



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 29th April 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that the IVF industry is facing criticism over the lack of transparency after a rise in “identification and traceability issues”, however the Fertility Society of Australia and New Zealand is not disclosing the clinics involved. Health Minister Mark Butler said, if re-elected, IVF regulation would be on the agenda. *Also reported by: The Daily Telegraph, The Courier Mail, The Mercury*
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler said the Coalition’s proposed federal public service cuts could lead to entire departments “disappearing”, like the Australian Centre for Disease Control, saying “they then pretend that this is not going to have an impact on the health of Australians.”
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) leads coverage reporting that an inquest into the Bondi Junction Westfield attack heard Joel Cauchi was “floridly psychotic”. Mr Cauchi was diagnosed with schizophrenia at 14 and was on medication until late 2019, when he withdrew from the healthcare system. *Also reported by: The Sydney Morning Herald, The Herald Sun, ABC Online*
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports the Coalition has pledged to reduce home-care package wait times to zero if elected, with Opposition health and aged care spokeswoman Anne Ruston criticising Labor for “almost tripling of the home-care waitlist in two years”.

- **The Age** (page 4) reports that new Australian research found that receiving booster vaccines in the same arm as the first dose can lead to a stronger immune response, as the study showed that macrophages near the original injection site are “primed” to trigger rapid antibody response.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 7) reports that a recent nationwide wastewater analysis has detected opioids, including nitazenes, which are 1000 times stronger than morphine, and the animal sedative xylazine, raising concerns among experts.
- **The Courier Mail** (page 16) reports the TGA has expanded approval of the respiratory syncytial virus vaccine AREXVY to include Australians aged 50 to 59 with chronic health or respiratory conditions, as 9,266 cases of RSV have been reported in Queensland this year.
- **Australian Financial Review** (page 1) reports that medical centre network ForHealth, backed by BGH Capital, has secured tenders to operate a third of Labor’s urgent care clinics and will benefit from the \$8.5 billion in Medicare incentives aimed at reducing out-of-pocket fees for patients.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (online) reports that Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data showed an increase in births among women aged 40 and up, rising from 4.1 per cent in 2010 to 4.9 per cent in 2022, while mothers under 20 decreased from 3.8 per cent to 1.6 per cent in the same period.

MINISTER BUTLER

IVF fail alarm

Herald Sun, General News, 29/04/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 1

There has been a shock surge in "identification and traceability issues" at IVF clinics, but the industry body is refusing to reveal the sites responsible. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said, if re-elected, "at the next health minister meeting ... I will make sure that the regulation of IVF is on the agenda".

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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'One of the most incompetent economic managers'

Canberra Times, General News, 29/04/2025, Eleanor Campbell & Brittney Levinson, Page 1

Peter Dutton has launched an attack on Chief Minister Andrew Barr, labelling him as "one of the worst economic managers Labor has ever produced" when asked if cutting 41,000 jobs would risk a recession in the ACT. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler suggested there was a risk of entire departments "disappearing" and likened the Coalition's plan to that of the US.

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

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A nasal spray derived from ketamine is being used to address treatment-resistant depression

The Courier Mail, Other, 28/04/2025, Sarah Mitchell

A drug derived from ketamine will be added to the PBS, helping tens of thousands of Australians struggling with depression to access treatment. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, said esketamine's listing on the PBS would make the drug more affordable and improve thousands of Australians quality of life.

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

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GPs in regional Australia face an uncertain future, says Labor

Tasmanian Examiner, Other, 28/04/2025

Up to 1200 general practitioners face uncertainty following comments made by Nationals MP Kevin Hogan during an ABC Radio interview on April 22. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler criticised the

Coalition's lack of transparency, describing this move as a "secret health cut".

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Pledge to boost GP access in after-hours telehealth

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 28/04/2025, Jolyon Attwooll

More than \$200 million will be poured into a re-branded telehealth service, boosting the reach of after-hours GP consults, according to a new Labor Party election commitment. [...] Speaking on the Today Show on Monday, Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the service aims to provide people with quality health advice at all times of the day and night.

[Read More](#)

Cautious welcome for 1800 Medicare

The Medical Republic, Other, 28/04/2025, Holly Payne

The Royal College has officially endorsed the latest pledge from federal Health Minister Mark Butler, which would see Healthdirect morph into a free 24/7 national health advice line and afterhours GP telehealth service. Announced on Sunday, the \$204.5 million initiative would "improve" the existing Healthdirect service and expand it nationwide under the name 1800 Medicare.

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Channel 9, Today , 28/04/2025, Sarah Abo & Karl Stefanovic

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, about the Federal Election polls. Butler discusses Labor's consistent message about strengthening Medicare. He also comments on Labor ruling out making deals with the Greens.

Continuing interview on: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 28/04/2025, Hamish Macdonald

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler comments on the death of Audrey Griffin's death and the issue of violence against women. He also discusses the Federal Government's plan, which includes strengthening Medicare and targeted cost of living relief.

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MINISTER WELLS

Coalition vow to cut aged-care waitlist to 'zero'

The Australian, General News, 29/04/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 6

The Coalition is vowing to bring wait times for home-care packages down to "zero" should it win the election, saying the progress that brought the number of elderly Australians waiting for home care to less than 30,000 has been "completely destroyed" by Labor. [...] But Aged Care Minister Anika Wells hit back at the criticism of Labor's reforms, declaring "it's very easy for the Coalition to stand on the sideline and admire the scale of the challenges in aged care".

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

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Yeehaw as Cowboys set to get \$15m

Cairns Post, General News, 29/04/2025, Samuel Davis, Page 1

A re-elected Labor government will match the LNP's commitment to build a \$15m high performance centre, paving the way for the city's first national women's sports team to take the field in 2027. [...] Importantly, the centre of excellence would provide more women with a pathway into top-flight competition, federal Sport Minister Anika Wells said.

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Changes ahead for Commonwealth Home Support Programme

Leeton Irrigator, Other, 28/04/2025, Desiree Savage

The federal government is assuring all recipients of home assistance through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) that they won't get kicked off their programs come July 1, when once-in-a-generation changes to the Aged Care Act come into force. [...] However, Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells confirmed to ACM CHSP providers would indeed have "up to twelve months to enter new service agreements" under a Labor government.

Also reported by: [The Area News \(Online\)](#), [Southern Highland News \(Online\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Funding sees Goanna Academy expand mental health education programs

National Indigenous Times, Other, 28/04/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Greg Inglis' Goanna Academy will see an expansion of its preventive mental health education programs for at-risk people, as well as the piloting of a new mental health training program. [...] Since its founding, the Academy has worked "to improve mental health, particularly for First Nations Australians," Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride, said.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Sector analysis: ADS on the rise as admission rates continue to fall

Helloladers.com.au, Other, 28/04/2025, Alex Jacobs

March proved to be a good month for the aged care sector as the AN-ACC price increase boosted the average daily subsidy for providers. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care explained that it would support providers to deliver higher award wages to registered and enrolled nurses in line with the Fair Work Commission's final determination in the Aged Care Work Value Case.

[Read More](#)

New oral antibiotic offers hope for gonorrhoea

The Medical Republic, Other, 28/04/2025, Amanda Sheppeard

A new oral antibiotic is emerging as a potential breakthrough in treating drug-resistant gonorrhoea, researchers say. [...] In Australia so far this year there have been 13,192 cases of gonococcal infection, according to the Department of Health and Aged Care's National Notifiable Surveillance System.

[Read More](#)

Gastro outbreak that left 64 sick traced to Canberra company's inadequate sinks

WEB Region Canberra, Other, 28/04/2025, Claire Sams

A report has found that workers at a Canberra catering company lacked proper staff sinks, which likely contributed to an outbreak of a highly contagious illness. [...] In a recently released report from the Department of Health and Aged Care and the Australian Centre for Disease Control, investigators identified the likely source of the outbreak as being in the food preparation process.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Cranbrook Care to focus on retirement living as it quits residential aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/04/2025, Caroline Egan

The Sydney-based private operator, which owns the 50-apartment Cranbrook Residences and the adjacent older Golf Shore Retirement Village in Norwest, 35km northwest of the Sydney CBD, has announced its intention to expand its retirement living business. As we reported last week, Cranbrook Care sold its five aged care homes to Opal HealthCare, Australia's largest residential aged care operator, last month.

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Tracy is about to begin chemo and she's also getting evicted. Welcome to Australia's housing crisis

The Guardian, Other, 28/04/2025, Cait Kelly

In three weeks Tracy Adams starts chemotherapy for bowel cancer. She will also be evicted from her home. The 63-year-old has been living in her Queensland rental for five years and, despite her landlords knowing she has just been diagnosed with cancer, they have told her to go.

[Read More](#)

Aged care worker charged with sexual abuse of seven patients

Aged Care Insite, Other, 28/04/2025

A Sydney aged care worker allegedly sexually abused elderly residents and shared recordings of the acts with her partner. Police allege Tracy Leah Salmon assaulted seven patients, at an aged care facility in southwest Sydney, after finding videos on her phone.

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Aged care worker filmed sexual abuse of residents and sent videos to boyfriend

HelloCare, Other, 28/04/2025, Jakob Neeland

An employee from a Sydney aged care facility has been charged with sexually assaulting several elderly residents and recording the abuse, which she later shared with her partner. The 47-year-old woman, named Tracy Leah Salmon, was arrested following an investigation by NSW Police's Sex Crimes Squad.

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Trolleys out, tech in: Aged care's medication makeover

HelloCare, Other, 28/04/2025, Jakob Neeland

In aged care, timing can mean the difference between relief and distress. For residents awaiting pain relief, the faint clatter of a medication trolley often signals a frustrating wait, prolonging discomfort.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Crims corner tobacco market

Daily Telegraph, General News, 29/04/2025, Madeleine Bower & Elizabeth Pike, Page 10

The number of tobacconists peddling illegal cigarettes has continued to explode across NSW, including in some of the city's most affluent areas, with experts saying the government's tobacco excise no longer works as intended and tougher penalties are needed to rub out the illicit trade. Investigations from tobacco giant Philip Morris International found more than 570 retailers across the state were currently selling illegal tobacco, with 33 sellers located in the Sydney CBD, followed by 16 in Liverpool and 14 in both Blacktown and Campsie.

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

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Health a-weights

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 29/04/2025, Taylor Penny, Page 11

Feeling positive, burnt-out Aussies want to shed extra kilos Aussies feel better off for the first time in three years, but three quarters still say they are burnt out at work and many want to shed excess kilos. Bupa's annual Pulse Check survey reveals that gen Xers and men generally are the biggest cohorts feeling as though things have improved for them.

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

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Australian women over 40 are having more babies than 'teen mums'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/04/2025, Rebekah Scanlan

For the first time in history, Australian women over 40 are having more babies than "teen mums". Data published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in its Australia's mothers and babies report shows the proportion of teenage mums (aged under 20) has decreased over time, dropping from 3.8 per cent in 2010 compared to 1.6 per cent in 2022.

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

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Nicotine pouch craze dangerously targets high school kids: Griffith Uni warns

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/04/2025, Judith Kerr

A dangerous new nicotine product marketed as the "vape killer" is being pushed onto young people and school kids across Australia, even though it is illegal to buy, sell or import. Griffith University's Blurred Minds social enterprise has launched an urgent education module to warn teenagers about nicotine pouches, small white packets placed between the gum and lip that release fast-acting synthetic nicotine into the bloodstream.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

Bupa Pulse Check: West Aussies are burntout out but mental health is improving, new research shows

West Australian, Other, 28/04/2025, Artemisia Blythe

One in four West Australians experienced burnout from work within the past year, new research shows. A new report surveying 2000 Australians aged 18-78 found 62 per cent of West Aussies experience burnout from work in their lifetime, 37 per cent have experienced it in the last two years, and one in four workers experienced it over the past year.

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

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Disability community asks to co-design 'isolating' social media ban

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2025

For people with a disability, social media can be a lifeline. For the neurodivergent, people with sensory challenges and the immunocompromised, it can be a safe and manageable way to stay in touch with the world and connect with people who understand your experience.

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'Puppet on a string': Hunter domestic violence survivor rejected for 90 rentals

Newcastle Herald, Other, 28/04/2025, Jessica Belzycki

A Lake Macquarie woman fleeing domestic violence with her children has been knocked back from more than 90 rentals in six weeks. [...] Family and domestic violence is the main reason why Australian women and children leave their homes, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).

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Tamworth council urged to support drug detox centre plan

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 28/04/2025, Jonathan Hawes

An advocacy group is calling for Tamworth council to help put pressure on the NSW government to open the city's first residential drug and alcohol detox centre. Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Treatment New England North West (DART) is leading the campaign to repurpose the old Banksia Mental Health Unit into a detoxification clinic once Tamworth hospital's new mental health unit opens next year.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#).

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Diabetes event a city coup

Herald Sun, General News, 29/04/2025, Anna Shreeves, Page 11

Melbourne's reputation as a global medical research leader has helped to win the rights to a major international diabetes congress next year expected to attract 2500 delegates. [...] Diabetes Australia Group chief executive Justine Cain said the congress could not come at a more urgent time for Australians with the condition.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Telix setback in drug approval in US, amid Trump workforce cuts to FDA

Australian Financial Review, Other, 28/04/2025, Michael Smith

Telix Pharmaceuticals says it is disappointed by a surprise US Food and Drug Administration decision to ask for more clinical evidence to support approval for its brain cancer imaging agent.

[Read More](#)

Health Check: Telix licks its wounds after FDA knocks back brain cancer diagnostic

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/04/2025, Tim Boreham

Telix Pharmaceuticals (ASX:TLX) will seek a 'please explain' from the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) after the agency rejected the company's marketing approval application for its brain cancer (glioma) diagnostic tool, Pixclara. The shock news sent Telix shares down as much as 10% this morning.

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

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Breakthrough prevention hope for motor neurone disease: Baffling epidemic in rural Australia may be the key to beating this unfathomably cruel disorder

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/04/2025, Bek Day

In his younger years, Andrew Danson's father Peter played on a football team. This is hardly out of the ordinary for a young man from Australia - but the significance of where his dad played footy became important at the end of his life, and could hold the key to understanding a disease that has baffled doctors for more than a century.

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'Critical': silent killer develops over years then strikes without warning

Newcastle Herald, Other, 28/04/2025

More than three quarters of the 1500 coronary heart disease deaths in the Hunter health network each year could be prevented. Coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death in the Hunter network, which includes New England and Central Coast.

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PRIMARY CARE

Huge Labor boost for PE firm BGH

Australian Financial Review, General News, 29/04/2025, Emma Rapaport, Page 1

A medical centre network backed by private equity powerhouse BGH Capital has won tenders to operate a third of Labor's urgent care clinics and is set to get a boost from \$8.5 billion in new Medicare incentives.

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Rio's legacy is a lasting gift for children

Daily Telegraph, General News, 29/04/2025, Madeleine Bower, Page 4

When the parents of 16month-old Rio Fowler were told their son had only weeks to live, palliative care seemed the worst option. "At the time I thought it meant you'd given up," Ryan Fowler said. Just before Christmas 2017, Rio was stricken with arterial vasculopathy, which meant his blood was unable to be pumped around his body.

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Are we so brain-dead we can't vote on evidence

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/04/2025, Mike O'Connor, Page 13

There was a time last week when I thought I'd be lining up behind Pope Francis in the queue outside the Pearly Gates. When Saint Peter asked my name I'd say "O'Connor. There's a chance I'm not on the list, but I'm with the Pope."

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

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Community 'is ready to walk the talk'

Border Mail, General News, 29/04/2025, Sophie Else, Page 2

More than 600 people from across the Border and North East turned out at the Walk for Health rally in Corowa on Sunday. Residents from Corowa, Wahgunyah, Rutherglen and other towns showed their support for improved hospital funding and raised awareness about the "urgent need" for unity.

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GPs seeing more patients with health issues related to climate change

The Australian, Other, 28/04/2025, Magdalena Simonis

As a GP of more than 30 years, I've seen a pattern in my practice that is difficult to ignore, and this one connects climate and environmental impacts with common health conditions. You might consider it peculiar or even out of line to see an article connecting climate change and environmental pollution with health by a general practitioner, but GPs and respiratory physicians are seeing more patients with asthma flare-ups during fire seasons and rising cases of heat-related illness in the elderly with heatwaves.

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Towns with no doctors say election health proposals a 'bandaid' approach

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2025, Aisling Brennan & Peter Sanders

For those living in the small busy rural town of Yarraman, 180 kilometres north-west of Brisbane, medical help can be hard to come by if something goes wrong. The town of about 1,200 people has been without a regular doctor since 2018 and the nearest GP in Blackbutt, a 30-minute drive away, has closed its books to new patients.

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A healthcare revolution is happening in the quiet streets of a Melbourne suburb

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2025, Alan Kohler

I've seen the future of an important part of Australia's healthcare system — it's called Adeney Private. It's a new private hospital in the Melbourne suburb of Kew that's 51 per cent owned by 42 doctors and 49 per cent owned by health insurance company Medibank.

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Anthony Albanese dismisses report spending plans could threaten Australia's credit rating

The Guardian, Other, 28/04/2025, Dan Jervis-Bardy

Anthony Albanese has taken a swipe at ratings agency S&P after the firm indicated Australia's prized debt rating could be in jeopardy if debt and deficit worsen. In a wide-ranging interview on ABC's 730 program on Monday night, the prime minister also pushed back at concerns from GPs that even a tripling in the bulk-billing incentive won't be enough to stop them charging a gap fee.

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Coalition matches govt's \$100m pledge to fund 200 regional medical students

Aged Care Insite, Other, 28/04/2025, Erin Morley

Regional and rural Australia's doctor shortage is being targeted as an election issue by the Coalition, which is promising to fund an extra 200 medical students to train as general practitioners to work in the

bush. Nationally, Australia faces a shortage of 2466 GPs, according to a Department of Health report released last year, and the situation worsens the further you go from a capital city.

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New pharmacy VAD resource

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 28/04/2025

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has released an update for pharmacist practitioners across the country to assist in conversations around voluntary assisted dying (VAD). The VAD Pharmacy Practice Update includes the latest information, tools and resources to ensure conversations with patients at or approaching end-of life-are handled sensitively, respectfully, legally and in a supportive manner.

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Channel 9, Today , 28/04/2025, Sarah Abo & Karl Stefanovic

Interview with Dr Danielle McMullen, Australian Medical Association President, about Labor Party's plan to launch 1-800-Medicare. McMullen says all levels of the healthcare system are under strain. She adds they need to fund hospitals and GPs, as well as modernise Medicare.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Knifeman 'did not target women' in Westfield attack

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 29/04/2025, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 5

Joel Cauchi did not appear to target women but "whoever was in his way", and had searched online for information about serial killers and the Columbine shooters in the days before the attack, an inquest into the Bondi Junction Westfield mass stabbing has heard. The first day of the inquest into the murders of six people on April 13 last year also heard hero cop Amy Scott, who entered the Westfield mall three minutes after the first police call, told two women sheltering behind a pot plant to move out of the way before she fired three shots to kill Cauchi.

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Westfield stabber searched for serial killers

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/04/2025, Michaela Whitbourn & Perry Duffin, Page 1

The man who committed the deadly Westfield Bondi Junction stabbing attack had searched online for articles about serial killers, "cop killers" and mass stabbings shortly before he killed six people and injured 10 more while his severe mental illness was untreated, a court has heard. Joel Cauchi had also attempted to access guns in 2021, counsel assisting the Bondi Junction inquest, Peggy Dwyer, SC, said in her opening address in Sydney yesterday.

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Pretend friends with real risks

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/04/2025, Peter Hartcher, Page 22

Artificial intelligence "companions" and chatbots have been with us for years, but they're growing more convincingly human at an accelerating rate. We know they're useful, but we've also had a taste of the harm they can inflict.

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

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Answering the call

Age, General News, 29/04/2025, Lachlan Abbott, Page 1

The nondescript phone box is often littered with booze and cigarettes or scribbled with graffiti. It sits outside a fish-and-chip shop, just down from an old chemist, in a less gentrified corner of Melbourne's

inner north. But the unremarkable Telstra booth belies this phone's importance: it has made more calls to crisis support lines than any other public phone in Australia.

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Laws fall short on deepfake menace

Daily Telegraph, General News, 29/04/2025, Madeleine Bower, Page 5

Domestic violence and mental health advocates have sounded the alarm over the "severe" and "traumatic" distress caused by explicit AI-generated images created without consent as Premier Chris Minns flagged new penalties for the practice. It comes after The Daily Telegraph revealed on Monday that 16 high-level federal public servants working in Canberra were unable to get justice after a 23-year-old ACT man created over 100 "deepfake" nude images of them using artificial intelligence (AI).

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Long road to being herself

Daily Telegraph, General News, 29/04/2025, Jonathon Moran & Zara Powell, Page 19

Country singer Melinda Schneider began trying to achieve perfection from very early on. The six-time Golden Guitar Award winner, one of Australia's most successful female country artists, only recently started talking about her mental health struggles.

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Tragic fail at Bondi

Herald Sun, General News, 29/04/2025, Shannon Tonkin, Page 1

Bondi Junction killer Joel Cauchi repeatedly slipped through the cracks of flailing mental health systems across two states while looking up serial killers online, trying to obtain a gun licence and writing on his phone "call knife sharpener" before he went on to kill six people and wound 10 more, a bombshell inquest has heard. It comes as it can be revealed the shopping centre's security cameras were unmonitored for the first minute of Cauchi's attack after the single security guard in the CCTV control room took a brief bathroom break.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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Bondi Junction stabbings inquest to review killier Joel Cauchi's 'preoccupation with death', inteaction with police and mental health authorities

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2025, Millie Roberts

A coronial inquest into the Bondi Junction stabbing will examine killer Joel Cauchi's "preoccupation with death and murder" and "inner turmoil" in the lead-up to the fatal attack. Cauchi, 40, killed six and injured 10 during a stabbing rampage at the Westfield shopping centre in Sydney's east on April 13, 2024.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

WorkSafe ACT investigation finds life-threatening work conditions for nurses after 'serious' assaults

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2025, James Tugwell

Nurses and allied health workers' lives were put at risk by a failure of safety protocols, according to the ACT's workplace safety watchdog. The ruling follows four assaults on nurses or allied health workers carrying out home visits in March.

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Albanese Labor Government commits to expanding and standardising

RUSON/M Employment models if re-elected

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 28/04/2025, Anmj Staff

The Albanese Labor Government has committed to progressing scoping work to provide greater access to and consistency to the Registered Undergraduate Student of Nursing/Midwifery (RUSON/M) employment models if elected. The successful model launched in Victoria in 2016 was extended to midwives in 2020, following strong advocacy by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery (ANMF Victorian Branch).

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Minns: workers' comp scheme only sustainable for 'another two years'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/04/2025, Max Maddison, Page 2

NSW Premier Chris Minns has declared the state's workers' compensation scheme is breaking under the level of psychological injury claims and only sustainable for "another two years". Minns refused to rule out excluding a major cohort of workers, despite warnings that the government's existing proposal to lift the threshold for whole person impairment (WPI) needed to claim lump sum damages for psychological injuries from 15 to 30 per cent was tantamount to ending the scheme for these workers.

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

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Big win for orthoptics workforce in \$82m La Trobe University Health Clinic investment

Insight, Other, 28/04/2025

A new \$82 million La Trobe University Health Clinic will become the largest interdisciplinary university clinic in Victoria, helping train an additional 400 allied health professionals each year from 2026, including orthoptists. It's hoped the facility, currently being built at La Trobe's Melbourne campus in Bundoora, will help relieve Australia's chronic allied health workforce shortage and provide cost-effective healthcare for people languishing on public waiting lists.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Ketamine spray to fight depression

The Australian, General News, 29/04/2025, James Dowling, Page 5

The federal government has bankrolled the use of an artificial ketamine nasal spray to combat treatment-resistant depression, further opening the door for dissociative and psychedelic mental health treatments. The esketamine nasal spray – sold as Spravato by Johnson & Johnson – is the first new class of depression drug subsidised by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in more than 30 years. Up to 30,000 patients are expected to be eligible to use it.

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

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Simple spray a depression fix

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 29/04/2025, Holly Truelove, Page 5

A groundbreaking antidepressant has become the first in 30 years to gain government funding and tens of thousands of Aussies will have access to it under a new scheme in May. The nasal spray, Spravato, is derived from ketamine and is a "very simply administered treatment that's likely to benefit at least 50 per cent of those people", Sydney University's psychiatry expert Ian Hickie said.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

New antidepressant brought Matthew back from the brink

Newcastle Herald, General News, 29/04/2025, Gabriel Fowler, Page 7

A new medication has been approved for the treatment of depression in the one-third of those who find antidepressants alone are not enough. [...] The drug will be available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from May 1 reducing the cost to just under \$32 per session for general patients.

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Funding for depression treatment breaks 30-year drought

Daily Advertiser, General News, 29/04/2025, Samantha Lock, Page 7

A mind-altering medication chemically akin to ketamine will be made cheaper to improve the lives of Australians suffering from treatment-resistant depression - the first new government-backed initiative to treat the chronic mental illness in decades. [...] But from Thursday, it will be available and affordable for up to 30,000 Australians through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

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New ketamine-type nasal spray can help 30,000 Australians suffering depression

7news.com.au, Other, 28/04/2025

A new nasal spray, that's chemically similar to Ketamine, is being added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, for adults with treatment resistant depression. Spravato® (Esketamine) is the first new type of depression medicine to be added to the PBS in 30 years.

[Read More](#)

Price of 'miracle' ketamine spray for depression cut as it's added to PBS

9News, Other, 28/04/2025, Sarah Swain

A nasal spray that's having life-changing impacts on people living with depression is set to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), slashing the cost and improving accessibility. It's the first time in three decades that a new type of depression medicine has been added to the subsidised list, a decision that's expected to help up to 30,000 Australians.

[Read More](#)

Ketamine nasal spray to become cheaper for Australians with treatment-resistant depression

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2025, Leonie Thorne & Paige Cockburn

When Samuel Hockey's doctor suggested he try using a form of ketamine to treat his depression, he was curious. "I sort of thought, 'This is just a party drug that I've witnessed friends and people take whilst we've been out or whatever'," he said.

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

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New medication for treatment resistant depression added to PBS

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 28/04/2025

Australians with depression who have not responded to traditional medications will soon have access to a new type of treatment under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Esketamine (sold as Spravato) uses a form of ketamine administered via a nasal spray and will be available through the PBS from 1 May for adults with treatment resistant depression.

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

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 28/04/2025, James Glenday and Bridget Brennan

Interview with Associate Professor Elizabeth Scott, Clinical psychiatrist and University of Sydney research fellow. Scott comments on the new nasal spray treatment for depression that will be added to the PBS. She discusses how ketamine is being used as an antidepressant. She adds Esketamine is really going to be limited to people who have had depression that has not responded to standard antidepressant or psychological therapies.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 28/04/2025, James Glenday & Bridget Brennan

An antidepressant drug made from a form of ketamine will soon be made available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. The subsidy will help cut its price to around \$32 per dose.

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

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 28/04/2025, Natalie Forrest

A nasal spray is about to become the first new depression medication added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in 30 years. Spravato, which was made with the drug esketamine, is hoped to help people living with treatment resistant depression.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 28/04/2025, Matt Shirvington & Natalie Barr

Spravato, a nasal spray antidepressant, will soon become available through the PBS. Around 30,000 adult Australians will soon have access to the treatment.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 28/04/2025, Melissa Downes

Spravato, a nasal spray for people living with depression, is set to be listed on the PBS to slash its cost and improve its accessibility. The move is expected to help around 30,000 Australians.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 28/04/2025, Holly Stearnes

Interview with Elizabeth Scott, Associate Professor at the University of Sydney and Consultant psychiatrist at the Brain and Mind Centre. Scott discusses the new type of antidepressant that will be added to the PBS.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 28/04/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Scott Clark, Psychiatrist Associate Professor. Clark discusses the addition of a new type of antidepressant to the PBS. He discusses how Esketamine works.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

NRL watches from sideline as Foxtel owner's French footy crisis plays out

Age, Business News, 29/04/2025, Calum Jaspan, Page 26

The NRL is keeping a close eye on a breakdown in relations between pay TV provider Foxtel's new owner DAZN and France's top football competition as it gets ready to seek its own multibillion-dollar broadcast rights deal. DAZN, which took control of Foxtel this month, is locked in a dispute with France's top-flight football league (Ligue 1) after a majority of clubs voted to prematurely terminate the league's broadcast contract with the UKbased sports streamer.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

New treatment to tackle dementia

Newcastle Herald, General News, 29/04/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 6

The rise of dementia cases in the Hunter has triggered a new treatment program, amid pressure on hospitals and people being "left to fend for themselves". The University of Newcastle is trialling a new program to help improve the treatment of people with dementia, which has been under rising scrutiny.

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Metformin relieves knee osteoarthritis pain: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 28/04/2025

New research from Monash University has found metformin can provide pain relief for patients living with knee osteoarthritis and overweight or obesity. With long-established efficacy in type 2 diabetes, the study, published this month in JAMA, concluded that metformin can also reduce pain for people with knee arthritis.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Former CEO settles his legal claim

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 29/04/2025, Caitlan Charles, Page 1

An NQ Indigenous health service has agreed to settle a defamation claim from their former CEO. In 2023 Dr Stephen Hagan, who was the CEO of the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service launched legal action against his former employer over claims of damages to his reputation made after a statement was released by the organisation over his termination.

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Same-arm vaccinations prove more effective

Age, General News, 29/04/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 4

If you're rolling up your sleeves for a flu or COVID vaccine this season, you may not give much thought to which arm receives the jab. But new Australian research suggests that location does matter when it comes to generating a strong immune response from booster vaccines.

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

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Alarm at rife STIs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 29/04/2025, Robyn Riley & Ashleigh Gleeson, Page 14

Australia is in the midst of a hidden epidemic of sexually transmitted infections that needs an urgent and co-ordinated emergency response as cases spike across the country. Sexual health experts have warned that fewer people are wearing condoms and sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing rates have failed to pick back up since Covid due to the challenges of getting in to see an affordable doctor.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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RSV battleline defence boost

Courier Mail, General News, 29/04/2025, Isabella Pesch, Page 16

Vulnerable Australians aged 50-59 will be able to receive a vaccine for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). The Therapeutic Goods Association recently expanded approval for the RSV vaccine AREXVY to include Australians aged 50 and older with chronic health and respiratory conditions. Vulnerable people aged over 59 already have access to the vaccine.

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

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Concern as measles cases rise

Herald Sun, General News, 29/04/2025, Blair Jackson, Page 4

Victoria is seeing its worst measles outbreak in a decade, as the global wave continues to penetrate Australian borders. Victorian health authorities issued a warning on Monday, with a list of exposure sites that included Melbourne Airport, a Westfield, Coles, Aldi and a pet shop.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Bassinthegrass 2025: NT government, Labor united on pill testing stance

Northern Territory News, Other, 28/04/2025, Thomas McLean

Major Events Minister Marie-Clare Boothby says the government has no current plans to introduce pill testing ahead of the Top End's biggest music festival in May, however suggested that "nothing is off the table". Her response comes almost a week after Northern Territory Health issued a public health warning for nitazenes, a deadly synthetic opioid up to 500 times stronger than heroin.

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

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 28/04/2025, Jennifer Keyte

Health officials have raised concerns about the rising number of measles cases in Victoria. Doctors are urging Victorians to cheque their vaccination status to avoid our worst outbreak in a decade. Twenty-three cases have been recorded so far this year, already more than the 17 for the entirety of 2024.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 28/04/2025, Peter Mitchell

Medical experts fear Victoria's measles outbreak will impact even vaccinated people. They are alarmed by the community spread of the virus, which has almost eradicated before a shift in attitude towards vaccines during COVID.

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Channel 9, Today , 28/04/2025, Sarah Abo & Karl Stefanovic

Victoria is battling its worst measles outbreak in a decade, with 22 cases recorded in just four months.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 28/04/2025, Brett McLeod

Interview with Dr Anita Munoz, Victorian Chair of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioner, about the measles outbreak in the state. Munoz says misinformation has caused vaccination rates to drop, leading to rise in infection.

[Play Now](#)

Triple Z, 11:55 Local News, 28/04/2025

Australia's Chief Health Medical Officer, Professor Tony Lawler, is urging Australians to get vaccinated ahead of winter. Influenza is the most common vaccine-preventable disease in Australia, but vaccinations are also available for COVID-19 RSV and Hooping Cough.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Sole names move

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 28/04/2025

The TGA has issued a reminder that dual-labelled ingredient names will be moving to sole names from May 2025. While dual labelling ended for most ingredient names on 30 April 2023, some ingredient names were given longer – until 30 April 2025.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

The \$71b agricultural export sector needs a champion

Australian Financial Review, General News, 29/04/2025, Page 10

The CEO of food and beverage maker SPC Global, Robert Iervasi, says the \$71 billion agricultural export sector deserves more political attention. What's the pitch?

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Safeguarding the sausage

West Australian, General News, 29/04/2025, Page 6

The democracy sausage is a beloved staple of Australian elections, and those firing up the barbecue on Saturday are being urged to take food safety seriously. The Food Safety Information Council has released a set of guidelines to help fundraiser organisers ensure their electionday sausage sizzle or bake sale does not contribute to the estimated 4.67 million cases of food poisoning recorded each year.

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

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Is this the price we pay for trying to save money at the supermarket?

The Courier Mail, Other, 28/04/2025, Leah Goulis

The ongoing cost of living crisis has many Aussies chasing the best deals at the supermarket, with some of us even changing where we normally shop to nab cheaper groceries for the family. But after a recent trip to ALDI, I get it now. Sometimes there's a reason something is on "special".

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

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AICIS

Killer opioids and sedative found in wastewater tests

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/04/2025, Farid Farid, Page 7

Opioids 1000 times stronger than morphine and an animal sedative used to lace street drugs have been detected in Australia's wastewater. The discovery has been described as a "red flag" and comes as the deadly class of synthetic opioids - nitazenes - claims dozens of lives in Australia.

Also reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#).

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