four tiers. The reform aimed to simplify the process of comparing different products that were available to the public.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today , 18/04/2025, Alison Piotrowski & Clint Stanaway

A scathing performance review of Sydney's Northern Beaches Hospital has found it is at risk of failure. It comes after the New South Wales Auditor General says the public-private partnership model is hindering the patients' health care level.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Questions over why Taser, pepper spray not used on man shot dead by

police

The Saturday Age, General News, 19/04/2025, Marta Pascual, Page 2

Footscray residents are questioning why officers didn't use Tasers or pepper spray before fatally shooting a man who police say charged at them with a knife in Melbourne's inner west. Officers were called to Footscray Plaza about 9pm on Thursday as they responded to reports of a man armed with a knife.

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Life in limbo

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 19/04/2025, Leon Georgiou, Page 8

Janelle Roumbos and her husband Nick are like any other South Australian parents raising children. They both work, they are time poor and, like many families impacted by the cost-of-living crisis, they are trying to manage as best they can financially.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Key part of mental health fix missing

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/04/2025, Bernard Galbally, Page 67

Mental ill health and suicide among young people is an urgent national problem and it is alarmingly acute in rural and regional areas. Latest figures from the ABS show that the suicide rate in regional Australia is more than 50 per cent higher than in major cities.

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

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Criminal minds

Weekend Post, General News, 19/04/2025, Molly Frew, Page 1

Fifteen per cent of children in custody are suspected of having or diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, data shows. Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls labelled FASD a "significant problem" while in Cairns earlier this week.

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GPs' role in supporting emergency workers during natural disasters

Medical Forum, Other, 18/04/2025

It is in the weeks and months following natural disasters that symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety or depression can appear in emergency service workers who deal with such events. Black Dog Institute wants to remind GPs and allied health professionals of the important role they play in identifying and helping patients get the support they need.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 18/04/2025, Laura Jayes

Australian-made AI-powered tools are showing great promise in identifying and treating mental health issues. Brain Vector uses artificial intelligence to recreate memories and create messages from loved ones, which are experienced in virtual reality.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Cashed-up grey army bringing salvation to towns

Weekend Australian, General News, 19/04/2025, Matthew Denholm, Page 3

Slowly but surely, a grey army is marching on many of Australia's bigger regional towns, replacing youngsters chasing careers and faster-paced lives elsewhere. The trend, described by demographer Bernard Salt in Saturday's Inquirer, is palpable in centres such as Victoria's Horsham and Queensland's Charters Towers.

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Hospital reliant on private providers

Central Western Daily, General News, 19/04/2025, Riley Krause, Page 2

Orange Hospital has been forced to outsource a key medical test and send patients to Sydney since a top member of staff resigned. The CWD was informed that at the beginning of 2025, the hospital's lone staff specialist in neurology handed in their resignation to take up a position in a neighbouring state.

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We must build our medical workforce

Launceston Examiner, General News, 19/04/2025, Ruth Kearon, Page 17

It was truly an historic occasion when the University of Tasmania welcomed its first cohort of first-year medicine students to the Rural Clinical School in Burnie earlier this year. For students like Marlia Broomhall of Forest, who can now start and finish her medical degree closer to home, it has not only made a difference in her life but for the region too.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

In Trump's new order, Australia must fight for affordable medicines

Australian Financial Review, Other, 18/04/2025, Vincent So

President Donald Trump has returned to the White House with a harder-edged agenda, a more ideologically disciplined inner circle, and little appetite for the old rules of global engagement.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

School of hard knocks

Canberra Times, General News, 19/04/2025, Miriam Webber, Page 1

Knocking on doors on a pleasant Autumn afternoon in Downer, a few people reassure Labor's Alicia Payne that she already has their vote. [...] Ms Payne says Labor's commitment of \$8.5 billion to Medicare - which has been matched by the Coalition - would translate to roughly 25 more bulk-billing clinics in the territory than there are now.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Cricket boss sheds light on his grand plans for the game

Weekend Australian, Sport, 19/04/2025, Ben Horne, Page 41

Todd Greenberg has declared that one of his first priorities will be to change the dumbest rule in cricket. The new chief executive of Cricket Australia is determined to put fans first and lobby international rule makers to end the perennial embarrassment of bad light stopping play in Test cricket.

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Blatant bias has destroyed trust in anti-doping system

Weekend Australian, Sport, 19/04/2025, Julian Linden, Page 48

A year on, the explosive feud that was triggered by the revelations 23 top Chinese swimmers secretly escaped punishment after testing positive for a banned performance-enhancing drug still isn't any closer to being resolved to everyone's satisfaction. In one corner, the World Anti-Doping Agency continues to refute any suggestions it bent the rules, maintaining the Chinese swimmers were all innocent victims of food contamination.

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'We can't put our head in the sand': Greenberg's push for SCG drop-in

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 19/04/2025, Daniel Brettig, Page 39

One of Todd Greenberg's most important conversations as Cricket Australia's new boss took place some weeks before he formally started the job. But it was fitting that it happened on cricket's biggest stage, during its greatest occasion of the year.

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Legal fight for right to run her own race

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 19/04/2025, Harriet Flinn, Page 3

A mother is taking legal action against Australia's peak athletics body after her autistic daughter was denied help from a carer. Juliette Mason, 21, was ready to compete in the long jump and 400m at the Australian Athletics Championships in Perth last week.

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Black hits back at 'phantom project' call

Daily Liberal, General News, 19/04/2025, Nick McGrath & Nick Guthrie, Page 14

Mayor Josh Black has hit back at claims the community has been "misled" about the Dubbo Sporting Hub, refuting claims it is a "phantom project". Minister for western NSW Tara Moriarty dubbed the maligned hub a "phantom project" during a flying visit to the region on Friday to announce \$60 million to communities across the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone.

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Light it up

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 19/04/2025, Page 20

Herbert MP Phillip Thompson has doubled down on an promise he made leading into the last federal

election and stumped up \$6m to upgrade the lights at Riverway Stadium. North Queensland, time and time again, is overlooked for international cricket games and special AFL matches, with sporting bodies and codes opting to take the action to Cairns and Mackay.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

All ears on dementia tip

Herald Sun, General News, 19/04/2025, Page 34

Hearing loss is to blame for a third of dementia cases, a study suggests. The findings illustrate the importance of seeking treatment or use of hearing aids as early as possible as this could delay dementia for many people, according to researchers from Columbia University in New York.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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The link between gestational diabetes and ADHD

Medical Forum, Other, 18/04/2025

A condition which affects almost one in five pregnant women has been linked to higher rates of attention-deficient hyperactive disorder. An ECU study has found children born to mothers who experienced gestational diabetes during pregnancy are more likely to develop ADHD and externalising behaviour.

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Medical cannabis shows potential to fight cancer, largest-ever study finds

The Guardian, Other, 18/04/2025, Hannah Harris Green

The largest ever study investigating medical cannabis as a treatment for cancer, published this week in Frontiers in Oncology, found overwhelming scientific support for cannabis's potential to treat cancer symptoms and potentially fight the course of the disease itself. The intention of the analysis was to solidify agreement on cannabis's potential as a cancer treatment, said Ryan Castle, research director at the Whole Health Oncology Institute and lead author of the study.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

'Lessons lost' as bird flu looms

Weekend Australian, General News, 19/04/2025, Stephen Lunn, Page 9

A bird flu pandemic is already occurring in birdlife and animals at an unprecedented scale, and the risk to humans from the H5N1 strain is higher than ever, one of Australia's leading epidemiologists warns. Yet despite the "dark cloud of H5N1 above us", and the need for a significant stockpile of vaccines, antivirals, antibiotics and personal protective equipment needed to fight a potential new andemic, Australia has forgotten many of the lessons learned during Covid, Raina MacIntyre says.

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Feathers, fur and farms: where next for bird flu?

Weekend Australian, General News, 19/04/2025, Raina MacIntyre, Page 18

In February 2024, dairy farmers in Texas began noticing their cows were producing less milk and that the milk was discoloured, yellow and thicker than it should be. News outlets reported on a mystery illness in cows.

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Bite warning as mosquito threat spreads

Courier Mail, General News, 19/04/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 3

The first detection of Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) has been confirmed in Central Queensland. The chief health officer is urging Queenslanders to take measures to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes after health authorities found the dangerous virus in a pig in the Banana Shire Council area.

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

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Horror flu season already hits

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/04/2025, Emma Kirk, Page 19

Peak flu season is about to hit Australia and cases are already 30 per cent higher compared to the same time last year. A record number of cases have been reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Online\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Shock twist in disease outbreak

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/04/2025, Hannah Wilcox & Summer Liu, Page 17

A drive through the streets of Sydney in an open-top car may have resulted in a person contracting the deadly Legionnaires' disease, as authorities race to find the source of the outbreak. NSW Health has confirmed the illness has infected 12 people, 11 who are currently hospitalised, who had all spent time in the city between March 13 and April 5.

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Virus returns amid drop in jab rates

Ballarat Courier, General News, 19/04/2025, Michelle Smith, Page 5

School holidays and Easter travel could drive an increase in measles cases, with community transmission occurring in Melbourne and Gippsland. While measles has been largely eradicated in Australia, cases are still recorded, particularly in overseas travellers who bring the virus back with them to Australia.

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Measles warning sounded in Tasmania

Burnie Advocate, General News, 19/04/2025, Helen Kempton, Page 5

Tasmanian clinicians and primary care providers have been alerted to an increased risk of measles due to growing cases interstate and overseas. Tasmania's Director of Public Health Mark Veitch issued the alert this week citing outbreaks of the deadly disease in countries such as Vietnam, Thailand, Africa, Europe and the UK, the Middle East and North America.

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Race to create novel vaccine

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 19/04/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 9

Queensland scientists are in a race to create a novel vaccine in just 150 days to test how quickly they can respond to the next pandemic. University of Queensland scientists have been challenged with

developing their molecular clamp technology to find a vaccine for the little-known but potentially fatal Bolivian Chapare virus.

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Flu surge prompts warnings

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 19/04/2025, Leighton Smith, Page 4

Influenza is tearing through North Queensland communities months earlier than usual, with locals being urged to roll up their sleeves for a free flu vaccine to help protect them. Already this year, 13,617 cases of the flu have been recorded, which is 35 per cent higher than in the same period in 2024.

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Townsville doctor urges residents to get free flu vaccinations as cases soar early

Northern Territory News, Other, 18/04/2025, Leighton Smith

Influenza is tearing through North Queensland communities months earlier than usual, with locals being urged to roll up their sleeves for a free flu vaccine to help protect them. Already this year, 13,617 cases of the flu have been recorded, which was 35 per cent higher than in the same period in 2024.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Vaccine hesitancy on the rise in WA

Medical Forum, Other, 18/04/2025

Baby boomers and those from earlier generations may recall a time when measles was common. Younger generations would have been among those who had access to childhood immunisation programs to tackle the highly contagious viral disease.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 18/04/2025, Max Futchter & Sarah Greenhalgh

Flu season is set to start early this year, and RSV is currently surging. It comes after health authorities urged everyone to get vaccinated against the virus.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 18/04/2025, Paul Taylor

Queenslanders are being encouraged to be careful against mosquito bites following the confirmation of Japanese Encephalitis in a pig at Central Qld.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today , 18/04/2025, Alison Piotrowski & Clint Stanaway

A man in his 50s has died after a Legionnaires' disease outbreak in Sydney's CBD. He's one of 12 people who contracted the disease from a cooling tower between Circular Quay, Hyde Park and York Street.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

MDMA showing 'remarkable' results for treatment resistant PTSD

Medical Forum, Other, 18/04/2025

Two years on from authorised psychiatrists in Australia being given the greenlight to prescribe MDMA for patients with PTSD, work is underway on clinical guidelines for its appropriate use beyond current

arrangements. Co-founder of Pax Centre Consultant Psychiatrist Jonathan Laugharne said his clinic had treated 28 patients using MDMA-assisted psychotherapy.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Smelly beers fears spark recall

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/04/2025, Alexandra Feiam, Page 4

Coles is recalling two beer products due to a chemical contamination ahead of the Easter long weekend. The beer beverages Uberbrau Ultra Low Alcohol Lager 330ml and Henninger Lager Bottle were available for purchase between April 2 and April 15 online and in-store at Liquorland, First Choice Liquor Market and Coles Online in Western Australia.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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