



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 4th May 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sunday Telegraph](#) (page 1) reports that the mother of late bullying victim Tilly Rosewarne has called for the creation of non-consensual deepfakes to be criminalized after boys at a Sydney private school were found to be selling explicit deepfakes of female classmates.
- The [Sunday Times](#) (page 1) reports that a Perth dentist accused of embezzling millions of dollars from his patients was allowed to practice despite a previous fraud conviction.
- The [Sunday Times](#) (page 2) reports that WA Premier Roger Cook says he is yet to receive word on a proposal to base an NRL team in Perth following a meeting of club executives on Friday.
- The [Sunday Territorian](#) (page 4) reports that AMA NT has urged the Territory government to introduce a pill-testing service for the upcoming Bassinthe Grass music festival.
- The [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#) (page 7) reports that state-funded counselling services for victims of violent crime have a two-month waiting list, peak bodies saying that mental health services are grossly underfunded.
- The [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#) (page 10) reports that the Australian Olympic Committee has voted seven new members to its executive board and confirmed president Ian Chesterman for another term.

- [The Australian](#) (online) reports that former health minister Greg Hunt will head a working group established by embattled medicinal cannabis business Montu to develop a telehealth code of practice. A spokesperson for Health Minister Mark Butler said "It is encouraging to see the telehealth sector acknowledge the need to improve its performance".

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Telehealth companies propose setting code of practice and principles

The Australian, Other, 03/05/2025, Penny Timms

Australia's largest medicinal cannabis company, Montu , which is subject to legal action for alleged breaches of advertising rules, has recruited former federal health minister Greg Hunt to lead a working group to develop a telehealth code of practice. [...] A spokeswoman for Health Minister Mark Butler welcomed the group's formation.

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### The Butler did it serving up tempting offerings

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Wrap, 04/05/2025, Lauren Novak, Page 7

As Health Minister, South Australia's Mark Butler had billions of dollars of Labor promises behind him at the polling booth. Medicare funding formed a core part of Labor's pitch for re-election, including \$8.5bn to lift bulk-billing rates and train more nurses and doctors.

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### ABC Radio Sydney, Australia Votes, 03/05/2025, Thomas Ariti

Post-election discussion with Sabra Lane, Melissa Clark and Jill Sheppard. [...] Before the election, even his health minister, Mark Butler, was saying, if you grant us a second term, we're going to take action on specialist fees. He specifically said that there were other things that they wanted to do. And indeed, in the interview that I did with the Prime Minister yesterday, said that there are other things that they would like to tackle.

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## MINISTER WELLS

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## DEPARTMENT

### Kids watching TV at childcare is making parents square-eyed

Sunday Age, General News, 04/05/2025, Nicole Precel, Page 24

Melbourne parents say they have been disturbed to learn their children are spending time in front of TVs and other screens at childcare centres, as experts warn screen time can have negative impacts on development for toddlers and preschoolers. [...] The Australian Department of Health recommends no screen time for children younger than two years old, and no more than one hour per day for children aged 2 to 5.

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

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## VACCINES

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Suggestions to improve MyWay+ for seniors 'ignored'

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 04/05/2025, Jasper Lindell, Page 11

Not one suggestion to improve the launch of a new public transport ticketing system for older passengers was taken up by transport officials, the peak body representing older people in Canberra has said. Council on the Ageing ACT chief executive Jenny Mobbs said the council had met with Transport Canberra to go through issues with the MyWay+ system that would be challenging for seniors during the swap over.

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### The maze of red tape that is the aged care system

Sunday Telegraph, Business News, 04/05/2025, Noel Whittaker, Page 32

Regardless of who forms government, aged care is shaping up as a major battleground. Operators are struggling to stay afloat, while families trying to navigate the system find it a maze of red tape. And just to make it harder, major changes are about to hit in two months. Here's what you need to know.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Times \(Perth\)](#).

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## POPULATION HEALTH

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

## Help plea for kids in pain

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 04/05/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 18

Experts are calling for urgent action to fix "significant gaps" in global health systems because children are suffering chronic pain unnecessarily including in Australia. About one in five Australian children live with chronic pain, usually caused by conditions such as juvenile arthritis, fibromyalgia and headaches.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Doctors in DV response pilot

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 04/05/2025, Amelia Swan, Page 19

A pilot program to help GPs and medical practice staff identify and support patients experiencing family and sexual violence will be rolled out across Tasmania next week. The free service, commissioned by Primary Health Tasmania with federal government funding, brings together Engender Equality, Laurel House and the Sexual Assault Support Service.

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### Early cheers for Albanese as promising results trickled in

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 04/05/2025, Miriam Webber, Page 3

Cheers erupted early in the night from the main function room at Canterbury-Hurlstone Park, where the ALP election night party was ramping up. [...] His only stumble came on the figures for urgent-care clinics, but it only elicited a minor wince from the Prime Minister's communications chief. "Going forward, 1.3 million Australians have visited an urgent-care clinic, we want 50 more urgent-care clinics. That's 130 MCGs," Mr Albanese said, instead of 13.

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### 'Not Labor red or Liberal blue': Tearful Anthony Albanese cements Labor victory with Medicare card in hand

9News, Other, 03/05/2025, Maddison Leach

A tearful Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has celebrated his victory in the 2025 federal election with his favourite campaign prop: a Medicare card. Speaking at at Canterbury-Hurlstone RSL club almost two hours after 9News political editor Charles Croucher predicted a Labor victory, Albanese was visibly emotional.

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### In a medical crisis, who'll speak for you? How to plan ahead

Sun Herald, General News, 04/05/2025, Nick Newling, Felicity Lewis, Page 40

It can happen in an instant. When you can't make decisions about your own treatment, who steps into your shoes?

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

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### People in pain waiting for help

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 04/05/2025, Andreas Nicola, Page 7

Queensland victims of violent crime are waiting up to two months to get access to vital state government-funded counselling services, as demand for support skyrockets. The Sunday Mail can reveal VictimConnect, one of the key free specialist services providing short-term multi-session counselling to victims, now has an eight-week wait time.

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

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## AI bully boys

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 04/05/2025, Suzan Giuliani, Page 1

Young male students from a Sydney private school have been caught selling explicit deepfake images of their female classmates in online group chats for less than \$5. [...] The incidents have prompted Emma Mason, the mother of NSW schoolgirl Matilda "Tilly" Rosewarne, who took her own life after bullying including a fake nude image of her shared on Snapchat, to call for an urgent upgrade to image-based abuse laws to criminalise the creation of explicit deepfakes.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Why the doctor will see you now

Sunday Times, General News, 04/05/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 26

The number of student GPs in training in WA has increased for the first time in years but experts warn a lack of hands-on experience is pushing junior doctors away from general practice. WA has 15 per cent less doctors per person compared to the Eastern States and more GP "deserts" than any other State or Territory.

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

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### 'I googled the gene, my world fell apart'

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 04/05/2025, Holly Truelove, Page 24

Four year-old Layla's cheeky grin hides the battle she's bravely fought for almost her entire life, but now there's an extra reason to smile. The little girl was diagnosed with Dravet syndrome, a rare form of epilepsy, after experiencing her first seizure at just 5 months old. [...] But relief has arrived, with fenfluramine now listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Why WA patients turn to telehealth

Sunday Times, General News, 04/05/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 13

An emerging telehealth platform says WA is its biggest market because of the State's shortage of doctors. Australian telehealth service Medmate has become popular among West Australians, where more than 12.5 per cent of its customers live.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Fury over dentist's history of fraud

Sunday Times, General News, 04/05/2025, John Flint, Page 1

A Perth dentist accused of extracting \$2.3 million of patients' prepayments from a top clinic sending it broke and leaving clients untreated was allowed to practise despite a previous conviction for fraud. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, which is responsible for registering and regulating health practitioners, wouldn't reveal if it knew about Dr Hurst's conviction when he was reregistered in 2013.

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

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### Patient to be awarded \$200k after needle snaps off in spine during c-section

Canberra Times, Other, 03/05/2025, Hannah Neale

A patient is set to be awarded \$200,000 after a needle snapped off in her spine during a caesarean birth at Canberra Hospital. Bronwyn Fuller, 40, sued the hospital on the basis of vicarious liability for the negligence of two of its doctors.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Stay alive and keep sex drive

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 04/05/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 21

Straight-talking "country boy" Haydn Reid is very grateful his sex drive is pretty much back on track after having his prostate removed due to the discovery of cancer three years ago. "I would say I'm 95 per cent back to normal with it," the father-of-two said.

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### Check for time bomb

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 04/05/2025, Page 23

Australians are being urged to roll up their sleeves and check their blood pressure during May as part of a national call to action to reduce the risk of stroke. Stroke Foundation campaign Australia's Biggest Blood Pressure Check encourages Aussies of all ages to get a health check at their doctor or pharmacy to determine if they have high blood pressure (also known as hypertension).

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

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## SPORT

### Susie's new challenge

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 04/05/2025, Julian Linden, Page 10

Australia's original Madame Butterfly, Susie O'Neill, has taken the plunge back into the Olympics, winning a highly sought-after place on the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) executive board. After

recently giving up her job as a Brisbane radio breakfast show host, Queensland legend O'Neill has returned to her sporting roots by joining the AOC in the build-up to the 2032 Olympics.

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## Premier mum on official NRL deal

Sunday Times, General News, 04/05/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 2

Premier Roger Cook says he is yet to hear anything official from the Australian Rugby League Commission after a meeting of NRL club chief executives in Brisbane on Friday. The Premier's negotiations with the ARLC have dragged on for almost 12 months amid leaks to east coast media, revised offers for a Perth-based club, and the collapse and subsequent revival of talks after Mr Cook accused the league of treating WA like a "cash cow".

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### 'An urgent issue': Diabetes' impact on First Peoples set for focus at international congress

National Indigenous Times, Other, 03/05/2025, Jarred Cross

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are three times more likely to live with diabetes compared to non-Indigenous Australians. This will be a priority at next year's International Diabetes Federation Western Pacific Region Congress in Naarm, the national peak body for the chronic diseases' lead for First Nations engagement says.

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### NRL flyer Nathan Blacklock joins TAMS to help fight smoking culture

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 03/05/2025, Samantha Newsam

Since stepping away from the NRL limelight, Nathan Blacklock has thrown himself into giving back to the community. The former Sydney Roosters and St George Dragons flyer has spent the better part of the years since hanging up the boots visiting schools, delivering programs and running coaching clinics in aid of various causes and issues. Now he's helping tackle Indigenous smoking.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Top doc backs testing

Sunday Territorian, General News, 04/05/2025, Thomas McLean, Page 4

Australian Medical Association Northern Territory president Dr Robert Parker has labelled pill testing as a "very sensible" idea, as he calls on the NT government to implement the service ahead of Darwin's biggest music festival. It comes after this masthead reported the finding of a deadly synthetic opioid known as nitazene, considered to be up to 10 times stronger than fentanyl, in the NT.

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

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## Our memory's faltering of nuclear's health risks

Sun Herald, General News, 04/05/2025, Angus Delaney, Page 12

In 1982, Helen Caldicott, one of Australia's most prominent anti-nuclear campaigners, spent an hour with Ronald Reagan at the White House, warning the then-president about the dangers of nuclear. "I came out of that saying I thought, because I'm a physician, that he had impending Alzheimer's," Caldicott, now 86, says.

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

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## Meningococcal vaccine

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 04/05/2025, Page 29

A lifesaving meningococcal vaccine covering all five common strains of the deadly disease could soon be available in Australia. Researchers at Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases, based in Victoria, found the combination vaccine to be highly effective in providing protection for young adults and teenagers.

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

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## Plumbing for superbugs

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03/05/2025, Page 47

New research has uncovered a growing threat of antimicrobial resistant (AMR) pathogens in drinking water plumbing systems. A study involving Flinders University researchers identified significant transmission risks in both hospital and residential environments.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Ozempic-type drugs may help control heart condition

Sunday Times, General News, 04/05/2025, Page 27

GLP-1 drugs that are used to treat diabetes and have become wildly popular for weight loss may also be useful for controlling the common heart rhythm disorder atrial fibrillation, researchers have reported. Researchers looked at more than 2500 patients with type 2 diabetes, atrial fibrillation and obesity at 170 US Veterans Affairs medical centres.

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