



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 25th April 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports cancer treatment daratumumab has been added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme offering a more affordable treatment for multiple myeloma, but patients have called for prioritised consideration for cancer treatments to speed access.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports the Department of Veterans Affairs will finance MDMA and psilocybin-assisted therapy for veterans with PTSD and treatment-resistant depression, and the Therapeutic Goods Administration is considering expanding the use of such treatments for terminally ill patients experiencing distress.
- The **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 3) reports a couple has been given leave by the courts to sue Calvary Healthcare ACT amidst allegations injuries sustained during birth led to the death of a child at North Canberra Hospital in 2022.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has conceded the Stoma Appliance Scheme needs updating, while a spokesperson for the Minister has confirmed an ongoing Health Department review into the Scheme has yet to be finalised.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports a trial program that saw a geriatrician added to the emergency department at Melbourne's St Vincent's Hospital halved the number of elderly patients admitted to hospital, saving 900 acute bed days.

- [ABC Online](#) reports most GPs will not move to full bulk-billing after major government funding commitments for Medicare are implemented, surveys by ABC News and the RACGP have shown, with doctors warning the planned changes will incentivise shorter consultations.
- [ABC Online](#) reports the personal data of more than 2,200 sleep study patients at Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital has been compromised following a ransomware attack on tech company Compumedics, SA Health says.
- [The Guardian](#) (Online) reports reform is needed to address a drop-off in dentist attendance by young people, a University of Melbourne study says, with data showing a quarter of people stop attending the dentist after they exit the child dental benefits schedule.

MINISTER BUTLER

Butler bagged by colostomy callers

The Australian, General News, 25/04/2025, Jack Quail, Page 6

Adelaide talkback radio isn't the typical setting for an ambush but that didn't stop Health Minister Mark Butler from being caught by surprise on Thursday morning when a pair of disgruntled callers phoned in. While fielding questions on local station 5AA regarding Labor's recent health announcements, Mr Butler took a call from Ryan Mann, a trade schoolteacher who lives with a stoma an opening in the abdomen where the bowel ends.

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

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Coalition says PM is preying on the sick

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 25/04/2025, Duncan Evans, Page 14

The Coalition has branded Anthony Albanese a "political vulture" preying on "hardworking, elderly, sick and vulnerable Australians" in a tense election debate on the country's healthcare future. Opposition spokeswoman Anne Ruston, fronting up against Health Minister Mark Butler at the National Press Club on Wednesday, delivered the sharp attack as she defended the Coalition's approach to Medicare and promised an elected Dutton government would not implement any cuts to the universal healthcare scheme.

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

GP salaries of \$400k-plus put in spotlight by healthcare election

Australian Financial Review, Other, 24/04/2025, Michael Smith

The outback Queensland town of Julia Creek is offering big bucks to find a new GP for the remote community of 550 people. The package, advertised last month, is a base salary of up to \$680,000 along with free rent of a four-bedroom house.

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Foreign surgeon numbers hamstrung by higher standards

Daily Liberal, Other, 24/04/2025, Farid Farid

Qualifying to be a surgeon takes years of study and hard work, but that journey is even longer for desperately needed overseas-trained surgeons. Between January 2021 and July 2024, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons assessed specialist international medical graduates against standards that varied from the requirements of Medical Board of Australia - the national body which licenses medical practitioners to work. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said record numbers of internationally qualified doctors had been easing the burden with 5431 registered to practise in 2024.

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Labor and the Coalition have pledged billions of dollars towards health this campaign. But what will it mean for you?

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2025, Stephanie Dalzell

As an increasing number of Australians skip medical care because of the cost or languish on public

wait lists, the major parties have headed into this election contest vowing to do more to make health care accessible and affordable. The vast majority of policies on offer promise to make it free or cheaper to see the doctor or access medicines, an unsurprising move in a campaign where cost-of-living issues are a major issue for voters. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has indicated that cap is no longer fit-for-purpose, saying every jurisdiction will "bust through" it next year.

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Australians tell ABC's Your Say bulk billing and dental coverage in Medicare will sway their vote this election

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2025, Ben Knight

In elections, health is huge. In every way. It's always near the top of voter concerns — and the sheer scope of the way it touches our lives is unlike any other part of government. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler was asked about it at a press conference on day one of the campaign. "Of course it makes sense to have the entire body covered by a universal healthcare system, including the mouth," he said.

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Most GPs won't exclusively bulk-bill even with record Medicare promise, new surveys suggest

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2025, Elise Worthington, Paige Cockburn and Celina Edmonds

An ABC news survey of more than 800 GPs combined with exclusive data from the Royal College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has cast doubt on whether the signature health policy of this election campaign can be fully delivered. More than 90 per cent of doctors who contacted ABC NEWS said they won't move to full bulk-billing under changes promised by both major parties. [...] That's a \$125,000 increase in salary," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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We asked GPs if election pledges would actually help them bulk-bill more. Here's what they said

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2025, Alison Branley and Evan Young

If you've heard about the big spending pledges around bulk-billing and Medicare this election but still don't feel clear about what that'll mean for your healthcare, you're not alone. In case you missed it, Labor and the Coalition have both pledged \$8.5 billion to give GPs incentives to bulk-bill all patients instead of just kids, concession card holders and pensioners. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has previously said he's against just raising the rebate because it doesn't guarantee patients will be bulk-billed.

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Labor and the Coalition brush over 'scary' decline in young Australians' dental visits

The Guardian, Other, 25/04/2025, Natasha May

Young Australians will remain victims of an oral health "blindspot" because of the "stubbornly agnostic" attitudes of major political parties to include dental in Medicare, experts fear. [...] During a debate on Wednesday between the health minister, Mark Butler, and the shadow health minister, Anne Ruston, both said their focus was on primary care when asked about adding dental to Medicare.

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Ruston: Clouds loom over Centre for Disease Control

The Mandarin, Other, 24/04/2025, Melissa Coade

The Coalition is not persuaded that a CDC should be developed on the advice of the Commonwealth COVID-19 inquiry. [...] "I have not seen any legislation about the establishment of the CDC, and I find it quite interesting that you're suggesting that we import, by the sounds of things, the American style CDC into Australia, when by all accounts, Australia's response to the COVID pandemic was one of the best in the world — certainly better than cases that currently have a CDC," Ruston told Health Minister Mark Butler.

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Federal Election 2025: Albanese government's Medicare Urgent Care Clinics forced to close when doctors unavailable

Sky News Australia, Other, 24/04/2025, Oscar Godsell

The Albanese government's rollout of Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (UCCs) has continued to face challenges, with some forced out of operation due to the unavailability of doctors. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has established 87 UCCs and promised another 50 at a cost of more than \$1 billion. [...] Meanwhile, Health Minister Mark Butler has assured voters the \$1 billion cost ensures "all" clinics are staffed by a GP, except in the ACT and the NT.

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'Very unlikely that medical practice could survive': Dr Nick Yim on blanket bulk billing

4BC, Other, 24/04/2025, Luke Bradnam

Yesterday, Health Minister Mark Butler was forced to clarify that there will still be some patients who are charged a gap fee at the GP. Meanwhile at a state level, the LNP government are scrambling to redraw Queensland's hospital building plan after another scathing review.

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Pollies debate the future of healthcare as election race heats up

Aged Care Insite, Other, 24/04/2025, Stefanie Schultz

As the countdown to May 3's federal election ticks over, the future of Australian healthcare continues to take centre stage on the campaign trail. This week, Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and opposition spokeswoman Anne Ruston debated the state of the nation's health at Wednesday's National Press Club.

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Health debate glosses over aged care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/04/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

For Violet executives Kate Carnell and Melissa Reader the health debate between Mark Butler and Anne Ruston failed to give adequate attention to the aged care sector. This week's health debate between Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Anne Ruston at the National Press Club was disappointingly lacking in its attention to Australia's ageing population, Violet chief executive officer and founder Melissa Reader and chair Kate Carnell told Australian Ageing Agenda.

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Strengthening Medicare: Labor is backing men's health

Australian Labor Party, Other, 24/04/2025

A re-elected Albanese Labor Government is strengthening Medicare, today announcing an additional \$32 million to support men's health and break the stigma around seeking support. Movember statistics show as many as two in every three men are foregoing health support due to gender stereotypes – and around half believe avoiding health check-ups is normal.

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Loud silences and glaring gaps: why election health debates need a rethink

Croakey, Other, 24/04/2025, Melissa Sweet

Is there a better way to debate health policy during federal election campaigns? It's an obvious question in the wake of the Health Policy Debate this week. Jason Staines writes: Much was left unsaid at the National Press Club of Australia on Wednesday, when Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler and Shadow Minister Senator Anne Ruston met for the Health Policy Debate .

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Could GPs earn \$400k a year?

Medical Forum, Other, 24/04/2025

The Federal Government claims GPs who offer universal bulk billing will earn more than \$400,000 a year under proposed changes to Medicare bulk billing rebates. While that figure may be about four times the average Australian wage, the AMA(WA) and the founder of a network of Perth GP clinics say it's not as simple as that. [...] According to new campaign material released by Health Minister Mark Butler, a GP who currently bulk bills one in four patients could earn \$371,390 a year, while their counterpart who bulk bills all of their patients would be earning about \$45,000 less than that.

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GPs not getting any more enthused about bulk billing

The Medical Republic, Other, 24/04/2025, Holly Payne

Despite a distinct lack of enthusiasm from the sector, the health minister continues to insist that the majority of practices will be better off bulk billing from November. The national broadcaster has surveyed GPs and found Labor's \$8.5 billion Medicare pledge comes up wanting in the minds of doctors. [...] Even as a number of major mainstream news outlets – The Australian, The Guardian, Nine Newspapers and now the ABC – are running articles casting doubt on the uptake of the \$8.5 billion investment, federal health minister Mark Butler has stuck to his proverbial guns.

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Medicare misogyny, smoke and a lot of mirrors

The Medical Republic, Other, 24/04/2025, Louise Stone

When Ged Kearney talks about the harms associated with defining the average patient as a white male, her government is doing the same with their modelling for GPs. minister for health Mark Butler's assertion that GPs will be "better off" under their new Medicare structure.

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Butters v Rusty: battle royale more like battle blah

Oncology Republic, Other, 24/04/2025, Holly Payne and Cate Swannell

The federal health minister is keeping a close eye on Healthscope and his coalition opposition continues to obfuscate on public service cuts. Federal health minister Mark Butler says his government is "watching very closely" as private hospital operator Healthscope comes closer to being sold, and said he was talking to other operators to ensure there are contingency plans if the company's 38 hospitals were to close.

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Aussie myelofibrosis drug added to PBS

Oncology Republic, Other, 24/04/2025, Lincoln Tracy

It's a 'full circle moment' for momelotinib, which was discovered three decades ago but only received TGA approval last year. Earlier this month momelotinib was added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, a decision that Leukemia Australia CEO Chris Tanti described as "an important step forward" for patients with myelofibrosis. [...] "The Albanese Government is committed to making medicines cheaper for all Australians," said Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler.

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We asked polities to commit to dental reform for abuse survivors; they said this

The Senior, Other, 24/04/2025, Carla Mascarenhas

Neither major party is prepared to commit to significant dental policy as recommended by Australia's peak dental body amid lengthening wait times and more Australians suffering from painful dental diseases. Although one major party told ACM there was "ambition" for change, it still leaves the most vulnerable in our communities covered by rudimentary frameworks. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler told ACM Labor's focus was on "strengthening Medicare".

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Aged care isn't fixed – so why are we not talking about it?

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/04/2025, Lauren Broomham

If you tuned into yesterday's National Press Club debate between Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, and Shadow Minister, Anne Ruston, hoping for a meaningful discussion on aged care – you would have been sorely disappointed. Despite being billed as a "face-off" over the future of Australia's aged and healthcare systems, aged care was virtually absent from both the Ministers' speeches and the media pack's questions.

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Sky News Live, Paul Murray Live, 24/04/2025, Paul Murray

Panel discussion with former Labor advisor Darrin Barnett and PR Counsel managing director Kristy McSweeney on Labor's Medicare campaign. Murray raises concerns about whether Health Minister Mark Butler's recent comments have weakened the government's Medicare claims, especially as the Opposition struggles to gain traction. Barnett points out that the Opposition continues to lack a strong narrative, and media attention remains largely focused on them. McSweeney agrees the Medicare message pushed by the government is misleading, but says it has been simplified effectively, unlike the Coalition's response. She says the government is using confusion over funding responsibilities to their advantage, while the Opposition has not crafted a simple, compelling rebuttal.

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Sky News Live, Paul Murray Live, 24/04/2025, Paul Murray

Murray says Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has repeated the claim that Australians will only need a Medicare card to see a doctor. He points out that this message is misleading because bulk billing rates have dropped under Labor. He adds that Health Minister Mark Butler's appearance at the National Press Club revealed that many will still need more than a Medicare card to see a doctor under the current plan.

Continuing on: [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC News, ABC National News, 24/04/2025, Kathryn Robinson

Report by ABC's national health reporter Elise Worthington on concerns over the federal government's bulk billing policy. Data from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners shows most doctors doubt the new bulk billing policy will work as intended. President Dr Michael Wright says the increased incentives do not cover the real cost of care. Health Minister Mark Butler says the financial modelling behind the policy is based on the current standard of care.

Also reported by: [ABC \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Perth\)](#).

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ABC News, ABC News Hour, 24/04/2025, Fauziah Ibrahim

Report by ABC News senior reporter Ben Knight on healthcare as a key issue during the election campaign. Australians say they value Medicare but also highlight where they believe it falls short. Labor pledges \$8.5b to improve Medicare, aiming for 90% bulk billing by 2030, along with more urgent care clinics and training for doctors and nurses. Labor also promises \$573m for women's health and a \$25 cap on medicine prices, with the coalition matching those commitments. Health Minister Mark Butler says rebuilding general practice and improving bulk billing are the current priorities, while adding dental to Medicare is a long-term goal.

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Channel 10, 10 News First: Lunchtime, 24/04/2025, Lachlan Kennedy

Interview with Southern Cross University's National Centre for Naturopathic Medicine foundation director Prof Jon Wardle on the federal government's approval for private health insurers to cover seven natural therapies. Kennedy explains that these therapies were excluded from coverage in 2019 but have now been recommended for reinstatement, with Health Minister Mark Butler accepting it before the election period began. Wardle says insurers are now assessing the financial impact and may place limits on how the therapies are applied.

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ABC Radio Sydney, 20:00 News, 24/04/2025

Labor promises to invest \$32m in men's health initiatives if elected, with the Coalition agreeing to match the commitment. Health Minister Mark Butler says many men avoid regular check-ups and GP visits.

Similar coverage reported by: [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 24/04/2025, Samantha Donovan

Pre-recorded interview with Western Sydney GP and former AMA NSW president Dr Kean-Seng Lim on the challenges and implications of increasing bulk-billed GP consultations under Medicare. Donovan says polling from the RACGP reveals that two-thirds of GPs are not keen on adopting bulk billing practices, despite the promised incentives. Lim explains that the flat incentive rate does not suit all practices, particularly those that spend more time on longer appointments. Donovan asks whether Health Minister Mark Butler's claim that three-quarters of GP practices would benefit from full bulk billing is accurate. Lim questions the modelling behind Butler's claim, suggesting that while some practices might financially benefit, it does not guarantee better quality healthcare.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Conversation Hour, 24/04/2025, Kirsten Diprose

Interview with Melbourne University Dental School associate professor Matt Hopcraft on the calls for expanding Medicare to include more dental services. Hopcraft says the issue is often overlooked in health policy debates this election, adding that Health Minister Mark Butler has stated dental care is not currently a priority. Hopcraft argues this is a missed opportunity, as untreated dental issues can lead to higher costs in other parts of the health system.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 24/04/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler states they're announcing a really significant package for men's health as part of their broader Strengthening Medicare program. He notes Australian men can be pretty hopeless at looking after themselves and seeking help when they need it. Butler adds around half of men from surveys think that it's normal to avoid a check-up with the doctor, and they just aren't as healthy as they could and should be in a country like Australia.

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ABC Riverland SA, Breakfast, 24/04/2025, Matt Stephens

Doctors say it's unlikely the Federal Government will deliver on its key election pledged that nine in ten GP appointments will be free, even with billions of dollars in new Medicare funding. An ABC poll of more than 800 doctors found 90% said they would not shift to exclusively bulk-billing patients. Health Minister Mark Butler says three out of four practices would be better off if they shift to fully bulk-billing under the changes.

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Triple M Cairns, 08:00 News, 24/04/2025

The Coalition is today promising a national DV database and Labor is pledging \$32 million towards men's health. Health Minister Mark Butler says it's about breaking the stigma and encouraging men's to seek support.

Similar coverage reported by: [Triple M Karratha \(Karratha\)](#), [Triple M Geraldton \(Geraldton\)](#), [Triple J \(Sydney\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Albanese government commits \$158 million to back three new CRCs

@AuManufacturing, Other, 24/04/2025, Simran Gill

The federal government announced \$158 million in funding for three new Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) on Thursday, with a major focus on manufacturing life-saving medical treatments for diseases including cancer. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney highlighted the importance of the Care Economy CRC, noting that "The care economy is Australia's largest employer and is growing at three times the rate of total national employment."

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Medicare misogyny, smoke and a lot of mirrors

The Medical Republic, Other, 24/04/2025, Louise Stone

When Ged Kearney talks about the harms associated with defining the average patient as a white male, her government is doing the same with their modelling for GPs. minister for health Mark Butler's assertion that GPs will be "better off" under their new Medicare structure.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged care abuse case

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes - 3rd Edition, 25/04/2025, Josh Hanrahan, Page 13

An aged care worker has been charged with sexually assaulting elderly residents, including several

with dementia, in a Sydney nursing home. Tracy Salmon, 46, allegedly used her mobile phone to film herself carrying out the shocking attacks on the residents who, on many occasions, were so unwell they were unaware of what was going on before sharing the videos with her boyfriend.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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Serving those who've served: Honouring veterans in aged care this ANZAC Day

Aged Care Insite, Other, 24/04/2025, Stefanie Schultz

This ANZAC Day, while the nation pauses to honour all Australians who have served, it's important to acknowledge the veterans in our aged care homes. Queensland based provider Carinity has spent the weeks leading up to ANZAC Day recognising the incredible contributions many of their aged care residents have made over lifetimes marred by international conflict.

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AI project to address over-prescribing in aged care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 24/04/2025, Stefanie Schultz

A Sydney researcher has received a \$4.4 million grant for the development of an artificial intelligence (AI) medication management platform for aged care. The Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) has allocated \$4,468,310 to Macquarie University's Dr Nasir Wabe and a team of Australian Institute of Health Innovation researchers to embark on a five-year project aimed at solving many of the health issues associated with the overprescription of medications for aged care residents.

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Survey on reform implementation open

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 24/04/2025

Providers have the opportunity to give feedback on how ready they are for the upcoming aged care reforms, and how the department can better support them. The Department of Health and Aged Care is looking for feedback about the implementation of the aged care reforms.

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One in ten Aussies are unpaid carers, many struggle without basic needs

The Senior, Other, 24/04/2025, Desiree Savage

Around three million Australians are unpaid carers but often feel "overlooked" and go without despite their efforts to help another person stay alive, according to a new national survey. More than 10,000 people nationwide responded to the 2024 National Carer Survey, with the findings released in March painting a stark picture of who these carers are.

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Opinion: providers hold the answers – now it's time to act

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/04/2025, Lauren Broomham

With the Federal Election just over a week away, aged care is set to return to the national agenda. The sector must seize the moment to lead on solutions. Regardless of who wins on 3 May, Australia's aged care crisis won't magically resolve itself. Beds are full, Home Care Packages remain out of reach for many, and the ageing Baby Boomer wave is about to break. Aged care needs more than promises – it needs action.

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Easy wins: reforming the 'blunt instrument' of care minutes

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/04/2025, Lauren Broomham

Rigid and unforgiving, mandated care minutes are sending providers into the red. Could a more flexible, hospital-style model offer aged care a better future? The aged care sector is calling for urgent

reform to the current mandatory care minute requirements introduced in October 2023 – requirements many providers say are unsustainable and financially damaging.

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Easy wins: level the playing field on payroll tax

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/04/2025, Lauren Broomham

The average 100-bed private aged care home is paying circa \$657,000 in payroll tax a year compared to its Not For Profit counterpart – does this pass the pub test? The payroll tax and Fringe Benefits tax exemptions for Not For Profit aged care operators can have a significant impact on private operators' bottom lines – and their ability to attract staff.

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Plan A or Plan B? Operators only have one option to prepare systems for new Act

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/04/2025, Lauren Broomham

The new Aged Care Act is now just 45 business days away from its 1 July implementation. Aged care providers have two options: automate and future-proof their systems now or stick to manual workarounds amid rising workloads and compliance risk. Is there really a choice?

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Appeal set for ex-NSW police officer who avoided jail over aged care Taser death

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/04/2025, Lauren Broomham

A court date has been set for the appeal of the sentence handed to former NSW Police officer Kristian White (pictured above right), who was convicted of the manslaughter of 95-year-old Clare Nowland (pictured above left) last month. The NSW Court of Criminal Appeal will hear the case on 27 June 27, following a challenge by prosecutors who argue that the sentence – a two-year community correction order – is inadequate.

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“Impossible targets and no roadmap”: Clarence Village CEO Duncan McKimm calls for aged care policy reset

The Weekly Source, Other, 24/04/2025, Lauren Broomham

The CEO of Clarence Village, a stand-alone Not For Profit aged care provider in regional New South Wales, says aged care is being held back by unrealistic staffing mandates, a lack of infrastructure finance, and the absence of a national plan – warning the current system risks leaving 130,000 older Australians without care by 2035.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 24/04/2025, Rod Henshaw

Interview with Play Matters Australia CEO Penny Creamer on the benefits of intergenerational play programs. Creamer explains that they have been running these play groups for years, adding that interest grew after an ABC series showed the benefits of children interacting with aged care residents. Play Matters now hopes to expand the program and collaborate with more aged care services.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Has city's huge port grown too big?

Age, General News, 25/04/2025, Sophie Aubrey and Adam Carey, Page 1

Melbourne is one of few places in the world that has a major container port right in the middle of the city. [...] Those living closest to the port cop the worst of the impacts of living and driving side-by-side

with more trucks. Maribyrnong Council declared a health emergency two years ago due to the effects of air pollution.

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At the loo, take note of the hands

Canberra Times, General News, 25/04/2025, Jenna Price, Page 27

I'm inventing a new word today. It applies to that captivating story about the catering company which allowed a gastro outbreak to unleash. It poisoned 64 guests and sent four people to the emergency department. The bug was norovirus - so many people read about this that the story went noro-viral. Sorry. The weird thing about the timing of the outbreak was that it was in 2022 when I thought we were still in peak handwashing time.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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Hospitals' 'culture of fear' exposed as doctors flee public health system

The Australian, Other, 24/04/2025, Natasha Robinson

Hospitals are at risk of being drained of the most talented and skilled doctors, with swathes of the medical workforce set to abandon the public sector amid what is being described as a widespread culture of cover-up and payback in health systems across the country. [...] There were 82,736 full-time-equivalent administrative and clerical staff working in public hospitals nationwide in 2022-23, according to the latest figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, making up 18 per cent of employees.

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'I'm free to be who I am': Why this life stage is not the horror story you've been told

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 24/04/2025, Jenna Guillaume

Yola Armstrong describes herself as "unapologetically menopausal". The 56-year-old mother-of-two from Melbourne says, when she started experiencing symptoms, her instinct was to hide or minimise them. But moving into a male-dominated workplace just as her symptoms were worsening forced her to practise a kind of radical acceptance – openly, and vocally, embracing what was happening to her.

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Emergency department trial halves number of elderly people taking up ward beds

ABC Online, Other, 25/04/2025, Rachel Carbonell and Alison Branley

The number of older Australians presenting to emergency departments is steadily increasing, according to the Australian Medical Association. And data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows they also account for almost half of all public hospital bed days nationally. It's one of the biggest challenges facing Australia's health system.

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'Completely heartless': Eddie Hyland Park homeless camp bulldozed during rainstorm and belongings dumped by Queensland council

7news.com.au, Other, 24/04/2025, Sarah Keszler

The timing, just a day before Anzac Day, has shocked many people with a large number of veterans affected by homelessness. [...] And approximately 1,555 current or former Australian Defence Force members identified as experiencing homelessness in the 2021 Census, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. In 2023-2024, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported about 1,600 specialist homelessness services clients had identified as current or former members of the ADF.

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ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 24/04/2025, Geraldine Mellet

Interview with AUSactive CEO Barry Elvich on the need for a new preventative health campaign. Elvich supports launching a new campaign but says it must reflect modern Australia's diversity and use updated media platforms. He believes the campaign should be driven by professional marketers, not bureaucrats, and should target different age groups over at least three years. He argues that people need clear motivation and structured messaging to make lasting health changes.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

'I've got my smile back'

Shepparton News, General News, 25/04/2025, Bree Harding, Page 4

Just 12 weeks ago, every step Vicki Clowes took was about survival. Parkinson's disease, a progressive movement disorder characterised by the gradual loss of nerve cells in the brain, had taken firm hold of her body. It had robbed her ability to walk without an aid, her strength and her energy. It had even stolen her smile.

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

Isla Hunter's brave fight: Family's journey with Batten disease

Ballarat Courier, Other, 24/04/2025, Michelle-Smith

Isla Hunter is like a newborn in a six-year-old's body, and she's living on borrowed time. She turns six on May 14, outliving medical expectations that the rare neurological disorder Batten Disease would claim her life before her sixth birthday. The disease, diagnosed when Isla was two, is a terminal, degenerative condition that causes waste materials to build up in Isla's brain cells.

[Read More](#)

Australians demand more on health

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2025, Andy Park

Chronic disease now afflicts more than 60 per cent of Australians and one of the issues on voters' minds this election is the availability and cost of seeing a doctor; Critical stockpile - the mineral reserve the government hopes will tilt trade our way; And after thinking he'd never walk again - three years after an on-field accident - Andrew Reagan's inspiring walk for charity.

[Read More](#)

Women can't wait any longer for gynae cancer action

Health Services Daily, Other, 24/04/2025, Mariella Attard

Peak bodies have a plan to fix it, and politicians have responded positively, but who will actually step up and fund it? Women need access to genomic profiling now, because by the time the National Framework for Genomics in Cancer Control is implemented, more than 12,000 will have died from gynaecological cancer, says ANZGOG. That's why it's a big part of the plan that the Australian New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group has put together in partnership with people with lived experience, researchers, and the organisations Ovarian Cancer Australia (OCA), Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation (OCRF), and Omico.

[Read More](#)

Hearing services program changes to revalidated service requests process

WEB Hearing Practitioner Australia, Other, 24/04/2025, Helen Carter

The Department of Health and Aged Care's Hearing Services Program (HSP) has made changes to the Revalidated Service Request process to streamline approvals and ensure requests comply with program requirements. The changes kicked in this week. From 22 April 2025 all Revalidated Service Requests must now include supporting evidence and expire three months after submission.

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PRIMARY CARE

Hospital cost doubles

Daily Mercury, General News, 25/04/2025, Luke Lay, Page 5

The arrival of 128 extra beds for Mackay Base Hospital has been blown out by more than 12 months as a damning independent review found the \$250m expansion project was underfunded by more than \$270m. The Sangstar review, spearheaded by infrastructure specialist Sam Sangstar, found the project was "undeliverable" in its current state with the forecast cost "more than double" the original budget.

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

Coomera Hospital 'will be rescued'

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 25/04/2025, Jacklyn O'Brien, Page 2

Fourteen days after receiving a scathing report saying the Coomera Hospital project as planned by the former Labor government would be over budget and overdue it was quiet on site, but the LNP Health Minister said it doesn't mean work has stopped. Health and Ambulance Services Minister Tim Nicholls stood on the site armed with a "hospital rescue plan" on Thursday, which he says outlines why it was necessary to take the plan back to the drawing board more than eight months after the first concrete slabs were poured.

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

Proposal for the future of Wollongong's health precinct

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 25/04/2025, Natalie Croxon, Page 3

New draft plans outline how the state government plans to build a health precinct around Wollongong Hospital and improve the area around the city's railway station over the coming decades. The government has released its draft Wollongong Health Precinct Strategy and the Wollongong Station Masterplan for public feedback as it considers how to meet the needs of the region's growing population.

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

Board has homework to do

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 25/04/2025, Nikita McGuire, Page 4

The Townsville Hospital and Health Service has a "little bit of homework" to do when it comes to expanding the hospital. THHS board chairman Tony Mooney said they would get to work immediately on a revised plan for the expansion at Townsville University Hospital. This comes after the Sangster review revealed a cost blowout of \$550m on the proposed project and that it would now be delivered by 2029 at the earliest.

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

Delivery of hundreds of new Queensland regional hospital beds face delays

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2025

Hundreds of beds slated for two new regional Queensland hospitals and other health-related projects are facing significant delays due to spiralling costs, an independent review has found. The Sangster Review, led by hospital infrastructure specialist Sam Sangster, found the former Labor government's \$9.8 billion hospital capacity expansion program (CEP) would have blown out to \$17 billion if the LNP continued with the rollout.

[Read More](#)

Cairns Hospital expansion: New surgical centre 'paused' to restart planning

Cairns Post, Other, 24/04/2025, Arun Singh Mann

A Cairns Hospital project "essential" to addressing the region's elective surgery waitlist will be paused before it begins, so plans can be redrawn following forecast budget blowouts. An independent review

into capacity expansion programs across Queensland hospitals recommended the government continue the refurbishment of Cairns Hospital's B and D blocks involving 64 overnight beds, but "pause" a new four-theatre 32-bed surgical centre, which hadn't yet started.

[Read More](#)

Rockhampton Hospital plans, cardiac unit progress despite cost blowout

Morning Bulletin, Other, 24/04/2025, Gabriel Garcia

The new LNP Government has confirmed it will plough ahead with planned upgrades to Rockhampton Hospital, despite the discovery of a major cost blowout. Work will continue on the cardiac hybrid theatre and they will deliver on their pledge to expand mental health services in Rockhampton, with an extra nine beds for the hospital's adult mental health unit and a new six-bed youth Step Up Step Down facility.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Veterans still fighting demons after service

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 25/04/2025, Farid Farid, Page 8

Paul Warren remembers being flung in the air in the rough mountainous terrain of the Baloch Valley in Afghanistan. Then he looked down to see his severed leg. [...] Aside from the physical disfiguration, Mr Warren was left with post-traumatic stress disorder and suffered suicidal thoughts. Guilt and grief overcame the former kickboxing champion as he dealt with both the loss of his good friend and his lengthy recovery process "I struggled probably the first 12 months. I kind of locked myself in the house a little bit," Mr Warren said.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#).

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

Channel 10, The Project, 24/04/2025, Georgie Tunny, Waleed Aly, Dave Thornton, and Susie Youssef

A study from the Movember Institute of Men's Health reveals that young men are heavily influenced by 'alpha male' influencers, with almost 7 in 10 tuning into their content regularly. While these influencers provide motivation and a sense of purpose for many, those engaging with them tend to have worse mental health, including feelings of worthlessness and sadness. The study also highlights troubling attitudes, such as 76% viewing emotional expression as weakness and 23% considering or using steroids.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

New Era: Australian registered nurses empowered to prescribe

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 24/04/2025, Robert Fedele

In December 2024, Health Ministers approved a new Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines – designated registered nurse prescriber, paving the way for qualified registered nurses to prescribe Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines in partnership with an authorised health practitioner who is an independent prescriber.

[Read More](#)

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The road to revolution: desperate doctors demand reform

The Australian, Other, 24/04/2025, Natasha Robinson

Revolutions begin like a whisper, Tracy Chapman once sang. At Concord hospital in Sydney's inner west, a healthcare revolution built slowly over years. But when the tipping point came, the demands for change were loud and they were unequivocal. A staff uprising led by an unassuming intensive-care physician, Winston Cheung, serves as a sentinel example of the schisms at the heart of public hospitals nationwide: mass dysfunction and widespread disrespect for clinical priorities that is blighting clinicians' careers and posing threats to frontline patient care.

[Read More](#)

New handbook to support the next generation of GPs

Medical Forum, Other, 24/04/2025

In 2010 a grassroots effort saw the publication of a pocket-sized handbook for medical students to quickly and easily reference during hospital placements and GP rotations. Fifteen years on from the publication of the GPSN Companion and a fourth edition of that book, now known as the GP Companion, has just been launched.

[Read More](#)

UWA first with Doctor of Pharmacy

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 24/04/2025

The University of Western Australia (UWA) is set to offer Australia's first Doctor of Pharmacy Practice, a pioneering one-year online program designed specifically for registered pharmacists seeking to enhance their qualifications and expand their scope of practice. The program meets the requirements for using the title Doctor of Pharmacy (PD 20 Nov 2024) and can be completed entirely online, making it accessible to practicing pharmacists nationwide.

[Read More](#)

Qld pilot marks one year

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 24/04/2025

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President Chris Owen said the first year of the expanded Scope of Practice Pilot has transformed healthcare delivery across the state. Now one year into Queensland's Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot, the program and the 16 acute conditions covered will become permanent from 01 Jul.

[Read More](#)

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

PBS OKs 'incurable cancer' treatment

The Australian, General News, 25/04/2025, James Dowling, Page 2

It's one of the few cancers still considered incurable, and those diagnosed with multiple myeloma will likely die from the disease, doctors say, but one of the scarce treatments available has now been made more affordable. Multiple myeloma forms in blood plasma cells in bone marrow, affecting 2000 Australians a year. [...] The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme approved the drug daratumumab on Thursday, providing a more affordable immunotherapy option for those ineligible for transplants or whose cancer is treatment-resistant.

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

Breast cancer drug cheaper

Herald Sun, General News, 25/04/2025, Page 12

Aussies with aggressive breast cancer will soon be able to access vital medicine without huge out-of-

pocket costs. A medicine to treat HER2positive early breast cancer which is typically aggressive and fast-growing is slated to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), meaning patients will be able to access treatment without forking out upfront.

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

The push for MedTech tariff exemptions

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 24/04/2025, Kate Cowling

Listed sleep apnoea mask-maker Resmed says it's reprieved from US President Trump's tariffs for now and its CEO will push for all MedTech to be exempt in his other role. The medical device company announced its earnings jumped 8% to \$1.3bn for the third quarter on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX).

[Read More](#)

No one-size-fits-all for 60DD

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 24/04/2025

Rural pharmacists are likely to face greater challenges compensating for financial losses resulting from the introduction of 60-day dispensing than city and regional counterparts, according to the Remote and Isolated Pharmacist Association Australia (RIPAA). While city pharmacists can move to maximise professional services, such as vaccinations and medication management services, and potentially add new ones, RIPAA suggests this would be considerably more difficult for rural pharmacies - especially those run by a sole operator - without financial and workforce support.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

GPs sceptical of bulk-billing boost

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2025, Samantha Donovan

Both the major parties are promising to increase the bulk-billing of GP visits if they're elected. But new polling from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has found two-thirds of their members won't be changing their billing practices even with the incentives being promised by the polities.

[Read More](#)

What do dentists think about dental being covered by Medicare?

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2025, Kirsten Diprose

A new survey of dentists has revealed that there is significant support for dental to be included in Medicare, in this edition of The Conversation Hour we explore the report findings and look at just how much people are falling behind with their dental checks. Also, surveys by ABC NEWS and the Royal Australian College of GPs show only a small proportion of doctors believe they could bulk-bill more patients, despite government commitments incentivising it.

[Read More](#)

Will election improve GP access?

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2025, Annie Guest

Chronic disease now afflicts more than 60 per cent of Australians and one of the issues on voters' minds this election is the availability and cost of seeing a doctor. It's something both Labor and the Coalition are trying to address - promising billions to boost bulk-billing, and Labor also pledging additional urgent care clinics.

[Read More](#)

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Parents sue Calvary over newborn twin's death

Canberra Times, General News, 25/04/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

A couple is suing Calvary Healthcare ACT, alleging negligence caused the death of their newborn baby in 2022. The mother gave birth to twin daughters in April 2022. One baby died within weeks allegedly as a result of injuries sustained during the birth. The mother and father, who The Canberra Times has chosen not to name, are suing Calvary for personal injury arising from alleged negligence.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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

Time to deliver the truth

Herald Sun, General News, 25/04/2025, Shannon Deery, Page 16

Ambulance Victoria could be forced to hand over a secret report into a major breach of rules at the height of the Covid pandemic. The Herald Sun revealed on Wednesday senior Ambulance Victoria staff organised a sanctioned funeral gathering for a paramedic despite a ban on mass gatherings across the state in September 2021. It later investigated the serious breach but has refused to make public a report into the matter.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [3AW \(Online\)](#).

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

Sleep study patients' personal data accessed in ransomware attack, SA Health says

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2025

Personal data from more than 2,000 patients involved in sleep studies at Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital has been accessed in a ransomware attack, SA Health says. In a statement released on Thursday, SA Health said a third-party company known as Compumedics, which provides the sleep study software and equipment, had advised that the files of 2,254 patients who had used the inpatient sleep service at the hospital since 2018 were "likely to have been among those impacted".

[Read More](#)

Plastic surgeon found guilty of professional misconduct allowed to keep practising

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 24/04/2025, Natalie Croxon

A plastic surgeon who failed to provide proper care and treatment to patients in Wollongong can continue practising, but must abide by numerous conditions. The NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) found Dr Mahyar Amjadi guilty in 2024 of professional misconduct and unsatisfactory professional conduct regarding six patients, three of whom he saw at a Wollongong clinic in 2017 and 2018.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 24/04/2025, Yvonne Yong

More than 2000 patients from Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital have had their personal data accessed in a ransomware attack. SA Health says the breach targeted Compumedics, which provides software and equipment for the hospital's sleep studies.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 24/04/2025, Peter Mitchell

Ambulance Victoria apologises after admitting that executives gathered for an illegal funeral during the COVID-19 lockdowns. A Parliamentary submission revealed that the event was organised to avoid public attention.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 24/04/2025, Tom Steinfort

Ambulance Victoria is accused of a cover-up after senior managers approved and attended a secret send-off during one of the state's COVID-19 lockdowns. Despite bans on private gatherings, up to 40 people formed a guard of honour after a funeral.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 24/04/2025, Tiffany Warne

SA Health confirms a cyber attack has compromised the data of 2254 patients at the Women's and Children's Hospital. No financial details were accessed, but personal information was exposed, raising concerns about identity theft and scams.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 24/04/2025, Jennifer Keyte

Ambulance Victoria denies covering up an illegal funeral for a paramedic during a strict COVID-19 lockdown. An anonymous submission to a Parliamentary Inquiry revealed the gathering of 40 staff, implicating senior management.

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

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 24/04/2025, Renee Krosch

Vic Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas defends Ambulance Victoria after 40 staff attend a funeral during stage 4 COVID-19 restrictions. The state Opposition calls for more transparency and wants a report released, but Thomas says appropriate steps were taken, including disciplinary action.

[Play Now](#)

3AW, Drive, 24/04/2025, Heidi Murphy

Interview with Victorian Ambulance Union secretary Danny Hill on Ambulance Victoria holding an illegal funeral for a paramedic during the COVID-19 lockdown. Hill asserts that the management believed they had the authority to approve the gathering, but he then admits that the rules surrounding this event remain unclear. Murphy challenges Hill on the moral implications of the event, but Hill maintains that the decision-makers believed they were acting within the rules at the time.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

'AFL coach wrong': Kennett backs Allan

The Australian, General News, 25/04/2025, Damon Johnston, Page 3

Jeff Kennett has sided with Jacinta Allan in the unfolding stoush with AFL coach Damien Hardwick over her strong criticism of playing Noah Balta before his sentencing over a serious assault. In an extraordinary intervention in the row between the Premier and the premiership coach, the former Victorian Liberal leader and Hawthorn Football Club president launched a strong defence of Ms Allan.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#).

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Out of hibernation

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/04/2025, Peter Badel, Michael Carayannis and Brent Read, Page 5

Former Eels mentor Brad Arthur has been earmarked to be the inaugural coach of the Western Bears as the fledgling franchise prepares to target rugby union players in Argentina and South Africa as part of a global poaching raid. The Daily Telegraph can reveal Arthur is the preferred candidate to lead rugby league's bold new era in Western Australia on a landmark day in which the Bears' return for the 2027 NRL season was all but sealed after 26 years in the NRL wilderness. North Sydney Bears great Billy Moore, who has kept his faith in a return, said the new team would transform the NRL.

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Gym centre vow is best news bar none!

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 25/04/2025, Sam Lowe, Page 7

The state's aspiring gymnasts are jumping for joy. In a groundbreaking pledge, the athletes have been told they could be training in a new "Olympic level" facility. The announcement comes just days after The Advertiser revealed the dangerous shortfalls in equipment and premises for young gymnastics in SA, forcing some, including Olympic athlete Jesse Moore, to move interstate.

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

Brisbane trio united in stadium stand-off

Courier Mail, General News, 25/04/2025, Madura McCormack , Page 8

All three candidates vying for the must-win seat of Brisbane have refused to back-in the behemoth Olympic stadium at Victoria Park set to be the crowning glory of the 2032 Games. In a tight three-cornered race where every vote matters, the reluctance of Labor's Madonna Jarrett and the LNP's Trevor Evans to champion the \$3.78bn legacy stadium shows the Victoria Park project is a live political issue.

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

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

Win for pool, wellness hub

Hobart Mercury, General News, 25/04/2025, Genevieve Holding, Page 9

A tribunal has dismissed four grounds of an appeal against the proposed \$17.5m George Town Council's (GTC) Aquatic, Health and Wellbeing Centre development, calling the complaints "frivolous, misconceived, and lacking in substance". The Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT) handed down a decision last week regarding applications in a planning appeal against the centre.

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

The nudge that could get the Cowboys NRLW team to Cairns

Cairns Post, Other, 24/04/2025, Samuel Davis

The ALP's candidate for Leichhardt can expect a "polite little nudge" from a Cairns councillor this week, with the future of the region's bid to relocate the Cowboys' NRLW team to the Far North in jeopardy. Samuel Davis The ALP's candidate for Leichhardt can expect a "polite little nudge" from a Cairns councillor this week, with the future of the region's bid to relocate the Cowboys' NRLW team to the Far North in jeopardy.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Bacteria colorectal cancer link

Daily Telegraph, General News, 25/04/2025, McKenzie Beard, Page 15

A groundbreaking new study suggests that a gut-dwelling bacteria may be behind a surge in early-onset colorectal cancer cases. The potential culprit? Colibactin, a toxin produced by certain strains of E. coli that thrive in the colon and rectum. "We believe this exposure occurs very early in life likely during the first decade when children are infected," Dr. Ludmil Alexandrov, senior study author at the

University of California San Diego, told The New York Post. Once thought of as a disease that strikes later in life, colorectal cancer is on the rise among young people.

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

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

UQ research centre plan

Courier Mail, General News, 25/04/2025, Page 21

One of Queensland's top universities will receive a \$200m research centre to help accelerate manufacturing of regenerative therapies for illnesses such as heart disease, dementia and cancer if Labor is re-elected next month. The University of Queensland would host the \$238m research centre, with the Albanese government promising the centre would help Australian companies bring a 10-year pipeline of therapies to market, creating an estimated \$4.5bn in economic value and 1500 skilled jobs.

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Hope to slow flu spread

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 25/04/2025, Page 4

Just one dose of an antiviral drug could help reduce the spread of influenza to your immediate circle, new research suggests. University of Michigan researchers found a single dose of baloxavir which is sold in Australia as Xofluza can both treat flu symptoms and slow the spread of the virus. The study found the rate of flu transmission among those who took baloxavir was 9.5 per cent, compared to 13.4 per cent for the placebo group, working out to a 29 per cent reduction in the virus' spread.

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

Dementia risk lowered

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 25/04/2025, Page 5

The risk of dementia could be lowered by as much as 15 per cent when high blood pressure is reduced, a new clinical trial has found. Dementia, a brain condition that impacts memory, speech, thinking and behaviour, is the second leading cause of death in Australia. An estimated 152.8 million people across the globe are tipped to have the condition by 2050.

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Birds hold clue to immunity

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 25/04/2025, Page 7

Proteins found in birds could be key in combating avian flu and respiratory infections in humans, new research finds. Proteins (CL-10 and CL-11) found in bird lungs could play a "crucial role in lung immunity", and may compensate for the loss of a protein (SP-D) that helps protect the lungs of humans and other mammals from airborne pathogens.

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

Can peanuts be the cure for peanut allergy?

The Australian, Other, 24/04/2025, Eleanor Hayward

A daily dose of peanuts can help adults overcome life-threatening nut allergies, a landmark trial has found. People who had previously associated peanuts with "fear and death" are now eating them with breakfast after undergoing the treatment programme to desensitise them, at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

[Read More](#)

'Exciting' new study shows anti-smoking pill Varenicline could work for vape addicts

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2025, Hannah Murphy

A new study exploring the use of a popular anti-smoking pill to help young people quit vaping is being hailed as "exciting" by Australian researchers. The study, conducted by Massachusetts General Hospital in the United States and published by peer-reviewed journal JAMA, recruited more than 200

young people to test out the effectiveness of anti-smoking drug Varenicline on those who frequently vape.

[Read More](#)

Young cancer survivors study

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2025

April is Youth Cancer Awareness month and while 90% of teenagers and young adults with cancer in Australia will survive, they still face many challenges after their treatment ends. Now, a groundbreaking two-year study is set to explore the psychological and cognitive needs of young cancer survivors aged 15 to 25.

[Read More](#)

Australian women are wary of AI being used in breast cancer screening – new research

Medicine Today, Other, 24/04/2025, Alison Pearce

Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming increasingly relevant in many aspects of society, including health care. For example, it's already used for robotic surgery and to provide virtual mental health support. In recent years, scientists have developed AI algorithms that can analyse mammograms for signs of breast cancer. These algorithms may be as good as or better at finding cancers than human radiologists, and save the health-care system money.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 24/04/2025, Max Futchter and Katrina Blowers

University of Queensland scientists will use nearly \$250m in funding to develop and manufacture new therapies for diseases like cancer, arthritis, and heart disease. La Trobe University will also receive \$35m to improve the care economy through technologies like robotics, AI, and virtual care.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 24/04/2025, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

A new study finds a connection between blood pressure and dementia. It shows that managing blood pressure with medication and lifestyle changes lowers the risk of dementia by 15%.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 24/04/2025, Melissa Downes

A new collaborative research centre led by the University of Queensland will boost Australia's ability to grow stem cells and tissue to treat diseases like heart disease, dementia, and cancer. The \$238m project aims to strengthen local medicine production and advance the nation's role in medical research.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#)

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 24/04/2025, Sharyn Ghidella

The Australian government will invest \$238m to support Australian research into cures and therapies for conditions like cancer, dementia, and joint disease. The funding will boost local manufacturing, aiming to ease access to new treatments and reduce reliance on overseas research.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#)

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Changing Australia: Tracy Westerman on transforming Indigenous

mental health

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2025

Psychologist Tracy Westerman has made it her life mission to change the mental health services available to indigenous Australians training thousands of health workers and supporting others.

[Read More](#)

Indigenous students a step closer to aviation dreams after exclusive Royal Flying Doctor Service experience

National Indigenous Times, Other, 24/04/2025, Dechlan Brennan and Jarred Cross

Indigenous students are a step closer to realising their aviation dreams after a visit to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) base in Townsville. An initiative of Gunggandji Aerospace and part of the Raising Horizons pilot program, students from NRL Cowboys House were given an exclusive look at the aviation operations of the RFDS in action.

[Read More](#)

New pilot program delivers Aboriginal health workforce training on Groote Eylandt

National Indigenous Times, Other, 24/04/2025, Callan Morse

A new program is set to provide Aboriginal health workforce training opportunities on Groote Eylandt in the Gulf of Carpentaria. The employment pathway trainee pilot program will see Aboriginal health workers train locally on Groote Eylandt for the first time, negating the need for trainees to travel to the mainland to continue their studies.

[Read More](#)

Call for all parties to support better health outcomes for Aboriginal Territorians

National Indigenous Times, Other, 24/04/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Ten days out from the federal election, the peak body for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in the Northern Territory has called on all political parties to support better health outcomes for Aboriginal Territorians. The latest data showed life expectancy for First Nations women has gone backwards, as well as targets around employment, birthweight, early childhood education, child development, employment, and youth engagement.

[Read More](#)

Former minister claims governments could face class actions over failure to close the gap

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/04/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Former Indigenous Australians Minister Ken Wyatt says there is a real possibility of a future class action against all levels of government for their failure to close the gap. Speaking on NITV's The Point the first Indigenous Australian elected to the House of Representatives and the first Indigenous cabinet minister, said all jurisdictions signed off on the Closing the Gap agreement, including national and state cabinets, indicating broad consensus for the plan.

[Read More](#)

Grants open to support healthy communities in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area

National Indigenous Times, Other, 22/04/2025, Giovanni Torre

Torres Strait Regional Authority's Healthy Communities Grants are now open with grants starting from \$10,000 available to support healthy and active communities across the Torres Strait region, including Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area. TSRA Chairperson George Nona said the grants would go towards local activities supporting improved access to affordable fresh and healthy foods, alongside initiatives to encourage more active and healthy lifestyles in communities.

[Read More](#)

First Nations communities encouraged to protect their Mob with free flu

vaccinations

National Indigenous Times, Other, 22/04/2025, Giovanni Torre

With winter fast approaching, First Nations communities are being urged to take action now to protect themselves and their loved ones from the flu by accessing their free flu vaccine. On Tuesday, Lung Foundation Australia reminded First Nations people of all ages that getting vaccinated against the flu can help prevent serious illness, hospitalisation, and complications from other respiratory conditions.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Meningococcal cases rise

West Australian, General News, 25/04/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 14

Four cases of meningococcal have been confirmed in WA in the past week, health authorities say. WA Health said two cases were children from the same household, while the other two were adults who had no link to the children or each other. It has renewed calls for the State Government to fund the B strain of the meningococcal vaccine after three of the four new cases were identified as type B, with testing of the fourth case under way. "All individuals are recovering in hospital," WA Health said in a statement.

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

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All urged to get vaccinated

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 25/04/2025, Page 10

Sunraysia residents have been urged to take action to protect their health this autumn as flu and measles infections soar. Cases of preventable infections, such as influenza and measles, have continued to rise despite vaccinations offering an effective way to protect from potentially serious illness. Australia has recorded more than 60,000 cases of influenza so far this year, more than the same period in 2024.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Psychedelic drugs funded for veterans

The Australian, General News, 25/04/2025, Penny Timms, Page 2

The Department of Veterans Affairs will fund MDMA and psilocybin-assisted therapies for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and treatment-resistant depression, in a significant move that pushes psych edelic medicine further into the mainstream. [...] "MDMA and psilocybin-assisted treatment will be funded by DVA under strict clinical criteria that aligns with conditions established by the Therapeutic Goods Administration and guidance from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists," a departmental spokeswoman said.

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

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Multiple myeloma drug subsidised after treatment costs ballooned

The Australian, Other, 24/04/2025, James Dowling

It's one of the few cancers still considered incurable, and those diagnosed with multiple myeloma will likely die from the disease, doctors say, but one of the scarce treatments available has now been made more affordable. [...] "I was very possibly the first Australian patient outside of clinical trials to access the drug. I required a special TGA approval. I was in a very fortunate position that I was able to fund it. That is exceptionally rare," Mr Marks said.

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Can you really prevent stretch marks during pregnancy? We asked an expert

The Courier Mail, Other, 24/04/2025, Melissa Mason

Pregnancy is a transformative time for the body – understandably, given that we are growing a tiny human inside us. One possible transformation that has many pregnant people frantically Googling is whether you can prevent stretch marks during pregnancy. [...] Tretinoin Prescription-strength Vitamin A is definitely not one to reach for during pregnancy as it is classified as a Category D drug by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Australia.

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South Australian councils question safety of vaccines

ABC Online, Other, 24/04/2025

Three regional councils in South Australia have been labelled by medical experts as "irresponsible" after passing motions questioning higher levels of government about vaccines. The councils on the Limestone Coast (Grant, Robe and Naracoorte-Lucindale), as well as the region's Local Government Association, have moved to write to state and federal ministers to ensure vaccines are "free from contaminants and safe for human vaccination". [...] Before a vaccine or any medication can be used in Australia it must be licensed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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Aussie myelofibrosis drug added to PBS

Oncology Republic, Other, 24/04/2025, Lincoln Tracy

It's a 'full circle moment' for momelotinib, which was discovered three decades ago but only received TGA approval last year. Earlier this month momelotinib was added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, a decision that Leukemia Australia CEO Chris Tanti described as "an important step forward" for patients with myelofibrosis. [...] "The Albanese Government is committed to making medicines cheaper for all Australians," said Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Why a longevity doctor refuses to drink from a gadget thousands of Aussies use every day

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 24/04/2025, Shania O'Brien

A longevity doctor has issued a stark warning about the hidden dangers lurking in your kitchen tap - and why she refuses to use instant hot water faucets in her own home. Dr Poonam Desai, a physician who specialises in preventative health and longevity, took to social media to share the surprising reason she avoids the kitchen gadget that many rely on for their morning tea or coffee.

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