



# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 4th February 2026

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 8) reports that Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler announced on Tuesday that states and territories will deliver the new Thriving Kids program, aimed to support children with autism or developmental delays outside the NDIS. Mr Butler said the Federal Government will fund the scheme through the state governments, and it won't be a "traditional Medicare-funded allied health professional visit, that might be bulk billed".
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 3) reports that the Burnet Institute's annual survey of about sexual health, drug use, mental health and wellbeing among people aged between 15-29 found that while rates of drinking were down, hard drug consumption and addictive behaviours like vaping had increased, and respondents also reported lacking basic, practical sexual health education.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that the cost of IVF treatment in Victoria is rising steeply, with an analysis of the prices charged at over 100 clinics revealing that some clinics have increased fees by as much as \$900.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 10) reports that industry experts welcomed the announcement of allowing trained GPs to diagnose and prescribe treatment for ADHD to reduce wait times and cost of specialist care, however they said it is not a quick fix for all the gaps and the opposition criticised its delay. Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas said SafeScripts will monitor the prescribing of high-risk stimulant medications.

- [The Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 9) reports that the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine has said that South Australians are waiting too long for hospital treatment, making an election wishlist that includes the suggestion that treated patients be moved to corridors to free up ED space.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### 'Get back to where it once belonged'

The Australian, General News, 04/02/2026, Sarah Ison and Elizabeth Pike, Page 2

Labor is seeking to return the care of autistic children to "the everyday settings" of a child's school, local health practice and home as part of an effort to wind back the decade-long reliance on the \$50bn-a-year NDIS for those with developmental delays. In the first step of a two-year plan that ends in changing NDIS eligibility and preventing mild to moderately autistic children from accessing the scheme, Health Minister Mark Butler on Tuesday released the Thriving Kids Advisory Group Report and its recommendations on how to achieve the reform.

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

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### Parents, schools to take on autism care under NDIS alternative plan

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/02/2026, Michael Smith, Page 9

Children with mild autism will not need a medical diagnosis to access services under the federal government's Thriving Kids program, but there will be more emphasis on parents and teachers providing care at home and in schools as Labor's alternative to...

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

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### Autism proof not needed to sign up for Thriving Kids

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/02/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 8

Parents will no longer have to spend thousands of dollars and dozens of hours chasing autism diagnoses for their children to qualify for government disability support under the new Thriving Kids program, which will help children with lower support needs outside the NDIS. After federal and state governments last week signed a health and disability funding deal, Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler yesterday unveiled the model for Thriving Kids and revealed it would mainly be run through states and territories.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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### Urgent deadline for NDIS children

Courier Mail, General News, 04/02/2026, Nathan Schmidt, Page 2

The Albanese government has passed an important "milestone" in its bid to get children with mild autism or developmental needs off the NDIS, but a key deadline still looms. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said all states and territories had since signed an agreement on foundational supports on Monday, including schedules for the Thriving Kids program.

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

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### Virus has authorities on alert

North West Telegraph, General News, 04/02/2026, Max Corstorphan, Page 6

An active outbreak of the Nipah virus has health authorities on high alert all around the world. [...]

Health Minister Mark Butler on Friday confirmed the Government was monitoring the situation "very, very closely".

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## Nurse services secured

SE Voice, General News, 03/02/2026, Page 5

Mount Gambier has secured a new option for free primary health care, with a new nurse practitioner recently commencing in the regional city as part of the Federal Government's Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Pilot program. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler said the Federal Government was working hard to strengthen Medicare so that every Australia "can get the high quality, timely health care they need - and deserve".

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## 'Unspeakable tragedy': Disability minister faces questions over Mosman Park murder-suicide

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 03/02/2026, Hamish Hastie

Federal Disability Minister Mark Butler has described the suspected double murder-suicide that rocked the western Perth suburb of Mosman Park on Friday as an "unspeakable tragedy", but declined to comment on the level of National Disability Insurance Scheme support the family was receiving. The bodies of Jarrod Clune, 50, Maiwenna Goasdoue, 49, and their sons Leon, 16, and Otis, 14, were found at the Mott Close property on Friday morning.

Also reported by: [The Age \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#).

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## Thriving Kids aims to 'mainstream' disability support

Perth Now, Other, 03/02/2026

Families, schools and early learning providers will bear greater responsibility for caring for children with developmental delays and mild autism in a major shake-up of Australia's disability support system. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the program would allow children to get support without having to spend years chasing a formal diagnosis.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Call for calm as police probe suspected murder-suicide

Perth Now, Other, 03/02/2026, Aaron Bunch

People are being urged not to speculate on a suspected double murder-suicide of a family with high-needs children while police investigate the deaths. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler declined to comment on family's NDIS support .

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Health Minister Mark Butler has released new plan for Labor's 'Thriving Kids' initiative

West Australian, Other, 03/02/2026, Caitlyn Rintoul

Health Minister Mark Butler has released the plan for Labor's "Thriving Kids" initiative — a proposed alternative to the NDIS for children with mild to moderate developmental delays or autism. The program was announced by the Labor frontbencher as a solution to the ballooning NDIS during a National Press Club address on August 20, which had surprised some states and industry professionals.

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## Mark Butler says suspected double murder-suicide in Mosman Park 'an unspeakable tragedy'

West Australian, Other, 03/02/2026, Caitlyn Rintoul

Australia's Minister for Disability Mark Butler has labelled the suspected double murder-suicide in the Perth suburb of Mosman Park as "an unspeakable tragedy". Brothers Otis, 14, and Leon, 16—who lived with disabilities—and their parents Jarrod Clune, 50, and Maiwenna Goasdoue, 49, were found dead at their home on Friday morning.

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## **Commissioner slams attempts to use complex needs as 'justification' for Mosman Park murder-suicides**

ABC Online, Other, 03/02/2026, Rhiannon Shine and Isabel Moussalli

Australia's disability discrimination commissioner has condemned "dangerous narratives" surrounding the deaths of teenage brothers Leon and Otis Clune, who were killed in a suspected double murder-suicide in Perth last week. [...] Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Federal Disability Minister Mark Butler said the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) was cooperating with police.

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## **Model revealed for Thriving Kids, the NDIS alternative for some children with developmental delay or autism**

ABC Online, Other, 03/02/2026, Nas Campanella

After months of uncertainty and speculation, the federal government has revealed how its National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) alternative for some children under eight will work. NDIS Minister Mark Butler released the model for Thriving Kids today, marking another step towards a generational reset for the way disability support is accessed and received in Australia.

[Read More](#)

## **WA Premier Roger Cook calls for calm as police probe suspected murder-suicide in Mosman Park**

7news.com.au, Other, 03/02/2026, Aaron Bunch

People are being urged not to speculate on a suspected double murder-suicide of a family with high-needs children while police investigate the deaths. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler declined to comment on the family's NDIS support.

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## **The Zap: health and aged care news, plus key consultations and inquiries now open**

Croakey, Other, 03/02/2026, Melissa Sweet

he Prime Minister's effusive statement, 'Record funding for public hospitals and disability reform', leaves many questions unanswered, reports this week's edition of The Zap, which also brings questions about the Government's plans for a National Medicines Record, as well as congratulations for many people contributing across the health and aged care sectors. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told the ABC the Government was monitoring the situation closely, but had not yet made any changes to the protocols for sick people arriving in Australia.

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## **Moment NDIS Minister Mark Butler is unable to answer one of the biggest questions facing Australia despite eight months in the job**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/02/2026, Nicholas Comino

The Albanese government is unable to confirm the true cost of its overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, as the program swallows an ever-greater share of the federal budget. [...] Yet appearing before reporters on Tuesday to release a long-delayed advisory group report into the new program, NDIS Minister Mark Butler was unable to say how much money the government expects to save from his planned reforms.

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## **Government invests in fight against MND**

Freedom2Live, Other, 03/02/2026

The Federal government has announced it will fund the creation of the Neale Daniher National MND Clinical Network. [...] We want to accelerate the development and delivery of effective treatments – and ultimately a cure – for MND," said Minister for Disability and the NDIS, Mark Butler.

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## Time to swallow your pride, minister

HelloCare, Other, 03/02/2026, Jakob Neeland

Is this thing even on? What is it going to take to get Mark Butler, Sam Rae and the federal government to acknowledge the badly designed elephant in the aged care room?

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## Most insured Australians favour changes to private hospital funding

Insurance Business Australia, Other, 03/02/2026, Roxanne Libatique

A new consumer survey has entered the debate over how Australia funds private hospital care, as insurers warn that the federal government's proposed activity-based funding (ABF) model could affect participation, pricing, and product design across the private health sector. [...] Separately, Health Minister Mark Butler has asked major funds to resubmit premium applications ahead of the April 1 rate round, with analysts expecting average increases above 4%.

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## Nipah Virus, Explained: How Worried Should Aussies Really Be?

Pedestrian TV, Other, 03/02/2026, Simran Pasricha

You've probably seen "deadly Nipah virus" splashed across headlines, usually next to a photo of someone in a hazmat suit. [...] In Australia, Health Minister Mark Butler has tried to acknowledge the seriousness of the virus without fuelling panic.

[Read More](#)

## Health Minister Mark Butler unable to comment on care provided to family killed in suspected murder-suicide

Sky News Australia, Other, 03/02/2026, Clareese Packer

Questions over whether care services failed a family killed in a suspected murder-suicide have gone unanswered. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has declined to comment on the nature of care given to a family killed in a suspected-murder suicide amid allegations the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) had "failed" them.

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

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## Outbreak of Nipah virus detected in India - what to know

The Daily Aus, Other, 03/02/2026

Two people in India have been confirmed to be infected with the Nipah virus, a rare disease that can cause fatal brain inflammation. [...] Australia Health Minister Mark Butler told the Today Show on Friday the Government is monitoring the outbreak "very closely," while also noting that Nipah is a "very rare virus".

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## Thriving Kids access won't need formal diagnosis, report promises

The Medical Republic, Other, 03/02/2026, Caitlin Wright

The long-awaited Advisory Group report on Thriving Kids has been released, with a focus on getting kids access to support as soon as possible rather than waiting for a diagnosis. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler said this morning: "The thing people have complained most about the operation of the NDIS for this cohort is the time it takes to get a diagnosis, the need for a formal diagnosis, which can take years to access and cost thousands of dollars before parents are given any support for their children.

## **'Tragedy': Question minister can't answer**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 03/02/2026

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has declined to comment on the nature of care given to a family killed in a suspected-murder suicide amid allegations the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) had "failed" them. Maiwenna Goasdowe, 49, Jarrod Clune, 50, and their two teenage sons Leon, 16, and Otis, 14, were all found dead along with three pets at their Mosman Park home in Perth on January 30.

[Read More](#)

## **ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 03/02/2026, Patricia Karvelas**

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing, about the rollout of the Thriving Kids program for children under eight. Butler says the program has a skilled workforce ready to provide targeted support and reflects a nationally consistent model of care with early identification, parenting support, and good information for families. He explains the model leverages state-run systems to deliver services, building on structures that existed before the NDIS while maintaining national consistency.

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

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## **ABC News, Mornings, 03/02/2026, Gemma Veness**

Press Conference with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler outlines that the Thriving Kids program targets children with developmental delays or autism who have low to moderate support needs, aiming to provide early identification, parental guidance, skill-building, and access to allied health professionals.

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## **Channel 10, 10 News, 03/02/2026, Natalie Forrest**

Health Minister Mark Butler calls the Mosman Park murder-suicide that killed two autistic brothers and their parents an absolute tragedy and declines to detail what NDIS support the family receives. He says the NDIA cooperates fully with police and avoids further comment to protect the investigation.

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 03/02/2026, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson**

Health Minister Mark Butler has unveiled the Thriving Kids Scheme to support children with mild to moderate autism and reduce pressure on the NDIS. The program offers easier access to help without requiring a formal diagnosis and promises more practical support for families and kids who need early intervention.

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## **SBS, World News Australia (Late), 03/02/2026**

More than a decade after the Labor government launched its National Disability Insurance Scheme plans are unveiled of an alternative for some recipients. It's getting back to a system that long existed before the NDIS Health Minister Mark Butler announcing details of the Thriving Kids Scheme, aimed at children under the age of nine with mild to moderate developmental delay or autism.

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## **SBS, World News Australia, 03/02/2026, Janice Petersen**

The federal government has released the Thriving Kids model targeting children under nine with mild to moderate developmental delay or autism. Health Minister Mark Butler says the \$4b scheme aims to ease pressure on the \$50b NDIS, but advocates warn it could add strain for parents and the education system.

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## River FM, Marnie & Campo Breakfast Show, 03/02/2026, Marnie and Campo

Queenslanders who are looking to go on a holiday in Southeast Asia are being warned of possible infection with the Nipah virus. Health Minister Mark Butler says Australia is currently monitoring the disease, and there are currently no confirmed cases in the country.

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## 6PR, 08:00 News, 03/02/2026

Federal Disability Minister Mark Butler says the NDIA is fully cooperating with police as they investigate the suspected double murder suicide of the Clune family in Mosman Park. Friends of the family claim recent NDIS funding cuts left the couple desperate for help, though Butler declines to discuss case details.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Nightlife, 03/02/2026, Philip Clark and Suzanne Hill

The Reserve Bank has lifted interest rates by 0.25 percentage points, as had been widely forecast. The new cash rate is now 3.85%, up from 3.6%. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler today was talking about how he's trying to rope in some of the NDIS costs, for example.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### Mosman Park murder-suicide: Premier resists calls for coronial inquest into death of family of four

West Australian, Other, 03/02/2026, Charlton Hart

The MP for a western suburbs community left reeling over a double murder suicide which claimed the life of two young autistic children is demanding a coronial inquest be held to determine if the tragedy was preventable. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister wouldn't say whether she would be ordering an investigation into the agency's dealings with the boys.

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### Radio National, AM, 03/02/2026, Isabella Higgins

The Perth community is in mourning following a suspected murder-suicide in the suburb of Mosman Park that claimed the lives of a family of four. Minister for the NDIS, Jenny McAllister, issued a statement expressing that her "heart goes out to the family and the broader community," describing the event as an "unimaginable tragedy."

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## MINISTER RAE

### Care delivered by religious sisters to be formally recognised

CathNews, Other, 03/02/2026, Rebecca Comini

[...] The Department of Health, Ageing and Disability has updated the definition of a Personal Care Worker to include a person who is a member of a religious order, such as a nun or religious sister, who is also a registered or enrolled nurse. [...] We thank Aged Care Minister Sam Rae for listening to those concerns and acting quickly to ensure this care is now properly recognised."

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## Amid transparency hurdles, big tech contract blow-outs, accountability misses – Accenture gets further \$332 million pay-day on aged care's tab

Hello Leaders Australia, Other, 03/02/2026, Amy Henderson

Outsourced to international tech firms like Accenture, Salesforce and Capgemini, the government painted tech contracts as the silver bullet to solve all of aged care digital and efficiency woes. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae rebuffed the order as unreasonable, stating that it would take too much government time to service the order.

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## Time to swallow your pride, minister

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Booming Austral now has a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic

South West Voice, Other, 03/02/2026

Access to timely treatment for urgent, non-life-threatening conditions, has expanded with the funding of the new Austral Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC). [...] Assistant minister for mental health and suicide prevention Emma McBride and the member for Werriwa Anne Stanley (pictured below) toured the facility a few days earlier and met onsite with ForHealth Director NSW/ACT Medical Centres, Mark Buckley, and Austral UCC staff, pictured above.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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## DEPARTMENT

### Strain felt but still no pain help

Plains Producer, General News, 04/02/2026, Harry Mead, Page 14

Member for Grey Tom Venning MP has raised concerns over the lack of healthcare access for women of the Grey electorate following a government announcement. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said the expansion of the additional EPPCs enabled 11 new EPPCs in the Primary Health Network (PHN) regions that did not have one as part of the original 22 clinics.

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

Croakey, Other, 03/02/2026, Melissa Sweet

he Prime Minister's effusive statement, 'Record funding for public hospitals and disability reform', leaves many questions unanswered, reports this week's edition of The Zap, which also brings questions about the Government's plans for a National Medicines Record, as well as congratulations for many people contributing across the health and aged care sectors. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told the ABC the Government was monitoring the situation closely, but had not yet made any changes to the protocols for sick people arriving in Australia.

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Insurance Business Australia, Other, 03/02/2026, Roxanne Libatique

A new consumer survey has entered the debate over how Australia funds private hospital care, as insurers warn that the federal government's proposed activity-based funding (ABF) model could affect participation, pricing, and product design across the private health sector. [...] Separately, Health Minister Mark Butler has asked major funds to resubmit premium applications ahead of the April 1 rate round, with analysts expecting average increases above 4%.

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## Sparked review calls for roadmap

Pulse+IT, Other, 03/02/2026, Heather Fletcher

An independent review of the Sparked Program has suggested the development of a national and overarching FHIR Standards Roadmap to build stakeholders' confidence in committing to change. [...] Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) Accelerator Program (Sparked) was commissioned by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and undertaken by digital health consultancy Voronoi.

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## Rural generalists are specialists, so pay them

The Medical Republic, Other, 03/02/2026, Holly Payne

Now that rural generalism has gained specialty status, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia is calling for a new set of item numbers. [...] In preparation for that time, the RDAA argued, it would behove the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to introduce a suite of rural generalist-specific items geographically limited to MM3 to 7 locations.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Like a fancy pack of Tim Tams, aged care gives less for more

Sydney Morning Herald, Money, 04/02/2026, Rachel Lane, Page 27

Did you know that when you buy a packet of Tim Tams, depending on the flavour, you get 11 biscuits or only nine? The packets look the same but inside there's less.

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### Age-old problem

Older Australians are experiencing ageism in the workplace, as more over-50s feel the pressure to work full-time for longer to pay off a mortgage. COTA Australia's State of the Older Nation's fourth biennial report, which surveyed more than 2800 older people, also exposes the "rich Boomer" stereotype as false, with one in four living in poverty.

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

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## Record patient numbers

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 04/02/2026, Daneka Hill, Page 7

Townsville University Hospital admissions and elective surgeries were at a record high last year as the Health Service encountered its busiest period as a result of a growing and ageing population. Criticism has been piling up on the sector in the last six months, including escalating concerns about safety on the dementia ward, a lack of therapy care in the acute mental health unit, and appointment booking mistakes resulting in cancer patients being 'lost' in the system.

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## The digital infrastructure we need for end-of-life care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 03/02/2026, Priyanka Vandersman

The demand for high-quality end-of-life care in aged care is growing rapidly. More than 80 per cent of Australians spend their final year of life being supported by the aged care sector, with residential aged care accounting for over a third of all deaths nationally.

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## Inspector-General sounds alarm as aged care sector's frustrations boil over

HelloCare, Other, 03/02/2026, Jakob Neeland

In the wake of the Australian Government's aged care reforms, which took effect on 1 November 2025, the sector finds itself at a crossroads. Two ongoing Senate inquiries, one into the transition from the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) to the Support at Home Program, and another examining the Support at Home Program itself, have become focal points for widespread discontent.

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## The \$2 billion “missed opportunity” for aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/02/2026, Caroline Egan

The Federal Government's additional \$2 billion promised last December to address the delayed discharge of older people from state-run hospitals was "conspicuously absent" from Friday's hospital funding deal, according to the peak body for aged care providers.

[Read More](#)

## Senate Inquiry submissions ring alarm bells over CHSP transition

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/02/2026, Caroline Egan

Ahead of a hearing on Friday, Senate Inquiry submissions for the Transition of the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) into Support at Home have urged caution over the plan. Aged care operators have expressed concern about the stability of Support at Home in its early months of implementation, echoing in submissions many of the problems we have been writing about since the introduction of the program in November last year.

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## Seven Productivity Commission statistics every aged care operator should know

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/02/2026, Caroline Egan

We've taken a deep dive into the 242-page annual Productivity Commission Report on Government Services - here's what you need to know. The report provides a revealed snapshot of the home and

aged care sector at a point in time, and sheds light on many of the challenges we have been reporting on for some time.

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## **ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 03/02/2026, Lucy Breaden**

Interview with Chris Grice, CEO of National Seniors Australia, about hospital bed block for older Australians. Grice says current funding agreements mainly address budgets but don't solve the lack of residential aged care beds, noting only about 800 beds are built annually versus a need for 10,000. He highlights Vic's approach of investing in aged care construction as a model to reduce hospital strain and ensure beds are available for those who truly need hospital care.

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## **FIVEAA, Mornings, 03/02/2026, Graeme Goodings**

Interview with Nat Cook, Minister for Ageing Well in SA, about new retirement village laws in SA. Cook explains that the laws improve transparency for residents, ensuring clear information on contracts, financial obligations, and village life, while also enhancing codes of conduct. She says laws strengthen safety and emergency standards, support disability access modifications, and introduce an online register for all villages.

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## **DISABILITY AND CARERS**

### **NDIS provider in \$1.5m collapse**

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/02/2026, Eddie Russell, Page 6

An NDIS provider "committed to providing dignity" to the disabled racked up a staggering \$1.5m in debt in just four years, leaving dozens of workers out of pocket. Pier Support Services Pty Ltd, which was based in Burnie in Tasmania and Bendigo, Victoria, had just \$1400 left in the bank by the time it entered liquidation on October 3, 2025.

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### **We deserve answers**

West Australian, Edition Changes, 04/02/2026, Charlton Hart, Page 14

The MP for a western suburbs community left reeling over a suspected double murder-suicide which claimed the lives of two young autistic children is demanding a coronial inquest be held to determine if the tragedy was preventable. The Clune brothers Leon, 16, and Otis, 14, were found dead inside their Mott Close home on Friday, as well as parents, Jarrod, 50, and Maiwenna Goasdoue, 49, who were discovered in another part of the property.

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### **Australia is rocked by horrific quadruple murder-suicide: Parents kill their two autistic teenage sons and family pets before taking their own lives in upmarket Perth suburb**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/02/2026, Perkin Amalaraj

Australia has been rocked by a horrific quadruple murder-suicide, after two parents and their two autistic teenage sons were found dead in an affluent Perth suburb. The bodies of Jarrod Clune, 50, his 49-year-old partner Maiwenna Goasdoue, and their teenage sons Leon, 16, and Otis, 14, were found inside their Mosman Park property on Friday morning.

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### **Expelled and labelled a 'monster': School insider reveals the tragic lives of the autistic Clune boys before they were killed by their 'sleep-deprived' parents in a quiet cul-de-sac**

A teacher who knew the two autistic teenage brothers killed in a suspected double murder-suicide in Perth 's western suburbs has shared heartbreaking details of their lives and the challenges the boys faced at school. Parents Jarrod Clune, 50, and Maiwenna 'Mai' Goasdoue, 49, along with their sons Leon, 16, and Otis, 14, were found dead inside their Mosman Park home on Friday morning.

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### **ABC News, ABC National News, 03/02/2026, Joe O'Brien**

The federal government has released the Thriving Kids model to deliver state and territory-run supports for children with developmental delay or autism outside the NDIS. The program starts in October and focuses on early identification, family support, and skill building, with full implementation set for January 2028.

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### **ABC Ballarat, Statewide Drive, 03/02/2026, Prue Bentley**

Interview with Jo McCubbin, President of the Australian Paediatrics Society, about the Thriving Kids program. McCubbin says the initiative could help children with mild developmental issues or speech delays access therapy without going through the NDIS, but warns workforce shortages could limit its effectiveness. She notes that children with more severe autism will still rely on the NDIS.

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### **ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 03/02/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos**

Interview with Andrew Whitehouse, Professor of Autism Research at the Kids Institute Australia, about the Thriving Kids program. Whitehouse says the current system has broken many families by forcing diagnoses before accessing support, creating multi-year wait times, and needs rebuilding rather than reform. He explains the program aims to identify children early, connect them quickly with evidence-based therapies, and prioritise funding for those with the greatest needs.

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## **PRIMARY CARE**

No relevant coverage

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## **POPULATION HEALTH**

### **Union push to halt work in extreme heat**

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/02/2026, David Marin-Guzman, Page 1

The Australian Council of Trade Unions will push for a new national safety standard to allow staff to stop work due to extreme heat, with some unions wanting the threshold set at 35...

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

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### **Drink is down, vapes up**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/02/2026, Darcy Fitzgerald, Page 3

Young Australians are drinking less, but taking hard drugs and getting into addictive habits such as vaping that they know will harm them, a new study has revealed. The annual Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll survey asked young people aged between 15-29 about their sexual health, drug use, mental health and wellbeing.

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

## Couples' IVF cost hit

Herald Sun, General News, 04/02/2026, Tamara McDonald and Ashleigh Gleeson, Page 1

Melbourne couples battling infertility face being sluggish with huge price increases for IVF depending on what clinic they choose, with many providers raising their prices in the past year, including some by as much as \$900. Despite the sector facing a major overhaul after multiple scandals were exposed last year, putting public trust at an all-time low, fertility giants said they increased prices due to inflation and technological advancements.

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

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## Rising GHB use is taking its toll

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/02/2026, Page 9

GHB-related deaths in Australia have increased tenfold since 2013, while the number of hospitalisations have more than tripled. While rates of GHB use are relatively low, compared with other illicit drugs, the proportion of Australians using GHB is rising, an Australian-first study from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at UNSW Sydney reveals.

Also reported by: [SBS \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#)

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

## Beer change own goal for health and families enjoying footy

West Australian, General News, 04/02/2026, Michelle Jongenelis, Page 35

When the WA Government announced the appointment of Australia's first dedicated Minister for Preventative Health, the public health community praised the move. Finally, a government in Australia was taking prevention seriously.

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

## Change here for taboo subject

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 04/02/2026, Holly Byrnes, Page 9

It wasn't long ago that the M word was strictly taboo. While more is known about menopause the women's health transition often referred to as "the change" stigma surrounding it still means it remains one of Australia's most under-discussed diagnoses.

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

## Hockey Australia signs three-year partnership with ASX-listed HIT IQ on concussion management

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/02/2026, Duncan Evans

Hockey Australia has signed a \$20m deal with an Aussie tech company to protect the Hockeyroos and Kookaburras from dangerous brain injuries. [...] Across 2021-22, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported 2300 concussions from sport, or 22 per cent of all registered concussions.

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

[Read More](#)

## 'Systemic and escalating': Experts warn childcare allergy regulations are failing children

7news.com.au, Other, 03/02/2026, Aimee Edwards

Australia's childcare sector is under renewed scrutiny amid growing calls for all daycare workers to be trained in allergy and anaphylaxis management, with experts warning current regulations are putting children at serious risk. The Australian Paediatric Society has described the danger to children as "systemic and escalating," arguing existing rules that require only one trained staff member per centre are inadequate as allergy rates continue to rise.

[Read More](#)

## Townsville health authorities report rise in pregnant women drinking

ABC Online, Other, 03/02/2026

A sharp rise in pregnant women drinking alcohol in Australia's largest northern city might be linked to the impact of last year's floods, health authorities say. [...] The most recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showed that between 2023 and 2023, most pregnant women did not consume alcohol, with about 2.6 per cent consuming alcohol in the first 20 weeks, and 0.8 per cent after 20 weeks.

[Read More](#)

## Hearing checks urged before children return to school

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 19/01/2026, Keira Jenkins

The lunches may be packed, the uniforms set out, books covered and labelled, but parents may be missing one essential on their child's return to school checklist. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, released in December, showed the proportion of Indigenous children who had long-term ear or hearing problems had halved since 2001.

[Read More](#)

## How does IVF work in Australia?

SBS, Other, 03/02/2026, Zoe Thomaidou

Did you know that IVF is not the first, but in fact the last step in a sequence of fertility treatments? In Vitro Fertilisation is regulated by state and territory laws.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 03/02/2026, Adam Steer

Interview with Dr Kerith Duncanson, Research Dietitian at the University of Newcastle, about the risks of ignoring high cholesterol. Duncanson says high LDL and related particles combine with blood pressure and artery damage to drive plaque buildup, and this process raises heart attack risk even when someone feels healthy. She explains that genetics, family history, diet, and lifestyle all shape risk.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 03/02/2026, Lucy Breaden

Interview with Jemma Falkenmire, Media Manager from Australia Red Cross Lifeblood, about changes to blood donation rules. Falkenmire explains that from April, the donor questionnaire will no longer ask men if they've had sex with men and will instead focus on whether donors of any gender have had new sexual partners. She notes that this change aims to increase eligibility while maintaining safety through questions about new partners and allowing immediate plasma donations.

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### Melanoma is the preventable cancer

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/02/2026, Angus Thomson, Page 11

Exposure to harmful UV and smoking were the leading causes of preventable cancers among Australians in a major global analysis which found two in every five cancers could be avoided. The World Health Organisation (WHO) study, published in the journal Nature today, analysed leading risk factors for 36 cancer types across 185 countries.

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

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### Cancer takes high toll

Courier Mail, General News, 04/02/2026, Page 17

New research reveals 98.8 per cent of Australians diagnosed with cancer incur out-of-pocket expenses, even when accessing care in the public healthcare system. The Cancer Council Australia's national 2025 survey show that financial burden arises from both direct and indirect medical costs, occurring at every stage from diagnosis and treatment through to end-of-life or survivorship care.

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## \$5.8m for MND centre and help

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/02/2026, Aden Hill, Page 8

A re-elected Malinauskas government would commit \$5.8m to improving the lives of South Australians with motor neurone disease, including the first dedicated MND Biomarker Research Centre of Excellence in the country. The centre, which will be established at Flinders University at a cost of \$1.8m with the aim of finding a cure for MND while the remaining \$4m will be committed to MNDSA over four years to increase access to equipment loans for MND patients, and fund teams of health professionals to assist over 65s with MND.

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## Mayor's cancer shock a warning to women

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/02/2026, Alison Foletta, Page 2

When Janet Gatehouse received her shock breast cancer diagnosis in 2022, she was 51 years old, "farm fit" and had no history of the disease in her family. The mayor of Sorell council said she knew she was due for a check but had put it off.

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## Sun safety past peak

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/02/2026, Page 7

Australians may be putting their skin at risk by winding back sun protection too early, with dermatologists warning that UV exposure remains high well beyond peak summer. Dermatologist and Doctify expert Emma Hiscutt says she commonly sees a drop-off in sun protection habits in March despite UV levels remaining high enough to cause skin damage across much of Australia.

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## As the human cost of cancer increases, we must turn to prevention strategies as the key to saving lives

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/02/2026, Abby Smith, Page 14

On World Cancer Day, being commemorated today, we are rightly asked to reflect on the human cost of cancer. But in Tasmania, we should also reflect on the extraordinary opportunity we have to prevent many cancers before they ever begin. Cancer is the costliest disease in Tasmania and across Australia. In 2023-24, cancer cost Australia's health system \$19.7bn, with Tasmania alone accounting for \$503m.

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## Preventable cancers likely at two in five

Northern Territory News, General News, 04/02/2026, Page 7

About two in five cancers across the world are likely preventable, according to the World Health Organisation. Looking at 18.7 million new cancer cases in 2022 across 185 countries, the researchers say 2.7 million in women and 4.3 million in men were likely preventable.

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

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## Forward leap for treating leukaemia

Northern Territory News, General News, 04/02/2026, Page 7

An Australian research collaboration has led to a major leap forward in the treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. Clinical trial results show switching part of the standard chemotherapy protocol for a targeted immunotherapy can significantly improve outcomes for young people living with the disease.

## Family's plea

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 04/02/2026, Page 10

Imagine waking up one day thinking you had your whole life ahead of you, only to learn hours later that your days are truly numbered. That is the reality Northern Territory man Wayne Reid has lived for the past 18 months as an incurable brain tumour slowly robs him of the future he had envisioned with his family.

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## Australia leads promising cancer vaccine trial

West Australian, General News, 04/02/2026, Page 12

A world-first clinical trial will test cancer vaccines designed specifically for children with advanced or treatment-resistant brain tumours. The study co-led by the University of Queensland and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute and partnered with mRNA medicines platform company Providence Therapeutics will provide personalised vaccines to children and adolescents.

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## Vaccine for child cancer

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/02/2026, Isabella Pesch, Page 3

A Queensland-made vaccine hoping to give children with deadly brain cancer a better fighting chance will be trialled across eight Australian hospitals. It is hoped the drug can successfully target treatment-resistant or advanced brain tumours in children and become the first advancement to how the cancer is treated in more than 30 years.

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## Children with brain cancer given hope in trial of personalised vaccines across eight Australian hospitals

ABC Online, Other, 03/02/2026, Janelle Miles and Emma Pollard

A world-first trial of a personalised vaccine for children with deadly brain cancers will be rolled out in eight hospitals throughout Australia later this year. The four-year trial of about 70 children with "dismal prognoses", will test the safety and effectiveness of the experimental treatment, designed to harness the immune system to produce an army of killer T cells — or medical missiles — to attack a child's tumour.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

## 'It feels like profiting from death'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 03/02/2026, Megan Haggan

More than a quarter of Australian voluntary assisted dying (VAD) practitioners have provided unpaid care, new data shows – and now this workforce is calling for reform. The 2025 VADANZ [Voluntary Assisted Dying Australia & NZ] Remuneration Survey has shown that most feel their state's remuneration arrangements are inadequate.

[Read More](#)

## World-first cancer research centre

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 03/02/2026

The Cancer Council NSW and the University of NSW (UNSW) have entered into a \$40 million, 10-year partnership to launch a cancer survivorship centre this Thu. The Australian Research Centre for Cancer Survivorship (ARCCS) will be the first research facility in the world dedicated solely to understanding and improving life after cancer.

[Read More](#)

## Hair offers insights

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 03/02/2026



Hair cortisol levels may be able to provide insight into the impact of stress on children with autism, according to a new study from Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA) and UNSW Sydney. The research explored the connection between chronic stress, co-occurring conditions, sleep and autistic features, and biological samples from the Autism CRC Australian Autism Biobank.

[Read More](#)

### **ABC, Late Night ABC News, 03/02/2026, Michael Tetlow**

Brain cancer is the deadliest childhood cancer, killing about 40 young Australians each year. A clinical trial will soon begin involving 70 with the worst prognoses. Designed for children who have no further therapeutic options.

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### **ABC News, News Breakfast, 03/02/2026, James Glenday and Emma Rebellato**

Researchers launch a world-first mRNA vaccine trial in eight paediatric hospitals to target brain cancer by exposing each child's tumour to their immune system. Scientists design the vaccine using DNA analysis to identify unique protein markers, aiming to trigger killer T cells to attack the specific tumour.

[Play Now](#)

### **Channel 9, Nine News, 03/02/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry**

Qld researchers launch a world-first clinical trial that uses personalised vaccines built from each patient's tumour DNA to treat brain cancer. The trial targets 70 terminal patients and aims to extend survival and improve quality of life by helping the immune system fight existing tumours.

[Play Now](#)

### **2CC, Canberra Live, 03/02/2026, Leon Delaney**

Interview with Verity Hawkins, CEO of Cancer Council ACT, about World Cancer Day. Hawkins highlights community events at Canberra Hospital that bring together cancer support organisations to assist patients and carers, emphasising that nearly half of Canberrans will be affected by cancer by age 85. She stresses that ongoing medical research continues to improve treatments while the Cancer Council ensures no one faces cancer alone.

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

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### **ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 03/02/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos**

Interview with Dhaval Thakkar, Respiratory Consultant at Charles Gairdner Hospital, about the hospital's use of robotic bronchoscopy. Thakkar explains the device allows doctors to reach deeper into the lungs, detect early cancers, biopsy lesions, and mark tumours for precise surgical removal, preserving healthy lung tissue.

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## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

### **Government stops offering adult ADHD assessments**

Canberra Times, General News, 04/02/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 4

The ACT government has stopped taking on adult patients for ADhD assessments as rising demand competes with long waitlists for public mental health services. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is a developmental condition that can impair someone's ability to concentrate, plan, organise, control impulses, and regulate their emotions throughout their entire life.

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

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## Expert support of ADHD reforms

Herald Sun, General News, 04/02/2026, Ryan Bourke, Page 10

Labor's plan to train GPs to diagnose and prescribe for ADHD has received widespread support as Victoria grapples with crippling wait times and the prohibitive cost of specialist care. Premier Jacinta Allan yesterday promised the change would make life easier for families who don't have the time or money to get help with the condition from a psychiatrist.

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## Doctors make big difference

Herald Sun, General News, 04/02/2026, Sarah Booth, Rebecca Borg and Amelia Swan, Page 10

Victoria's ADHD care is set for a shake-up, with GPs to gain diagnosis and treatment powers under medical reforms the state government has vowed to introduce before the November election. Here's everything you need to know.

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

## ADHD breakthrough bid

Courier Mail, General News, 04/02/2026, Page 4

Queensland scientists are investigating links between glitches in early formation of the brain and ADHD and other neurodevelopmental disorders. ADHD affects up to 10 per cent of Australian children and demand for assessment is surging, with Queensland GPs recently permitted to diagnose and prescribe ADHD medication.

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

## Parents failing to call out bad boys

Cairns Post, General News, 04/02/2026, Mary Papadakis, Page 10

Entitled "mummy's boys" are fuelling misogynistic behaviours in Australian schools, according to fed-up teachers, with a leading adolescent psychologist calling on parents to take action. Teachers have blamed parents for raising a "you can do no wrong" generation of boys, following disturbing reports of sexist behaviour in schools including teachers being "barked at" by male students and told to "bend over".

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## GPs given green light to tackle ADHD

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 04/02/2026, Page 7

Australians will soon find it much smoother to be diagnosed and treated for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Victoria has joined a growing list of states to give the green light for general practitioners to tackle ADHD, which is estimated to affect one in 20 Australians.

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

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## Victoria GPs to be trained to diagnose and treat adults and children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

ABC Online, Other, 03/02/2026

General practitioners in Victoria will soon be able to diagnose and treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in adults and children, in a move the state government says will cut lengthy wait times and thousands of dollars for those seeking a diagnosis or care. In changes to be introduced to parliament later this year, 150 GPs across the state will be able to undertake training to expand their scope of practice in order to safely diagnose, treat and prescribe medication for ADHD.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Amber Wraith's parents say her suicidal thoughts were downplayed and

## dismissed by medical professionals

ABC Online, Other, 03/02/2026, Norman Hermant and Alison Caldwell

It's still painful for Amber Wraith's parents to look at pictures of her at age 16. "She was living life to the full, she was loving everything she did," her mother Tamara Wraith said.

[Read More](#)

### Channel 7, Seven News, 03/02/2026, Peter Mitchell

Vic GPs will soon be able to diagnose and treat ADHD under a new state plan, with 150 doctors receiving \$750,000 in training by the end of the year. Up to 480,000 Victorians may benefit from the program, but medical experts warn that misdiagnosis and over-medication remain a concern.

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

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### Channel 9, Nine News Late, 03/02/2026, Michael Genovese

Up to 150 GPs in Victoria will be trained to diagnose adhd. Doctors will receive accredited training to diagnose and prescribe medication for the condition in people aged six and over from September this year.

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### Channel 9, Nine News, 03/02/2026, Brett Mcleod

Vic will allow specially trained GPs to diagnose and treat ADHD, aiming to save patients time and money and align with other states. Around 320,000 adults and 163,000 children may have the condition, but some clinicians warn that the disorder is already being overdiagnosed and over-medicated.

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

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### ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 03/02/2026, Leon Compton

Interview with Dr Miranda Say, Clinical Neuropsychologist at Gordon Eye Surgery, about stress and its impact on health. Say explains stress is the body's response to perceived threats but harmful if chronic, and that individual reactions vary based on genetics, personality, and life circumstances. She emphasises that while some stress responses are innate, people can manage stress by understanding its effects on the body and adopting strategies to respond.

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## IMMUNISATION

### State funding cut put vaccine database at risk of collapse

Age, General News, 04/02/2026, Rachel Eddie, Page 9

Victorian health officials feared the state's childhood immunisation database was at risk of collapse after the Allan government pulled funding and local councils threatened to abandon the system over new fees. Internal correspondence released under freedom of information 15 months after this masthead lodged the request detail the hamfisted attempts to plug the funding gap councils warned could compromise immunisation rates.

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

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### Can pharmacists reduce the vaccination downturn?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 03/02/2026, Megan Haggan

A new study hopes to engage as many Australian vaccinating pharmacists as possible, to help inform decisions about expanding scope of practice for pharmacists and its contribution to healthcare delivery.

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Plea for \$6bn as unis cry poor on research

The Australian, General News, 04/02/2026, Natasha Bitá, Page 5

Universities want taxpayers to give them an extra \$6bn a year for research, warning Treasury they need to enrol more international students to cover soaring costs. In a pre-budget submission, Universities Australia revealed 13 institutions were in deficit in 2024, while 22 suffered weak liquidity with more liabilities than assets.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Calls grow to back northside health service

Canberra Times, General News, 04/02/2026, Jasper Lindell, Page 6

Aboriginal people on the northside are missing out on life-saving health check-ups, and government funding is urgently needed to support more primary healthcare for First Nations people, the chair of a Ngunnawal-led organisation says. Yerrabi Yurwang chair Selina Walker said Ngunnawal people were seeing a lot of their elders "slipping through the gaps" because Aboriginal health services were limited in Canberra's north.

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

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Free up ED space and use corridors

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/02/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 9

Emergency department doctors want to cram more treated patients into ward rooms or park them in corridors to free up vital ED space during high demand. The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine's state election wish list says South Australians are waiting too long for care because hospitals are full and EDs are under constant pressure.

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### Hospital finally healed

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/02/2026, Page 9

A \$411 million hospital upgrade in Sydney's south has been completed after a year of major construction. The third stage in the redevelopment of St George Hospital is complete, with its doors expected to open to the public within months.

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New research shows e-scooter injuries among children under 16 rise sharply, with admissions to Qld Children's Hospital more than doubling between 2021 and 2024. One in four injured children requires intensive care, and one in five rides below the legal age limit in Qld.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### **Territory health sector gets 200-plus new doctor boost**

Northern Territory News, General News, 04/02/2026, Harry Brill, Page 5

The NT Government is celebrating the arrival of more than 200 much-needed doctors, while Health Minister Steve Edgington says he can sense a turn in health worker retention. A total of 222 doctors have started work with NT Health, with the large intake bringing their expertise to major towns across the Territory.

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### **Ballarat woman 'heartbroken' after fertility surgery delayed again as health strikes continue**

ABC Online, Other, 03/02/2026

Alli, who requested her surname be withheld for privacy reasons, wants to have a baby but is facing months of "heartbreaking" surgery delays while waiting for treatment of suspected endometriosis. Facing extreme pain, the Victorian woman in her 30s was told by the Ballarat Base Hospital that it was unable to set a date for her laparoscopy due to ongoing strikes across the state.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### **Red-flag surgeon lands top safety job**

The Australian, General News, 04/02/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

Queensland surgeons are in shock after a cardiothoracic surgeon who previously had conditions placed on his registration by the medical regulator was appointed as the state's top doctor in surgical

quality and safety. Michael Byrom has been appointed by Clinical Excellence Queensland as the state's inaugural medical and surgical lead who will head the establishment of a new surgical quality and assurance committee that will identify and address systemic issues contributing to preventable surgical morbidity and mortality.

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

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

## 'Assault' doctor banned

Courier Mail, General News, 04/02/2026, Vanda Carson, Page 13

A North Queensland doctor charged with two counts of serious assault has been temporarily banned from practising anywhere nationwide. Peter Henry Kirsten Kristensen, who worked for the Townsville Aboriginal Islander Health Services, has been suspended from working as a doctor by the health watchdog.

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

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## Nurse loses registration for sleeping on the job

Nursing Review, Other, 03/02/2026

A Western Sydney nurse who had been allegedly caught sneaking in naps during night shifts has had her registration cancelled, with a tribunal finding her to have "endangered the lives of patients under her care". Chimzuroke Okembunachi, 25, appeared before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) for unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct while working at Hardi Aged Care in Guildford.

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# AUSTRALIAN CDC

## Health alert warning as new cases arise in WA

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 04/02/2026, Hannah Cross, Page 6

Four cases of meningococcal disease have been reported to WA health authorities. Two of those cases were reported in December and two in January, according to WA Health.

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## WA Health warning after meningococcal disease detected

NEWS.com.au, Other, 03/02/2026, Rhiannon Lewin

Health authorities are warning residents in WA to monitor closely for meningococcal symptoms after four cases were recently confirmed. Two people were diagnosed with meningococcal serogroup B disease in December last year, and another two were diagnosed in January this year, WA Health said on Tuesday.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Measles alert: Norlane, Lorne, Wye River, Apollo Bay among exposure sites

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 03/02/2026, Zoe De Koning

People who attended parts of Norlane, Apollo Bay, Wye River and Lorne in the past month may have been exposed to measles, health authorities say. The Department of Health has warned there is currently a statewide increased risk of the highly infectious disease, with recent confirmed cases visiting Geelong and Great Ocean Road hotspots.

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

## Australia urged to 'plan and prepare' for Nipah virus amid outbreak of 'terrible disease'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 03/02/2026

An outbreak of the disease, that has no vaccine, has so far not spread outside of India. But, Aussies should be on alert, an infectious disease expert warns.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Darwin , Territory-wide Mornings, 03/02/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Dr Vicki Krause, Director of the NT Centre for Disease Control, about a new flu variant spreading in Australia. Krause explains that while the strain is more infectious, it's still a seasonal flu and not more severe, and the NT typically experiences high flu cases year-round. She urges vaccination for high-risk groups and stresses good hygiene and staying home when sick to reduce transmission.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Popular but not sold here, what's wrong with Korean sunscreens?

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/02/2026, Lauren Ironmonger, Page 13

If you've walked into an Asian beauty retailer recently, you might have found one category was noticeably absent: sunscreen. [...] In Australia, sunscreens are regulated as medicines, meaning sponsors (the term used by the TGA for manufacturers) must prove their safety, efficacy and stability.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#).

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### Blobby sunscreen recall

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/02/2026, Page 5

Popular sunscreens have been pulled from shelves over concerns an "uneven texture" could affect sun protection. [...] "If this happens, the ingredients are no longer properly mixed," the Therapeutic Goods Administration website says.

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

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### Vape shop trades after raid

Herald Sun, General News, 04/02/2026, Regan Hodge and Fergus Ellis, Page 11

A beachside black market smoke shop accused of selling vapes to children continues to operate despite the store being raided by federal authorities just days ago. [...] Members of the Therapeutic Goods Administration raided the makeshift smoke shop on January 23 which saw hundreds of vapes wiped from the shelves.

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

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### Neurotech gets crucial ethics approval to start phase III autism trial

The Australian, Other, 03/02/2026

Neurotech International has received Human Research Ethics Committee approval to start a phase III

clinical study, evaluating NT1164 in autism spectrum disorder Levels 2 and 3. [...] Neurotech is now advancing NT1164 into a pivotal registration pathway to support potential submissions to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in Australia and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

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## Former company behind supplement business BioV8 collapses with \$1.42m debt pile

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/02/2026, Sarah Perillo

A former supplements operator has collapsed owing \$1.42m, undone by regulatory scrutiny and boardroom disputes, with new owners likening the downfall to a "low-quality K-drama". [...] The liquidators laid blame on distracted management, citing a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) investigation into alleged non-compliant advertising, and a heated dispute between director Edward McGill and former director Nicholas Austin, which resulted in costly litigation.

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

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## New study finds weight loss pill prevents serious heart events and death in specific group of patients

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/02/2026, Ruby Kraner-Tucci

A new study which focused on a pill form of a weight loss drug has shown it has benefits for a specific group of patients. An expert says he thinks it's another sign the medications could become more affordable.

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

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## Brisbane start-up gets approval for world-first trial of new heart failure therapy

The Mercury, Other, 03/02/2026, Chris Herde

A Brisbane company has received approval to test a groundbreaking heart failure device that operates without pumps or external power, promising hope for untreatable patients. Clinical-stage medical technology company QHeart Medical will begin a world-first human study of a world-first "pumpless" heart failure therapy device.

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## 'Blind spot': alarm sounded on weight-loss medications

Canberra Times, Other, 03/02/2026, Allanah Sciberras

While weight-loss medications are often hailed as wonder drugs for improving the lives of people battling obesity, dietitians are increasingly concerned about the lack of research into long-term nutritional health impacts. At least half a million Australians are taking weight-loss drugs such as Ozempic and Mounjaro every month, with popularity continuing to increase despite a shortage of the drugs.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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## Experts issue warning over concerning Gold Coast tan trend

NEWS.com.au, Other, 03/02/2026, Naomi Kaplan

Health experts are urging caution over a fast-growing online trend involving a bright-blue liquid substance and self-administered injections. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has warned unapproved peptide products have not been assessed for safety, quality or effectiveness and may pose serious health risks.

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## TGA announces further sunscreen recalls

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 03/02/2026, Jarrod McMaugh

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has confirmed that "all unexpired batches" of four sunscreen products are being recalled. The regulator announced that Edgewell Personal Care Australia recalled six batches of Banana Boat Baby Zinc Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50+ and three batches of Hawaiian Tropic Mineral Zinc Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50+, and one batch each of Gem

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## AICIS

### Cadia goldmine faces Supreme Court class action over contamination claims

ABC Online, Other, 03/02/2026

Landowners living near one of the world's biggest goldmines in central west NSW have launched an environmental class action alleging contamination of more than 2,000 properties. Lawyers for the claimants allege arsenic, heavy metals and forever chemicals known as PFAS have travelled from Newmont's Cadia goldmine onto properties in a 17-kilometre radius.

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

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