



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 30th January 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that National Cabinet is considering an unreleased report of the Thriving Kids advisory group co-chaired by Minister for Health Mark Butler that recommends individual schemes for each state and territory, ahead of today's meeting to discuss health and disability funding arrangements.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that the median wait time to receive aged care home services has blown out to 272 days, the Productivity Commission has found. *Also reported by:* [Australian Financial Review](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Canberra Times](#)
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that the Department of Health is not currently considering stronger border controls in relation to an outbreak of Nipah virus in India, the Australian CDC has said.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports fertility experts have warned that new NSW restrictions on sperm donation will push women seeking donor sperm interstate and further stress limited supplies.
- The **[Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that former AFL star Troy Selwood left instructions that his brain be used for research into chronic traumatic encephalopathy before taking his own life last year.

- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 1) reports that the heads of Tasmania's health, education and public sector unions have jointly called on Premier Jeremy Rockliff to get involved in pay negotiations or face increased industrial action.
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 3) reports that preventable deaths from heart disease in Australia have increased rapidly in adults aged 35 to 54, University of Melbourne research found.
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 3) reports authorities have warned that the summer flu is here to stay, as South Australia records more than 900 cases of the highly-contagious Super-K strain this year.
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 5) reports that the AMA is calling for federal, state and territory patient health records to be integrated into a single system.
- The [NT News](#) (page 6) reports that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese welcomed Charles Darwin University's inaugural intake of 42 medical students at its new Centre for Better Health Futures on Tuesday.
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 7) reports that Minister for Health Mark Butler acknowledged the tireless efforts of former Australian of the Year Neale Daniher to fight motor neurone disease, as the Government unveiled a \$40.1 million investment to establish the Neale Daniher National MND Clinical Network. *Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au](#)*

MINISTER BUTLER

'Autism aid, but it's not NDIS lite'

The Australian, General News, 30/01/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 1

Anthony Albanese and his state counterparts are mulling over a secret report that argues for each jurisdiction to have its own distinct plan for children with mild autism coming off the NDIS, as federal Labor races the clock to land key elements of its Thriving Kids program. [...] Co-chaired by Health Minister Mark Butler and children's health expert Frank Oberklaid, the report was handed down before Christmas and identifies principles to guide state and Commonwealth negotiations while laying out potential areas each state could invest in.

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

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Reform social services to improve care, fix budget

The Australian, Editorials, 30/01/2026, Page 10

The states need to assist children with mild developmental delays [...] In August, Health Minister Mark Butler announced an initial federal investment of \$2bn in Thriving Kids, making it clear he expected that premiers would agree to match the commonwealth funding.

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

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Crunch time for hospital funding deal as deadline looms

Canberra Times, Other, 30/01/2026, Tess Ikonomou

Accelerated hospital funding is needed to shorten wait lists, doctors warn, as the clock ticks for the nation's leaders to strike a deal. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will meet with state and territory leaders in Sydney on Friday as the federal government seeks to lock in a new five-year hospital funding agreement. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler described the December offer as "generous", saying the Commonwealth was approaching negotiations in good faith.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), and syndicated widely online

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Albanese warns States that Commonwealth is 'not an ATM' ahead of crisis talks on hospital funding

Anthony Albanese has warned all States and Territories that the Federal Government "isn't an ATM" ahead of crisis talks with the jurisdictions to secure an overdue deal on hospitals and disability funding. [...] While further details of the recent offer are yet to be released, Health Minister Mark Butler has described it as "generous" in his bid to push for a deal.

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

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Government offers to delay start of NDIS autism program

CathNews, Other, 29/01/2026, Rebecca Comini

Premiers and chief ministers look likely to agree to the deal at Friday's meeting of National Cabinet in Sydney, after Anthony Albanese and the Health Minister, Mark Butler, offered to push back the start of the new \$2 billion Thriving Kids scheme to October. The new program had been due to start on July 1, but state governments had warned they were not ready to take responsibility for foundational supports for young children and a delay was necessary.

[Read More](#)

Labor's \$40.1m MND boost

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/01/2026, Ria Pandey, Page 7

Labor will partner with former AFL player and disability advocate Neale Daniher's organisation FightMND to help fund research into prevention and treatment of motor neurone disease (MND). Mr Daniher has been living with the incurable condition since 2013 and has since raised millions in funding for MND research, with advocacy efforts earning him the 2025 Australian of the Year. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler acknowledged Mr Daniher's efforts.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#).

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Our \$40m pledge ensures Neale's fight will continue

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/01/2026, Mark Butler MP , Page 17

A little over a decade ago, motor neurone disease was the insidious condition it is today but with one crucial difference it was a disease few Australians knew much about, let alone contemplated lending their support to fighting. That is until 2013, when AFL great Neale Daniher received his devastating diagnosis.

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

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MND fight earns \$40m

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 30/01/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 12

Neale Daniher's legacy of raising awareness and funding research to find a cure for motor neurone disease (MND) will be honoured with a multimillion-dollar federal government investment. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the \$40.1m grant will help create the Neale Daniher National MND Clinical Network and give more people with MND access to treatment trials.

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Channel 10, 10 News: Lunchtime, 29/01/2026, Angela Bishop

The Federal Government has invested more than \$40 million into motor neurone disease research in honour of AFL player and MND sufferer Neale Daniher. Health Minister Mark Butler says there is so much more to understand about the condition to alleviate the suffering of Australians with MND.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, 15:00 News, 29/01/2026

The Federal Government has announced a \$40 million funding boost for FightMND to establish the

Neale Daniher National MND Clinical Network, which will progress clinical trials and increase access to new treatments. Health Minister Mark Butler says the government worked with Daniher throughout his tenure as Australian of the Year to develop four pillars for the funding.

[Play Now](#)

GOLD FM 104.3, 14:00 News, 29/01/2026

The Federal Government has invested more than \$40 million in the establishment of the Neale Daniher National MND Clinical Network. Health Minister Mark Butler says the money will be used to boost research and treatment trials.

[Play Now](#)

Australia officials monitoring outbreak of 'very serious' Nipah virus after two confirmed cases in India

7news.com.au, Other, 29/01/2026, Bryce Luff

Australian authorities are monitoring "very closely" the spread of the potentially deadly Nipah virus after an outbreak prompted countries across Asia to bring back COVID -era airport screening. [...] It's relatively rare but its mortality rate is very high for a respiratory virus so obviously I think all countries are monitoring this reported outbreak very closely," Australian Health Minister Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 29/01/2026, Mark Ferguson

The outbreak of a deadly virus in India has much of the world on high alert, with fears of another pandemic. Travellers are being stopped and screened for Nipah virus at all major Asian airports, including Bali. Health Minister Mark Butler says they are monitoring the virus very closely and engaging with the WHO.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 29/01/2026, Jennifer Keyte

An international health alert is underway tonight as India grapples with a virus outbreak up to 20 times more deadly than COVID. Official travel advice for Australians heading to India remains unchanged for now. Health Minister Mark Butler says the Nipah virus is very serious and the Federal Government is monitoring it very closely.

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SBS, World News Australia, 29/01/2026, Janice Petersen

Countries across Asia are on high alert after Indian authorities confirmed two cases of the deadly Nipah virus. Australia is warning anyone considering travel to India to check the Smartraveller website. Health Minister Mark Butler addressed the outbreak today, saying the Federal Government will provide updates via its new Centre for Disease Control website.

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My Health Record update welcomed

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 29/01/2026, Page 1

Health Minister Mark Butler has proposed major changes to medication record keeping, with the creation of a new National Medicines Record that logs all medicines prescribed and dispensed for patients. A consultation period is underway and will look at how the system will be set up such that it maintains a balance between accuracy and privacy concerns.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), Similar coverage: [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Starts at 60 \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Make interoperability compulsory or it's 'a pipe dream', says AMA

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/01/2026, Mariella Attard

A lack of enforcement is the number one barrier to achieving health information interoperability in this country, according to an AMA report released today. [...] And MyHealthRecord had "such a clunky format" that it was difficult for clinicians to navigate, he said – something federal health minister Mark Butler acknowledged back in 2024 when he described it as "little more than a shoebox of PDFs – the kind of shoebox every accountant has nightmares about".

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Burrangiri respite care cut under Support at Home: Senator Pocock

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/01/2026, Caroline Egan

Despite a \$10 million election commitment from the Albanese Government, access to respite services at the Salvation Army-operated Burrangiri Aged Care Respite Centre, in Rivett in the ACT, has worsened since the introduction of Support at Home. [...] The Senator has also addressed questions to Health, Disability and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler on the issue but he has not received a response.

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One in 50 young Aussies carries a high-risk genetic variant

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/01/2026, Laura Andronicos

[...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing told The Medical Republic that the Government was aware of the DNA Screen pilot study and has received the proposal for further research. They did not comment on when a response to the funding request could be expected, and Health Minister Mark Butler had not responded to TMR 's request for comment at time of publication.

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New endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic to open in Wagga

Temora Independent, General News, 29/01/2026, Noel Fisher, Page 9

[...] Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing as part of its national expansion of Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinics, it will be operated by Nova Health Co. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, said that for too long, women and girls living with pain have had to struggle in silence, but the Albanese Government is changing that with these Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinics giving them access to the expertise, care and specialist support they need.

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ABC Eyre Peninsula and West Coast, Breakfast, 29/01/2026, Emma Pedler

Interview with Member for Grey Tom Venning. Pedler says in November 2025, Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler announced what he'd promised in the March budget, to deliver endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics for women and girls around the country. None of the new funding was set for SA. Venning says that SA is currently at the bottom of the Federal Government's priority list.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

Elderly are now waiting even longer for aged care

The Australian, General News, 30/01/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 1

Homecare package waiting times for older Australians more than doubled between financial years

2023-24 and 2024-25, revealing the pressure population ageing is putting on the health and aged-care systems and the Albanese government's difficulties in managing it. The median time between being approved for a homecare package and receiving services blew out from 118 days in 2023/24 to 245 days in 2024-25, latest Productivity Commission data reveals. [...] Amid pressure from the Senate and advocacy groups, Aged Care Minister Sam Rae released 20,000 packages in September, but these were criticised as being "interim" only, providing around 60 per cent of full funding until the new system came into place.

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Aged care admission wait time blows out to 245 days

Australian Financial Review, General News, 30/01/2026, Michael Smith, Page 6

New data shows the average wait time for elderly Australians to access home care services almost doubled to 245 days last financial year, while the time it took to get assessed for government-funded support increased to 27 days.

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

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At-home care aid wait of shame

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/01/2026, Julie Cross, Page 11

Older Australians in desperate need of care at home are having to wait up to 380 days for services after they have been approved for funding, Productivity Commission figures reveal. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said since November 1, there were "encouraging signs that our methodical and comprehensive work to reform the aged-care sector and get more Australians the care they need faster is moving in the right direction".

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Nine months for home care

Canberra Times, General News, 30/01/2026, Zac De Silva, Page 4

Older Australians are waiting an average of nine months to get access to home support services, as the nation's ageing population puts increasing pressure on providers. The median time taken for someone to sign onto a home care package was 272 days in the last financial year, according to a Productivity Commission report. [...] A spokesman for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said there were encouraging signs the sector was moving in the right direction.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Starts at 60 \(Online\)](#), and syndicated widely online

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Oh baby, help is on the way

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 30/01/2026, Nikita McGuire, Page 15

Townsville's soaring demand for mental health support has secured the region a dedicated centre for expecting parents, with the federal government recognising the region faces higher rates of psychological distress than other urban areas. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride was in Townsville on Thursday to announce the facility, confirming the region was prioritised because of its specific vulnerability.

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

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Seven Townsville, Seven Local News, 29/01/2026, Joanne Desmond and Nathan Spurling

The Federal Government has announced it will be opening a dedicated perinatal mental health centre in North Queensland to support struggling parents. Assistant Minister for Mental Health Emma McBride has confirmed that the Commonwealth is committing \$13 million for the project. The new facility will be operated by the Gidget Foundation and backed by Medicare to provide free wraparound support from clinical psychologists to more than 700 North Queensland parents each year.

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GO! Townsville, WIN News North Queensland, 29/01/2026, Sarah Cawte

The Federal Government will establish a perinatal mental health centre in Townsville in the coming months to help parents access tailored mental health support. Assistant Minister for Mental Health Emma McBride says Townsville has been identified as a community that would need more mental health support.

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ABC North Queensland, 07:30 News, 29/01/2026

The Federal Government has announced the establishment of a specialised mental health centre in Townsville dedicated to supporting new and expecting parents. Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride said the region is a high-priority area, noting that the "missing middle" of mental health care, parents who need more than a GP but don't require a hospital bed, has been underserved in North Queensland.

[Play Now](#)

ABC North Queensland, Breakfast, 29/01/2026, Michael Clarke

Interview with Assistant Minister for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride about the new perinatal mental health centre coming to Townsville. McBride says that around 100,000 Australians who are expecting are affected by the stress of becoming parents. She says that they have partnered with the Gidget Foundation to provide free psychological support for new parents.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Virus alert at the border

The Australian, General News, 30/01/2026, Amanda Hodge, Page 1

Australia has been advised to sharpen border controls for travellers arriving from India's West Bengal, where an outbreak of the Nipah virus the world's deadliest infectious disease has already sparked action from regional neighbours. [...] The Australian Centre for Disease Control told The Australian in a statement that "Australia is free from Nipah virus" and "the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

has advised it is not considering any additional border measures in relation to the Nipah virus infections in India".

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

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Older Australians waiting 380 days for approved services as sorry state of aged care sector revealed

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/01/2026, Julie Cross

Older Australians in desperate need of care at home are having to wait up to 380 days for services after they've been approved for funding, Productivity Commission figures reveal. [...] A spokesperson from the Department of Health and Ageing said the Government's aged care ICT systems are operational and registered providers have three options to claim payments including through integrated business to government solutions, CSV file uploads and through the Aged Care Provider Portal.

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

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Woman slams 'inhumane' funding cut that leaves her in degrading conditions

Adelaide Now, Other, 29/01/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas

A grandmother with cerebral palsy has had her life drastically changed for the worse after her disability funding was slashed by \$100,000. States and territories have held an emergency meeting, demanding more healthcare funding from the federal government. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (The Department) said at the time it was "investigating the circumstances raised".

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

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New Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinic to open in Wagga Wagga

Narrandera Argus, General News, 29/01/2026, Page 7

A new Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinic will open in Wagga Wagga in early 2026, providing access to specialised care for endometriosis, pelvic pain, perimenopause and menopause for people across the Murrumbidgee region. The clinic, which will be delivered by Nova Health Co, is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing as part of its national expansion of Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinics.

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Kids drinking, vaping alarm

Naracoorte Community News, General News, 28/01/2026, Nasik Swami, Page 1

Alarming school data reveals some Naracoorte and Lucindale students are drinking and vaping before their teenage years are over. [...] SMLC works across the region's seven local government areas delivering alcohol and other drug health promotion, education, workforce training and advocacy, and is funded through grants from the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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PAS delivers actionable takeaways

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/01/2026, Natasha Egan

Dementia and the restorative care pathway, the value of allied health for independence and the new needs assessment tool are among the many topics Commonwealth Chief Allied Health Officer Anita Hobson-Powell discussed and answered questions on in this month's episode of the Road to Positive Ageing Summit 2026. Ms Hobson-Powell – an exercise physiologist and sports science leader who was appointed to the Department of Health and Aged Care role in mid-2024 – is returning to Positive Ageing Summit in 2026 to again deliver a national allied health update.

Also reported by: [Community Care Review \(Online\)](#).

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Abandon plan to transition CHSP to Support at Home, expert tells DoHDA

Health Services Daily, Other, 29/01/2026, Cate Swannell

It was a bad decision, and it's time to find another approach, says Professor Kathy Eagar.

[Read More](#)

Govt agencies lack transparency over automated decision making: report

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/01/2026, Caroline Egan

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC), the Federal Government's privacy and FOI regulator, says Government agencies are falling short disclosing their use of automated decision making (ADM) and should be more transparent with the public. [...] This month the OAIC has published a report based on a review conducted in October 2025 of 23 Government agencies authorised to use ADM, including the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA).

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One in 50 young Aussies carries a high-risk genetic variant

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/01/2026, Laura Andronicos

[...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing told The Medical Republic that the Government was aware of the DNA Screen pilot study and has received the proposal for further research. They did not comment on when a response to the funding request could be expected, and Health Minister Mark Butler had not responded to TMR 's request for comment at time of publication.

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GO! Wollongong, WIN News, 29/01/2026, Bruce Roberts

Shoalhaven residents say they have been left in the dark, unsure when their much-needed urgent care clinic will open. It was expected to welcome patients this month, but Gilmore MP Fiona Phillips could not say when the doors would be open. A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing says clinics must have the appropriate staffing and infrastructure in place before opening.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Elderly patients wait in hospital bed limbo

Courier Mail, General News, 30/01/2026, Ellen Ransley and Isabella Pesch, Page 6

State leaders will unanimously reject Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's health funding offer, as tensions are expected to boil over in national cabinet today. The meeting will be held against the backdrop of new data that shows elderly Australians spent a combined 442,000 days in hospital beds in a year waiting for an aged-care spot – an issue highlighted in the Courier-Mail's Sick of Waiting campaign.

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At-home care aid wait of shame

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/01/2026, Julie Cross, Page 9

Older Australians in desperate need of care at home are having to wait up to 380 days for services after being approved for funding, Productivity Commission figures reveal. Advocates fear the sorry state of aged care exposed by the data has only worsened since the new Aged Care Act came into effect on November 1.

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Aged care: Productivity Commission report reveals ballooning cost of

residential aged care

West Australian, Other, 29/01/2026

The cost of living in a residential aged care facility in WA has ballooned to more than \$119,000 a year, on average. Latest figures from the Productivity Commission have revealed the growing cost of caring for the elderly in aged care homes, with the average cost nationwide in 2024-25 slightly higher at nearly \$120,500.

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Call for new pricing model for community transport

Community Care Review, Other, 29/01/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Researchers from Adelaide University have published a report on delivering fairer and more sustainable funding for community transport, addressing long-standing issues with the current funding system delivered through the Commonwealth Home Support Program. Currently, CHSP relies on a flat per-trip subsidy irrespective of the distance, geography or the level of support required, explained Professor Akshay Vij, from Adelaide University's College of Business and Law.

[Read More](#)

Stakeholders back block-funding in CHSP move to SaH

Community Care Review, Other, 29/01/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Not-for-profit home care providers Silverchain and HammondCare are among the 20 organisations that have made submissions to the Transition of the Commonwealth Home Support Program to the Support at Home Program Senate Inquiry, set to report on 15 April 2026. Silverchain has called for careful attention to the transition timeline from CHSP to SaH.

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Average RAD rose higher than house prices: Mirus

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/01/2026, Caroline Egan

About 56% of aged care homes have Refundable Accommodation Deposits (RADs) above \$550,00, according to the latest data from aged care consultants Mirus. The former threshold that required Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) approval jumped from \$550,000 to \$750,000 on 1 January 2025 - a recommendation of the Aged Care Taskforce's Final Report and prior to the 2017 Tune Review.

[Read More](#)

Aged care room prices climb 12%, while care minutes ease in December

HelloCare, Other, 29/01/2026, Jakob Neeland

The latest data from Mirus Australia reveals a slight easing in delivered care minutes in December 2025, alongside a notable year-on-year rise in advertised room prices across the aged care sector. From November to December 2025, total care minutes per resident per day (PRPD) fell by 0.67 per cent, moving from 237.95 to 236.36.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Budget repair must start with reining in welfare

Australian Financial Review, Editorials, 30/01/2026, Page 26

Somewhere between unchecked middle-class welfare and unsustainable spending on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the government is losing its grip on the national credit card.

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

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Where the NDIS rorters hang out

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/01/2026, Julie Cross and Annabel Fleming, Page 16

The postcodes with the highest number of NDIS rogues and rorters can be revealed for the first time, with Sydney's southwest at the top of the bad bunch. In a special investigation, The Daily Telegraph plotted by postcode every action the NDIS watchdog has taken over the past seven years.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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The missing money and litigation overshadowing an NDIS network

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 29/01/2026, Carla Hildebrandt

A South African couple who left behind a collapsed real estate business after client trust money was allegedly moved into other accounts, are now operating a network of NDIS-approved companies and a charity in Australia. Two disability businesses linked to husbands Lenard Barend Swanepoel-Trollip, 44, and Christiaan Frederick Beyers Swanepoel-Trollip, 57, have since collapsed, allegedly owing staff, the tax office and creditors hundreds of thousands of dollars.

[Read More](#)

Jetstar twice violated own policy on fees for changing name of support worker for man with a disability

ABC Online, Other, 29/01/2026, Ashleigh Barraclough

Jetstar twice violated its own policy when it refused to provide a free name change on a ticket for the support worker of a man with disability. Rohan Eastley, who lives with cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, lives in northern Tasmania and regularly travels interstate.

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PRIMARY CARE

Urgent care clinic opens at Erina

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 29/01/2026, Page 27

The Erina Medicare Urgent Care Clinic has officially opened at Erina Fair. The new centre is open for extended hours, seven days a week, with no appointment needed and patients bulk billed.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Donor sperm shortage leading to soaring costs

Age, General News, 30/01/2026, Wendy Tuohy, Page 1

Australian women requiring donor sperm to conceive will need to compete for a "dramatically reduced" number of donors and pay huge price increases for sperm because of what experts say was a snap government decision. Fertility specialists say a new interpretation of NSW law means women will be forced to travel interstate to find donors, worsening a long-standing "sperm drought" in Victoria and causing distressing delays beyond the existing one to two years.

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

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Troy's final gift

Herald Sun, General News, 30/01/2026, Ashley Argoon and Emma Kirk, Page 1

AFL star Troy Selwood made a final wish to donate his brain to concussion research before he tragically took his own life. The selfless act by the former Lion, who suffered a series of nasty head

knocks during his 75-game AFL career, was made out in his will years before his 2025 death.

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

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Surge in young, fat and fatal

Herald Sun, General News, 30/01/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 13

A growing number of young Australians are dying from heart-related disease linked to obesity and unhealthy lifestyles, new research shows. A study led by Tim Adair, a demographer in the Nossal Institute for Global Health at the University of Melbourne, found these preventable deaths had increased 19 per cent in men and 13 per cent in women in less than a decade.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#)

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Channel 9, Nine News, 29/01/2026, Peter Overton

The Federal Government has invested \$40 million in the creation of the Neale Daniher National MND Clinical Network. More than 2,500 Australians are living with the condition. The initiative will focus on cause and cure, ensuring research is shared and clinical trials are expanded and more accessible.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Trauma to self-harm

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/01/2026, Page 11

Children who experience sustained trauma across their early lives are more likely to present with suicidal ideation or self-harm as teenagers, new research suggests. A UNSW Sydney study followed more than 73,000 NSW children from their prenatal period to adulthood to reveal how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) were linked to risks of teen self-harm or suicide.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#)

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Pharmacists show gender bias in suicide risk, study reveals

West Australian, General News, 30/01/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 11

Pharmacists are more likely to take men more seriously than woman when they are at risk of suicide, according to new WA research that exposes gender bias when it comes to health care. The study, led by the University of Western Australia, presented 291 Australian pharmacists with hypothetical scenarios involving male and female patients displaying suicidal tendencies then assessed their responses.

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

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Trans health group faces watchdog complaint over 'misleading' child hormone fundraiser

The Australian, Other, 29/01/2026, Rachel Baxendale

Professional bodies representing doctors and nurses have accused a trans advocacy group of misleading conduct in its campaign to raise money to enable children to access puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones via private providers, circumventing Queensland's public ban. The Australian

Medical Professionals Society and Nurses Professional Association of Australia, between them representing about 16,000 members, have complained to the ACCC regarding the Australian Professional Association for Trans Health's "Project 491" appeal.

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IMMUNISATION

Fears over vaccine rollout after collapse keeps state's storage facility shut

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 29/01/2026, Courtney Kruk

Structural damage to a vaccine storage facility used by Queensland Health could take months to be fixed, raising fear of stock shortages and delays to vaccination schedules. A large section of the loading bay floor and an adjoining retaining wall collapsed at Toll Group's healthcare distribution centre in Richlands, west of Brisbane, in late December, forcing the warehouse's closure over safety concerns.

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Alarm raised over vaccination rates in twin pregnancy

Canberra Times, Other, 29/01/2026, Maeve Bannister

Women pregnant with twins are being urged to take up vaccinations for whooping cough and influenza, with assurances they won't lead to higher risks of birth complications. Vaccinations during pregnancy can help protect babies once they are born and more susceptible to these illnesses.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#)

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Receivers to back La Spina's plan

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 30/01/2026, Michael Smith, Page 15

Healthscope's receivers will back chief executive Tino La Spina's plan to restructure the distressed company into a not-for-profit operator of more than 30 hospitals.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Ramping plan: a fix or a 'dangerous' workload shift?

Launceston Examiner, General News, 30/01/2026, Bailey Forbes, Page 7

The Greens have called for the state government to do more when it comes to hospital ramping and address the root cause of the problem. Greens Health spokesperson Cecily Rosol called on the state government to implement more recommendations from the parliamentary inquiry into ambulance ramping.

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SBS, World News Australia, 29/01/2026, Janice Petersen

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is hosting state and territory leaders in Sydney tonight in the hopes of thrashing out an urgent hospital funding deal over the next 24 hours. The future rollout of the jointly funded Thriving Kids program for children with autism is now part of negotiations. AMA president Dr Danielle McMullen says the Commonwealth should stick to the 45 per cent funding commitment.

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2GB, Drive, 29/01/2026, Clinton Maynard

Interview with AMA NSW president Dr Danielle McMullen. The National Cabinet will meet to determine the funding for the health system over the next five years. McMullen says there has been uncertainty regarding the healthcare system funding for the past couple of years. She believes the Federal Government should stick to its promise of paying 45 per cent of funding.

Interview continues on: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#).

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Unions call for Premier

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/01/2026, David Killick, Page 1

Public sector unions have called on Premier Jeremy Rockliff to become personally involved in enterprise bargaining talks or face the prospect of worsening statewide industrial action. The heads of three of the biggest unions representing state sector workers said the government was not taking negotiations seriously enough.

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PM welcomes CDU's first medicine cohort

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/01/2026, Fia Walsh, Page 6

The first cohort of Charles Darwin University medicine students are set to begin their studies, with a visit from the Prime Minister to mark the milestone for healthcare in the Territory. Forty-two students were selected from 1900 applicants for the inaugural intake, to begin their studies through the CDU Menzies Medical Program on February 9.

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Students get a taste of rural medicine in pilot program

Border Watch, General News, 30/01/2026, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 9

A new cohort of medical students have begun their journey in a pilot program throughout the Green Triangle region. A total of 14 Doctor of Medicine (MD) Rural Stream students have begun their third or clinical year in the region where they will learn and work in local clinics.

Health courses the most popular area of study for Australian university students in 2026, as IT enrolments fall

ABC Online, Other, 29/01/2026, Lottie Twyford

Data collated by the Australasian Conference of Tertiary Admissions Centres (ACTAC) shows health is the most popular area of study for new undergraduate university students, according to offers made so far this year. Engineering courses recorded the biggest jump when compared with last year, while Information Technology (IT) recorded the biggest decline.

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ANMF priorities 2026: Workforce reform

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 29/01/2026

Over recent years, nurses, midwives and care workers have helped drive significant reforms made to healthcare and the professions they work in. This has included advances in gender equity; industrial relations reforms including wage increases through the Aged Care Work Value Case, stronger delegate rights; and long-awaited improvements in aged care with 24/7 registered nurse coverage and mandated care minutes.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Bid for improved cross-border sharing of medical records

Canberra Times, General News, 30/01/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 5

A top doctor is calling for better cross-border health record sharing between NSW and the ACT to prevent mistakes and speed up patient care. Australian Medical Association's (AMA) vice president, Associate Professor Julian Rait, said Australia needed national legislation to make states and territories share patient records. [...] "We've had the Australian Digital Health Agency in place for a decade now, and we haven't really sort of progressed things on," Dr Rait said.

Similar coverage: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Millionaire Aussie surgeon learns fate after self-injection saga

NEWS.com.au, Other, 29/01/2026, Sarah Keoghan

Millionaire cosmetic surgeon and hotel mogul Jerry Schwartz has launched a scathing review at the medical regulators for "singling him out" after he was found guilty of professional misconduct. The rich lister, who is worth about \$600 million, has been fighting for the past five years to return to surgery after being formally suspended from practising medicine in 2021.

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Super-K flu bug bites hard

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/01/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 3

Flu season is now year-round, with the dangerous mutated Super-K strain wreaking havoc in January's heatwave. So far this year, more than 900 cases have been confirmed in South Australia – five times the number compared to this time just three years ago – as authorities issue a grim warning that the summer flu appears here to stay.

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

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Warning on fatal bat virus

Courier Mail, General News, 30/01/2026, Page 17

Queensland travellers are being urged to consult their doctors and avoid bats when heading overseas, as an international outbreak of one of the deadliest bat-borne viruses grows. Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus, meaning it spreads from animals, like fruit bats and pigs, to humans.

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Warning for Aussie travellers amid outbreak of deadly virus overseas: What you need to know

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/01/2026, Caitlin Powell and Zoe Hardy

Australian tourists have been warned to take precautions after two people tested positive for the potentially deadly Nipah virus in India. [...] The Nipah virus, which can cause severe illness and has a high fatality rate, has not been detected in Australia. However, the Australian Centre for Disease Control (ACDC) has issued advice for travellers heading to affected regions.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 29/01/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry

Airports in Asia are now screening passengers for the Nipah virus after the Indian Government confirmed two people have tested positive. No cases have been detected in Australia and authorities are on high alert. The Australian Centre for Disease Control advises the public to avoid close contact with anyone suspected of contracting Nipah and to follow good hygiene practises while in India.

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'Unexpected substances' found in Spilt Milk drugs as coroner praises trial

Ballarat Courier, Other, 29/01/2026, Michelle Smith

The results of drug testing at Ballarat's Spilt Milk music festival show more than 10 per cent of drugs contained an unexpected psychoactive substance. In 77 per cent of samples submitted at the December festival, the pill testing team detected only the drug that was expected.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Black market crackdown set to ramp up

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 30/01/2026, Joel Ehsman, Page 3

Legislation designed to shut down tobacconists selling black market cigarettes and vapes is having an impact, but still has a "long way to go" according to the NSW minister for health. [...] Mr Park said NSW Health was working with NSW Police, the Australian Border Force and the Therapeutic Goods Administration to combat the significant challenge and to "pull this back".

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SSSI for Presolol 200

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/01/2026, Kate Cowling

A manufacturing shortage has prompted a new Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI) for Presolol 200 (labetalol 200 mg), a month after the 100mg shortage of the hypertension medication resolved.

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Nasal spray option now available for treating anaphylaxis

Medical Forum, Other, 29/01/2026

Australians with severe allergies now have a needle-free alternative to the Epi-pen in an Australian first. The Therapeutic Goods Administration approved an adrenaline (epinephrine) nasal spray in December and the product, marketed as neffy, is expected to be available from February.

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 29/01/2026, Stacy Lee

Interview with pharmacist Shannon Hewitt about sunscreens failing SPF testing. Hewitt urges people to check the website of the TGA for information about sunscreen products. She says that if a product is part of a recall, people can get a refund.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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