



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 3rd November 2025

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) | [Interim Australian CDC](#)
| [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)
| [AICIS](#)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports financial data from various departments indicate significant challenges from unbudgeted staff expenses alongside warnings about looming "funding cliffs" from expiring programs. The brief to Health Minister Mark Butler highlighted the Department's budget is forecast to decline \$797 million by 2027, with its departmental funding expected to be down by 38 per cent by 2028.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 4) reports state ministers have criticised the Federal Government after figures revealed only 802 new residential aged-care beds were delivered in the last financial year, a steep drop from the average annual demand of over 10,000. Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae said the Federal Government has invested \$1 billion to upgrade services and facilities, including \$300 million in capital grants to pump more beds into the sector.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports Australia's illegal tobacco cartel has allegedly joined forces with a Chinese crime gang to control the local illicit vape market, forcing retailers to sell the Alibarbar brand, which has caught the TGA and ABF off guard as they do not track seized illicit brand identities. A spokesperson for the Therapeutic Goods Administration confirmed that "More than 12 million illegal vapes... have been taken off the streets by the ABF and TGA since January 2024," and Minister for Health Mark Butler has previously stated the government is up against both Big Tobacco and "serious organised crime that is determined to continue to make money from these very dangerous products."

- **The Herald Sun** (page 3) reports a Royal Melbourne Hospital-led study demonstrated that women with breast cancer who had regular screening were more likely to survive, with their risk of dying cut by a "staggering 70 per cent," and required "significantly" less intense treatment.
- **The Burnie Advocate** (page 3) reports the Federal Government has tripled the bulk billing incentive payment for general practitioners, with the goal of increasing bulk-billing rates to nine out of ten GP visits by 2030. The measure has already encouraged some clinics to move to fully bulk-billed appointments, and is part of the Albanese government's almost \$800 million Women's Health Package which also adds new oral contraceptives and menopausal hormone therapies to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 1) reports the Health and Community Services Union (HACSU) plans to escalate industrial action from Wednesday, following stalled negotiations over wages and conditions.
- **The Northern Territory News** (page 1) reports NT Health chief executive Chris Hosking informed a forum that federal funding negotiations for private maternity services in the NT are "hopefully moving forward," after the closure of the private maternity ward this year. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is reportedly "not agreeable to \$35m" requested for modifications to Royal Darwin Hospital's maternity ward but is "agreeable to a more moderate estimate."
- **The Australian** (page 3) reports medical leaders and patient advocates are demanding the full release of a confidential report revealing that Brisbane's Prince Charles Hospital's heart transplant program had a mortality rate 50 per cent higher than the international average, raising concerns that dysfunction may "overload" already strained interstate heart transplant facilities in Victoria and New South Wales.
- **The Canberra Times** (page 4) reports that voluntary assisted dying is now available in the ACT, with aged care homes required to comply with legislation that prevents them from refusing residents access. The requirements, which include displaying the VAD policy and passing on contact details to the navigation service within two working days, contrast with a September report suggesting some people in aged care homes have been denied access elsewhere due to facility refusal or other restrictions.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 7) reports Ambulance Victoria issued a "code orange" alert due to an "overwhelming demand" for emergency transport over the weekend, with operational workload increasing by more than 100 additional cases than expected.

MINISTER BUTLER

\$841m public service pay blowout

Australian Financial Review, General News, 03/11/2025, Ronald Mizen, Page 1

Federal government departments are scrambling to cut spending as thousands of new hires, above-inflation pay rises and a surge in workers compensation expenses caused significant blowouts in public service budgets last year.

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

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It's 24: Coalition hits new low

The Australian, General News, 03/11/2025, Geoff Chambers, Page 1

Core support for the Coalition has crashed to a record low 24 per cent, with Sussan Ley's net approval rating plunging to minus 33 after weeks of Liberal and Nationals infighting, clashes over net-zero emissions by 2050 and leadership rumblings. [...] Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler on Sunday said it was time for Ms Ley to "put her foot down".

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Black market burns sales at supermarkets

The Australian, General News, 03/11/2025, Mohammad Alfares, Page 2

Australia's two biggest supermarket chains have recorded a collapse in tobacco sales, blaming Labor's

aggressive tax hikes and the booming black market for hollowing out legitimate trade. [...] The department, led by Health Minister Mark Butler and his tobacco tsar Amber Shuhyta, has refused to acknowledge tax as a problem.

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

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Foot-dragging on bulk billing

Herald Sun, General News, 03/11/2025, Ellen Ransley, Page 12

Labor's flagship \$8.5bn Medicare pledge has so far convinced just 13 per cent of the country's metropolitan GP clinics to fully switch to bulk billing. [...] With current rates at just under 78 per cent, Health Minister Mark Butler said the number of clinics switching to bulk billing was "growing every single day", but that the government wouldn't set a six-month target.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Fresh hope for mums

Northern Territory News, General News, 03/11/2025, Lottie Hood, Page 1

There is fresh funding hope for private maternity services in the Northern Territory with NT Health chief executive, Chris Hosking saying federal negotiations are moving forward. [...] Mr Hosking told the forum that he had information that federal Health Minister Mark Butler was not agreeable to \$35m, "but will be agreeable to a more moderate estimate similar to what several other states have got".

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Baby Priya brought compassion to the parliament. Then four men hijacked the debate

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/11/2025, Jacqueline Maley

Politics can be a cynical and nasty business, but outbreaks of grace and compassion do occur. One happened on Wednesday during a parliamentary debate for the second reading speech of "Baby Priya's Bill". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler noted that no female Coalition MP spoke out against the wording of the bill.

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

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Labor spruiks Medicare spending as parliament resumes

Canberra Times, Other, 03/11/2025, Zac de Silva

The government will talk up its healthcare credentials by arguing billions of dollars in Medicare incentives are already yielding results as parliament resumes for another sitting week. [...] Over the weekend Health Minister Mark Butler released new data showing more than 1000 practices had expressed interest in becoming fully bulk-billing.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Queanbeyan Age \(Online\)](#).

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Peter is part of Australia's 'silent epidemic'. A new initiative offers hope

SBS, Other, 02/11/2025, Georgia Maher & Wing Kuang

More than 65,000 Australians are expected to benefit from cheaper access to a medicine for chronic kidney disease recently added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says it's a life-changing drug for many Australians.

[Read More](#)

Why is Trump using autism as a political football?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/11/2025, Becca Whitehead

The Trump administration and US Health Secretary RFK Jr have made several unscientific announcements about autism recently. [...] Trembath reflected on Health Minister Mark Butler's policies regarding Thriving Kids, and what is the best way forward for support for autism.

GP bulk-billing rates plunge as Labor's \$8.5bn health reform starts

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 02/11/2025, Charles Chadwick

GP bulk-billing rates have fallen sharply in dozens of electorates over the past three years, as the Albanese government's \$8.5 billion overhaul of primary care kicks in.

[...] Earlier this year, Health Minister Mark Butler announced an \$8.5bn investment in Medicare to expand bulk-billing for all Australians and support GP practices that bulk-bill all their patients.

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ABC Radio Sydney, 12:00 News (Weekend), 02/11/2025

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he's optimistic that more doctors will take up the government's bulk billing incentive, which is aimed at making it cheaper for Australians to see a GP. Butler added that the government's goal is for nine out of ten visits to be bulk billed.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

Disability employment services call for road map after Bedford's troubles

ABC Online, Other, 02/11/2025, Emma Masters

In the corner of a warehouse in Adelaide, the whirr and click of machines blend with the crinkling of chip packets as workers move with purpose on a production line. [...] In a statement, a spokesperson for NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the federal government was "taking active steps to support provider viability and to strengthen the NDIS market".

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

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

States slam aged-care beds deficit as 'a national tragedy'

The Australian, General News, 03/11/2025, Lachlan Leeming, Page 4

State ministers have blamed the commonwealth for heaping more pressure on their health systems after newly released figures revealed just 800 new beds in agedcare facilities were delivered in the last financial year against an annual demand for more than 10,000. [...] Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae said Labor had invested \$1bn since coming to power into building, extending and upgrading aged-care services and staff accommodation.

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

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Loved ones need better aged care

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 03/11/2025, Sam Rae, Page 19

Today, the new Aged Care Act comes into effect. It's the most significant transformation of aged care in a generation. [...] Sam Rae is the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors.

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

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Sky News Live, Sunday Agenda, 02/11/2025, Andrew Clennell

Interview with Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae, about the recent aged care reform changes.

Compere says the government's aged care reforms are now in place, and people are concerned about paying more for their home care, while aged care providers will be able to deduct some of the accommodation bond principal. Rae points out that everyone who's been receiving in-home care since September 2024 has their financial arrangements grandparented.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

More GPs to fully bulk bill appointments

Burnie Advocate, General News, 03/11/2025, Lauren Richardson, Page 3

We've all been stung by expensive doctor's appointments, but a new bulk billing initiative may push more clinics to get rid of out-of-pocket fees. [...] Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White said the increased rebate incentive gave people who didn't qualify for concession cards, but were still low-income or struggling to afford healthcare, better access.

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

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Medicare changes: New data shows surge in Tassie bulk billing GPs

Herald Sun, Other, 02/11/2025, Alison Foletta

Doctors across Tasmania have jumped at an \$8 billion Medicare sweetener that could see nine in 10 GP visits bulk-billed within five years. Alison Foletta less than 2 min read November 2, 2025 - 4:00PM More Tasmanians are seeing a doctor without a hit to their hip pocket, with several GPs taking up the new federal Medicare bulk-billing incentive. [...] Lyons federal member and assistant health minister Rebecca White said the incentive would mean 1000 additional practices across Australia will be able to join the 1500 already offering bulk billing.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

\$841m public service pay blowout

Australian Financial Review, General News, 03/11/2025, Ronald Mizen, Page 1

Federal government departments are scrambling to cut spending as thousands of new hires, above-inflation pay rises and a surge in workers compensation expenses caused significant blowouts in public service budgets last year.

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The Australian, General News, 03/11/2025, Mohammad Alfares, Page 2

Australia's two biggest supermarket chains have recorded a collapse in tobacco sales, blaming Labor's aggressive tax hikes and the booming black market for hollowing out legitimate trade. [...] The department, led by Health Minister Mark Butler and his tobacco tsar Amber Shuhyta, has refused to acknowledge tax as a problem.

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

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Aged care apartheid just divides us further

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/11/2025, Andrew Bolt, Page 13

A new apartheid is being forced on us. [...] The Albanese government's Department of Health, Disability and Ageing says it shamelessly: "People under the age of 65 years can only access Australian government-funded aged-care services if they have care needs and are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person aged 50 years or over."

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

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Press play to stay sharp

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/11/2025, Page 8

According to a new study, you can decrease your risk of dementia with a task most of us enjoy every single day. Those over 70 who regularly listen to music were shown to have a 39 per cent lower risk of dementia than those who didn't.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

'Coercive control': advocates call for investigation into 'concerning' guardianships

Canberra Times, Other, 02/11/2025, Lanie Tindale

Private guardians are "exerting excessive and coercive control" over disabled people by using medication to control them, stopping them from leaving the house, restricting food and not allowing friends to visit, advocates say. The ACT Official Visitors called for an investigation into people with "a clear conflict of interest" being appointed legal guardians of vulnerable people in its 2024-25 annual report.

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Guide to transform concussion care

The Australian, General News, 03/11/2025, Marcus de Blonk Smith, Page 7

New national clinical guidelines for the treatment of concussion and mild traumatic brain injuries will be

outlined by Queensland researchers on Monday, in a landmark paper to be published in the Medical Journal of Australia. The guidelines, which have been developed by University of Queensland researchers, give directions to GPs and healthcare practitioners on how to diagnose and treat concussion injuries, including when a patient should be sent to hospital, along with how to manage ongoing symptoms.

Also reported by: [Medical Journal of Australia \(Online\)](#),

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Orange crush for strained ambos

Herald Sun, General News, 03/11/2025, Brendan Kearns, Page 7

Ambulance Victoria was forced to issue a "code orange" on Saturday night amid a surge in demand for emergency transport. A code orange alert indicates an overwhelming demand for ambulances and requires hospitals to prioritise the offloading of critical patients.

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

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Surgery wait times hit highs

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/11/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 5

The number of Tasmanians waiting for elective surgery has increased to 9275 up more than 1100 on a year ago, health department data shows. The number of Tasmanians on the outpatient list also rose to 67,967 in September compared to 58,415 in September a year ago.

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

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GPs face significant cost pressures, are running on fumes, and wondering if it's worth staying in business

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/11/2025, Michael Lumsden-Steel, Page 16

Please do not get angry with your doctor or reception staff if you are not bulk-billed as of November 1. The AMA Tasmania views the increased funding from the federal government as recognising the critical role played by general practitioners your family doctor as well as the urgent need to boost funding to ensure primary care delivery stays sustainable after decades of underfunding.

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Major changes for health

Northern Territory News, General News, 03/11/2025, Duncan Evans, Page 12

Massive changes to how Territorians and millions of Aussies receive healthcare are now in place. The changes impact Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), two core pillars of Australia's healthcare system, and also aged care.

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Ambulance alarm as heat stretches resources

Daily Liberal, General News, 03/11/2025, William Ton, Page 3

Warm weather and a public holiday long weekend have led to an influx of patients seeking emergency help, resulting in an alert being activated for a state's ambulance service. Ambulance Victoria activated a code orange alert on Saturday night for the Melbourne and Geelong areas following a significant increase in demand for services, about five to 10 per cent higher than expected.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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This patient lives in seclusion, while completed hospital expansion sits empty

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/11/2025, Grant McArthur & Rachel Eddie

One of Victoria's most violent, mentally unwell women is living shackled and in solitary confinement

despite a safer and more humane forensic hospital unit sitting ready, waiting on government directions to open. The County Court on Thursday heard harrowing details of the woman's seclusion and the ongoing attempts to safely reintroduce her into the presence of others so that she can recover, which is in part hampered by conditions in Thomas Embling Hospital in Melbourne's inner north.

[Read More](#)

High demand for ambulances in Melbourne and Geelong as weather warms up on Cup weekend

ABC Online, Other, 02/11/2025

Victoria's ambulance resources have been stretched as the state experienced an increase in calls for help and an influx of patients at hospital emergency departments over the Melbourne Cup weekend. Ambulance Victoria issued a Code Orange alert on Saturday night indicating it was "extremely busy" in metropolitan Melbourne and in Greater Geelong and that paramedics could be delayed in arriving at non-critical calls.

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Complex trauma and trauma-informed care over 30 years

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/11/2025, Cathy Kezelman

Over the last 30 years, there have been significant advances in our understanding of 'complex trauma' — repeated ongoing and often extreme interpersonal violence, abuse and neglect, occurring at any life stage or over multiple stages. People experiencing the impacts of complex trauma benefit from medical practice which is trauma-informed.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

China gang and cartel unite to rule vape market

Age, General News, 03/11/2025, Chris Vedelago, Page 1

Australia's illegal tobacco cartel has joined forces with a mysterious Chinese crime gang to infiltrate and control the local vape market. The syndicate's brand of choice, Alibarbar, is being pushed into hundreds of shops across Australia in a market takeover driven by threats and extortion.

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

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Mozzies meet their match

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03/11/2025, Will Keech, Page 4

A new council program that will use drones to combat a number of diseases that have the capacity to alter people's lives is getting underway. The City of Greater Geelong's mosquito management program is restarting aerial treatments by drone of the region's wetlands ahead of breeding season, to prevent Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus and Murray Valley encephalitis, which can cause severe illness and long-term side effects.

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How a freak paddleboard accident on a beach holiday led Aussie mum to discover she had breast cancer... and that was only the beginning

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/11/2025, Sharon Hunt

Accidents that result in injury are often a temporary health annoyance. [...] Statistics from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show breast cancer is now the most common cancer in women aged 20-39

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Talking about aged care in multicultural families can be hard but these

tips may help

ABC Online, Other, 02/11/2025, Lachlan Bennett

Vinh Dao remembers his mother bedridden in hospital, both hands clutching a sheet of paper tightly to her chest. [...] According to a 2023 Australian Institute for Health and Wellbeing (AIHW) report, one in three people supported by aged care services in Australia were born overseas.

[Read More](#)

The First Future Healthy Countdown 2030 progress report: tracking Australian children and young people's health and wellbeing to drive accountability

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/11/2025, Georgie Frykberg, et al

Australia has the means to ensure that children and young people can thrive. Yet, for decades, evidence has shown stagnation or decline in key health and wellbeing outcomes and equity for many children and young people. [...]

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[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Legal barrier to assisted dying 'cruel', says doctor

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/11/2025, Alexandra Smith, Page 5

A geriatrician and former NSW Senior of the Year has described a bill before parliament to allow aged care homes to force terminally ill residents to be moved offsite to access voluntary assisted dying as "cruel beyond belief", with legal advice also warning it would be unconstitutional. Dr John Ward, who was awarded the 2024 Australia Day honour for his lifelong commitment to providing medical care for disadvantaged people and older Australians, said VAD had proven to be a compassionate way to die for people suffering and there should be no obstacles to accessing it.

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Legislation to help enable 'a good death'

Canberra Times, General News, 03/11/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 4

For Neale Roberts, dying well is less about death than it is about life. [...] Uniting's three ACT aged care homes are prepared for the start of voluntary assisted dying (VAD) today.

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

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All you need to know on assisted dying

Canberra Times, General News, 03/11/2025, Steve Evans, Page 6

Voluntary assisted dying becomes legal in the ACT from today. The rules are different from those in other parts of Australia.

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'Silent killer' - pancreatic cancer cases on the rise

Canberra Times, Other, 02/11/2025, Katelyn Catanzariti

When doctors told Ron Prouse he had pancreatic cancer, the 61-year-old Adelaide father-of-eight thought he'd been handed a death sentence. "I'd heard about this stuff - this is the stuff that you die from," he tells AAP.

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

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Voluntary assisted dying seemed 'very, very, very ambitious'. Now it's here

The minister who championed the ACT's push to restore its right to make voluntary assisted dying law says she has been assured and blown away and by the number of medical practitioners who have signed up. "And in that moment, you know, it all became very real to me that we have Canberrans now who are trained and who are confident in this legislation and the scheme as it is operationalised to provide that choice to people at the end of their life," Human Rights Minister Tara Cheyne said.

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Local pollen counter helps improve thunderstorm asthma forecasts

The Courier Mail, Other, 02/11/2025, Lucy Crock

A sophisticated new forecasting system has been unveiled to protect Victorians from deadly thunderstorm asthma events during the upcoming grass pollen season. Replacing manual traps, six new automated pollen counters will use advanced imaging to provide a three-day forecast for the area.

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Strap in for a feral lead-up into Christmas in the NSW parliament

The Guardian, Other, 03/11/2025, Anne Davies

As the New South Wales parliament draws to a close at the end of November, expect it to be dominated by feral horses, feral pigs and feral politics. [...] Several private member's bills are in the pipeline: the Shooters and Fishers' conservation hunting bill, Dr Joe McGirr's repeal of the heritage horse act that protected brumbies, a bill to restrict voluntary assisted dying in faith-run aged care, and a bill making sex-selection abortions illegal.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Experts warn of risks using AI for mental health

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 03/11/2025, Tim Biggs, Page 24

OpenAI has unveiled new measures to mitigate ChatGPT mental health concerns, as millions of users confide in the bot about suicidal thoughts, self-harm and psychosis. But experts say without proper regulation and foresight, many vulnerable people could remain at risk.

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

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Youth abuse action 'failing'

Courier Mail, General News, 03/11/2025, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 15

The state government has been accused of prolonging "years of child abuse" at one of its most troubled youth detention centres by moving too slowly to fix critical failings. Townsville's Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) continues to be plagued with issues of chronic staff shortages and keeping children in "inhumane" separation rooms, a report into the state's detention centres has found.

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Perth GP Andrew Leech on why doctors should play greater role in diagnosing autism in children

West Australian, Other, 02/11/2025, Rhianna Mitchell

A Perth GP selected by the State Government to diagnose and treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in children believes doctors should also play a bigger role in diagnosing autism. Dr Andrew Leech has also questioned why the new initiative to train 65 WA GPs in the diagnosis and management of ADHD will only benefit patients aged 10 and over.

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

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NFF and Norco launch survey into farming wellbeing and mental health across Australia

Kaloorlie Miner, Other, 02/11/2025, Georgia Campion

A new national survey has been launched to better understand the wellbeing and mental health of Australian farmers, with industry leaders urging everyone in agriculture to take part. The National Farmers' Federation and farmer-owned cooperative Norco have partnered to deliver the survey, which will capture how farmers are faring amid ongoing challenges such as droughts, floods, fires, and market pressures.

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Lifestyle interventions must become a core part of mental health care

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/11/2025, Scott Teasdale & Simon Rosenbaum

Australians living with severe mental illness continue to die around 15 years earlier than the general population. The majority of this gap is driven not by suicide but by preventable physical health conditions such as heart disease and diabetes.

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[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Study busts cancer myth

Herald Sun, General News, 03/11/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 3

Melbourne could help change the trajectory of Australia's still-too-low breast screening rates after research put a persistent screening myth to bed. A Royal Melbourne Hospital-led study has shown women with breast cancer who had regular screening were more likely to both survive and require "significantly" less intense treatment.

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

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Melanoma research Qld: Genetic mutation known to develop cancer could be hiding in skin

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 02/11/2025, Isabella Pesch

People at a higher risk of developing a melanoma may have this mutation lying dormant in their healthy skin cells, new research has found. A gene mutation known to develop into one of Queensland's deadliest cancers could be hiding in skin undetected.

[Read More](#)

Early childhood learning for lifelong health impact

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/11/2025, Melissa Wake, Jon Quach & Jacqueline Davis

Why should MJA readers, many of whom are general practitioners, specialists and doctors in training,

care about early childhood learning? Because the foundations of lifelong health are laid by school entry, and high quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) is a powerful health intervention.

[Read More](#)

Are we at the point where not using AI in medicine poses risk?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/11/2025, Tracy Pickett, Mark Woodrow & Steve Robson

Artificial intelligence (AI) is moving rapidly from promise to practice in Australian health care. While the potential of AI in medicine has been recognised for a number of years now, technologies such as scribes have now become ubiquitous.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Doctors want honesty on transplant patient exodus

The Australian, General News, 03/11/2025, James Dowling, Page 3

Dysfunction at Brisbane's Prince Charles Hospital risks straining interstate heart transplant services, medical leaders say, as calls grow for the full release of a confidential report showing entrenched culture issues and a grievous mortality rate. Queensland's Labor opposition and patient advocate groups are demanding full disclosure of: a study that reveals The Prince Charles Hospital's heart transplant program had a mortality rate 50 per cent higher than the international average.

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

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'Bashed, stabbed and spat at': Violence in public hospitals on the rise

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/11/2025, Courtney Kruk

Physical assaults, threats of violence and verbal abuse against staff working in Brisbane's public hospitals have nearly doubled in six years, as nurses and frontline workers warn not enough is being done to keep them safe. Data obtained from Queensland Health shows more than 35,000 reported incidents of occupational violence against staff across Metro North and Metro South hospitals and health services from July 2019 until the end of September.

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Do the Queensland government's claims about the surgical waiting list stack up?

ABC Online, Other, 02/11/2025, Janelle Miles & Emma Pollard

It was spun as a victory lap – the Queensland Health Minister fronting the media declaring the Crisafulli Government had delivered on a key election promise. At Logan Hospital on a Sunday last month, Tim Nicholls announced the government had "stabilised" the elective surgery waiting list.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

'We're sick of it': Staff

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/11/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 1

The state's health union plans to escalate industrial action this week if the government does not resume negotiations on wages and conditions. HACSU will send a six-page letter to the head of the state service this morning outlining the action they stress will not put patients' lives at risk.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Early super access let Damian fix his teeth. For Melinda, it was a \$48,000 nightmare

SBS, Other, 02/11/2025, Miles Proust

Australians are increasingly raiding their retirement savings to pay for dental work, prompting warnings from authorities about the risk of practitioners exploiting vulnerable patients. Data released by the Australian Tax Office (ATO) earlier this month revealed tens of thousands of people were allowed to withdraw more than \$1.41 billion in superannuation on compassionate grounds last financial year.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

The detection of avian influenza virus in human pathology laboratories in Australia, New Zealand, and South Pacific nations

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/11/2025

Australia has been relatively free from highly pathogenic avian influenza A (HPAI) virus outbreaks. [...] Most instructions-for-use documents provided by manufacturers for Therapeutic Goods Administration-approved human diagnostic tests for influenza do not contain information about the polymerase chain

reaction (PCR) target sequences, and few indicate that they can detect a range of avian influenza viruses, particularly the sequence-divergent and strongly animal-restricted H7 and H9 influenza A viruses.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

A weed licence to print money

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/11/2025, James Willis, Page 8

Medicinal cannabis licences issued by NSW Health were allegedly exploited by a criminal syndicate which made more than \$10m selling illicit drugs on Sydney's streets. According to court documents, police allege Joseph Younes an unemployed 40year-old from Kingsgrove supplied 1.6 tonnes of cannabis over seven months while depositing large sums of cash through a National Australia Bank (NAB) branch.

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

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Shocking truth about cocaine after 40: I've seen the irreversible damage this 'posh' drug does to middle-aged bodies - even weekend users are paying the price: DR BRAD MCKAY

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/11/2025, Brad McKay

Once known as a party drug for cashed-up yuppies, cocaine has quietly shifted into the suburbs - becoming a staple of middle-class, middle-aged social life. While the drug is abused everywhere from New York City penthouses to cottages in the Cotswolds, the fact remains that Australians are the worst offenders by far.

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A fatal drop: what do we know about the drug, 500 times stronger than heroin, taking Australian lives?

The Guardian, Other, 03/11/2025, Nino Bucci

I n the middle of winter last year, in a unit in Melbourne's northern suburbs, Carly Morse, Thomas Vale, Michael Hodgkinson and Abdul El Sayed used a rolled-up bank note to inhale cocaine. [...] The substance they snorted was not cocaine, as they had thought, but protonitazene, a highly toxic synthetic opioid.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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