



# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 11th February 2026

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that a new national database will see doctors' fees publicly revealed, enabling patients to compare out-of-pocket costs.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 3) reports that new Australian research has found genetics could be playing a key role in the development of endometrial cancer instead of the previously held belief that obesity was the major contributing factor.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 2) reports that the Queensland government is introducing new measures to strengthen gun laws, but will not include mandatory mental health checks recommended by the Wieambilla inquest. Under the reforms, health professionals will be mandated to disclose their concerns about people at risk of committing gun violence.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that a task force comprising the ACCC, NDIA and NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission has found Australians on the NDIS were at risk of exploitation by providers which breach consumer laws, with some providers falsely claiming taxpayers would fund overseas holidays.

## MINISTER BUTLER

## Doctors fees revealed as bulk billing spikes

The Australian, General News, 11/02/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Doctors' fees are set to be publicly revealed on a nationwide database to enable patients to compare out-of-pocket costs as the federal government announced a big spike in the number of consultations bulk-billed by GPs. [...] "We promised Australians more bulk billing and that is what we have delivered," federal Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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

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## Tragedy a collective failure

West Australian, General News, 11/02/2026, Jessica Page, Page 13

Heartbreak, turned to anger, turned to helpless despair at the thought of two innocent lives lost. [...] The ministers responsible, Mark Butler and Jenny McAllister, couldn't confirm reports that the Clunes were one of them.

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## Autism boost: 'First step'

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, St George Edition, 11/02/2026, Eva Kolimar, Page 12

The Autism Community Network (ACN) has welcomed an agreement between the Australian and state governments to fund additional disability supports outside of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), while warning that a "sense of fear" remains among families regarding the transition. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler stated that the program, rolling out from October 2026 with the goal of being full operational by 2028, would allow children to receive support, such as speech pathology, occupational therapy, and psychology, without the need for a lengthy formal diagnosis process.

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## Record pertussis cases stress need for action

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 10/02/2026, Page 1

With Australia experiencing its biggest rise in whooping cough cases in 35 years, alongside the lowest rates of childhood immunisation in a decade, doctors and public health experts are imploring the Australian community to get vaccinated.. [...] In a press conference alongside members of doctors peak bodies, Health Minister Mark Butler said that health ministers around the country are focused on the issue.

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

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## 'Pretty hard to give birth in clothes, mate': RDH aircon issues heats up in NT Parliament

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/02/2026, Lottie Hood

A comment made by the Deputy Chief Minister during a heated debate on the state of Royal Darwin Hospital's maternity ward aircon system was labelled shameful. [...] The Minister said he would discuss funding along with "many other issues" this week with Australian Minister for Health, Mark Butler.

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

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## Bulk-billing rates rebound on back of government's multi-billion-dollar policy

ABC Online, Other, 10/02/2026, Stephanie Dalzell

Bulk-billing rates have rebounded in the last quarter after flatlining for months, the first clear measure of the impact of the Albanese government's multi-billion-dollar signature policy. [...] "We promised Australians more bulk-billing and that is what we have delivered," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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## **From ear drops to painkillers — these drugs are not getting a \$25 script price**

ABC Online, Other, 10/02/2026, Alison Branley

Patients are being hit with excessive costs on a range of everyday prescription medicines because of flaws in the way Australia subsidises essential pharmaceuticals. [...] In a statement, Health Minister Mark Butler said they had added or changed 385 products to the PBS since 2022 including new contraceptive, menopause and endometriosis treatments.

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## **Elderly patients trapped in hospital beds with no aged care service space sparking call for federal government action**

7news.com.au, Other, 10/02/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

A national health emergency is unfolding as more than 3000 elderly patients remain trapped in public hospital beds across Australia, fit for discharge but with nowhere to go. [...] When pressed on the issue, Health Minister Mark Butler said: "We're continuing to work on our responsibilities in aged care and in primary care to relieve as much pressure from hospitals as we possibly can."

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## **The critical importance of COVID-19 vaccination in older Australians: an evidence-based perspective**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 10/02/2026

As we continue to navigate the evolving landscape of COVID-19, one reality remains clear: older adults face disproportionately higher risks from this disease. [...] As emphasised by Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler, "Regular vaccination helps reduce the risks of serious illness, hospitalisation or death from COVID-19."

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## **The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus key consultations and inquiries of note**

Croakey, Other, 10/02/2026, Melissa Sweet

[...] On 3 February, Health Minister Mark Butler released the report from the Thriving Kids Advisory Group setting out the model the initiative will follow.

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## **Exodus of UK doctors helping the Hunter amid GP shortage and bulk-bill push**

Newcastle Herald, Other, 10/02/2026, Damon Cronshaw

Five GPs have relocated from the UK to the Hunter New England and Central Coast health district under a federal program to attract more doctors from overseas. [...] He was working with federal Health Minister Mark Butler on "initiatives to ensure more accessible health care across the region".

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## **Whooping cough cases reach a 35-year high in Australia**

The Daily Aus, Other, 10/02/2026

Whooping cough cases are at a 35-year high, new data from the Federal Government's Productivity Commission shows. [...] While cases usually spike every six years, Health Minister Mark Butler said there's been a "very big bounce" with a "huge" number of recent cases.

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## **Are urgent care clinics doing what they were meant to do?**

The Medical Republic, Other, 10/02/2026, Holly Payne

Productivity Commission data puts GP-type emergency presentations at record lows. As health minister Mark Butler edges ever closer to opening his government's promised 137 urgent care clinics, one may be forgiven for questioning their worth.

## Painkillers and HRT therapies among drugs not being subsidised under PBS

Your Life Choices, Other, 10/02/2026

Patients are being hit with excessive costs on a range of everyday prescription medicines because of flaws in the way Australia subsidises essential pharmaceuticals. [...] In a statement, Health Minister Mark Butler said the government had added or changed 385 products to the PBS since 2022 including new contraceptive, menopause and endometriosis treatments.

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### ABC, ABC News, 10/02/2026, Tamara Wearne

Many common medicines do not qualify for the new \$25 maximum script price because they are not listed on the PBS. Drug makers say high costs and low commercial returns often stop them from applying for PBS subsidies, which leaves patients paying up to \$100 instead of discounted prices. Health Minister Mark Butler says the government is reviewing health technology processes and trialling faster approval pathways.

Also reported by: [ABC \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#).

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### Channel 7, Seven News, 10/02/2026, Peter Mitchell

Calls are growing to address a nationwide public hospital bed shortage, with many elderly patients remaining in wards after treatment because they lack aged care or home support options. Health Minister Mark Butler says the government is increasing aged care and primary care support and expanding home care packages as part of a \$25b hospital funding deal with the states.

Report continues on: [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#).

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### Channel 10, 10's Late News, 10/02/2026, Taylor Ryan

The federal government has released new data showing showing 96% of Australians now live within 20 minutes of a bulk billing practice. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says it's the result of an \$8.5 billion investment into the Medicare system, which includes increasing the incentives for GPs to bulk bill more patients. According to the data, in the last three months, the nation's bulk billing rate has increased to 81.4% across the country, the largest quarterly jump in 20 years outside of the COVID pandemic.

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### Channel 10, 10 News, 10/02/2026, Sandra Sully

Authorities seized almost 60,000 illegal vapes in a major Burwood sting and shut down more than five tobacco shops during a week of coordinated raids. Health Minister Mark Butler says officials will track down and target anyone who profits from selling illicit vapes to kids.

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### ABC Newcastle, 07:00 News, 10/02/2026

The peak body for Australia's pharmaceutical industry, Medicines Australia, has issued a pre-Budget warning that the nation is becoming a "second-tier market" for life-saving medicines due to systemic delays and outdated pricing models. Health Minister Mark Butler responded by confirming the government is prioritising a "generational reform" of the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) system.

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

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### Tragedy a collective failure

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## MINISTER RAE

### Leanne Kearins takes helm of advisory council

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 10/02/2026

Former Aged Care Quality and Safety Advisory Council chair Margot Richardson becomes interim deputy chair while Andrew Brown and Julie Dundon have been re-elected. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae congratulated Ms Kearins and said he looked forward to her leadership of the body.

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### Aged Care Minister responds to concerns over Integrated Assessment Tool algorithm

The Weekly Source, Other, 10/02/2026, Caroline Egan

Long-standing concerns from operators, peak bodies and the community about the quality of Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) decisions have reached the floor of Federal Parliament. Yesterday (Monday, 9 February), Independent MP Dr Monica Ryan asked the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae: "Minister, are these once-in-a-generation reforms just 'robo aged care'?"

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## DEPARTMENT

### Project pair aims to clear the air about smoking

Need to quit? [...] According to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, among First Nations people tobacco smoking is: the most preventable cause of ill health and early death responsible for about one in five deaths directly responsible for one-third of cancer and cardiovascular disease.

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## **Mental health funding allocation unclear**

Euroa Gazette, General News, 11/02/2026, Andy Wilson, Page 5

Local counsellors and psychologists have wasted no time providing mental health care for residents impacted by the Longwood bushfire, well before last week's announcement of a \$160million relief package was announced by both the federal and state governments. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing was contacted for details on the funding.

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## **What's really in a counterfeit pill? Simple guide to saving life from overdose**

Bega District News, Other, 09/02/2026, Jimmy Parker

What looks like a standard OxyContin tablet could be a "counterfeit" cocktail containing nitazenes that are up to 500 times more potent than heroin [...] According to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, three people die every day from opioid-related use, more than 110,000 Australians are currently struggling with opioid dependence, and 64 per cent of drug-induced deaths in 2018 involved opioids.

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## **The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus key consultations and inquiries of note**

Croakey, Other, 10/02/2026, Melissa Sweet

[...] On 3 February, Health Minister Mark Butler released the report from the Thriving Kids Advisory Group setting out the model the initiative will follow.

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## **Laying bare the lack of planning from Commonwealth Home Support to Support at Home – inspector-general of aged care, private sector, peak bodies speak at Senate hearing**

Hello Leaders Australia, Other, 10/02/2026, Amy Henderson

The transition from Commonwealth Home Support Program into Support at Home (SaH) has received its most decisive questioning yet. [...] Siegel-Brown shared on the record, that her Office has received no economic modeling from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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## **Policy vs Reality: A former aged care CEO confronts the system he served**

HelloCare, Other, 10/02/2026, Jakob Neeland

In a poignant turn of events, Gregory Reeve, a former chief executive officer in the aged care sector with more than 40 years' experience as a registered nurse, is now confronting the very system he once helped shape. [...] Department of Health and Aged Care reporting acknowledges that while CHSP plays an important role as an entry point to the system, its fragmented structure lacks the flexibility offered by Home Care Packages.

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## **Exodus of UK doctors helping the Hunter amid GP shortage and bulk-bill push**

Newcastle Herald, Other, 10/02/2026, Damon Cronshaw

Five GPs have relocated from the UK to the Hunter New England and Central Coast health district under a federal program to attract more doctors from overseas. [...] He was working with federal Health

Minister Mark Butler on "initiatives to ensure more accessible health care across the region".

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## **Support At Home Program Replaces Home Care Packages: What Australian Seniors Need To Know**

Onya Magazine, Other, 10/02/2026

A new aged care support system launched in November last year promises more flexibility and choice for older Australians receiving care in their homes. [...] Now several months into the rollout, the Department of Health and Aged Care has committed to ongoing monitoring and refinement of the Support at Home program.

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## **The Water Cooler: Comings and goings in the public sector**

PS News, Other, 10/02/2026, Andrew McLaughlin

A breakdown of the latest appointments and moves in the Australian Public Service, the wider public sector and across the public services of the states and territories. [...] Joanne Hutchinson had been appointed as Assistant Secretary in the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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

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Your Life Choices, Other, 10/02/2026

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## **2BS, Live and Local, 10/02/2026, Damian de Montemas**

Interview with Leeanne Wright, Service Manager of Blayney Meals on Wheels, about concerns over the federal plan to transition the Commonwealth Home Support Program into the Support at Home model. Wright warns that the change could drastically increase meal costs for clients, reduce access, and worsen health outcomes, including premature entry into residential aged care. She says the Department of Health had little to no response to questions so far, and a summary of the first inquiry into CHSP is expected by 15 April.

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## **AGEING AND AGED CARE**

### **CALD seniors at risk in CHSP move to Support at Home**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 10/02/2026, Bianca Brijnath

The transition will fail without an equity plan for culturally and linguistically diverse communities, says

Professor Bianca Brijnath, who shares five actions to a an equitable and sustainable outcome. Australia's in-home aged care reforms are moving into a delicate phase: preparing for the transition of the Commonwealth Home Support Program – CHSP – into the Support at Home program, no earlier than 1 July 2027.

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## **Funding for 'bed-block' left out of National Health Reform Agreement**

Nursing Review, Other, 10/02/2026, Stefanie Schultz

A new five-year \$219.6 billion commitment to state and territory health systems by the Commonwealth government has been labelled a "golden opportunity missed" for older Australians by a peak body. The National Health Reform Agreement includes an additional \$25 billion in Commonwealth funding for public hospitals.

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## **"I feel so bad": the moment that broke this aussie star's heart**

The Senior, Other, 10/02/2026, Lisa Edser

Three Australian celebrities are highlighting the "heartbreaking" reality that so many millions of Australians also face - having a parent with Alzheimer's Disease. Alzheimer's Disease accounts for 70 per cent of all dementia cases, with its impact being felt by millions of Australian families and friends, including media personalities Bianca Dye, Melissa Hoyer and Chris Hemsworth.

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## **Shocking surge in specialist gap fees hits older Australians**

The Senior, Other, 10/02/2026, Lisa Edser

Increasing specialist medical gap fees have affected many Australians, but there is a concern that the over-60s could be the hardest hit. Patients and experts are calling for the federal government to intervene to help subsidise or keep costs down after it was discovered almost a third of Australians have delayed or cancelled specialist care in the past year because of price, according to Private Healthcare Australia data.

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## **Aged care gridlock: Community Home Australia moves stranded patients out of hospital**

The Weekly Source, Other, 10/02/2026, Caroline Egan

At the beginning of February, Community Home Australia (CHA) signed a two-year Heads of Agreement with the Blue Mountains-Nepean Local Health District (BMNLHD) to deliver the Transitional Aged Care Program (TACP). Under the TACP, CHA will deliver up to 12 weeks of multidisciplinary medical, nursing and allied health care at Kora House in Westmead, across the road from Westmead Hospital, 26km west of the Sydney CBD.

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## **ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 10/02/2026, Steve Austin**

Interview with Evan Hill, Chief Executive of Meals on Wheels. [...] "The majority of Meals on Wheels are funded by CHSP and they have largely sat outside of the Aged Care Act in the past. So we've come into that from the 1st of November. So we're more than happy to continue to provide services under supported homes."

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## **DISABILITY AND CARERS**

### **NDIS providers offer flights, cruises: ACCC**

Australian Financial Review, General News, 11/02/2026, Michael Smith, Page 7

A scathing report into the \$50 billion taxpayer-funded National Disability Insurance Scheme has found providers are falsely advertising products including cruises and flights, breaching contracts and charging for services they never provide.

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

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## Ripping off vulnerable

West Australian, General News, 11/02/2026, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 3

A damning report on the \$50 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme has sounded the alarm on dodgy tactics by providers, including bogus claims that taxpayers would fund overseas holidays. A task force comprising the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the two main regulators overseeing the scheme the National Disability Insurance Agency and NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission found the 751,000 Australians on the NDIS were at risk of exploitation by providers which breach consumer laws.

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

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## Bundaberg revealed as national hotspot for NDIS providers subject to banning orders

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/02/2026, Tiffany Torrie

Bundaberg has earned a podium spot on a list no city wants to lead, with data revealing the nation's NDIS "hotspots", including the 4670 postcode which has the third-highest number of NDIS rogues in Australia in the past seven years. The National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguards Commission issued five banning orders in Bundaberg between 2022 and 2026, alongside compliance notices, revocation of registration, and suspensions of registration.

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

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## Director of unregistered NDIS provider is accused of pouring \$850,000 of his company's money into gambling sites

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 10/02/2026, Ashley Nickel

The director of a disability support services company has been charged by the corporate watchdog for allegedly siphoning off more than \$800,000 for personal use. Byson James Kete Turner, from Western Australia, served as the director of Links Support and Consulting Services Pty Ltd, an unregistered NDIS services provider.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### 'Unfair competition'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 11/02/2026, Sean Ford, Page 1

Pharmacies and GP clinics say a new health hub being developed in a NorthWest city is likely to "cannibalise" their staff and lead to unfair competition. The Burnie-area businesses say they have significant concerns about a "lack of transparency and consultation" about development of the federally backed hub at the former UTAS campus in Mooreville Road.

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### Petition warns against autonomous pharmacist prescribing

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 10/02/2026, John Smith

GP-led petition calls on the House of Representatives to urge the government and the Pharmacy Board of Australia to reconsider its consultation process on pharmacist prescribing...

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### High price of a winning ticket in nature's lottery

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/02/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 14

As companies in the US launch bold campaigns to convince people to choose their unborn baby's sex and now, even attributes like height, hair colour and intelligence there's a key piece of research missing. And it's got everything to do with you.

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### Young turn crisis into opportunity

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/02/2026, Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Page 20

We all know there's a housing crisis and home ownership is slipping out of the reach of young Australians, right? But what if I told you while younger generations were delaying buying their first home, they were rapidly catching up to those older than them? That is what the home ownership figures published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare suggest.

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

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### Illegal tobacco use billowed 150 per cent

Courier Mail, General News, 11/02/2026, Brendan O'Malley, Page 7

Illicit tobacco use has skyrocketed 150 per cent in six years and now makes up one-third of all the tobacco smoked in Australia, groundbreaking University of Queensland research shows. UQ researchers delved into the wastewater at 55 sewage plants to provide a snapshot of the nation's smoking habits.

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### Sleep on rise, but quality declines

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/02/2026, Holly Byrnes, Page 11

You want the good news on sleep, Australia? We are spending a little longer in bed each year.

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### NT Child Deaths Review Committee disbanded by government, with concerns it will result in 'serious gaps'

ABC Online, Other, 10/02/2026, Lara Stimpson

The Northern Territory government's decision to disband a committee tasked with investigating all child deaths in the territory will leave "serious gaps in child death prevention policy", warns the NT's children's commissioner. The Child Deaths Review and Prevention Committee maintained an NT child deaths register, conducted research and developed policy around child death prevention.

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### The everyday act that could reduce your risk of dementia, according to Harvard study

9News, Other, 10/02/2026, Maddison Leach

Dementia now leading cause of death Reducing your risk of dementia, which is the leading cause of death for Australians, could be as simple as drinking a few cups of tea or coffee every day. [...] New research could help dementia treatment The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimated there were 425,000 Australians living with dementia in 2024.

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### GP access barrier to men's health

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 10/02/2026

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is urging men to "think pharmacy first" when it comes to health, as new research highlights growing frustration with GP wait times and strong support for extended pharmacy hours. The Guild said Australian men are facing barriers to GP-centred healthcare, with research showing that 16% of people wait more than three weeks for a GP appointment, and increasingly look to community pharmacies.

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## **Maud's son was bedridden for a decade. Helping him led to a 'game-changing' discovery**

SBS, Other, 10/02/2026, Cameron Carr

Australian research could be key to combating the rising threat of antibiotic resistance and saving millions of lives. The rise of antibiotic resistance is threatening millions of lives worldwide, but "unconventional" Australian research could make obsolete medications effective again.

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## **Would you choose a roof over your head if it meant leaving your dog behind?**

The Senior, Other, 10/02/2026, Phoebe Loomes

More people than ever are resorting to sleeping in their cars and public parks as new data finds the ongoing housing crisis is pushing front-line workers, and a growing number of older Australians, to breaking point. [...] Older people are among the fastest growing groups of people receiving homelessness support from 2019-2020 to 2024-2025, along with First Nations individuals, data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows.

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## **ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 10/02/2026, Hamish Macdonald**

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park, about adding additional tobacco inspectors to crack down on illegal tobacco. Park points out that they have added 30 additional tobacco investigators and all of them are totalling now to 78. He adds that the investigators have initiated 191 inspections.

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## **FIVEAA, Mornings, 10/02/2026, Graeme Goodings**

Interview with Christine Morris, Manager Prevention and Advocacy at Cancer Council SA, about promoting healthy lunchboxes for National Lunchbox Week. Morris emphasises that kids consume about a third of their daily food at school and warns that nearly 80% of pre-packaged snacks fail healthy eating criteria. She highlights new easy-to-make recipes that reduce packaging, lower sugar, salt, and fat, and help parents create tasty, nutritious meals with minimal stress.

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## **CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING**

### **Gene link to cancer**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/02/2026, Page 3

Genetics could be playing a key role in the development of a common gynaecological cancer, Aussie researchers have found. Obesity was previously believed to be major contributing factor to the development of endometrial cancer, which leads to almost 2000 Australians diagnosed each year.

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

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

### **Cancer patients reveal care gap**

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 11/02/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 17

When Jean Liddle died of blood cancer, her daughter, Dr Lynette Liddle, was unable to attend her funeral. Over 1000km away from her home town of Alice Springs, Dr Liddle was in Adelaide receiving treatment for the same cancer non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

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## Mums' heart risk needs rethink

West Australian, General News, 11/02/2026, Page 3

Lifestyle programs alone are not enough to protect women's heart health after high blood pressure in pregnancy. George Institute for Global Health research found that while lifestyle programs offered modest health benefits, they did not significantly improve blood pressure within a year after birth, leaving women at continued risk of heart disease.

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

## Turbocharged T cells offer promise in the fight against cancer

West Australian, General News, 11/02/2026, Hannah Cross, Page 14

West Australian and Victorian cancer researchers have found a way to turbocharge cancerfighting cells to further improve a life-saving immunotherapy. Immune checkpoint blockade is a type of cancer immunotherapy that works by blocking the process that sends an "off" signal to the body's T cells, a type of white blood cell crucial to the body's immune response.

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

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## Skin cancer blind spot

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 11/02/2026, Page 11

A comprehensive new report on workplace skin cancer screening in Australia and New Zealand has exposed a significant governance blind spot. While 84 per cent of organisations believe skin checks should be part of their duty of care, 40 per cent have never assessed their workforce's skin cancer risk, and 23 per cent of boards don't understand UV exposure as a workplace health and safety concern.

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## Daughter reveals she fell pregnant while being abused by her paedo father - as she blasts law that allowed him to end his life humanely in jail

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 10/02/2026, Matt Jones

A sexual assault survivor has revealed she fell pregnant while being abused by her paedophile father, as she blasts laws that allowed him to end his life humanely. Nevaeh Jett said she is 'pissed' Daniel Hume, 55, was allowed to choose Voluntary Assisted Dying after he was diagnosed with terminal throat cancer while in prison.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 10/02/2026, Brett Mcleod

A Harvard study finds that drinking two to three cups of coffee or one to two cups of tea daily may lower dementia risk. Researchers tracked over 130,000 US health workers for up to 43 years, noting lower dementia diagnoses among regular coffee and tea drinkers.

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# MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

## 'Gun law reforms weakest in nation'

Courier Mail, General News, 11/02/2026, Mikaela Mulveney and Thomas Chamberlin, Page 2

Health professionals must tell Queensland police if a patient is at high risk of committing gun violence, in a strengthening of red flag reporting made by the state in a response to the Wieambilla shootings.

But the move stops short of subjecting anyone looking to own a gun to mandatory mental health checks.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), Similar Stories: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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## Channel 10, 10 News, 10/02/2026, Sharyn Ghidella

Qld defends excluding mandatory mental health checks for all gun owners from new legislation, despite recommendations from the Wieambilla shootings coronial inquest. The WA RAGCP warns that GPs may lack the necessary skills to carry out such risk assessments.

Report continues on: [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#).

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## IMMUNISATION

### 'A necessary step'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 10/02/2026

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has recommended that the Covid-19 vaccine, Comirnaty, be listed on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) in its December meeting.

[Read More](#)

## 2GB, Afternoons, 10/02/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with Dr Danielle McMullen, President of the AMA, about Australia's surge in whooping cough cases. McMullen highlights that low vaccination rates, misinformation, and competing life pressures are concerning factors contributing to the outbreak. She stresses the importance of boosters for adults, vaccination for pregnant women and children, and early treatment to protect the most vulnerable.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Maud's son was bedridden for a decade. Helping him led to a 'game-changing' discovery

SBS, Other, 10/02/2026, Cameron Carr

Australian research could be key to combating the rising threat of antibiotic resistance and saving millions of lives. The rise of antibiotic resistance is threatening millions of lives worldwide, but "unconventional" Australian research could make obsolete medications effective again.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

## Plans for Indigenous Community-led Governance Council to tackle kidney disease

National Indigenous Times, Other, 10/02/2026, Giovanni Torre

The National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce is inviting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with lived experience of kidney disease and transplantation to help shape a proposed Community-led Governance Council. The National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce (NIKTT) was established to improve access to kidney transplants for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, through advocacy and collaborative action.

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Easing the burden

Ballarat Courier, General News, 11/02/2026, Michelle Smith, Page 1

Finding or funding accommodation while loved ones are patients at Ballarat Base Hospital is an added burden for many families already struggling with sudden injury or illness. A funding boost from the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal will help provide up to 20 extra beds to help reduce that stress.

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### Questionable priorities

Border Mail, General News, 11/02/2026, Chelsea Wilson, Page 1

The writing is literally on the wall for Albury Wodonga Health after it was reported to the state's peak anti-corruption body. Albury Wodonga Health used \$200,000 raised in its opportunity shops to buy artworks, a whistleblower has told Victoria's Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC), The Age reported.

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### Denied

Newcastle Herald, General News, 11/02/2026, Page 1

The state government is refusing to reveal what the NSW Health Minister knew about the toxic mould that closed multiple hospital wards, due to "commercial negotiations" with the hospital's private operator. Advocates of the Calvary Mater Hospital have accused the NSW government of acting in bad faith by blocking the release of three key ministerial briefings detailing the mould crisis.

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### Qld health minister orders review into troubled maternity unit

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 10/02/2026, Courtney Kruk

An independent review into services at the Toowoomba Hospital's beleaguered maternity unit has been ordered by the state health minister following claims by mothers and families of obstetric violence and coercion. Health Minister Tim Nicholls said the review, commissioned by the state's director-general and conducted by an expert panel, would investigate issues at the Toowoomba Hospital's maternity unit as far back as 2018.

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### Only two-thirds of patients treated on time in Australian EDs

Nursing Review, Other, 10/02/2026, Anam Bilgrami

A decade ago, it was three quarters of patients that were seen within the correct timeframe based on their triage category. If you arrive at an emergency department (ED) today, you'll be triaged.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Former nurse banned for four years

Canberra Times, General News, 11/02/2026, Hannah Neale, Page 7

A former nurse has been banned from practising for four years after handing thousands of child abuse material files to police. The Nursing and midwifery Board of Australia took Chelsea Amalia Crivici to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal seeking disciplinary action.

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

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### 'Better late than never'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 11/02/2026, Jacob Bevis, Page 1

While Hannah Storen's heart was always set on nursing, her path to the profession began with a moment of uncertainty, until illness struck close to home. The 26-year-old from Burnie was part of a new intake of nursing graduates who were welcomed to the health system by Health Minister Bridget Archer at the Mersey Community Hospital on Monday, February 9.

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### Healthscope saved by NFP plan

Nursing Review, Other, 10/02/2026, Stefanie Schultz

A comprehensive plan has been announced to secure the future of Healthscope hospitals across Australia, averting widespread closures and safeguarding over 18,000 jobs. The resolution, spearheaded by receivers McGrathNicol Restructuring, will see 31 hospitals transition into a new not-for-profit (NFP) organisation, while five others will be sold to established operators, with Northern Beaches Hospital returning to NSW government ownership.

[Read More](#)

### FIVEAA, Mornings, 10/02/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Matthew Gillespie, SA Branch President of the Pharmacy Guild, about the state government's \$1m pledge to expand pharmacist training. Gillespie says the initiative will double the number of pharmacists trained to treat acute conditions through postgraduate courses, taking 9–12 months. He notes that a public register will list qualified pharmacists, ensuring patients can access timely care from trusted community pharmacy professionals.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

**Seven Townsville, Seven Local News, 10/02/2026, Joanne Desmond and Nathan Spurling**

Queensland Health is investigating a serious privacy breach at Townsville University Hospital after someone leaked confidential patient information. Chief executive Kieran Keyes says investigators are working to identify who released the material, while Health Minister Tim Nicholls calls the social media posts a serious breach of patient and staff privacy.

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## 2CC, Breakfast, 10/02/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

[...] New analysis shows that we are paying more here in the ACT than anywhere else in Australia, and it's leading many of us to skip vital medical care and medications. Now, the national trend has shown a slight recovery in affordability, but the ACT is bucking that trend, they say, with rising fees and a persistent shortage of bulk billing doctors.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Former nurse banned for four years

Canberra Times, General News, 11/02/2026, Hannah Neale, Page 7

A former nurse has been banned from practising for four years after handing thousands of child abuse material files to police. The Nursing and midwifery Board of Australia took Chelsea Amalia Crivici to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal seeking disciplinary action.

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

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Obesity poses infection risk

West Australian, General News, 11/02/2026, Page 11

People with obesity are more likely to be admitted to hospital or die from infectious diseases. University of Helsinki researchers in Finland said this was consistent for most of the 925 diseases they looked at in the study of more than 540,000 British and Finnish people.

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### Travel warning for popular tourist destination

NEWS.com.au, Other, 10/02/2026, Shireen Khalil

A travel warning has been issued for a popular tourist destination following an outbreak of a mosquito virus. Anyone travelling to Seychelles, the smallest country in East Africa that is an archipelago in the Indian Ocean known for its pristine beaches, has been advised to "practice advanced precautions".

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### Maud's son was bedridden for a decade. Helping him led to a 'game-changing' discovery

SBS, Other, 10/02/2026, Cameron Carr

Australian research could be key to combating the rising threat of antibiotic resistance and saving millions of lives. The rise of antibiotic resistance is threatening millions of lives worldwide, but "unconventional" Australian research could make obsolete medications effective again.

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## **The US's most viral LED face mask is finally coming to Australia and beauty fans are already lining up to join the waitlist**

7news.com.au, Other, 10/02/2026

From celebrity fans to under-eye cooling tech, this is the ultimate glow-up device. [...] The device is included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG), indicating it has been assessed for safety and compliance with Australian regulatory requirements.

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## **More people say they'll vote One Nation. What are they voting for?**

ABC Online, Other, 10/02/2026, Holly Tregenza

Once dismissed as fringe, One Nation is now polling far above the Liberals. [...] But the minor party also plans to dismantle the government response to climate change, which it does not believe is man-made, wind back access to abortion care, and abolish the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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## **PharmaCare upgrades ANZ distribution network with Manhattan SCALE**

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 10/02/2026

PharmaCare has overhauled its Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) distribution operations, reporting significant gains in efficiency and compliance following the implementation of Manhattan Associates' SCALE warehouse management system. The implementation has reportedly streamlined receiving workflows by 25%, delivering a 20% increase in daily pick rates and automating key TGA-licensed compliance processes.

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## **Teen killer claims popular acne drug drove him to murder**

The New Daily, Other, 10/02/2026, Claudia Vrdoljak

Did a popular acne treatment drive a teenager to murder? [...] Last April the Therapeutic Goods Administration strengthened its safety warning, advising all patients undergo a mental health assessment before starting the medication.

[Read More](#)

## **Supporting dementia caregivers could save Australia billions while transforming lives**

Your Life Choices, Other, 10/02/2026, Don Turrobia

This is not a cure, and it is not a promise. [...] In May 2025, the Therapeutic Goods Association (TGA) approved the use of donanemab for Australians with mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease, or early symptomatic Alzheimer's disease. While promising, these medications come with substantial costs and limited eligibility.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### **'Pick between driving or treating yourself': Calls for change to zero-tolerance laws**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 10/02/2026, Courtney Kruk

Medicinal cannabis users would not automatically lose their driver's licence for returning a positive roadside drug test if a proposal before Queensland parliament is successful. Critics of current drug driving laws say they unfairly penalise users, many suffering chronic health conditions, and are calling for legislation that allows patients who are not driving impaired to provide a medical defence.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### **Huon Aquaculture confirms antibiotic use in salmon hatchery on River Derwent**

ABC Online, Other, 10/02/2026, Adam Holmes and Jano Gibson

There are calls for the public to be made aware of antibiotic use in Tasmania's freshwater hatcheries after Huon Aquaculture recently used oxytetracycline to treat diseased salmon. There are no disclosure requirements regarding the use of antibiotics in freshwater facilities, despite more stringent rules applying to the antibiotic florfenicol in coastal marine fish farms.

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## AICIS

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