



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 4th November 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that the release of a secret report into the failures of Queensland's top heart and lung transplant hospital, Brisbane's Prince Charles Hospital, has been committed to by the state government.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that yesterday the peak bodies for Australian obstetricians and midwives called for laws to be put in place to introduce fines and possible jail time for unregistered workers who offer clinical services during births.
- The **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 4) reports that 11 fully bulk-billing GP practices are operating in Canberra following the implementation of the government's new practice incentives, which became active over the weekend.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that treatments for former service personnel suffering depression and PTSD using psychedelics is receiving funding from the Department of Veterans' Affairs in a global first.
- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 8) reports that side effects of ADHD medication in children have been flagged in a report from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, advising on checking the height and weight of children taking the medication every six months for potential side effects.

- The [West Australian](#) (page 3) reports that research from the University of NSW has found that individuals who suffered severe childhood trauma and develop chronic diseases later in life have a higher risk of dying prematurely compared with people with similar diseases with less trauma.
- [The Mandarin](#) (online) reports that Australian general practitioners will now receive incentives for every bulk-billed patient they treat as part of the Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program.

MINISTER BUTLER

Pressure on Ley as Coalition support plummets to new low

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 04/11/2025, Page 10

Support for the Opposition has plummeted to a record low as voter backing for embattled Liberal leader Sussan Ley nosedives. [...] Over the weekend, Health Minister Mark Butler released data showing more than 1000 practices had expressed interest in becoming fully bulk-billing.

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Optus chief faces fresh calls to resign after fiery grilling

Australian Financial Review, Other, 03/11/2025, Jenny Wiggins & Nicola Smith

Optus boss Stephen Rue has faced fresh calls to quit over the company's botched handling of the catastrophic Triple Zero outage after a fiery parliamentary hearing.

[Read More](#)

New twist: Fresh news on \$35m maternity funding

The Courier Mail, Other, 03/11/2025, Lottie Hood

NT Health has revealed fresh funding hope for private maternity services in the Northern Territory. [...] 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".

[Read More](#)

'Devastating': Optus CEO Stephen Rue dragged over deadly failures

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 03/11/2025, Samantha Maiden

The chairman of Optus has conceded heads will roll at the telco giant after a fiery interrogation by a Senator who asked "who's getting the sack?" [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the hearings would provide important transparency.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Medicare expands with \$8.5 billion bulk billing program

The Mandarin, Other, 03/11/2025, Melissa Coade

A major Medicare shake-up will see GPs paid to bulk bill every patient, with millions more visits now covered at no cost. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the expansion of bulk billing would help make healthcare more accessible to Australians living in every electorate.

[Read More](#)

Maternal health forum reveals gaps in NT system, families choosing to move interstate

ABC Online, Other, 03/11/2025, Felicity James

Amy Malan lost her first baby after reporting decreased fetal movements multiple times within three weeks to different medical professionals. [...] "I understand [federal Health Minister Mark] Butler has responded to Minister Edgington's initial request advising that our government would be more likely to consider a detailed proposal in line with funding commitments made to NSW and Tasmania in response to withdrawal of maternity services in those jurisdictions," he said in the statement.

Call to end freebirths nationwide after 'several recent tragedies'

9News, Other, 03/11/2025, Yashee Sharma

Health practitioners are calling for a nationwide ban preventing doulas from providing clinical care after "several recent tragedies linked to freebirth", including the death of a Melbourne influencer. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Australian College of Midwives released a joint statement today calling for Health Minister Mark Butler to work with the states and territories to crack down on freebirths.

[Read More](#)

'No-one is impacted the same': Meet some of the winners of the bulk-billing boost

Australian Doctor, Other, 03/11/2025, Jamie Thannoo

Clinics across the country have started bulk-billing over the weekend, while those who already were say they now have more stability. Much of the focus on the injection of bulk-billing incentives has been on the question of how many clinics will convert — will it be enough to reach Mark Butler's promise of 90% bulk-billed attendances by 2030?

[Read More](#)

Theo's journey with cochlear implants inspires Canberra

Blue Mountains Gazette, Other, 03/11/2025, Georgina Jelovic

Eleven-year-old Theo Carson-Drever has delivered a powerful speech about his journey with cochlear implants in front of an audience in Canberra that included the Federal Health Minister. [...] The audience included Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, National Disability Insurance Scheme Minister Senator Jenny McAllister, and Macquarie MP Susan Templeman.

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Coalition on life support after Nationals dump net zero

Crikey, Other, 03/11/2025, Rich James & Richard-James

Liberal leader Sussan Ley is facing an impossible decision: cede net-zero policy to the Nationals or consider breaking apart the Coalition. [...] The Australian points out Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler also had advice for Ley, claiming it was time for the Coalition leader to "put her foot down".

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The Zap: timely health and aged care news, plus key consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 03/11/2025, Melissa Sweet

The beginning of November brought the start of the Aged Care Act 2024, the new Support at Home program and the extension of Medicare GP bulk billing incentives to cover all patients. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler held a press conference in Adelaide to spruik the changes, and also appeared on the ABC's Background Briefing ABC Adelaide radio 2SM radio in Sydney, and the Sunrise television program. Interviewed by Patricia Karvelas on Background Briefing, he said: "I've been really clear with doctors' groups, some of which have been a little sceptical about this in the lead-up, that they should not underestimate our determination to achieve [higher bulk billing]."

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Residents hit hard: why aged care just got \$50,000 more expensive overnight

MSN Australia, Other, 03/11/2025, Ghiles Slamani

Australia's residential aged care model has undergone a sweeping transformation, with new fee structures and funding mechanisms introduced for all new entrants as of this month. [...] The move, described as a "once-in-a-generation" reform by Health Minister Mark Butler, aims to address mounting operational challenges in an industry grappling with rising costs, underfunded services, and a rapidly ageing population.

'Medicare card, not credit card': \$8.5 billion plan to deliver more bulk billing and cheaper GP visits

The Australia Today, Other, 03/11/2025, Jai Bharadwaj

Already, more than 1,000 GP clinics that previously used mixed billing have converted to full bulk billing, joining the 1,600 existing practices. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the expansion of the bulk billing system will make healthcare more equitable and accessible across every region.

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Expanded PBS listing makes kidney disease treatment cheaper for more sufferers

WEB Region Canberra, Other, 03/11/2025, Chris Johnson

A drug used to treat diabetes and chronic disease is to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), making it cheaper for an additional 68,000 patients each year. [...] "The Albanese Government is making medicines cheaper and helping people with chronic kidney disease maintain their quality of life," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 03/11/2025, Bridget Brennan & Stephanie Ferrier

Interview with Health Minister Mark Butler to discuss the incentives for bulk billing.

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ABC Goulburn Murray, Breakfast, 03/11/2025, Sandra Moon

Caller Neil says he struggles with daily tasks like walking, feeding, and dressing due to his terminal MND, and that his wife Marie has become both his partner and full-time carer. He states age should not restrict access to the NDIS, as he is disabled and would benefit from the services and funding it provides, which are far greater than what My Aged Care currently offers. Neil has contacted politicians including Lisa Chesters, Mark Butler, and Bill Shorten, who acknowledged the issue but said NDIS rules won't change, though a lump sum for terminally ill people over 65 could help initially.

[Play Now](#)

Gold 101.7, 08:00 News, 03/11/2025

Optus executives will face a Senate inquiry today over the Telco's Triple Zero outage. Green Senator Hansen-Young says she hopes the Communications Minister will consider fronting up as well. However, Health Minister Mark Butler told the ABC that Anika Wells is not needed at the hearing.

Also reported by: [MIX FM 102.3 \(Adelaide\)](#).

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TR FM, 08:35 Local News, 03/11/2025

Residents across Gippsland are being told by the Federal Government that finding a bulk-billing GP should soon be simpler following changes to eligibility for incentive payments. Health Minister Mark Butler says this is part of an ongoing push to ensure everyone can afford to see a doctor.

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3AW, Mornings, 03/11/2025, Tom Elliott

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, defending the Federal Government's \$8.5 bulk-billing expansion. Butler argues that the scheme will reduce emergency department pressure and improve health outcomes by encouraging more frequent GP visits. Butler says all clinics can join without funding limits as the initiative is demand-driven. On illegal tobacco and vape smuggling, Butler rejects calls to cut excise to undercut gangs, saying it would make smoking more attractive. Instead, he says there is a heavy focus on law enforcement to dismantle criminal networks and seize illegal profits.

Interview continues on: [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#).

MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

Battling for the elderly

Times Victor Harbor, General News, 04/11/2025, Monique Haynes, Page 2

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Australia's population is ageing. [...] On October 7, the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae confirmed the rollout of an additional 63,000 packages by June 30, 2026, which will then be under the new Support at Home program.

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Our loved ones deserve care that sets a high bar

Canberra Times, Other, 03/11/2025, Sam Rae

I was about twenty when I stopped by my grandparents' place and found my grandma in the front yard after a fall. [...] Sam Rae is the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 03/11/2025, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, discussing the newly enacted Aged Care Act. Rae says the Federal Government is catching up to increase new aged care beds after years of underinvestment in the sector. On concerns about dementia patients being refused care, Rae says the Act enshrines enforceable rights and that pricing reforms will incentivise providers to offer quality dementia care. He also defends co-payments for personal care services, arguing they ensure financial sustainability.

Interview continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 03/11/2025, Samantha Donovan

Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White says around 1000 additional clinics nationwide have already moved to bulk billing, and she hopes that the incentives will gradually encourage more GPs to follow. However, the Australian Medical Association's Tasmania president, Dr John Saul, warns that the Federal Government's target of nine in ten GP visits being bulk billed by 2030 may be unrealistic.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#).

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Options for aged care

Times Victor Harbor, General News, 04/11/2025, Monique Haynes, Page 3

As previously mentioned, the new Act comes into effect on November 1, aligning with the launch of the new Support at Home program. According to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the new Act will replace the existing Aged Care Act 1997, the Aged Care (Transitional Provisions) Act 1997 and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission Act 2018.

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DXA scanner - Understanding bone density and mobility

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 03/11/2025

Learn how a DXA Scanner (dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry) measures bone mineral density, explains T-scores (bone density scores) and helps clinicians assess your bone health. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care also provides information on osteoporosis, fracture prevention and recommendations.

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Agency update on national interoperability plan

Pulse+IT, Other, 03/11/2025, Heather Fletcher

The National Healthcare Interoperability Plan quarterly progress report (July -September 2025) provides an update on the first national plan to deliver a connected healthcare system. [...] "Services Australia continues to work collaboratively with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to progress options for consolidated identifiers that will enable connected care through common identifiers for consumers, providers and organisations across Services Australia's health, aged care, and disability programs," the report states.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Let's get cracking

Northern Territory News, General News, 04/11/2025, Fia Walsh, Page 1

The Northern Territory Government is calling for the Federal Government's Expression of Interest process for a new 120 bed aged care facility in Darwin to be completed quickly, so construction can begin as soon as possible. The NT government says every day, up to 80 hospital beds are filled by patients who should be in aged care, costing Territory taxpayers \$40 million a year.

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What will the aged care system changes mean for you?

ABC Online, Other, 03/11/2025, Craig Zonca & Loretta Ryan

Are you or a loved one navigating the new aged care reforms? The changes will affect everyone differently depending on the type of care you receive, what your financial situation is, and when you initially entered the system.

What do new aged care reforms mean for those in care?

ABC Online, Other, 03/11/2025, Max Rowley

We trust the aged care system to care for our loved ones as if they were family. That's why the stories of abuse and neglect uncovered during the Aged Care Royal Commission were so heartbreaking.

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Data privacy and daycare apps, plus will aged care changes result in a system we can trust?

ABC Online, Other, 03/11/2025, Tegan Taylor

The rise of apps linked to childcare centres gives crucial reassurance to worried parents that children are safe and happy at daycare. [...] Four years after the Aged Care Royal Commission's final report, one of the cornerstone reforms came into effect on Saturday: a new federal Aged Care Act.

[Read More](#)

HammondCare to deliver Canberra's first dementia care village

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 03/11/2025

Following a competitive tender process and an agreement with the ACT Suburban Land Agency, HammondCare has been chosen to lead the transformation of the former Curtin Primary School into Canberra's first dementia care village. The village will be designed around small, homelike cottages that are reflective of the surrounding Curtin streets and will align with the National Aged Care Design Principles and Guidelines.

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Assisted dying: Aged care providers could force terminally ill residents off-site to die

HelloCare, Other, 03/11/2025, Jakob Neeland

A private member's bill currently before the New South Wales Parliament has ignited fierce controversy by proposing changes to voluntary assisted dying laws that could force terminally ill residents of aged care homes to leave their facilities to access the service.

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Major aged care fee increases rolls out—are you prepared?

Your Life Choices, Other, 03/11/2025, Don Turrobia

The time has arrived for what experts are calling the most significant shake-up to aged care costs in over a decade, with major fee increases that took effect on 1 November 2025. While Australian families have been given an unexpected reprieve from changes that were initially scheduled for July 2025, the extra time shouldn't breed complacency.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 03/11/2025, Craig Reucassel

Companion Animals Network Australia is ramping up its campaign to let aged care residents keep their pets with them. CEO Trish Ennis has told ABC Radio Sydney that 96% of people support the idea, though only 18% of facilities currently allow it. She said residents must be able to feed and walk their pets and take responsibility for their care to qualify.

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2GB, Afternoons, 03/11/2025, Michael McLaren

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park, criticising the nationwide shortage of aged care beds despite the new Aged Care Act taking effect over the weekend. While acknowledging productive talks with his federal counterpart, Sam Rae, Park says federal measures to boost aged care supply are failing and that the growing crisis requires urgent national cooperation, likening it to a "housing crisis" for aged care. He urges the Federal Government to provide immediate funding and explore alternatives, such as temporarily using private hospitals.

DISABILITY AND CARERS

'Historical' claims push business's workers' comp costs to \$850k

Australian Financial Review, Other, 03/11/2025, Paul Karp

The disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic may seem past to most people, but Jo Kernot says her disability services business is still footing the bill in the form of higher workers' compensation premiums.

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New report shows NDIS cracks

Border Watch, Other, 03/11/2025

A new report has revealed that NDIS application approval rates for people with psychosocial disability have dropped by nearly two-thirds in the past five years. National alliance of leading mental health support organisations, The Australian Psychosocial Alliance (APA), have released the report which showed the drop of 62 per cent, with only 25 per cent of applications approved for this group, compared with 66 per cent of such applications at the start of the 20/21 financial year.

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PRIMARY CARE

Most GP clinics still not bulk billing

Canberra Times, General News, 04/11/2025, Dana Daniel, Page 4

Canberra now has 11 fully bulk-billing GP practices after the Albanese government's new practice incentives kicked in on the weekend. It means the ACT has double the number of general practices that do not charge patients a gap fee than before the May federal election, but it still has the lowest bulk-billing rate in the country.

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Dental service cash top-up

Cairns Post, General News, 04/11/2025, Arun Singh Mann, Page 2

A Far North "low-cost" dental service that delivered more than 70,000 appointments last year will receive almost \$1m in taxpayer grants to secure its future. James Cook University's Smithfield dental clinic has received a \$800,000 boost from the state government over two years until the end of 2026, with the funding part of a broader \$15m, four-year agreement.

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Click-and-inject fears

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/11/2025, Adella Beaini, Page 13

Specialists warn the growing demand for weight-loss medications among young people seeking "aesthetic" and "self-enhancement" treatments marks a dangerous new trend that could fuel the next national health crisis. Doctors are being approached every day by teenagers and young adults girls as well as boys asking for weightloss injections such as Ozempic and Wegovy, despite being at healthy body weights.

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Will new financial incentives encourage more doctors to bulk-bill across Queensland?

ABC Online, Other, 03/11/2025, Steve Austin

New incentives have come into effect to encourage doctors to bulk-bill for every visit. Previously, general practitioners were financially rewarded by the government every time they bulk-billed a concession card holder or child under 16.

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Medicare reforms risk quality GP care in Australia

Newcastle Herald, Other, 04/11/2025

Australians are being gaslit into believing their GPs are "greedy," while Medicare continues to dismantle the foundations of quality care. These reforms don't promote good medicine or attract new doctors - they reward speed and punish thoroughness.

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Virtual care in the field: Scaling telemedicine for Defence health operations

The Mandarin, Other, 03/11/2025

The Defence sector is under increasing pressure to build resilient, scalable health responses that can keep pace with fast-moving situations. In high-risk environments, getting healthcare to the right person at the right time can mean the difference between life and death.

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Bulk billing boost: what it means for you

The Border Mail, Other, 03/11/2025, Lisa Edser

The government has introduced financial incentives to encourage GPs to extend their bulk billing services to every Australian with a Medicare card. But it's still up to the individual doctor and medical practice if they want to opt in.

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

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Funding health is one of the biggest challenges facing Tasmania, as Eric Abetz prepares to hand down his first budget

ABC Online, Other, 03/11/2025, Madeleine Rojahn

With an interim state budget to be handed down on Thursday, a peak health body fears Tasmania's public health system won't receive enough support to address ballooning demand. Government policies to rein in spending — such as staff vacancy controls and efficiency measures — are already affecting service delivery, according to the Australian Medical Association (AMA).

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New national guidelines to revolutionise concussion treatment for GPs

7news.com.au, Other, 04/11/2025, Katrina Blowers

For the first time, Aussie GPs have uniform guidelines and it could save thousands from receiving dangerous advice. GPs around the country now have uniform guidelines to revolutionise concussion treatment for the first time, after a previous lack of consistency put thousands of Australians at risk.

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E-bike reforms: Queensland Premier David Crisafulli rebukes calls for urgent change pending inquiry

7news.com.au, Other, 03/11/2025, Sarah Keszler

State Premier David Crisafulli said while "change is coming", he will let a parliamentary committee finish its inquiry into e-scooters and e-bikes by March, rather than commit to any knee-jerk reactions. [...] The Australian Medical Association (AMA) called on the government to urgently reconsider e-bike regulations.

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Guest Editorial: The power of general practice data

Results from The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' (RACGP's) 2025 Health of the Nation report were released last month. Now in its ninth year, the report provides a snapshot of the state of general practice today and shines a light on the pressures facing our profession and the future health system.

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Systemic Janus kinase inhibitors in inflammatory dermatoses: A primer for general practitioners

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/11/2025, Laxmi Iyengar & John C Su

General practitioners (GPs) are increasingly encountering patients treated with novel disease-modifying systemic treatments for chronic inflammatory conditions. The Janus kinase (JAK) signalling pathway has been strongly implicated as a key mediator in a broad cohort of chronic inflammatory conditions including rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease and, more recently, selective small molecule JAK signalling inhibitors have been used to treat inflammatory dermatoses such as atopic dermatitis and have led to promising outcomes.

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Transitions, adaptation and uncertainty in general practice training

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/11/2025, Michael Tran & Shaun Prentice

The adjustment to general practice experienced by registrars is inevitable and can be confronting. The training for independent specialist practice occurs in unique clinical environments and circumstances.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 03/11/2025, Melissa Downes & Joel Dry

GPs across Australia will have uniform guidelines to treat concussions for the first time to standardise treatment. The new guidelines include giving GPs and other healthcare professionals better ways to diagnose and treat concussions. University of Queensland paediatric neurologist Dr Karen Barlow confirms that 50% of concussion patients don't receive much-needed care because they don't know what to do.

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

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Channel 9, Today , 03/11/2025, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo

Only 13% of metropolitan GP clinics have adopted full bulk billing following the Federal Government's \$8.5b Medicare overhaul, while 30% of clinics in remote areas have done so. Labor has pledged to increase bulk billing to 90% of clinics by 2030.

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

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Channel 10, 10 News, 03/11/2025, Sandra Sully

Australia will adopt uniform guidelines to treat concussion for the first time ever. University of Queensland paediatric neurologist Dr Karen Barlow notes that around 40% of GPs admit that they're not confident in managing concussion symptoms.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 03/11/2025, Peter Mitchell

GPs across Australia will have uniform guidelines to treat concussions for the first time to standardise treatment and prevent long-term harm caused by inconsistent care. University of Queensland paediatric neurologist Dr Karen Barlow recommends a medically supervised return to exercise, which can shorten treatment time by a week.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Medical bodies join forces in call for charges for doulas

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/11/2025, Wendy Tuohy, Page 13

Doulas, or unregistered birth workers, should face fines and/or criminal charges for performing clinical services during childbirth, peak medical bodies say. The obstetric and midwifery groups have demanded federal, state and territory governments follow in South Australia's footsteps and ban doulas from a range of activities after recent tragedies during so-called freebirths, where registered health professionals are absent.

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

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Calls for clamps on rogue birth workers

Age, General News, 04/11/2025, Wendy Tuohy & Henrietta Cook, Page 1

Victoria and New South Wales will consider legislation to rein in rogue birth workers, including doulas, after a series of tragedies. Peak bodies for Australian obstetricians and midwives yesterday called for national adoption of South Australian laws imposing fines and possible jail time for unregistered workers who offer clinical services during births.

Also reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Landmark parental leave law shows 'compassion, dignity'

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 03/11/2025, Tess Ikonomou

Parents facing the tragedy of stillbirth or the death of their baby will now be able to mourn their loss with "dignity" under changes that will stop employers from cancelling paid parental leave. [...] Six babies are stillborn every day and two die within 28 days of birth in Australia, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data.

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

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Your rights when it comes to breastfeeding and expressing at work

ABC Online, Other, 03/11/2025, Kellie Scott

If you're going back to work while breastfeeding, you might be wondering how to continue. In Australia, 96 per cent of mothers start breastfeeding, but by the time babies are five months old, exclusive breastfeeding drops to 15 per cent.

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Only third of Aussies are wearing sunscreen most days, in line with guidelines

9News, Other, 03/11/2025, Rebecca Masters

Just over a third of Aussies are wearing sunscreen most days, despite more than half of us spending more than 15 minutes outside in peak UV hours, according to data analysed by health insurer iSelect. The Australian Bureau of Statistics data showed just more than half of Australians (54.3 per cent) use three or more measures to protect their skin.

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Baby Priya's bill passes parliament, protecting parental leave for stillborn and baby deaths

SBS, Other, 03/11/2025

The Albanese government said the laws give grieving parents financial certainty after stillbirth or infant death. [...] Six babies are stillborn every day and two die within 28 days of birth in Australia, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data.

2GB, Breakfast, 03/11/2025, Ben Fordham

Coles and Woolworths have both reported record drops in tobacco revenue, 51% and 57% respectively, blaming Labor's tobacco excise and the rise of the black market. The supermarkets say soaring cigarette prices have pushed smokers toward untaxed alternatives, with Coles noting tobacco now makes up less than 2% of its total sales. They argue consumers are choosing cheaper black market options since enforcement mainly targets businesses, not buyers.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

High level of interest as new era begins

Canberra Times, General News, 04/11/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

It is barely 9am on the first day the law has been in effect, and people are already calling to find out how to access voluntary assisted dying, Attorney-General Tara Cheyne says. [...] ACT Health manager Toby Keene is on the voluntary assisted dying taskforce. He said it will be monitoring the workforce to ensure practitioners get enough experience.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#).

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Childhood trauma a timebomb

West Australian, General News, 04/11/2025, Page 3

People who have suffered severe childhood trauma, either physical, emotional or mental, and then go on to develop chronic diseases have a higher risk of dying prematurely compared with people with similar diseases but less trauma. Researchers from the University of NSW looked at the health records of people aged 30-85 with either diabetes, high blood pressure or who had had a recent emergency department visit for a medical issue.

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Childhood trauma link to early death

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 04/11/2025, Page 11

People with severe childhood trauma who go on to develop chronic diseases have a higher risk of dying prematurely compared with people with similar diseases but less trauma. Looking at health records of people aged 30-85 with either diabetes, high blood pressure or a recent emergency department visit for a medical issue, University of NSW researchers found there was a higher death risk for people with childhood trauma across all three categories, but this was especially pronounced for those with diabetes.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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Fallout after ovarian cancer

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/11/2025, Jorina Maureschat, Page 9

A Sunshine Coast woman's routine health check accidentally uncovered ovarian cancer, and medication restrictions sparked menopause symptoms. Jo Yates, now 46, underwent a routine pap smear in 2021 and was sent for an ultrasound for endometriosis, only to learn there were tumours on her ovaries.

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Study busts cancer myth

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/11/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 12

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.

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‘Cruel beyond belief’: The legislative push upsetting expert doctor

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 03/11/2025, Alexandra Smith

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.

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Just 5000 steps a day could protect the brain from Alzheimer's-related cognitive decline

West Australian, Other, 04/11/2025, Hannah Cross

Just 5000 steps a day could be all it takes to protect the brain from faster cognitive decline for people at risk of Alzheimer's disease, researchers have found. The first-of-its-kind study found walking between 5000 and 7500 steps was the sweet spot for slowing brain decline, while more modest activity — like 3000 to 5000 steps — still had a notable impact.

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Semaglutide approved for diabetic chronic kidney disease

Medical Forum, Other, 03/11/2025, Dr Prue Gregor & Dr Aron Chakera

Diabetic kidney disease is now the leading cause of progressive chronic kidney disease (CKD) and kidney failure in Australia and other developed countries. CKD is itself a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease and the cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic (CKM) syndrome is now being recognised by authorities to highlight the link between heart disease, kidney disease, diabetes and obesity as a driver of poor health outcomes.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 03/11/2025, Peter Mitchell

New research from the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Breast Screening Victoria shows women diagnosed with cancer after a regular screening have a 70% higher chance of survival. Cancers detected early through screening are smaller than those in women who aren't in the study.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 03/11/2025, Ross Solly

Interview with Tracey Burton, Uniting NSW/ACT CEO. Burton discusses voluntary assisted dying that is now available in the ACT. She states that she is proud of the team at Uniting Church for supporting residents' right to choose voluntary assisted dying, even though the Church itself doesn't necessarily endorse it. She said Uniting's role is to connect residents who choose VAD with essential information, navigators, and practitioners, stressing that it's not easy but important to get right. Burton adds that Uniting respects staff who are conscientious objectors, saying employees can be rostered elsewhere and will never be made to feel bad for their choice, noting that only 16 people have accessed VAD in NSW since the law passed.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 03/11/2025, Adam Steer

A palliative care nurse says the ACT's voluntary assisted dying scheme, which begins today, will help terminally ill people maintain the best quality of life possible. To qualify, a person must have an advanced, progressive condition causing intolerable suffering and expected to lead to death. NT's voluntary assisted dying legislation and scheme remain some time away.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 03/11/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with ACT Health and Community Services Directorate ageing & end-of-life executive branch manager Dr Toby Keane, discussing Canberra's new voluntary assisted dying laws, which took effect on Monday. Dr Keane notes that the ACT's VAD laws are the most progressive in Australia, allowing nurse practitioners to assess eligibility and removing strict time limits. He says patients must still have capacity at every stage of the process, as VAD cannot be pre-authorised through an advance care directive. Dr Keane says health professionals and institutions may conscientiously object, but they are legally required to provide patients with information on how to contact the Care Navigator Service.

Interview continues on: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Medical debate on drugs for Diggers

The Australian, General News, 04/11/2025, James Dowling, Page 7

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has begun funding psychedelic treatments for former service personnel suffering depression and PTSD in a global first despite years of medical debate. The department quietly circulated a memo among prescribers last week, announcing it was accepting authorisation applications for subsidised access to psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy where MDMA and the magic mushroom extract psilocybin are used to treat post-traumatic stress disorder and treatment-resistant depression, respectively.

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Libs mull shift on compo reform

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/11/2025, Max Maddison, Page 6

The NSW opposition is willing to negotiate over the most controversial part of the government's workers' compensation reforms, despite a scathing parliamentary report alleging the proposal leaves injured workers at risk of "selfharm and death by suicide". The move to lift the definition of "whole of person impairment" has become the key sticking point against Treasurer Daniel Mookhey's attempt to update the workers' compensation scheme, which has been bogged down for months by political opposition.

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

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

Warning on ADHD drug use

Courier Mail, General News, 04/11/2025, Susie O'Brien, Page 8

Children on popular ADHD drugs have been warned to have their height and weight checked every six months because of potential side effects. A new report from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute has found the drugs are safe and effective, but children need to be monitored because the long-term effects of stimulants are not well understood.

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

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

Mental illness cuts lifespan

West Australian, General News, 04/11/2025, Page 15

More than 8.5 million Australians will need mental health treatment in their lifetime for depression, anxiety, substance use and or psychosis, according to Charles Sturt University research. People with serious mental illnesses, such as psychosis, die on average 14 years earlier than the general population.

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

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Funding boost for four local mental health initiatives

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 04/11/2025, Grace Hamilton, Page 28

Suicide prevention and mental health initiatives in the Illawarra are about to receive a boost thanks to the Race Against Suicide raceday. Four programs have been selected from 20 applications to share in more than \$35,000 in funding raised at the inaugural event.

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

Checking in for headspace month

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 04/11/2025, Lochlainn Heley, Page 4

Headspace Mildura made several community stops last month, with the aim of ensuring young people stopped to check-in on their wellbeing for Mental Health Awareness Month. Mental Health Awareness Month is held annually in October and was as busy as expected for the youth mental health support service.

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Mental health reform needed to stop children ending up in prison, doctors say

ABC Online, Other, 03/11/2025, Elsie Lange & Stewart Brash

While incarceration rates continue to soar in the Northern Territory, experts warn mental health reform in the justice system is crucial for improving community safety in the long term. Last week, mental health professionals, legal experts, Aboriginal organisations and youth justice advocates gathered in Alice Springs for a major symposium to discuss their concerns about inadequate mental health support and diversion for young people in the criminal justice system.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 03/11/2025, Rory McClaren

Interview with Australian Centre for Housing Research director Dr Emma Baker, explaining how debt can impact mental health. Baker explains that housing stress differs from other financial burdens because people prioritise paying for housing above all else, making it a key source of anxiety when affordability is threatened.

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6PR, Drive, 03/11/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Garden Family Medical Clinic director Dr Andrew Leach, discussing WA's growing paediatric waitlist, which has now ballooned to 12,000 children waiting to be seen by a doctor. Dr Leach says the wait times, which are now reaching up to four years, are detrimental to a child's formative years, particularly those who are waiting for developmental assessments such as autism diagnoses. He calls for urgent interim support because it will take time before newly-trained GPs can ease pressure on the waitlist.

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IMMUNISATION

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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Our research world-class

Herald Sun, General News, 04/11/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 13

Victorian researchers are leading the best in the world to find better ways to diagnose and treat a rare type of ovarian cancer that targets young women. Low-grade serous ovarian cancer is a slow-growing tumour often not diagnosed until the later stages when the cancer has already spread and doesn't respond to treatment.

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Music can help preserve brain health: study

Aged Care Insite, Other, 03/11/2025, Stefanie Schultz

According to a new study, an individual can decrease their risk of dementia with a simple habit most of us enjoy every single day. The study, led by Victoria's Monash University, observed the listening habits of 10,800 people over the age of 70 and found that people who regularly listened to music showed a 39 per cent lower risk of dementia than those who didn't.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Hospital failures secrecy to end

The Australian, General News, 04/11/2025, Mackenzie Scott, Page 1

The Crisafulli government has committed to releasing a secret report into the failures of Queensland's top heart and lung transplant hospital, which uncovered shocking revelations that patients were missing out on vital surgeries. Health Minister Tim Nicholls is seeking legal advice on how to release the confidential External Benchmarking Exercise: TPCH Heart and Lung Transplant Services report into failings at Brisbane's Prince Charles Hospital, which was commissioned by the former Labor government.

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

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Vic Ambos delayed as resources stretched

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 04/11/2025, Page 10

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: [Sunraysia Daily \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 10, 10 News, 03/11/2025, Tiffany Warne

An elderly woman with dementia was forced to wait for three days for surgery on a severe arm injury because Noarlunga Hospital no longer had beds. Beverly White, 73, had her surgery at Flinders Medical Centre instead. It comes as the Royal Adelaide Hospital's 68 emergency department beds were filled with patients awaiting ward transfers. SA Health CEO Emma McCahon says they

have learned their lesson from that day, but Deputy Opposition Leader Heidi Girolamo condemned the situation.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Radio National, Breakfast, 03/11/2025, Sally Sara

Interview with Vinay Rane, obstetrician-gynaecologist and member of Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Rane says births without a qualified doctor or midwife carry serious risks because complications like bleeding or a baby not breathing can arise suddenly. He states about 97% of Australian women give birth in hospitals, with the rest occurring outside hospitals, and that while choice is important, it must be informed and based on safety and evidence. Rane mentions that social media often gives equal weight to opinion and expertise, leading to misinformation, and said complications such as haemorrhage and infection can be fatal without medical support.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Fresh faces joining our ambulance ranks

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/11/2025, David Killick, Page 4

The newest members of the state's ambulance service have been formally welcomed by Health Minister Bridget Archer. During a visit to Ambulance Tasmania in Cambridge on Monday, Ms Archer thanked the interstate arrivals for choosing to bring their skills and experience to Tasmania.

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The future of regional nursing is bright

The Border Mail, Other, 03/11/2025, Miranda Aitken

Whether you live in the beating heart of a bustling Melbourne CBD, or as far west as the stunning Pilbara, with its red-earthed gorges and coastal plains, it's true that every Australian deserves access to informed, quality healthcare. [...] Despite 362,855 nurses being employed in Australia in 2022, the demand for skilled professionals continues to rise and nowhere is that demand felt more deeply than in regional or rural towns.

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Expand stillbirth education for GPs: RACGP

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/11/2025

GPs should be supported to upskill in shared care to better support devastated families, the college has told SA Parliament. More than eight in 1000 births in Australia are stillbirths.

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RACGP welcomes new specialist GPs for SA

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/11/2025

Australia's leading general practice training college, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), proudly welcomed 74 new specialist GPs at a prestigious Fellowship ceremony held in Adelaide.

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Self-care: Why it matters and what to do about it

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/11/2025, Shaun Prentice

Doctors have struggled to practise effective self-care for a long time. This has been reinforced by attitudes of self-sacrifice embedded within medical culture.

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Risk factors for burnout in Australian general practice registrars: A qualitative study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/11/2025, Shaun Prentice, Taryn Elliott, Diana Dorstyn & Jill Benson

Research examining medical trainee burnout has typically not focused within specialties. The present study therefore explored perspectives and experiences of registrar burnout among Australian general practice training stakeholders.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Hodgkin lymphoma drug Adcetris on PBS

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 03/11/2025

Adcetris (brentuximab vedotin, Takeda) has been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for first-line treatment, in combination with chemotherapy, in people with CD30 Stage III or Stage IV Hodgkin lymphoma. Under the PBS criteria, Adcetris must be used in combination with at least doxorubicin and vinblastine, with dacarbazine a further potential addition.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 03/11/2025, Steve Austin

Interview with Cleanbill CEO James Gillespie, saying only 740 to 900 of Australia's 7000 GPs will fully adopt the Federal Government's expanded bulk billing incentives. Gillespie says the scheme's complexity and low economic viability make it difficult for clinics to commit. On the other hand, he says rising out-of-pocket costs deter patients from seeing a doctor.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Flu deaths overtake COVID-19 fatalities

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/11/2025

In August, 211 patients died from influenza compared to 153 from COVID-19, amid Australia's record-breaking flu season. The percentage of fully vaccinated children in Australia decreased between 2023–

24 at all key age milestones. As Australia continues to live through a record-breaking flu season, influenza deaths have surpassed deaths from COVID-19 for the first time since the pandemic's peak.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Developing a policy for pre-packaged food sold online in Australia and NZ

FoodProcessing, Other, 03/11/2025

The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code requires most pre-packaged foods to bear a label with certain mandatory information when sold in retail outlets. However, there is currently no guidance or explicit requirement surrounding what information must be provided to inform consumers' purchasing decisions when food is sold online.

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