



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 20th April 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sun Herald](#)** (page 1) reports the dismissal of women's health issues by health practitioners has led to a number being misdiagnosed with mental illness and even admitted to mental health wards after being accused of imagining their symptoms, according to growing reports of medical misogyny that include women being admitted after their partner accused them of mental illness following domestic disputes. *Also reported by:* [Sunday Age](#)
- **[The Sunday Telegraph](#)** (page 1) reports a rise in telehealth prescriptions for weight-loss injections has led to calls from medical groups to regulate the industry following a lack of due diligence in checking medical history or consulting with patients' GPs, with doctors warning of potentially fatal side effects if incorrectly prescribed. *Also reported by:* [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide](#), [Sunday Tasmanian](#)
- **[The Sun Herald](#)** (page 1) reports the Coalition has claimed Labor is misleading voters over advertisements and social media posts from Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride warning that Peter Dutton will cut funding for almost 90 urgent care clinics.
- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)** (page 1) reports the use of performance and image enhancing drugs by women due to the pressures of fitness culture and competitive sports has risen significantly, according to recent data, with the AMA and TGA warning of health risks associated with illicit and often counterfeit injectibles.

- [The Sunday Mail Adelaide](#) reports South Australian Police Commissioner Grant Stevens has called for a review into the Mental Health Act to determine when police need to attend mental health incidents following increased "police ramping" where police are delayed attending patients awaiting emergency care.
- [The Sunday Tasmanian](#) (page 5) reports Healthscope has refused to release any details of the sale of St Helen's Private Hospital outside confirming the sale has been finalised, citing confidentiality reasons.
- [The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#) (page 5) reports Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate is pushing to hold Olympic rowing events in Hinze Dam instead of the Fitzroy River, having met with rowing representatives and committing to building permanent rowing facilities and grandstands to accommodate the events if selected.
- [The Sun Herald](#) (page 6) reports workers in major tunnel-building projects across Australia are being exposed to unsafe levels of silica dust, according to research from the University of Sydney that found over 10 per cent of workers across three projects in Brisbane will likely develop silicosis.
- [ABC Online](#) reports rates of common STIs such as syphilis, gonorrhoea and chlamydia have risen significantly in the last decade, according to data from UNSW's Kirby Institute, with doctors calling for more public health messaging to raise awareness around sexual safety and the importance of regular testing.

MINISTER BUTLER

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MINISTER WELLS

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Mediscare 2.0: Labor spreads false claims about cuts to urgent care clinics

The Age, Other, 19/04/2025, Matthew Knott & Nick Bonyhady

The Coalition has accused Labor of deceiving voters and seeking to revive its 2016 "Mediscare" campaign by falsely claiming that a Dutton government would cut funding for almost 90 existing urgent care clinics. [...] Emma McBride, the Labor MP for the Central Coast seat of Dobell, said in a post on her website last week: "Peter Dutton will close every Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, forcing over a million Australians a year back into the waiting rooms of busy hospital emergency departments."

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

'Oh, just one more thing doctor': The latest on dealing with erectile dysfunction

The Australian, Other, 19/04/2025, Stephen Lunn

"Oh and there's just one more thing, doctor ..." This offhand comment at the end of a visit to the GP is often the start of the journey for men dealing with erectile dysfunction. [...] The federal Department of Health and Aged Care in its examination of the link between smoking and ED notes that "one in five men over the age of 40 have some problem with erections and one in 10 men over 40 are unable to get an erection".

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VACCINES

Covid con

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 20/04/2025, Mitch Clarke & Shannon Deery, Page 1

The draconian decision to take away the freedom of Melburnians and make millions live under a Covid curfew was not based on medical advice. An explosive document released this week after a 4%-year legal row shows former premier Daniel Andrews and his government's unprecedented decision to lock Victorians in their homes between 8pm and 5am in 2020 was "not occurring on public health advice but is a decision taken by Cabinet".

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

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

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POPULATION HEALTH

School program has its funding cut

Sunday Examiner, General News, 20/04/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 3

A successful school program on periods and endometriosis provided to 40 Tasmanian schools has had its state funding cut after two years. Tasmania's education department has pulled the plug on funding the Periods, Pain and Endometriosis Program Talk, despite "overwhelmingly" positive feedback from schools.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

PRIMARY CARE

'Hysterical': The women trapped by biased care

Sun Herald, General News, 20/04/2025, Aisha Dow & Kate Aubusson, Page 1

Australian women have been forcibly admitted to psychiatric wards after being wrongly branded as mentally disordered, while others suffering from serious physical conditions have been misdiagnosed with mental illness or told their pain is "all in their head". In the series of disturbing cases detailed by psychiatrists, lawyers and patients, women have been disbelieved when seeking healthcare or other support or their complaints quickly and incorrectly attributed to a psychiatric cause with devastating consequences.

Also reported by: [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sun Herald \(Sydney\)](#).

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Labor faces claims of Mediscare 2.0

Sun Herald, General News, 20/04/2025, Matthew Knott & Nick Bonyhady, Page 1

The Coalition has accused Labor of deceiving voters and seeking to revive its 2016 "Mediscare" campaign by falsely claiming that a Dutton government would cut funding for almost 90 existing urgent care clinics. Labor advertisements that have circulated widely on social media during the election campaign explicitly state Opposition Leader Peter Dutton will shut down the popular clinics despite the Coalition repeatedly committing to retain all 87 existing clinics.

Also reported by: [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Slim shady

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 20/04/2025, Danielle Gusmaroli, Page 1

Weight-loss drugs are being doled out within minutes in telehealth consults to patients, triggering warnings from health experts this is dangerous and potentially fatal. The Sunday Mail has examined the ease of access to the likes of drugs Wegovy and Mounjaro, which can form part of a weight-loss plan, with one patient given access to the jab in a matter of minutes without a single health check.

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

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Police plea on ramping stress

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 20/04/2025, Andrew Hough, Page 5

Demand on police transporting mental health patients to hospitals should be reviewed, the state's top cop has urged, as new data reveals fresh "police ramping" woes. The state's ramping chaos deepened after it emerged officers spent more than 1200 hours "delayed" at hospitals last year amid record trips with criminals or dangerous patients.

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

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Secret deal for city site

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 20/04/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 5

The former St Helen's Private Hospital has been sold but the details remain secret. The hospital, which began operating in 1919, closed in June 2023.

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Patients are sick of waiting

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 20/04/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 19

Frontline health workers say they are experiencing more violence across Queensland emergency departments as patients become increasingly frustrated over wait times. Nurses and midwives have sounded the alarm, while the opposition claims the government's real-time hospital data is to blame.

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

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Give telehealth jab a healthy dose of scepticism

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Editorials, 20/04/2025, Page 67

Weight-loss drugs aren't for everybody. But it seems anyone can access them too easily from the comfort of their home using telehealth services. There is no doubt that telehealth services are a muchneeded and essential resource for those unable to attend an appointment with a GP due to geographical isolation or illness.

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We're eating up a sweat

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 20/04/2025, Jack Nivison, Page 33

We're all guilty of a bad habit or two when it comes to our health, but NSW residents have the rest of Australia beat when it comes to wanting to work up a sweat. Less than 10 per cent of NSW locals said they would keep skipping workouts and living a sedentary life, according to a survey of 1000 Aussies' unhealthy habits by iSelect, with just 9.8 per cent sticking to sedentary habits.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Pathological demand avoidance: The autism 'subtype' growing in recognition

SBS, Other, 19/04/2025, Aleisha Orr

April is Autism Awareness Month, and advocates for those with this particular neurotype of autism say recognition may be growing, but wider acknowledgement is needed. Children with this little-known autistic neurotype are often labelled as badly behaved, and their parents' approach to raising them is often questioned.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

'Ridiculous': Sydney doctor works two jobs to pay bills

Northern Territory News, Other, 19/04/2025, Heath Parkes-Hupton

A Sydney doctor has revealed he was forced to work two jobs to pay the bills as his colleagues bemoan being the busiest but worst paid in the country. More than 3500 doctors took part in a three-

day strike across the state last week , in what the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation (ASMOF) vowed was "just the beginning".

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Surgeon is under investigation over corflute

Sunday Age, General News, 20/04/2025, Grant McArthur, Page 6

A Melbourne surgeon has apologised and confirmed he is being investigated by the health regulator and the hospital where he works after tearing down Kooyong MP Dr Monique Ryan's election sign and stomping on it. [...] He also confirmed that he was under investigation by the Epworth and had reported himself to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Why I stand up to hate

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 20/04/2025, Matthew Benns, Page 1

Former Olympic hockey player Nova Peris can still visualise herself as a proud 21-year old representing the Northern Territory, as an opposing player turned away with the words: "I'm not shaking that black b****'s hand". "It was the first time I experienced racism in sport," Ms Peris said.

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

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Games rowing Hinze Dam bid

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 20/04/2025, Jeremy Pierce, Page 5

The Gold Coast could snatch Olympic rowing from Rockhampton's crocodile-infested Fitzroy River under a bold push to turn Hinze Dam into the sport's permanent Queensland home. The decision to announce the river as host for rowing at the 2032 Brisbane Games was one of the more contentious choices in the state government's Olympic venues blueprint unveiled last month.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

The electric swimming cap that could help fight brain tumours

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 19/04/2025, Shaun Lintern

At first glance it looks like a swimming cap, but the device Grant Stobart has been wearing for the past 18 months could be the next advance in stopping brain tumours. Doctors at one of England's leading cancer hospitals have launched a clinical trial of headgear that emits electric fields.

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

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Climate change demands more blood, prevents collection

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 19/04/2025, Katelyn Catanzariti

As extreme weather events ramp up across the nation, climate change is also having a devastating impact on the very thing needed to help treat victims. An Australian world-first study into the effect of global warming on blood donations and supply during disasters has revealed numerous issues facing every stage of the process, from collection to safety, testing and transport.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Risk of silicosis for one in 10 tunnel workers

Sun Herald, General News, 20/04/2025, Max Maddison, Page 6

Concerns are mounting about the health implications for thousands of workers employed on the nation's multibillion-dollar tunnelling projects after new research found more than 10 per cent of workers on three major projects would develop deadly lung disease. The University of Sydney research, published in Annals of Work Exposures and Health this month, estimated up to 300 of 2042 workers across three major transport projects in Brisbane the M7 Clem Jones Tunnel, Airport Link and Legacy Way would develop silicosis because of exposures to silica dust in their lifetime.

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Another measles case in SW

Sunday Times, General News, 20/04/2025, Page 15

Another case of measles has been confirmed in the South West after visiting a major regional hospital.

WA Health said the new case had attended the emergency department of Bunbury Regional Hospital on two separate occasions.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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STIs are increasing in Australia. Can anything lower these rates?

ABC Online, Other, 19/04/2025, Sam Nichols

Over the last three decades, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) have quietly but steadily climbed in Australia, with bacterial diseases like chlamydia, gonorrhoea, and syphilis spreading across the country. In 2004, just over 35,724 new cases of chlamydia were recorded in Australia, according to federal government data.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Roids all the rage

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 20/04/2025, Tayla Couacaud, Page 1

Australian women are turning to performance enhancing drugs to keep up with the pressures of competitive sports and fitness culture, with the Australian Border Force saying it is "deeply concerned" about continued attempts to illegally import the substances. Experts warn steroids could have harmful effects on organs - including the reproductive system.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

Vegemite back on menu at Canadian cafe after food authority ruling

9News, Other, 19/04/2025, Emily Bennett

Vegemite has returned to the menu at a cafe in Toronto after the Canadian Food Inspection Agency ruled the product could be sold in the short term.

Australian-Canadian cafe owner Leighton Walters was ordered to stop selling the spread due to the added vitamin B in the product, which goes against Canada's food regulations.

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AICIS

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