



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 23rd April 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 9) reports Neuroblastoma Australia is calling for the unspent portion of the \$20 million allocated last year by Health Minister Mark Butler to fund a drug to treat the rare cancer now be diverted into researching cell therapy treatments, which have shown promise in overseas studies.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports Ageing Australia says it is "impossible" to meet Labor's transition to a new aged care system by July 1, with providers required to draft and sign service agreements with 830,000 people, though Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says she will extend the timeframe to sign new CHSP arrangements.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 25) reports the Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes wants access to \$1 billion in research grants reserved for universities and administered by the Australian Research Council, with the group warning the existing rules are "excluding some of Australia's top research talent".
- The **[Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 10) reports Health Minister Mark Butler says independent health officials will meet in July to consider calls to adopt a streamlined process to fund cancer treatments through the PBS, as many patients can't afford to self-fund and advocates say the average time for a treatment to be listed on the PBS is 450 days. Also reported by: *the Herald Sun*, *Adelaide Advertiser*, *Courier Mail*.

- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 23) reports NSW health officials are warning parents to vaccinate their children against influenza as the state records more than 23,000 cases this year, while the [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 1) reports Tasmanian authorities say the state is likely to double the previous record for flu cases by the end of the month.
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 4) reports Labor politician Dan Repacholi says, if re-elected, he will advocate to have weight-loss drugs such as Mounjaro and Ozempic listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for to treat Australians who are overweight, not just those with diabetes, with the move being supported by the RACGP who says it will lower the cost of the medications from \$400 a month to \$32..
- The [Canberra Times](#) (Online) reports the Department of Health and Aged care says inadequate handwashing facilities was responsible for 64 people contracting gastro in Canberra in late 2022, with the report noting: "the source of the contamination was most likely an infected food handler at the catering business".

MINISTER BUTLER

Millions unused as brave Jack fights on

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2025, James Dowling, Page 9

Millions of dollars earmarked for fighting a form of rare and deadly children's cancer is sitting unused, with advocates and families arguing its reallocation could benefit dozens of children facing cancer relapses. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler allocated \$20m over two years to bankroll the drug treatment difluoromethylornithine (DFMO) in July last year, despite a decision from the Therapeutic Goods Administration on its viability still pending.

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You can save us instantly

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/04/2025, Claire Armstrong, Page 10

Doctors and patients are calling on Anthony Albanese and Peter Dutton to save Australians who cannot afford to self-fund lifesaving cancer treatments by adopting a streamlined funding model. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said he wanted patients to get access to life-changing treatments "as quickly as possible" and had been advised the multi-cancer proposal would be considered by independent health officials in July.

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

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Retailers urge Labor to back Coalition on tobacco crime

Convenience & Impulse Retailing, Other, 22/04/2025, Thomas Oakley-Newell

Retailers have urged the Federal Labor Party to support the Coalition's national crime policy in response to growing concerns over Australia's illicit tobacco trade. [...] "Health Minister Mark Butler continues to acknowledge that illicit tobacco and vapes are being sold by crime gangs who then use the tax-free profit they make to fund the importation of drugs and even sex trafficking into our vulnerable communities.

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Retailers push for tighter measures on illegal tobacco trade

Retailbiz, Other, 22/04/2025, Celene Ignacio

Retailers are calling on the Albanese government to implement stronger measures to curb the trade of illegal tobacco and vape products. [...] "Health Minister Mark Butler continues to acknowledge that illicit tobacco and vapes are being sold by crime gangs who then use the tax-free profit they make to fund the importation of drugs and even sex trafficking into our vulnerable communities, yet his approach so far has been to leave it to the states, territories and local council workers to try and quash this monster and that is just not working," Foukkare said.

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ALP pledges \$5m for Dandenong Hospital ICU upgrade

Star Community, Other, 22/04/2025, Cam Lucadou-Wells

Labor has pledged \$5 million to upgrade Dandenong Hospital's intensive care unit (ICU). [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the upgrade would deliver "better care and support to critically ill people in South-East Melbourne".

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ABC, 7:30, 22/04/2025, Sarah Ferguson

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, defending Labor's healthcare policy and criticising Opposition Leader Peter Dutton and his previous record as the Coalition's health minister. Butler highlights Dutton's past attempts to cut hospital funding and abolish bulk billing, adding that his recently revealed budget cuts to support nuclear power plants make him untrustworthy. He belittles the Coalition's last-minute pledge for urgent care clinics and matching Labor's \$8.5 billion Medicare bulk billing package as "opportunistic" given Dutton's previous positions. On dental care, Butler acknowledges calls by the Greens but he says it's Labor's priority to improve the current system before expanding it.

Also reported by: [ABC \(Melbourne\)](#)

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ABC Mildura - Swan Hill, 06:30 News, 22/04/2025

National MP for Mallee Dr Anne Webster welcomed the Coalition's nearly \$8m pledge to Monash University Rural Health in Mildura. [...] Meanwhile, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says Labor is committed to boosting Commonwealth-sponsored medical training in regional areas and streamlining the hiring process for junior doctors.

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MINISTER WELLS

ALP aged-care 'impossible'

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 6

The nation's peak aged-care body has declared a transition to Labor's new system of care for older Australians is officially "impossible", after their pleas for the government to delay the July 1 start date have been ignored. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said she would push out the timeframe for providers to sign new CHSP arrangements.

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Polio survivors frustrated with SaH service list

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/04/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Older Australians living with post-polio syndrome are frustrated at the exclusion of orthotists and prosthetists from the Support at Home program, while AOPA said the exclusion will see the loss of independence. [...] The AOPA also published its attempts to engage with government officials regarding the exclusion of orthotists and prosthetists under SaH, which include: a letter to the Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells on 20 February 2025 – correspondence acknowledge but no meeting scheduled. The AOPA has subsequently met with one of the Minister's policy advisors.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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DEPARTMENT

The simple step a Canberra caterer missed that left 64 people sick, four in ED

Canberra Times, Other, 22/04/2025, Lanie Tindale

A catering company with inadequate handwashing facilities caused a gastro outbreak which 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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Rural and remote aged care to transform under Multi-Purpose Services changes

Helloleaders.com.au, Other, 22/04/2025, Alex Jacobs

Significant changes to the Multi-Purpose Service Program (MPSP) will take effect from July 1, 2025, as part of the Australian Government's broader commitment to strengthening aged care across rural and remote communities. Milestones and key updates were shared in a recent national webinar by the Department of Health and Aged Care, marking a crucial phase in aligning the MPS model with the incoming Aged Care Act.

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Two views: puberty blockers ... Part 2: Calling time on misinformation

The Medical Republic, Other, 22/04/2025

Australian government and our health institutions have permitted a lowering of medical standards in this area of paediatric care, and transactivist organisations have stepped into the vacuum of inaction. [...] Unsuspecting doctors and the media have continued to rely upon this material, unaware that the references used to inform the guidance therein are outdated, and that the document has never been endorsed by either the Department of Health and Aged Care or any specialist medical college as the benchmark for practice in this area.

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VACCINES

Why your kids need the flu jab right now

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/04/2025, Madeline Crittenden, Page 23

Experts are warning parents to vaccinate their children against the dangers of the flu as childhood jab rates across NSW fall. So far this year, 23,428 people have been hit with the flu, up from just over

18,000 over the same period last year.

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Record Tas flu forecast

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/04/2025, Page 1

Tasmania is on track for a record flu season, looking likely to double the previous record for confirmed influenza cases by the end of April, experts are warning. Joe O'Malley and Joanne Gross, Tasmanian presidents of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia respectively, said local influenza cases were up more than 90 per cent compared with April 2024, the previous record year.

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Flu cases hit a record high ahead of peak season

Shepparton News, General News, 23/04/2025, Taylah Baker, Page 3

Experts warn that early signs point to a big flu season this year, as Australia faces a record-high number of influenza cases. To date, the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System has reported over 46,300 lab-confirmed influenza cases nationwide, the highest figure recorded for this time of year.

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Program: SA councils question vaccine safety

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2025, Sam Bradbrook

Three councils in regional South Australia have passed motions questioning the safety of vaccines. Health experts say the motions are inspired by misinformation about vaccines.

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RSV vax may offer multi-season protection, trial shows

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 22/04/2025

A single dose of RSV vaccine may protect older adults across three virus seasons, although its effectiveness wanes over time, according to findings from an international trial involving Australian participants. The study found the vaccine was 82.6 per cent effective in the first RSV season, and that this efficacy dropped to 56 per cent and 48 per cent in seasons two and three, respectively.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 22/04/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Erindale Pharmacy managing partner Nick Trevethan, discussing the 40 per cent rise in flu cases in the ACT this year. A severe northern hemisphere flu season and unrestricted global travel contribute to the sharp uptick, he says. He urges the public to take flu shots ahead of an expected severe flu season, as the vaccine takes two weeks to take effect.

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 22/04/2025, Samantha Donovan

The Therapeutic Goods Administration and infectious diseases expert Prof Paul Griffin dismissed claims that COVID-19 vaccines are unsafe despite Australia's strict regulatory standards. The councils of Grant, Robe, and Naracoorte Lucindale on SA's Limestone Coast have passed motions calling for vaccines to be free from contaminants and safe for human use.

Report continues on: [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#).

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

A guide to aged care

Born out of the intensive three-year Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, the new Aged Care Act will come into effect on July 1. "In the past, aged care has very much been skewed towards the provider and what they can deliver, but the new act gives older people more choice, so they can decide what sort of care they want and what support would suit their needs," Advocare CEO Bev Jowle said.

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Federal Labor commits to additional \$10 million for aged care respite beds in Canberra after facility closure announced

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2025, Harry Frost and Charlotte Gore

Former carer Deb Stevens doubts her late mother, Gwen, could have stayed out of full-time aged care for as long as she did without the day program at Burrangiri aged respite care centre. "I retired to care for my mother, and I had her at home for almost three years," Ms Stevens said.

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Remote allied health targets falls

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/04/2025

As April No Falls Month comes to an end, Bolton Clarke has expanded its virtual model of care pilot to cover physiotherapy services and expressions of interest are being sought from older people in the Bundaberg region. The expansion follows the initial trial of virtual care for older occupational therapy clients in North Queensland communities and aims to reduce frailty and the risk of falls for older people living at home.

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Study tests effectiveness of transitional care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/04/2025, Natasha Egan

A University of Newcastle and Hunter New England Health collaboration will test the effectiveness of a coordinated transitional care program to support older adults and their support persons during the 90 days following discharge from hospital. The program – Living Well after Hospital – includes a dedicated transitional care nurse, personalised discharge planning, educational modules, and support for linking with community-based services.

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Price caps on home mods inadequate, say peak bodies

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/04/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Peak bodies have major concerns about the lifetime cap for home modifications under Support at Home, telling Australian Ageing Agenda it will see older people less likely to install smaller but necessary modifications. The ability for older people to accrue funds is currently a feature that allows them to make costly home modifications possible and will not be available under the proposed home modifications funding scheme from July 1, 2025, said Occupational Therapy Australia professional practice advisor for aged care Christina Wyatt, who is calling the \$15,000 lifetime cap in Support at Home's Assistive Technology and Home Modifications Scheme "grossly inadequate."

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Treating hypertension lowers risk of dementia: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 22/04/2025, Manisha Fernando

Hypertension is now well established as a risk factor for dementia. A new study published in Nature Medicine this week shows medication to lower blood pressure in people with untreated hypertension significantly decreases their risk of dementia.

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Fatty diet and brain health link

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/04/2025, Page 6

Australians indulging in unhealthy diets could be at risk of reduced brain function, new research suggests. Testing the relationship between high-fat, high-sugar diets, particularly those high in refined sugars and saturated fats, the University of Sydney study found the eating pattern had a detrimental effect on some aspects of cognitive function.

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14 ways to help you lose weight without drugs

The Australian, Other, 22/04/2025, Peta Bee

An extra few glasses of rose or a few Easter eggs too many may have stopped your weight-loss goals in their tracks, but don't allow that to cause your motivation to flag. That is the message from Dr Amy Aherne, a researcher in the prevention of obesity at the University of Cambridge Medical Research Council (MRC) Epidemiology Unit, and her colleagues, who have spent decades researching the small lifestyle changes that make a difference to our weight.

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Study: Afternoon inhaler dose may offer better asthma control

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 22/04/2025

Emerging evidence suggests that a single daily preventer dose of inhaled corticosteroid (beclomethasone), taken mid-afternoon may improve asthma control by better targeting the body's natural rhythms. In a small clinical trial published in the journal Thorax, researchers investigated the impact of dosing time on asthma outcomes, using 400µg of beclomethasone administered at three different times.

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Preparing healthy futures for kids with asthma

Shepparton News Online, Other, 22/04/2025, Pip Turton

A new study has identified Shepparton and surrounding areas within the Nicholls electorate as a childhood asthma cluster, with rates significantly higher than the national average of 63 per cent reported in the 2021 census. [...] In response, Asthma Australia is calling for support of its Healthy Futures for Kids with Asthma program, aimed at reducing hospital admissions and improving health outcomes through better co-ordination between healthcare providers, schools and families.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

The six 'silent' cancers quietly surging in men and women... and their subtle symptoms

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/04/2025

Deaths caused by most forms of cancer are falling across the U.S., according to a major annual report, but there are several types that continue to have rising fatalities. Deaths from melanoma and other skin cancers, as well as those of the mouth and pharynx, bones and joints, pancreas, uterus, and liver, are increasing.

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Urgent warning over 'relentless' health issue

The Courier Mail, Other, 22/04/2025, Lutz Krause

Professor Lutz Krause, the Chief Scientific Officer at Microba says by 2030 almost 300,000 Australians will suffer from inflammatory bowel disease, with patients waiting an average of 18 months to be diagnosed.

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PRIMARY CARE

Research grant revamp sparks row with unis

The Australian, Higher Education, 23/04/2025, Natasha Bitá, Page 25

Medical institutes are demanding access to \$1bn in research grants reserved for universities to speed up lifesaving breakthroughs in neuroscience and genomics, as an Australian Research Council funding review splits the sector. The Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes has warned the ARC that its rules restricting funding to universities "are excluding some of Australia's top research talent".

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Woman 'drugged' her dying partner

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/04/2025, Nicola McNamara, Page 19

A woman accused of "taking matters into her own hands" after her terminally ill partner asked for more time to consider voluntary assisted dying has been denied bail after a court heard she had told a carer she "couldn't take it any more". Kylie Ellina Truswell-Mobbs, 50, was charged with murder earlier this month following a 16-month police investigation.

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

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Clinic collapse sparks concerns

Canberra Times, General News, 23/04/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

Concerns have been raised about the finances and working environment of a collapsed bulk-billing general practice for Canberra's needy. [...] The federal government has pledged \$3.8 million to save the Interchange, which entered voluntary administration on April 7.

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Urgent care model flawed

West Australian, General News, 23/04/2025, Kieran Le Plastrierr, Page 60

There's more politics than practicality in the Labor Government's election proposal to boost the number of urgent care clinics around Australia. Basing our decision on an unloved idea imported from the UK's National Health System, and an anachronistic 19th-century Constitution that divides primary and hospital care isn't the best way to get Australians access to the health care they need.

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Real reform takes more than ribbon-cutting: health system in crisis

The Australian, Other, 22/04/2025, Kathryn Austin

As an obstetrician, I have the privilege of welcoming new life into the world. But too often lately that joy is tempered by fear because I know the system that is meant to support my mothers and babies is dangerously overstretched.

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Man killed 'within hours' of palliative care meeting

Canberra Times, Other, 22/04/2025, Rex Martinich

A woman allegedly murdered her terminally ill partner soon after he delayed making a decision on legal assisted dying at a palliative care meeting, a judge has heard. Kylie Ellina Truswell-Mobbs, 50, was arrested on April 3, more than a year after the death of David Ronald Mobbs, 56, at Alexandra Hills, in Brisbane's southeast, in December 2023.

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Remote patients find refuge at Townsville Karingal accommodation

facility

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/04/2025, Natasha Emeck

From high-risk births to lifesaving operations, remote patients from across Queensland and the NT are finding comfort, care and respite at a NQ accommodation hub quietly changing lives. But pressure is mounting on the service as demand increases.

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

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Rescue on the cards for ACT clinic with 'selfless' GPs

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 22/04/2025, Jolyon Attwooll

A former registrar at the bulk-billing Interchange Health Co-operative said a bailout is 'vital' – but questions over long-term sustainability remain. The clinic is known for looking after 'complex, vulnerable' patient groups.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 22/04/2025, Melissa Downes

In an exclusive report, Channel 9 revealed cost blowouts and delays on several big-ticket healthcare projects in Queensland, which the Crisafulli Government claims they inherited from the previous Labor government. An independent review into former premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's Hospital Build initiative shows its initial \$9.8b budget ballooning to \$17b due to planning failures and rushed projects.

Report continues on: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#).

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ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 22/04/2025, Liz Trevaskis

Interview with Australian Medical Association NT vice-president Dr John Zorbas, expressing his concerns that the Royal Darwin Hospital no longer fits its purpose due to overcrowding and ageing infrastructure. He says burnout leads to staff members leaving, worsening an already unstable healthcare workforce. Dr Zorbas reveals that 'Code Yellows' are no longer being called despite overcrowding, and he suspects political influence over the silence.

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

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6PR, Drive, 22/04/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners vice-president Dr Ramya Raman, discussing the financial viability of the Federal Government's urgent care clinics. While urgent care clinics aim to ease pressure from hospital emergency rooms, Dr Raman argues that they can cost up to five times more than standard GP consultations and instead called for improvements to existing general practices, especially for after-hours care and in regional and rural areas.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Veterans welcome \$5m pledge to bring allied health to Illawong Beach hub

Cairns Post, Other, 22/04/2025, Luke Lay

A new \$5 million Veteran Hub could bring much needed health support to the Mackay veteran community after "many years" of being "neglected". The funding, promised by the LNP, would establish a new Veterans' and Families' Hub at the 70-year-old Illawong Beach hub's building, providing allied health along with new facility upgrades.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

How weight-loss drug inspired Labor's 'big unit' on men's health

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 23/04/2025, Matthew Knott, Page 4

As she accepts a corflute from her local federal member to display on her front lawn, Liz Priestley takes a look up and down at Dan Repacholi, then up and down again. [...] If re-elected, Repacholi says he will push for drugs such as Mounjaro and Ozempic to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for Australians like himself who struggle with being overweight, not just those with diabetes.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Single women spending huge sums trying to preserve fertility with egg freezing

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/04/2025, Ashleigh Gleeson

Fertility specialists say the biggest reason women are choosing to freeze their eggs – at a cost of \$10,000 per cycle – is because they are single. Should it be made more affordable and accessible?

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

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Channel 9, A Current Affair, 22/04/2025, Allison Langdon

Debate between Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Opposition Leader Peter Dutton. On healthcare issues, the Prime Minister defended his government's decision to boost Medicare support and the tripling of the bulk billing incentive for concession card holders and accused Dutton and the former Liberal government of undermining Medicare by freezing rebates and attempting to introduce a GP co-payment. Dutton countered by blaming Labor for a drop in bulk billing rates, arguing that out-of-pocket costs have risen under Albanese's leadership.

Interview continues on: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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2CC, Canberra Live, 22/04/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Australian Medical Association ACT president Dr Kerrie Aust, expressing doubt over recent government promises to improve bulk billing and GP access in Canberra. Dr Aust says she welcomes initiatives like the single employer model for GP registrars but argues that current measures only benefit a fraction of the population and don't address the financial problems clinics face. She points out that staff shortages, competition with public service jobs, and underfunded Medicare rebates have caused clinics to ditch bulk billing.

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2GB, Drive, 22/04/2025, Clinton Maynard

Interview with Australian Private Hospitals Association CEO Brett Heffernan, discussing concerns by Australians regarding the value of private health insurance as premiums rise by as much as 18 per cent. He says the current system is failing policyholders and providers as private health insurance becomes increasingly unaffordable and underwhelming in coverage. Heffernan says the need to shell out more money for treatment has led to some people ditching coverage altogether and relying solely on Medicare.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Drive, 22/04/2025, Nikolai Beilharz

Interviews with Private Healthcare Australia CEO Dr Rachel David and Consumer Health Forum CEO Dr Elizabeth Deveny, addressing concerns over the rising cost of health insurance in Australia. Dr David attributes the rise to inflated costs of medical devices in Australia. She notes that while 3.73 per cent is an average yearly increase, those with gold-tier status often face steeper hikes due to increased usage and costs. Meanwhile, Dr Deveny acknowledges the concerns about affordability and clarity, saying many consumers are afraid to use their insurance due to uncertain out-of-pocket costs and instead drop coverage altogether.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Inside the plot to 'get rid' of V'landys

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/04/2025, Mark Di Stefano, Page 1

In his climb to the top of Australian sport, Peter V'landys has amassed immense influence. His admirers laud him as a bold visionary the man who saved horse racing and transformed rugby league.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Recce to expand Phase II trial for diabetic foot infections

The Australian, Other, 22/04/2025

Developer of a new class of synthetic anti-infectives Recce Pharmaceuticals has received Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) approval to expand its Phase II clinical trial for diabetic foot

infections (DFIs) following positive results. This approval will allow up to 20 additional patients to access Recce 327 Topical Gel (R327G) under the existing open-label study protocol.

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

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Gene therapy shows long term promise so why isn't it being used more?

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2025

A study by Australian and international researchers has added to the body of research supporting gene therapy as an effective and safe long term solution to one variety of the disease – Haemophilia B. This is just one of several illnesses gene therapy has shown great promise in treating and yet, commercial applications of the technology are limited

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Menzies: Territory organisation leading world health research

Northern Territory News, General News, 23/04/2025, Darcy Fitzgerald, Page 14

Territorians have much to thank Menzies School of Health Research for. Since 1985, Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) has led medical research into the diseases and health challenges facing Territorians, with a particular focus on improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Calls for naloxone, pill checks reignited

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/04/2025

Victorian Coroner David Ryan has published the findings from an inquest into the deaths of four people in Broadmeadows last year, with experts calling for more pill checking services and increased awareness around the use of naloxone to reverse nitazene overdose effects. The people aged between 17 and 42 died after ingesting what they believed was cocaine, but subsequent toxicological analysis revealed it to be protonitazene, a highly potent synthetic opioid.

[Read More](#)

Deadly synthetic opioids find new market, discovered in NT for first time

The Australian, Other, 22/04/2025, Blair Jackson

Deadly drugs that have killed young people across the country have been found in the Northern Territory for the first time. The discovery has prompted health authorities to issue warnings three weeks out from Darwin's biggest music festival.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Millions unused as brave Jack fights on

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2025, James Dowling, Page 9

Millions of dollars earmarked for fighting a form of rare and deadly children's cancer is sitting unused, with advocates and families arguing its reallocation could benefit dozens of children facing cancer relapses. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler allocated \$20m over two years to bankroll the drug treatment difluoromethylornithine (DFMO) in July last year, despite a decision from the Therapeutic Goods Administration on its viability still pending.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Channel 9, A Current Affair, 22/04/2025, Leila McKinnon

Southern Cross University Dean of Law Prof David Heilpern criticises current laws that penalise drivers who test positive for THC even if they're using legally prescribed cannabis and are not impaired. He argues that the policy lacks evidence linking medicinal cannabis use to road accidents and diverts police resources from more critical issues like domestic violence.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Evenings, 22/04/2025, Kelly Higgins-Devine

Interview with Bond University medical educator Dr Natasha Yates, discussing the growing practice of microdosing popular weight loss medications Ozempic and Wegovy. Dr Yates calls for these products to be included in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme to improve accessibility and stresses the importance of having open conversations between patients and doctors.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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AICIS

Toxic twist to ring road plan

Cairns Post, General News, 23/04/2025, Peter Carruthers, Page 4

For the first time the state road authority has revealed the presence of toxic firefighting foam at the Cairns Airport that will need to be cleaned up at a huge cost before the progressing of the CBD to Smithfield link. [...] Firefighting foam containing polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) are known to be present at contaminated areas of Cairns Airport in a carry-over from use of the foam prior to 2003 when Queensland Fire and Emergency Services discontinued use of toxic fire-retardant products which have been linked to serious health problems overseas.

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