



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 22nd April 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 14) reports that an analysis of family gold health insurance policies found Australians may be overpaying up to \$6000 a year, with some health funds increasing premiums as much as 18 per cent, which is above the 3.73 per cent average approved by Health Minister Mark Butler. *Also reported by: The Herald Sun, The Advertiser*
- **[The Mercury](#)** (page 8) reports Labor pledged to expand the University of Tasmania's medical program in Launceston with 20 new places added each year over five years to address regional doctor shortages. Health Minister Mark Butler said this aims to strengthen the future of local medical workforce. *Also reported by: The Examiner*
- **[The Guardian](#)** (online) reports the Coalition announced a \$750 million "Operation Safer Communities" plan, which includes a crackdown on illicit drugs and a disclosure scheme to identify potential child sex offenders. Health Minister Mark Butler said Labor is open to any ideas improving community safety, however, "Peter Dutton, when he was the Minister for Home Affairs, promised a public register but didn't deliver it." *Also reported by: ABC Online, 9 News*
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 3) reports the ACT recorded a 40 per cent increase in flu cases in the first quarter of 2025 compared to last year, with experts warning of a potentially severe influenza season and urging early vaccination.

- **The Canberra Times** (page 3) reports the Department of Health and Aged Care and the Australian Centre for Disease Control found a catering company in Canberra was responsible for a 2022 gastro outbreak that poisoned 64 guests, with the report linking the contamination “to an infected food handler [...] and not a specific ingredient.”
- **NT News** (page 1) reports that a deadly, synthetic opioid called nitazene, reported to be up to 10 times stronger than fentanyl, has been detected in the Territory. NT Health has issued a public warning about the illicit drug, saying there is no safe dosage.
- **NT News** (page 9) reports that the Coalition has pledged \$4.9 million to Angel Flight Australia to fund seven new planes to transport non-emergency patients between regional areas and cities, with expansion plans to fly medical professionals into the bush.
- **The Gold Coast Bulletin** (page 1) reports that Queensland Games Minister Tim Mander has said the Crisafulli government will look to incentivise tradies from across Australia to help build the infrastructure required for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

MINISTER BUTLER

Health cover in a sick state

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/04/2025, Julie Cross & Annabel Fleming, Page 14

Australians are paying up to \$6000 a year more than they should for their health insurance, an exclusive investigation has found. Some health funds have raised premiums by up to 18 per cent this month well above the 3.73 per cent average approved by federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

Also reported by: Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide), Hobart Mercury (Hobart), Northern Territory News (Darwin), Geelong Advertiser (Geelong), Herald Sun (Melbourne), Gold Coast Bulletin (Gold Coast).

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

Training boost to local GPs

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/04/2025, David Killick, Page 8

Aspiring doctors will be able to complete their entire university degree in Launceston under a pre-election pledge by the federal Labor Party. Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler joined the party's candidate for Bass Jess Teesdale on Monday to promise funding for an expansion of the University of Tasmania's course offering in the northern city.

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Students could complete their entire degrees in Launceston

Launceston Examiner, General News, 22/04/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 5

Medical students at the University of Tasmania (UTAS) could soon complete their entire medical degrees in Launceston without having to move elsewhere. Federal health minister Mark Butler said from 2026 and under a re-elected Labor government, the university would offer 20 new spots for medical students in Launceston per year.

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Labor criticises Coalition decision not to back Australia's new Centre for Disease Control

Herald Sun, Other, 21/04/2025, Clare Armstrong

The Coalition's failure to back a new Australian agency to monitor, research and provide advice on infectious diseases will make the community “less safe” when the next pandemic arrives, Labor has warned. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told News Corp experts all agreed there would be another pandemic, and a CDC would be able to provide “independent and authoritative advice”.

Also reported by: Townsville Bulletin (Online), Cairns Post (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online).

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Travel burden for endometriosis care unsustainable for women in regional Australia

Driving 450 kilometres multiple times a month to access gynaecological care is the reality for many women living with chronic health conditions in regional Australia. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler did not state where the new clinics would be located, but said they "would be established within Primary Health Networks that do not currently have a clinic operating".

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

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Coalition promises crackdown on 'drugs and thugs' as polls continue to favour Labor

The Guardian, Other, 21/04/2025, Josh Butler

The Coalition would crack down on "drugs and thugs" with a new policy pledge including tougher narcotics laws and a new disclosure scheme to help parents "unmask" sex offenders who may be in contact with their children. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, said Labor was "open" to the idea.

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Urgent care clinics: are they worth the money?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/04/2025

An interim report into Medicare urgent care clinics (UCCs) shows that they are five times more expensive than a GP consult according to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). [...] Despite the criticism about the UCCs, Health Minister Mark Butler stands by them, saying that they take pressure off already-crowded emergency departments.

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What did the candidates say at the Rainbow Votes Election Forum?

OUTinPerth, Other, 21/04/2025

Courtney Act hosted an election forum which saw presentative from the Liberals, Labor and The Greens share their parties' policies, alongside independent member for Wentworth Alegra Spender. [...] The member of Jagajaga also noted that Health Minister Mark Butler had successfully dealt with the challenges of short supplies of PrEP treatments in 2024.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 21/04/2025, James Glenday & Bridget Brennan

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler comments on the likely outcome of the upcoming Federal Election. He believes the PM Anthony Albanese and his team have remained consistent in focusing on delivering targeted cost of living relief, strengthening Medicare and other things the government has been working hard on.

Continuing interview on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 21/04/2025, Peter Murphy

Labor Party has visited Tasmania, with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler promising a deal with University of Tasmania for an expanded medical training programme in the state's north.

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MINISTER WELLS

WIN Gippsland, WIN News, 21/04/2025, Jared Constable

Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells has released a statement, saying the My Aged Care system is currently being reviewed, and a new single assessment system is being designed to reduce wait times

for government support.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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DEPARTMENT

Handwashing to blame for outbreak

Canberra Times, General News, 22/04/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

A catering company with inadequate handwashing facilities caused a gastro outbreak that poisoned 64 guests and sent four people to the emergency department. Half of surveyed guests to five catered events in late 2022 in Canberra reported gastro symptoms, according to a report by the federal Department of Health and Aged Care and Australian Centre for Disease Control.

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Emergency meds access 'needs to be simplified'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2025, Page 6

Pharmacy organisations are calling for the restoration of Covid-19-era continued dispensing measures to ensure patients can access their medicines in emergency situations. While the Department of Health and Aged Care's decision to update its continued dispensing arrangements to support patients impacted by Cyclone Alfred in early March was welcomed, both the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) raised concerns that the measure is temporary.

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From newlywed joy to cancer shock: How a spontaneous health check saved a young mum's life at 32 - even though she felt 'totally fine'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/04/2025, Elise Wilson

When Melbourne receptionist Emma Jones booked in for her routine cervical screening test at 32, she didn't think twice. [...] According to a 2024 report by the Department of Health and Aged Care, cervical cancer is diagnosed in around 800 Australian women each year - and there are barely any symptoms.

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MyMedicare promises better health care. But only 1 in 10 patients has signed up

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/04/2025

MyMedicare is a scheme that encourages patients to register with a regular GP practice to improve their health. But few patients have enrolled. [...] Since MyMedicare's launch in 2023 until March 19 this year, more than 2.6 million patients have registered for MyMedicare, according to Department of Health and Aged Care statistics provided to The Conversation.

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VACCINES

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Cash Out Day Australia: Physical currency advocates to withdraw big sums of money from banks and ATMs on Tuesday

West Australian, Other, 21/04/2025, Bryce Luff

Huge sums of cash will be withdrawn from banks and ATMs on Tuesday in a nationwide protest against the shift towards digitised payments and ultimately — campaigners say — a cashless society. [...] National Seniors Australia are strong advocates for the fight to retain physical currency, launching its own Keep Cash campaign and speaking strongly about last year's Cash Out Day.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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POPULATION HEALTH

Millions trapped in hunger cycle

Canberra Times, General News, 22/04/2025, Ronni Kahn, Page 17

Right now, as you read these words, millions of Australians are making decisions no one should ever have to face: skip a meal or skip medication? Pay the mortgage or buy groceries? Feed themselves or feed their children?

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Thin line in weight-loss war crossed

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 22/04/2025, Danielle Gusmaroli, Page 14

Weight-loss drugs are being doled out within minutes in telehealth consults to patients chasing thinness amid a dramatic surge in demand. News Corp has examined the ease of access to drugs such as Wegovy and Mounjaro, which can form part of a weight-loss plan. It can be revealed a remitted cancer patient was given access to the jab in a matter of minutes without a single health check.

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

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A new diagnosis and definition of clinical obesity: what does it mean for clinical practice?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/04/2025

Obesity is common, its prevalence is increasing, and it has a substantial impact on individuals and health care systems. Yet, our health care policies don't seem to regard it with any urgency.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Cancer fighter's plea to get checked out

Ballarat Courier, General News, 22/04/2025, Michelle Smith, Page 4

For Chris Geljon, the mental aspect of his fight against a rare cancer has been harder than dealing with the physical effects. [...] Mr Geljon has helped educate his doctors and advocate for himself throughout his cancer journey, having sought support from NeuroEndocrine Cancer Australia soon after his diagnosis.

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

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Couple back cancer gear

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 22/04/2025, Nikita McGuire, Page 6

For Townsville couple Darryl and Lauran Baillie, a detection machine would have meant Ms Baillie's rare form of bone marrow cancer would have been more closely monitored. They are leading the push for a mass spectrometer cancer detection machine to be brought to Townsville so others don't have the same experience as them.

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Cardio-metabolic renal syndrome and cardiovascular disease risk

Medical Forum, Other, 21/04/2025

Patients with metabolic dysfunction – such as diabetes or obesity – and renal disease remain exposed to elevated risk. The underlying complex pathophysiology is referred to as the cardio-metabolic renal syndrome (CMRS).

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PRIMARY CARE

Voters desert Minns over public services

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/04/2025, Michael McGowan, Page 1

Key worker strikes, hospital scandals and delays to major transport projects are challenging Premier Chris Minns' commitment to rebuild trust in the public service, as polling shows fewer than half of voters in NSW have a positive opinion of state-run health, education and transport. More than two years into Labor's first term of government in NSW, Minns maintains a commanding lead over Opposition Leader Mark Speakman as preferred premier, leading 40 to 15 per cent, and the NSW Labor Party's primary vote has quickly bounced back from a low of 29 per cent at the start of 2025 to 33 per cent.

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'I felt like no one was listening to me'

Age, General News, 21/04/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 1

"Depression" was typed in neat black letters next to "reason for presentation" on Ella Rich's discharge summary. It was a confounding diagnosis for the then 33-year-old, who had presented to an emergency department 13 weeks' pregnant with severe nausea and vomiting.

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A call for action and funding

Age, General News, 21/04/2025, Page 9

The Age and Sydney Morning Herald have launched an investigation into medical misogyny: ingrained, systemic sexism across Australia's healthcare system, medical research and practice. More than 1800

women shared their experiences as part of our crowd-sourced investigative series, which prompted a national outpouring of grief and frustration as women described feeling gaslit, dismissed or being told their pain was "all in their heads".

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Pay more, get less in Oz health lotto

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 22/04/2025, Page 20

In many cases, the US sets an enviable standard for the rest of the world to follow. But there is one field where we definitely do not want to duplicate the American example. Health care in general and health insurance in particular can be ruinously costly in the US.

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'She was in a world of pain'

West Australian, General News, 22/04/2025, Sarah Steger, Page 11

A Perth mum has issued an urgent warning to parents after an everyday household chore almost left her four-year-old blind. Jodi Lore was doing the laundry in her Baldivis home, and her daughter Luca de Groot was helping "like she always does", when chaos erupted.

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

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\$4.9m funding vow for angels of the air

Northern Territory News, General News, 22/04/2025, Gera Kazakov, Page 9

An organisation which flies people for "spiritual healing" and more is set to bring a plane to Alice Springs with it's promised \$4.9m in funding, if the Coalition is elected to government. Angel Flight Australia will receive the money from the Coalition to help the organisation get seven new planes, a pledge which will "help to close the medical care gap" in the bush, according to chief executive Marjorie Pagani.

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Pressure mounts on remote patients' lifeline

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 22/04/2025, Natasha Emeck, Page 1

When Cairns mum-to-be JamieMarie McPherson was told her pregnancy had become high risk, she barely had time to pack a bag, let alone figure out where she'd stay. "I went for the ultrasound, and then they're like, 'OK, we might have to keep you here tonight and then send you to Townsville,'" she said.

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Family shares its deep gratitude

Border Mail, General News, 22/04/2025, Beau Greenway, Page 3

Chloe Mathey's second pregnancy was going smoothly as she prepared to welcome a baby girl. But the Wodonga mother's world was turned upside-down just hours before she was due to give birth on December 2, 2024, as doctors and nurses discovered her child was in distress.

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Health fund would be a game-changer

Launceston Examiner, General News, 22/04/2025, Paul Lupo, Page 12

Unsurprisingly, health has emerged again as a defining issue in this federal election. Until we tackle our health issues at the source, they will continue to worsen.

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South coast no holiday haven for PM in marginal seat

Canberra Times, Other, 21/04/2025, Andrew Brown

Through yum cha meals and health announcements, Anthony Albanese has sought to shore up support in two of Australia's tightest battleground electorates. [...] The prime minister visited the urgent

care clinic to spruik local health services while campaigning in Gilmore, one of Labor's most marginal seats.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Dispute over proposed parkland near planned Perth children's hospice in Swanbourne

ABC Online, Other, 21/04/2025, Keane Bourke

A proposal to transform a "dust bowl" into an oasis for terminally ill children has drawn the ire of some who want the site to remain in local government hands. The planned park is to be located on an A-class reserve near Western Australia's new \$34 million children's hospice in Swanbourne, which is due to open at the end of the year.

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Coalition promises trial of child sex offender register

ABC Online, Other, 21/04/2025, Jake Evans

A Coalition government would trial a national child sex offender register that would allow the members of the public to request information from police about whether someone who interacted with their children was a convicted offender. It would be modelled on disclosure schemes operating in Western Australia and the United Kingdom that the Coalition said had "unmasked" thousands of paedophiles to the public.

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Coalition makes \$750 million crime crackdown pledge on eve of first voting day

9News, Other, 21/04/2025, Daniel Jeffrey

Peter Dutton has made a last-minute pitch to make crime a major election focus, announcing a new \$750 million funding package a day before early voting begins. The opposition leader unveiled plans for a UK-style child sex offender register that would allow parents to check if someone their children are interacting with has a history of crimes against minors.

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Opposition Leader Peter Dutton pledges \$750m to tackle crime including national child sex offender register

Sky News Australia, Other, 21/04/2025, Gemma Crotty

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton will unveil a \$750 million pledge to put more resources towards tackling organised crime and illegal drugs, while establishing a national child sex offender register if he becomes prime minister. Mr Dutton on Monday will announce Operation Safer Communities in a bid to crack down on "crime from the border to the backyard".

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Redress scheme delays frustrate abuse survivors in VIC

Ballarat Courier, Other, 21/04/2025

Survivors of abuse in the state's care institutions say they are losing hope of ever receiving recognition of their trauma, as the state government rolls out its historical abuse redress scheme. Ballarat's Bobbie Andrews is one such victim of abuse.

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Nationals pledge \$100m to end regional doctor shortage

Newcastle Herald, Other, 21/04/2025

The Nationals have promised to stop the doctors shortage plaguing regional Australia with training and student subsidies. If the Coalition wins the upcoming election on May 3, it plans to spend \$100 million on upgrading regional medical training facilities nationwide.

Mia Dearness's story a push for more funding for childhood-onset heart disease

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 21/04/2025, Nikita McGuire

At four-years-old little Mia Dearness is full of energy and life, a stark contrast to when she was born with childhood-onset heart disease, which is the leading cause of death of children under 12 months in Australia. Her family is one of many who have benefited from HeartKids and are calling for more funding this election for the Aussie charity which supported them during their toughest times.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Ambulance blackspot a 'disaster waiting to happen'

Shepparton News Online, Other, 21/04/2025, Owen Sinclair

The delivery of over two dozen paramedics across the Southern Riverina has been criticised by advocates who are concerned the emergency care situation in Tocumwal is "a disaster waiting to happen". On March 25, the NSW Government announced the delivery of 25 paramedics across the Murrumbidgee Zone.

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Inside Australia's booming leg lengthening industry

Mamamia, Other, 21/04/2025, Erin Docherty

"At 12, I was taller than most girls," said Elaine Foo in an interview with the BBC. "By 14, I was suddenly shorter than everyone. Over time it became an obsession. Taller means better. Taller means more beautiful. I just felt that taller people had more chances."

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Major update to antibiotic guidelines released

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/04/2025

After six years, the Therapeutic Guidelines have released an "unprecedented" update to the antibiotic guidelines, covering several infections commonly treated in primary care. The new guidelines are so large that they're being updated in three stages.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 21/04/2025, James Glenday & Bridget Brennan

Interview with Andrew Wilkie, Federal Independent MP for Clark, about the Federal Election campaigns. Wilkie says the Federal Election campaign has been underwhelming so far. He notes the significant promises made such as in housing, which has been criticised by experts. Wilkie adds he has particularly interested in the promises made for GPs and bulk billing.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 21/04/2025, David Woiwod & Natalie Barr

Interview with Justin Scarr, CEO of Royal Life Saving Society Australia, about drownings across Australia particularly around Easter. Scarr says it was tragic in NSW in particular, noting they see on average six people drowning each and every Easter period.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

'Excessive workloads': young lawyers bemoan conditions and pay

Early-career lawyers have slammed their conditions and pay as research shows many in the next generation of legal minds are at risk of leaving the profession, citing poor physical health, burnout, depression and anxiety. A study of more than 2000 lawyers has identified "a significant level of psychological distress" in the industry, with those fresh to law most severely affected.

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Vital response service launched

Launceston Examiner, General News, 22/04/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 4

Sometimes the last thing someone experiencing a mental health crisis needs is to be taken to the emergency department. An emergency response unit tailored to respond to mental health crises has launched in Northern Tasmania, the final region of the state to see the service rolled out.

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Less than 2% of Labor's promised \$1bn mental health funding would be spent next financial year

The Guardian, Other, 22/04/2025, Dan Jervis-Bardy

Just \$16.5m of Labor's promised \$1bn mental health package – or 1.65% – is due to be spent in the next financial year, according to official policy costings that reveal some new care centres might not open until 2029. Anthony Albanese this month unveiled a major suite of policies to make it easier for the public – in particular young Australians – to access free mental health treatment.

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Pop in service to extend Lifeline to battlers who are doing it tough

The Senior, Other, 21/04/2025, Rowan Cowley

Residents of the Barossa Valley were rocked to the core by the suicide of a popular local resident. Now the tight-knit community is using the shocking death to extend a hand to others who are battling the black dog.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Burnout common among health professions

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2025, Page 8

Research from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has found that mental burnout is the top reason why health professionals are leaving the registerable professions surveyed. While the boards of nine professions agreed to participate in this study, the Pharmacy Board was not among them.

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Kenneth Lee: Perth doctor behind attack on ex fined for prescribing himself testosterone injections

West Australian, Other, 21/04/2025, Sarah Steger

A Perth doctor previously banned from treating women after assaulting his ex-girlfriend has now been fined \$10,000 for prescribing himself testosterone injections. Dr Kenneth Lee was allowed to keep

practising despite initially being suspended by the Medical Board of Australia in September 2020 over the allegations.

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

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GV Health nurse appointed to national cancer program

Shepparton News Online, Other, 21/04/2025

GV Health haematology support nurse Eva Driver has been selected to join the Regional Nurse Link Program with Myeloma Australia. She is one of only around 15 nurses across the country to be part of the growing initiative.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Tassie premier out to avoid 'bloody mess' with stadium

Age, General News, 22/04/2025, Sam McClure, Page 1

There is no one more invested in the Tasmania Devils than the state's premier. That's why Liberal leader Jeremy Rockliff is staking his political career on the construction of a new football stadium and seeking to circumvent the state's planning commission to "get the job done" and avoid what he fears could become a "bloody mess".

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PM blocked gambling reforms in captain's call

Age, General News, 21/04/2025, Paul Sakkal, Page 1

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese overrode senior minister Michelle Rowland to shelve a clampdown on gambling ads and avoid a brawl with media and sports bosses ahead of the election, in his fourth captain's call aimed at shutting down controversial policies. Albanese decided late last year to put on ice the package Rowland had developed over more than a year of talks with gambling companies, the

AFL, the NRL and harm reduction groups, according to two Labor ministers and another two senior Labor sources familiar with the matter.

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Fighting the system

Northern Territory News, Sport, 22/04/2025, Darcy Jennings, Page 48

At a recent NT sporting event, Anthony "The Man" Mundine revealed he'd had to fight against "the system" to achieve sporting greatness. In the Top End in an ambassadorial role as part of the Hoops 4 Health program, Mundine delivered an impassioned speech to the crowd at the Resilience Rumble a fight night focused on re-empowering youth through wellbeing, mental health and community strength.

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Tradie scramble

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 22/04/2025, Andrew Potts, Page 1

Gold Coast tradies face missing out on the Olympic gold rush, with the state government to incentivise workers from other states to move here to build infrastructure. Billions worth of projects will break ground in the next three years to be ready and fitted out in time for the 2032 Games, with a \$350m arena at Southport's Carey Park and a giant new athletes village at Royal Pines chief among them.

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Dam bid a snap for our rowers

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 22/04/2025, Jeremy Pierce, Page 10

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

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Doping farce costs Aussies

Cairns Post, General News, 22/04/2025, Julian Linden, Page 13

The Australian federal sports regulator is under fire for not standing up to China and WADA after revelations that 23 Chinese swimmers escaped punishment after testing positive to a banned drug. The Australian federal sports regulator has come under fire for not standing up to China and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) after revelations that 23 Chinese swimmers escaped punishment after testing positive to a banned drug.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Lack of iron mistaken for tiredness, depression

Age, General News, 22/04/2025, Paula Goodyer, Page 12

As a teenager in Scotland, Beth MacLean fought fatigue to keep up her training as a competitive cross-country skier. But it wasn't just exhaustion, there were also symptoms like dizziness and tunnel vision that had doctors worried.

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Emotional breakthrough

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 22/04/2025, Natalie Croxon, Page 1

Researchers from the University of Wollongong have brought to fruition an idea of the late Professor

Justin Yerbury in an "emotional" breakthrough that gives hope to families affected by certain cases of motor neurone disease. The team, which also included researchers from the University of Melbourne, found a combination of three drugs could be used to prevent a protein called the SOD1 protein from forming toxic clumps that kill motor neurons.

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The secret to living longer? You'll find it on holiday

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 21/04/2025, Beth Howard

Holidays can sometimes seem like more trouble than they're worth when you come home to a full inbox and a fire hose of problems requiring immediate attention. But people who skip holidays may be missing out on important health benefits, according to a growing body of research linking regular getaways to everything from better heart health to a lower risk of metabolic disorders and even a longer life.

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Raising awareness of frailty after heart disease

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/04/2025

When we think of heart disease, the primary concern for most people is about survival. But it is also important to know what happens after someone survives. New research reveals that a significant number of older people who survive a cardiovascular disease (CVD) event become frail.

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New applications for 3D printing in plastic and reconstructive surgery

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/04/2025

Advances in 3D printing technology could have profound implications for tissue engineering in plastic and reconstructive surgery. 3D printing has been a game changer across industries, including medicine (here, here, and here), yet its potential in plastic and reconstructive surgery remains largely unrealised.

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Loneliness triples risk of early death for women: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/04/2025

Researchers say they have uncovered a causal link between loneliness and early mortality, with a new study suggesting it can triple the risk of early death among Australian women. Published in BMJ Medicine, the University of Sydney study analysed survey answers from women aged between 48 and 55 at the start of the study, tracking their health outcomes over 15 years.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Groote Eylandt receives pilot program for Aboriginal health workers

Northern Territory News, Other, 21/04/2025, Aden Hill

Aboriginal health workers and practitioners will have a closer-to-home learning pathway as a new employment pathway trainee pilot program is delivered on Groote Eylandt. The program will allow Indigenous people in the region to pursue a career in health, without leaving their communities.

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

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Dose of cultural medicine to 'decolonise healthcare'

SBS, Other, 21/04/2025

Including cultural medicine in mainstream healthcare may improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but a lack of understanding is impeding access. While 90 per cent of

Indigenous people would like to access cultural medicine, many have difficulty doing so, research from Southern Cross University shows.

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New research highlights rural diabetes gaps

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/04/2025

New research is sounding the alarm on the urgent need to improve diabetes care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly in rural and remote areas. The study, supported by the Australian General Practice Research Foundation and Diabetes Australia, analysed health data to understand outcomes for more than 5000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients across 427 general practices between 2011 and 2022.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Free flu vaccines on offer amid 'alarming' surge in cases

Canberra Times, General News, 22/04/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

Canberrans should prepare as a severe flu has already begun, experts warn. The ACT saw a 40 per cent uptick in laboratory-confirmed influenza cases in the first quarter of 2025 compared to the year before.

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Testing time

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 22/04/2025, Page 16

If ever there was a case for pill testing to be available at Territory music festivals the Territory-wide health alert warning, that right now on our streets is a deadly synthetic opioid considered to be up to 10 times stronger than fentanyl, is it. It is nitazene, the same drug that has caused an unprecedented number of deaths in the United States.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Killer on our street

Northern Territory News, General News, 22/04/2025, Thomas McLean, Page 1

A deadly synthetic opioid considered to be up to 10 times stronger than fentanyl that has caused an unprecedented number of deaths in the US has been detected in the Northern Territory. NT Health has issued a Territory-wide public warning for nitazenes, but told the NT News it could not provide specific details about where the substance was found because it was now a police matter.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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FOOD STANDARDS

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