



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 30th April 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports Suicide Prevention Australia has accused Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of failing to keep his election promise to make suicide a "personal priority" as statistics show suicide is an increasing issue, Health Minister Mark Butler says Labor is committed to reversing the trend through the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.
- The **[Daily Telegraph](#)** (Online) reports federal and state privacy officials are investigating after a doctor who called Australian Clinical Labs for test results noted the company had engaged an overseas call centre, potentially putting thousands of patients details at risk of being hacked.
- The **[West Australian](#)** (page 3) reports the number of men treated for alcohol-related liver diseases spiked to 5500 during the COVID pandemic and study author Michael Livingston of Curtin University says it shows the pandemic "did contribute to increased heavy drinking to the point of people ending up in hospital with problems with their livers or dying".
- **[The Australian](#)** (Online) reports trials have found a urine test for prostate cancer to be far more accurate than the existing blood screening method. The new test can also indicate the severity of the disease.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports the AMA and RACGP are concerned by the tens of thousands of prescriptions for medicinal cannabis being issued in Queensland, with the organisation fearing

a link between the rise in prescriptions and an increase in psychosis events.

- **4BC** reports host Peter Fegan and Health Minister Mark Butler joust over Labor's 2022 election promise to reduce power bills by \$275. Butler says there isn't a yes or no answer and notes the government didn't promise to provide every house with energy bill relief but proceeded to do so when COVID changed the cost-of-living pressures.

MINISTER BUTLER

PM accused of broken vow to tackle suicide

The Australian, General News, 30/04/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 6

The nation's leading suicide prevention body has made an extraordinary attack on Anthony Albanese, accusing him of breaking a promise to prioritise the soaring rate of Australians taking their own lives and cutting vital programs in a move that will set the country back "years". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said any life lost was "a tragedy" but he was committed to turning the trend around with the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

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

Saving Evelyn

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/04/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 1

The proton beam bunker scandal could have cost three-year-old Evelyn Tuckerman her life. Her mother Billie Tuckerman took the tot to receive lifesaving proton therapy in Florida at a cost of \$500,000 after she was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma cancer at seven months. [...] Ms Tuckerman, advocating for the technology to be brought to SA as a member of the Bragg Proton Centre consumer advisory group, said it was frustrating that calls by the group including to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to find a fix had fallen on deaf ears.

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

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

'There is not a yes or no': Peter Fegan and Mark Butler clash over energy bill reductions

4BC, Other, 29/04/2025, Peter Fegan

Cost of living and energy bills have been a major focus of the 2025 federal election campaign. Anthony Albanese promised an energy bill reduction of \$275. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler told Peter Fegan on 4BC Breakfast, "These have been very difficult circumstances".

[Read More](#)

From unscientific surveys to omitted results, polling can mislead voters. Here's how not to get fooled

ABC Online, Other, 29/04/2025, Michael Workman

Australians are being targeted with misleading claims originating from bias or poorly constructed polls and surveys. Not all polls are scientific or accurate. [...] As the publication's editor Paul Smith wrote this year, the survey was conducted in 2015 – meaning it doesn't include subsequent health ministers like the Coalition's Sussan Ley and Greg Hunt, or the incumbent Mark Butler. He wrote the poll ran for 24 hours and had a sample of only 1,077 respondents drawn from the publication's readership.

[Read More](#)

Regulators found 172 breaches at IVF clinics. They won't tell you where

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/04/2025, Sarah Booth

IVF clinics have recorded a surge in "identification and traceability" issues, but the industry body is refusing to reveal the responsible clinics. [...] 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".

[Read More](#)

Albanese funds body image tools, encourages schools to screen Adolescence

Education Review, Other, 29/04/2025

Children will be given greater tools to tackle body images issues and live healthier lives under a \$3.6m Albanese government election pledge. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the program would give children, parents, carers, teachers and coaches the tools to combat body image and body shaming issues before they arise.

[Read More](#)

Election update: Labor's huge Medicare promises, Dutton's blitz, and PBS vs Trump

Nursing Review, Other, 29/04/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Anthony Albanese has announced a free nationwide 24/7 health advice and after-hours GP telehealth service called 1800MEDICARE as his last big political gambit in the led up to the election. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said the Medicare Urgent Care Clinics and 1800MEDICARE would ensure that free urgent care will be a 20-minute drive away for four in five Australians, and a phone call away for every Australian.

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Sky News Live, The Rita Panahi Show, 29/04/2025, Rita Panahi

Interview with the head of advocacy at Women's Forum Australia, Stephanie Bastian. [...] But I think Mark Butler needs to be held accountable too, because two months ago today, he said that women's sex-based rights for sport were protected under the Sex Discrimination Act, that there were provisions in the SCA and that this wasn't an issue.

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4BC, Breakfast , 29/04/2025, Peter Fegan

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler says the reason they used 1-800-MEDICARE is because Medicare is the most trusted brand in the country and they want to send a message that the service is different and high quality, and will be looped back to their GPs. He notes another change is with GP telehealth.

Interview continues on: [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#).

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MINISTER WELLS

Yeekaw!: Cowboys commit to Cairns, spurred on by bi-partisan funding commitment

Cairns Post, Other, 29/04/2025, Samuel Davis

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 will provide more women with a pathway into top-flight competition, Sport Minister Anika Wells said.

[Read More](#)

Seven Cairns, Seven Local News, 29/04/2025, Joanne Desmond and Ned Balme

Labor matched the Coalition's \$15m pledge to build a women's sporting facility at the Cowboys' home

in Barlow Park. Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells says Cairns is her home and she hopes that the proposed centre will foster a new generation of elite female players.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

More mental health options

Central Coast Sun, General News, 01/05/2025, Page 14

Australians on the Central Coast will have more options for free, public mental health care backed by Medicare, thanks to a billion-dollar investment by a re-elected Albanese Labor Government. [...] Emma McBride MP said: "Our government is putting mental health at the heart of Medicare and services in the heart of communities.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Nicholls named Victoria's unhealthiest electorate

Yarrawonga Chronicle, General News, 30/04/2025, Emily Donohoe, Page 8

Nicholls has been determined as Victoria's most at-risk federal electorate, according to the Wesfarmers Health Index. The index assesses the public health landscape for Australians 16 and over, analysing cardiometabolic risk factors such as obesity, high blood pressure, daily smoking and diabetes. [...] Federal Assistant Health and Aged Care Minister Ged Kearney believes the index findings show critical health challenges.

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Tara first laughed at the idea of running for parliament. Now, she could make history this federal election

9News, Other, 29/04/2025, Yashee Sharma

Peter Dutton sits down with A Current Affair ahead of the federal election Tara Burnett initially laughed at the notion of running for a seat in the upcoming federal election, but now she could make history if elected. The ? [...] Burnett is hoping to snatch the seat from current Labor MP Ged Kearney when voters head to the ballot boxes on Saturday.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 28/04/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

A new residential care unit for adult Victorians with eating disorders will soon open in Armidale. Federal Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney says patients can look to a "full and beautiful" recovery.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Pathology labs under scrutiny over claims of patient data being sent offshore

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/04/2025, Judith Kerr

Thousands of Queensland patients' medical records could be in danger of being hacked after health authorities were alerted to pathology laboratories sending sensitive patient data overseas, possibly in breach of Australian privacy laws. Federal and state privacy regulators are now investigating after Logan doctor Thomas Lyons raised the alarm

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

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VACCINES

Urgent warning Covid cases will SOAR this winter as super contagious strain wreaks havoc across Australia

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/04/2025, Ashley Nickel

Aussies have been warned Covid cases will skyrocket this winter with a super contagious strain of the Omicron variant to wreak havoc across the country. Although social distancing and face masks may feel like a distant memory with Australia passing the five-year anniversary of Covid lockdowns last month, experts have warned Aussies to stay vigilant of the virus.

[Read More](#)

COVID-19 booster rates worryingly low among older Australians and aged care residents

HelloCare, Other, 29/04/2025, Jakob Neeland

As Australia approaches the colder months, concern is growing around the low uptake of COVID-19 booster vaccinations among the country's most vulnerable groups — aged care residents and older people living in the community. Despite being at highest risk of serious illness or death from COVID-19, fewer than half of aged care residents aged 75 and above have received a booster in the past six months.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 29/04/2025, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

Researchers in Sydney hope that a new finding that suggests receiving vaccines or boosters in the same arm is better than having jabs on both sides could lead to more powerful vaccines that cure HIV and hepatitis. Kirby Institute researcher Dr Tri Phan says using the same arm for vaccinations and boosters triggers a faster and stronger immune response. Senior research fellow Dr Meeling Munier says it would've made a difference if they found it out before the pandemic, possibly changing the way COVID vaccines are administered.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 29/04/2025, Peter Overton

Researchers from the Garvan Institute and UNSW found that vaccines and booster shots in the same arm improve the vaccine's efficacy. Immune cells remain primed after the first vaccine, making them better prepared to fight off future infections.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 28/04/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfert

Declining vaccination rates since the pandemic is blamed for the spike in measles cases across Victoria. RACGP Victoria chair Dr Anita Muñoz says children in this day and age shouldn't die from measles, especially with a vaccine that is 99 per cent effective. Chief Health Officer Dr Tarun Weeramanthri urges Victorians to take up the free vaccine against the disease.

2CC, Canberra Live, 29/04/2025, Leon Delaney

Australian researchers say using the same arm for vaccinations and boosters triggers a faster and stronger immune response. Scientists say it could lead to more powerful vaccines against COVID, hepatitis, and HIV.

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4BC, Afternoons, 29/04/2025, Sofie Formica

Queenslanders are being urged to get vaccinated against RSV amid a surge in cases. More than 9,000 cases of the virus have been recorded in the state this year already.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Shopping with dignity

Retail World, General News, 01/04/2025, Hailey Settineri, Page 28

As Australia's population ages, supermarkets have a responsibility to support older members of their communities. Australia's population is ageing rapidly. About 14 per cent of Australians now are older than 65.

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A win-win, for providers and workers

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/04/2025, Christopher Kelly

Both Australia and Indonesia are facing a crisis in their aged care sectors. However, they are diametrically opposed. "It's no secret that Indonesia has quite a significant oversupply of nurses and care workers and Australia is grappling with very much the opposite," Benjamin Gilmore, chief executive officer of University of New England Partnerships, told Australian Ageing Agenda

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Delivered care trend resumes after brief decline

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/04/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Aged care consultancy firm Mirus Australia's April Industry Analysis shows total care time has increased from February to March despite registered nurse time decreasing, but data scientist Tyler Fisher says causation can be tricky to determine. From February to March there was a total care time increase of 0.36 per cent and a decrease of registered nurse time of 2.63 per cent.

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Will and preference: a context for further debate

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/04/2025, Craig Sinclair

The incoming Aged Care Act emphasises will and preference as a guiding principle and sets out a framework for supported decision-making – but it does not clearly define what will and preference is, writes Dr Craig Sinclair. As a social scientist, I've had a long interest in finding better ways to support older adults in making decisions about their lives.

[Read More](#)

National Yarning Circle opens in Adelaide to advance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged care

Inside Ageing, Other, 29/04/2025, Amy Clarke

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) has today launched the second Elder Care Support National Yarning Circle in Adelaide, bringing together frontline workers,

health leaders, and policymakers to drive a culturally grounded reform of aged care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Shocking COVID hangover

West Australian, General News, 30/04/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 3

There has been a surge across the country in the number of people needing treatment for alcohol-related liver diseases since the COVID pandemic. The troubling increase is revealed in a study, which involved the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University, that analysed admissions to Australian hospitals for liver disease caused by alcohol between 1993 and 2021.

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Grog takes toll

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 30/04/2025, Page 11

Hospital admissions for alcohol-related liver diseases, such as cirrhosis, have increased in Australia, especially since the Covid-19 pandemic. A study involving researchers from the National Drug Research Institute found that since 1993, rates of hospitalisation for alcohol-related liver diseases in men increased up to 2005 and then declined, before another uptick starting in 2020.

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Urine test for prostate cancer offers more accurate diagnosis than blood

The Australian, Other, 29/04/2025, Rhys Blakely

A urine test for prostate cancer has shown signs of being far more accurate than the blood screening currently used to track the disease. Prostate cancer is the most common form of the disease among men .

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'Living week-to-week': doctors struggle to stay rural

Canberra Times, Other, 29/04/2025, Stephanie Gardiner

After the cost of daycare fees, rent, electricity and grocery bills, a young rural doctor only just gets by. "I'm full-time to make ends meet and ... [...] Rural communities generally have poorer access to healthcare, with 205 full-time medical practitioners per 100,000 people in remote areas in 2022, according to data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare That's less than half of the number of doctors per 100,000 people in the major cities.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Common food could cause more deaths than dangerous drug: study

NEWS.com.au, Other, 29/04/2025, Tracy Swartz

Ultra-processed foods could be killing more Americans than fentanyl, a new study has found. The unhealthy food group, popularised for its convenience, often contains high levels of sugar, salt and unhealthy fats — and are believed to make up over 70 per cent of the US food supply.

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The government has pledged \$10 million for inclusive LGBTQIA+ health care. Here's what that means

Nursing Review, Other, 29/04/2025, Ruth McNair and Karinna Saxby

Earlier this month, the federal government announced a \$10 million commitment to make Medicare more inclusive for LGBTQIA+ Australians. It aims to improve their access to "inclusive, culturally safe

primary care" through training and accreditation for GPs, nurses and other health-care providers.

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Alcohol once again leading cause for drug treatment

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 29/04/2025, Michelle Wisbey

As more patients seek out alcohol and other drug treatment, GPs say with greater funding many more could be supported in general practice. Among people who received publicly funded treatment for their own alcohol or drug use in 2023–24, 42 per cent of treatment episodes were for alcohol. [...] Released this month, an annual update to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data shows that in 2023–24, publicly funded alcohol and other drug treatment services were used by 131,900 people across Australia.

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Drinking champagne could reduce risk of sudden cardiac arrest, study suggests

The Guardian, Other, 29/04/2025, Andrew Gregory

Drinking champagne, eating more fruit, staying slim and maintaining a positive outlook on life could help reduce the risk of a sudden cardiac arrest, the world's first study of its kind suggests. Millions of people worldwide die every year after experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), when the heart stops pumping blood around the body without warning.

[Read More](#)

Where STIs are rising in Australia

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/04/2025, Robyn Riley and Ashleigh Gleeson

Australia has a hidden epidemic of sexually transmitted infections that needs an urgent and coordinated emergency response as cases spike across the country. Sexual health experts warn that fewer people are wearing condoms and testing rates have failed to pick back up since Covid due to the difficulties of getting in to see an affordable doctor.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#)

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2GB, Afternoons, 29/04/2025, Michael McLaren

Interview with Australian Dental Association president Dr Chris Sanzaro, discussing his calls to expand the underutilised Child Dental Benefits Scheme for seniors and low-income households through a means test because they suffer higher rates of dental disease. Dr Sanzaro backs a sugar tax since poor oral health is often linked to high-sugar diets.

Also reported by: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#)

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Asthma app breakthrough

Courier Mail, General News, 30/04/2025, Page 17

More than 2.2 million Aussies with asthma could benefit from life-changing digital inhaler technology that has the potential to save lives and ease the burden on Australia's strained healthcare system. About 2.8 million Australians have a diagnosis of asthma and studies have found that more than 80 per cent of asthma patients do not use their inhaler correctly.

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

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ABC, ABC News, 29/04/2025, Jeremy Fernandez

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park announced plans for a new children's hospice at the Westmead Children's Hospital. Based on the Bear Cottage at Manly, the new facility will provide terminally-ill children respite and end-of-life care. The NSW Government and a philanthropic donation will fund the new facility.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 29/04/2025, Sharyn Ghidella

Researchers at the University of Queensland developed a new drug that hopes to eliminate the use of insulin injections for Type 1 diabetes patients. Called ACT-201, the drug targets the root cause of diabetes by calming an autoimmune response that destroys insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, which UQ Prof Ranjeny Thomas says slows or halts disease progression. Five participants have undergone trials, but researchers are looking for more participants.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 29/04/2025, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

Hearing Australia launched an AI-powered hearing aid that enhances speech while reducing background noise. The XG Premium has a chip that has been trained on 13 million spoken sentences. CEO Kim Terrell says users who've tried the device in noisy environments like cafes and shopping centres described the device as "life-changing."

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Channel 7, Seven News, 29/04/2025, Max Futchter and Katrina Blowers

Researchers at the University of Queensland developed a new drug that hopes to eliminate the use of insulin injections for Type 1 diabetes patients. Called ACT-201, the drug targets the root cause of diabetes by calming an autoimmune response that destroys insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, which UQ Prof Ranjeny Thomas says slows or halts disease progression. Five participants have undergone trials, but researchers are looking for more participants.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 29/04/2025, Melissa Downes

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

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Channel 9, Nine News, 29/04/2025, Peter Overton

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park announced plans for a new children's hospice at the Westmead Children's Hospital. Based on the Bear Cottage at Manly, the Mountains Care Cottage is only the second facility in NSW to provide terminally-ill children respite and end-of-life care. The NSW Government, Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation, and philanthropists will fund the new facility.

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PRIMARY CARE

Second illegal funeral

Herald Sun, General News, 30/04/2025, Shannon Deery, Page 1

Ambulance Victoria has been forced to confess to a second illegal funeral gathering in which senior executives blatantly breached Covid rules at the height of the pandemic. Days after the Herald Sun

revealed an initial sanctioned send-off, it can now be revealed a second gathering took place within weeks of that September 2021 event.

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Aspiring parents travelling hours for cheaper IVF services

Canberra Times, General News, 30/04/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

Bungendore resident Cassandra van der Sanden, 36, always knew she wanted to be a mother. It was the logical step after marrying husband Joshua at age 28.

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Medicare rebates prove to be not 'fit for purpose' as doctors costs increase

The Australian, Other, 29/04/2025

Australian Medical Association President Dr Danielle McMullen has spoken on the issues of bulk billing in Australia claiming the underlying structure of rebates isn't "fit for purpose anymore". "What we've seen is that decades of underinvestment in Medicare and particularly that Medicare freeze," Dr McMullen told Sky News Australia.

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

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Angry Perth paramedics vent frustrations by scribbling on ambulances

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 29/04/2025, Hamish Hastie

Irate Perth paramedics are scribbling messages of frustration about ramping and response times on their ambulances after overwhelmingly rejecting a pay offer from their employer, St John WA. One ambulance parked outside Emergency Services Minister Paul Papalia's office on Tuesday morning bore the message: "WA Health is 'Cooked'".

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Antidepressant nasal spray added to PBS, breaking 30-year treatment drought

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 29/04/2025

Australians with treatment-resistant depression will soon have affordable access to a new therapy, with the nasal spray SPRAVATO (esketamine) listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from 1 May. SPRAVATO is the first new type of medicine for major depression funded by the government in 30 years.

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Ambulance workers up the ante in pay fight with St John WA

West Australian, Other, 29/04/2025, Dylan Caporn

Ambulance workers will undergo industrial action after emphatically rejecting a pay deal from St John WA, including refusing to respond to out-of-hours contact. In an escalation of negotiations between St John WA and the Ambulance Employees Association of WA, members will paint campaign messages on their ambulances, wear union t-shirts while on duty and "prioritise" fatigue management during overtime shifts.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 29/04/2025, Steve Austin

Advocates are calling for a stronger focus on seniors ahead of Saturday's Federal Election. National Seniors Australia says a third of voters are seniors and issues like private health insurance costs, pensions and aged care are among the issues that should be on the agenda.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 29/04/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Danielle McMullen, President, Australian Medical Association, on critical staff shortages in the regions. McMullen states over 500 rural and regional doctors have again told them of how much they love working in regional and rural Australia but how much pressure they're under. She notes they really need State and Federal Governments to come to the party and help support rural health and make sure Australians get the care they need.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

How AI can help in the battle against burnout

The Australian, Business News, 30/04/2025, Steven Worrall, Page 24

As we prepare to head to the polls on Saturday, mental health is featuring prominently in policy promises and ideas from the major parties and independent candidates. It's clear why improving outcomes in this area should be a top priority.

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Criminals locked up waiting for care

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/04/2025, Dasha Havrilenko, Page 9

Dire shortages of forensic psychiatrists and dedicated beds across South Australia have resulted in patients who are going through the justice system being detained for longer than required. Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists SA branch chair Dr Patrick Clarke said the shortage of specialists had led to bottlenecks in the system.

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3AW, Drive, 29/04/2025, Jacqui Felgate

Interview with Mental Health Australia former chair Matthew Berriman, criticising both major parties for making mental health an election issue rather than a firm commitment. While he welcomes Labor's \$1b and the Coalition's \$400m pledges, Berriman says improving mental health services requires more than money. Without proper infrastructure, staffing, and a system that caters to mentally-ill people, he says funding will not translate into better services.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Mental health workers walk off the job

Shepparton News, General News, 30/04/2025, Monique Preston, Page 3

Mental health workers at Goulburn Valley Health walked off the job for two hours on Tuesday, April 29 as part of stop-work action. More than 20 workers including nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, lived experience staff and administration staff gathered outside Goulburn Valley Health's Wanyarra Acute Inpatient Unit as part of rolling statewide industrial action.

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No more duplication: Labor commits to single National Employment

Check for nurses and midwives

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 29/04/2025, Anmj Staff

The Albanese Labor Government has committed to streamlining national screening checks for nurses and midwives — a move that will cut red tape, save money, and make it easier for nurses and midwives to do their jobs. In a letter to the ANMF, Labor pledged to work with state and territory governments to develop a single, national employment check for nurses and midwives, recognising that successful implementation will require collaboration across all jurisdictions.

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A forensic psychiatric shortage leads to prisoners ‘falling through the cracks’ and staying behind bars for longer

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/04/2025, Dasha Havrilenko

Dire shortages of forensic psychiatrists and dedicated beds across South Australia have resulted in patients who are going through the justice system being detained for longer than required. Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists SA branch chair Dr Patrick Clarke said the shortage of specialists had led to bottlenecks in the system.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

6PR, Drive, 29/04/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Coalition Senator Michaelia Cash, blaming Labor for the current decline in bulk billing services and then taking credit for providing a solution to a problem that they allegedly caused. Cash claims bulk billing rates were high when the Coalition was in government but dropped significantly when Labor came, particularly in WA. She says the Coalition plans to restore bulk billing incentives to encourage doctors to return to the system and permanently increasing subsidised mental health visits from 10 back to 20.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

17 ways to cut risk of serious diseases

Australian Financial Review, General News, 30/04/2025, Nina Agrawal, Page 36

New research has identified 17 overlapping factors that affect your risk of stroke, dementia and late-life depression, suggesting lifestyle changes could simultaneously lower the risk of all three.

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SPORT

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 29/04/2025, Girish Sawlani

Softball could be dropped from the 2032 Brisbane Olympics due to a lack of funding. The Brisbane Organising Committee and the IOC will make a decision next year on which sports will be in the program.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 29/04/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

Aussie doubles Grand Slam champion Max Purcell received an 18-month ban for violating anti-doping protocols.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Company revolutionising frozen blood

Ballarat Courier, General News, 30/04/2025, Michelle Smith, Page 2

Technology that began its life in Ballarat as a new idea to help preserve food could soon be saving lives in combat on the battlefield, mass casualty events or supporting new treatments for cancer. Former Masterchef winner Brent Owens teamed with prominent Ballarat hospitality figure Brian Taylor and local manufacturing engineer Sean Cameron in 2017 to develop a new way to preserve food at extremely low temperatures to boost food security.

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World-first diabetes drug could dramatically change treatment

9News, Other, 29/04/2025, Sarah Swain

World-first human clinical trials are underway for a type 1 diabetes drug, developed by Queensland researchers. The treatment could reduce the need for insulin injections and even potentially stop the disease from developing altogether.

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World-first type 1 diabetes drug trial aims to reprogram immune system

ABC Online, Other, 29/04/2025, Janelle Miles

A world-first human trial of a drug designed to treat the underlying cause of type 1 diabetes has begun in Australia. Five patients with the condition have already been dosed as part of the trial, including mum-of-two Caecilie Wickstroem Giralde, who was diagnosed last year.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

First Nations people receive grocery price cap

The Australian Retailer, General News, 01/05/2025, Page 17

In a significant move to address the high cost of living in remote Indigenous communities, the Federal Government has announced a price cap on essential grocery items, as part of the annual Closing the Gap statement. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese revealed that 30 vital products, including milk, bread, rice, chicken, toothpaste, and toilet paper, will now be sold at the same price as in major cities.

New journals to support Indigenous mums through pregnancy and motherhood

National Indigenous Times, Other, 29/04/2025, Joseph Guenzler

After more than a decade in women's health, proud Gamilaroi woman Darinka Ondrovic has launched a new range of antenatal journals to support First Nations women during pregnancy. Ms Ondrovic, who was born and raised on Wiradjuri Country in Dubbo, NSW, said the journals offer a space for cultural connection, emotional reflection, and strength.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

2GB, Mornings, 29/04/2025, Mark Levy

Midnight Mafia on 3 May, 2025, will be the second music festival to participate in the pill testing trial. NSW Health says illicit drugs will remain illegal in NSW. The NSW Government says the trial is not an endorsement of illicit drug use.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Concern over possible link between medicinal cannabis and psychosis

ABC Online, Other, 29/04/2025, Patrick Rocca

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) have sounded the alarm over the tens of thousands of medicinal cannabis prescriptions in Queensland. The peak bodies are concerned about the potential link the surge in prescriptions may have with rising psychosis events.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 29/04/2025, Peter Overton

The Midnight Mafia festival in Sydney will become the second event in NSW to trial pill testing as part of a state-backed rollout. An estimated 21,000 people can avail of the free and anonymous drug checking service this Saturday at the Sydney Showground.

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2GB, Drive, 29/04/2025, Clinton Maynard

This weekend's Midnight Mafia festival in Sydney will become the second event in NSW to trial pill testing.

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AICIS

Delays in toxic foam court case

Courier Mail, General News, 30/04/2025, Judith Kerr, Page 18

Brisbane Airport's battle over toxic "forever chemical" pollution, linked to decades of firefighting foam use, has been delayed again after the Supreme Court ruled Airservices Australia (ASA) could file more expert reports. The Supreme Court ruled ASA can file two more expert reports by 31 August, even though the agency has already caused major delays.

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Can tattoos increase your risk of cancer?

ABC Online, Other, 30/04/2025, Norman Swan, Shelby-Traynor and Tegan Taylor

When weighing up the health risks of getting a tattoo, most people are concerned about the risk infection. But recently the ingredients in tattoo ink have come under the microscope, with some being identified as potential carcinogens.

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