



# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 5th February 2026

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[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)  
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| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |  
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)  
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)  
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)  
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)  
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) | [Australian CDC](#) |  
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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that a new report by Private Healthcare Australia has documented a steep increase in gap fees for medical services and wait times for specialist appointments.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports that NSW Health Minister Ryan Park and SA Health Minister Chris Picton have indicated they will continue to seek further federal government intervention over aged care and NDIS patients blocking hospital beds.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports that GPs and psychiatrists are concerned the Victorian government's plan to allow its Virtual Emergency Department to prescribe up to six months of ADHD medication refills via telehealth consultations, could risk patient safety.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that up to 2500 doctors are expected to join a class action case against Sydney's St Vincent's Hospital, claiming millions in unpaid overtime and alleging the hospital forces them to work excessive hours off the books, or risk career sabotage.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (Online) reports that following the appointment of Dr. Michael Byrom as the Clinical Excellence Queensland's new surgical medical lead, Premier David Crisafulli has asked Health Minister Tim Nicholls to investigate Queensland Health's selection

process. A spokesperson for Queensland Health said Byrom "was appointed following a rigorous process that included extensive background checks and full transparency".

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Patients can no longer afford to be sick as medical fees, wait times blow out

The Australian, General News, 05/02/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

Being diagnosed with a rare, invasive form of breast cancer at 46 was stressful enough for Luan Lawrenson-Woods. [...] Out-of-pocket fees charged by medical specialists are firmly in Health Minister Mark Butler's sights.

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

### The hidden struggle behind closed doors at a quiet Mosman Park home

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 04/02/2026, Rebecca Peppiatt

Pictures of two smiling boys on their parents' social media accounts are hard to reconcile with the events that unfolded on Friday in their Mosman Park home. [...] On Tuesday, federal Disability Minister Mark Butler described the suspected double murder-suicide as an "unspeakable tragedy".

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

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### Thriving Kids explained: What Labor's NDIS alternative means for you

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/02/2026, Darcy Fitzgerald

Finer details of the \$4bn Thriving Kids program designed to shift many kids off the NDIS have finally been released. [...] Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler said the new program would be "easy to access" and won't require a costly and lengthy formal diagnosis.

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

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### How will Labor's Thriving Kids work and who is still eligible for the NDIS?

The Guardian, Other, 04/02/2026, Tom McIlroy

The Albanese government has unveiled the model for its new program to move children under nine years old with mild developmental delays and autism off the National Disability Insurance Scheme. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, and advisory panel chair, Murdoch Children's Research Institute professor Frank Oberklaid, say the program will have four pillars.

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### 'We're all in the trenches': Friend reveals private struggle of Mosman Park family

NEWS.com.au, Other, 04/02/2026, Natalie Brown

A friend has shared the hidden struggles of the Perth family found dead in a suspected murder-suicide, describing them as "in the trenches trying to survive". [...] Asked whether the case would influence future reforms to the NDIS, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on Tuesday declined to comment on the nature of care given to the family.

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

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### 'Monster': Fresh details emerge about slain brothers

NEWS.com.au, Other, 05/02/2026

New details have been revealed about the two teenagers who died in a suspected murder-suicide in an

up-market Perth suburb. [...] Asked whether the case would influence future reforms to the NDIS, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on Tuesday declined to comment on the nature of care given to the family.

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

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## Children won't need autism diagnosis to qualify for new support program

CathNews, Other, 04/02/2026, Rebecca Comini

Parents will no longer have to spend thousands of dollars chasing autism diagnoses for their struggling children to qualify for government disability support under the new Thriving Kids program, which will help children with lower support needs outside the NDIS. [...] Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler yesterday unveiled the model for Thriving Kids and revealed it would mainly be run through states and territories.

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## ATSA condemns preferred supplier trend

Community Care Review, Other, 04/02/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The emerging practice of home care providers pressuring assistive technology and home modification companies for rebates in exchange for preferred supplier status is a "serious integrity issue," says ATSA. [...] The joint statement has also called for: ATSA shared the joint statement on LinkedIn, writing that it has sent a copy to Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae, Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler, Inspector-General of Aged Care Natalie Siegel-Brown, Commissioner for Aged Care Quality and Safety Liz Hefren-Webb and the Aged Care Council of Elders.

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## Bedford's future secured as sale protects 1,250 supported workers

Glam Adelaide, Other, 04/02/2026

The future of one of South Australia's most important disability employers has been secured, with Bedford officially entering a new chapter following the completion of its sale — protecting more than 1,250 supported workers and clients with disabilities. [...] Federal Minister for Health, Ageing, Disability and the NDIS Mark Butler said the sale ensured Bedford could continue its long-standing role in supporting people with disability and their families.

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## Inquiry to reflect on Medicare changes' impact in the bush

Medical Forum, Other, 04/02/2026

Advocates for WA's rural health workforce said they are yet to see a meaningfully shift in access to primary care, despite the federal government's overhaul of Medicare which included changes to bulk billing. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has said an additional 1300 general practices have moved to a 100% bulk billing model since the introduction of the incentive.

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## ABC, 7:30, 04/02/2026, David Speers

Report by ABC journalist Courtney Bembridge on the Nipah virus. Health authorities across Asia are on high alert after two confirmed cases of Nipah virus were recorded in India. Infectious diseases expert Sanjaya Senanayake says the virus seems not to spread easily, unlike other viruses, so outbreaks could be easily terminated with good public health measures. Health Minister Mark Butler has recently said that they are monitoring the virus on a daily basis.

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## Channel 9, 06:30 Today Perth News, 04/02/2026, Rachel Langdon

Federal Disability Minister Mark Butler has refused to answer questions on the NDIS support after a suspected double murder-suicide of a Mosman Park family. Butler has described the tragedy as

"unspeakable", but he declined to comment further on their deaths.

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## **ABC Illawarra, Breakfast, 04/02/2026, Melinda James**

Pre-recorded interview with Federal Disability Minister Mark Butler, about the new program for kids with mild-to-moderate developmental delays after being opted out of the NDIS. Butler believes that the new program would be more efficient for parents as it will not require a formal diagnosis, as it could take years for a diagnosis to be finished, as well as costing thousands of dollars for check-ups from specialists.

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## **Triple J, Hack, 04/02/2026, Dave Marchese**

An investigation is underway into a suspected double murder-suicide of a Mosman Park family in Perth. There have been reports that one of the sons had recently had NDIS funding cut. When asked about the issue, Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler says the incident was awful and unspeakable and claims that the NDIA will do everything to assist the police in its inquiries.

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[Back to Top](#)

## **MINISTER MCALLISTER**

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[Back to Top](#)

## **MINISTER RAE**

### **ATSA condemns preferred supplier trend**

Community Care Review, Other, 04/02/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The emerging practice of home care providers pressuring assistive technology and home modification companies for rebates in exchange for preferred supplier status is a "serious integrity issue," says ATSA. [...] The joint statement has also called for: ATSA shared the joint statement on LinkedIn, writing that it has sent a copy to Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae, Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler, Inspector-General of Aged Care Natalie Siegel-Brown, Commissioner for Aged Care Quality and Safety Liz Hefren-Webb and the Aged Care Council of Elders.

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### **ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 04/02/2026, Adam Steer**

During Question Time in Parliament, Solomon MP Luke Gosling asked how the Federal Government will deliver more well-paid, secure jobs for aged care workers in Australia, including those in the Northern Territory. Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has noted that the recent announcement of the preferred provider for the new Palmerston aged care facility will create hundreds of jobs and expand the aged care capacity in the state.

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[Back to Top](#)

## **ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE**

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### **Most for-profit homes fail on care targets**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 04/02/2026, Natasha Egan and Katarina Lloyd Jones

Less than half of for-profit-run aged care homes met both of their care minute targets (44 per cent) and only 51 per cent met total care minute targets during Q1 2025-26 (July to September), the latest Care Minutes in Residential Aged Care Dashboard shows. [...] Providers incorrectly reporting minutes This week, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has flagged providers incorrectly reporting care minutes.

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### **Interim CEO steps into permanent role at Arthritis Australia**

Health Services Daily, Other, 04/02/2026, Cate Swannell

Plus, news from Teachers Health Group, AusBiotech, Medicines Australia, and the DoHDA.

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### **'Knock no one wants': doctor and cop's plea over deadly counterfeit pills**

Merimbula News, Other, 04/02/2026, 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.

Also reported by: [South Coast Register \(Online\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### **Fight continues on aged-care funds**

The Australian, General News, 05/02/2026, Lachlan Leeming, Page 6

The two Labor state ministers who led negotiations on the national health funding deal with the commonwealth have signalled they will continue to antagonise the federal government over aged care and NDIS patients blocking hospital beds, after a \$2bn "sweetener" targeting the problem was wiped last week. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park and his South Australian counterpart Chris Picton, who spearheaded negotiations between the jurisdictions and the commonwealth over health funding before a \$25bn agreement was finally reached on Friday, told The Australian tensions remained over bed block.

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

## Dementia cases on the rise

West Australian, General News, 05/02/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 3

More than 85,000 West Australians are expected to be living with dementia by 2054 the highest estimated increase in the nation. Nearly 43,400 people in the State are living with the brain condition, with Dementia Australia revealing that number is set to double in the next 30 years.

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

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## Gold Coast grandmother's remarkable recovery with groundbreaking Alzheimer's drug donanemab

7news.com.au, Other, 05/02/2026, Declan Milton

A groundbreaking Alzheimer's drug is offering new hope to dementia patients, with a Gold Coast grandmother experiencing remarkable results after becoming one of the first Australians to try the treatment. Ruth Talbot, 77, lives with Alzheimer's and travels to a Gold Coast clinic every month for infusions of donanemab, a newly approved drug that's helping wind back the effects of the disease.

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## Could constructing public residential aged care in Tasmania help solve hospital bed block?

ABC Online, Other, 04/02/2026, Lucy Breaden

Last week a new funding agreement was struck between the Tasmanian and federal government for hospital funding. But Chris Grice from National Seniors Australia says aged care remains a big issue, with many elderly people unable to be discharged from hospital because they don't have a place in aged care to go to.

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## ANMF priorities 2026: Aged care reform

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 04/02/2026

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

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## 'Ageism impacts all of us,' says Pyne

Community Care Review, Other, 04/02/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

After delivering an address at the national press club on the need for action in tackling ageism, COTA chair and former ageing minister Christopher Pyne was met with questions mostly pertaining to the future of the Liberal Party. Pervasive ageism remains an issue in Australia, according to Council on the Ageing Australia's State of the Older Nation 2025 Report released this week.

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## Home care wait times continue to soar

Community Care Review, Other, 04/02/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Home care wait times have nearly doubled in a year, with the time between assessment and service delivery reaching 245 days, new Productivity Commission data shows. The median wait time for an aged care assessment increased to 27 days in 2024-25, up 22.7 per cent from the 22-day wait in 2023-24, according to data released by the Productivity Commission as part of its 2026 Report on Government Services.

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## 'Lot of complaints': ex-minister's aged care warning

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/02/2026

Older Australians are dealing with big price increases and longer waiting lists for care under major reforms to the aged care sector, a former Liberal minister warns. Christopher Pyne, who spent 26 years in federal parliament, has also warned against stereotyping older people as either wealthy baby boomers or frail retirees, describing both framings as "crude caricatures".

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

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## **The Shellharbour business navigating new end-of-life care funding roadblocks**

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 04/02/2026, Joel Ehsman

A Shellharbour palliative care business is spreading the word about money designed for older people with less than three months to live and who want to remain at home. The End-of-Life Pathway supplies participants with \$25,000 over 12 weeks after being assessed as eligible by a doctor or nurse practitioner and is part of the Support at Home program.

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## **Robots at heart of ambitious aged care plan for Olympic village**

The Weekly Source, Other, 04/02/2026, Caroline Egan

High profile investor Mark Carnegie has an ambitious – but practical – plan for the long-term use of the athletes' village for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane. Carnegie plans to fund, build and operate the temporary athletes' village for the Olympic Games, and then convert the accommodation into aged care

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## **For Purpose Aged Care Australia adds leaders as social loan fuels growth**

The Weekly Source, Other, 04/02/2026, Caroline Egan

The Not For Profit aged care operator has secured a significant social loan to support current developments and continued footprint expansion. For Purpose Investment Partners (FPIP) and its aged care provider, For Purpose Aged Care Australia (FPACA), have secured a \$235 million social loan with the backing of Bank Australia, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, and National Australia Bank, which previously backed the purchase of Signature Care.

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## **Bain Capital to go back to the future with Estia Health?**

The Weekly Source, Other, 04/02/2026, Caroline Egan

The US equity investor has reportedly recruited three investment banks to relist residential aged care operator Estia Health on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX). Bain Capital has hired UBS, Barrenjoey Capital Partners and Morgan Stanley to lead an initial public offering that would give the company a market capitalisation of more than \$2 billion, according to The Australian Financial Review.

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## **4BC, Drive, 04/02/2026, Gary Hardgrave**

Interview with Attwood Marshall Lawyers aged care professional and senior paralegal Bindy Marshall. Marshall advises people to write down their aged care concerns and talk to the provider about them. She states that if they do not get a good outcome from the discussion with the provider, they can make a formal complaint to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. She claims that providers will often try to resolve any concerns, as they do not want the Commission to be involved in resolving the issue.

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## **ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 04/02/2026, Leon Compton**

Interview with Council of the Ageing CEO Patricia Sparrow, about the recent Council of the Ageing "State of the Older Nation Report". Sparrow points out that overall, older Australians are happy with

their current life conditions; however, there are concerns about poverty. She adds that one in four Australians are currently in poverty, and almost half of them felt lonely in the past week.

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[Back to Top](#)

## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### **Perth siblings' court case in limbo over NDIS director's overseas bankruptcy**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 04/02/2026, Carla Hildebrandt

A Supreme Court fight between siblings at the centre of a troubled NDIS provider has taken a fresh turn after a lawyer told the court he could not take instructions from a company's acting director after learning of his overseas bankruptcy. The proceedings were brought in December by Bila Counselling and Support Services on behalf of director Lenard Swanepoel-Trollip, against his sister Jennifer McAlpine, a former employee and current shareholder of the NDIS-funded disability provider.

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### **Gympie NDIS provider Arlie Gibson hit with lifetime ban from watchdog**

Adelaide Now, Other, 04/02/2026, Scott Kovacevic

The National Disability Insurance Scheme watchdog has declined to reveal why it banned a popular Gympie NDIS provider amid questions over his ongoing ties to the company he founded. Gympie NDIS provider Arlie Gibson was handed a permanent nationwide ban by the federal government body on Wednesday, January 14, with the order coming into force on Thursday, January 29.

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### **Queensland disability client Bridie Gilligan choked to death on Hungry Jacks burger, coroner finds**

The Courier Mail, Other, 04/02/2026, Nicola McNamara

A Queensland disability client choked to death on a Hungry Jacks burger after snatching it from her support worker, a coroner has found. Cairns woman Bridie Gilligan had a history of choking and was on a restricted diet when she choked while eating a Hungry Jacks "Yumbo" burger at her Edmonton home on April 29, 2021.

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

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### **Leading disability employer sold, saving jobs**

West Australian, Other, 04/02/2026, Abe Maddison

The jobs of 1250 supported workers have been secured after the sale of major disability employer Bedford to an NDIS service provider. The Disability Trust has taken over Bedford, which needed a rescue package from the South Australian government in July last year to stay afloat.

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### **Calls for mandatory fire sprinklers in Specialist Disability Accommodation**

ABC Online, Other, 04/02/2026, Sarah Richards

Brisbane resident Todd Winther, who has cerebral palsy, is terrified of what could happen if a fire broke out in his home. "I can't get out of bed independently on my own," the 42-year-old, who uses a wheelchair, said.

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### **What led Australian parents to kill their two autistic sons in tragic murder-suicide?**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 05/02/2026, Perkin Amalaraj

The Australian parents of two severely autistic boys who they murdered before killing themselves had become increasingly isolated in the lead up to their deaths and may have felt they had 'no choice' after being let down by 'the system', devastated friends have revealed.

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## ABC Illawarra, Breakfast, 04/02/2026, Melinda James

Interview with Aruma CEO Dr Martin Laverty, about the recently introduced program for mild-to-moderate kids with developmental delays called "Thriving Kids". Laverty believes that "Thriving Kids" is correcting a mistake that was made 10 years ago, as State Governments back then provided many services left and right. He adds that due to the NDIS requiring a full diagnosis for kids with autism, it increased the diagnosis rates for kids at a staggering 40 per cent.

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[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

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[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### 'Have a smarter baby': Embryos chosen for their IQ

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/02/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 16

Australians are accessing a controversial technology that ranks embryos created during IVF based on disease risk and predicted traits such as intelligence, height and hair colour using a genetic testing method experts say is not ready for clinical use. Screening embryos for such traits is a violation of the national guidelines for the use of assisted reproductive technology, but US companies offering the tests have begun exploring partnerships with Australian fertility clinics anyway, and Australian IVF patients can legally undergo the testing abroad.

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

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### Ozempic creator runs into big problems

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 05/02/2026, Colin Kruger and Nick Bonyhady, Page 26

Ozempic maker Novo Nordisk is at risk of losing its weight-loss crown as rivals crowd into the obesity drug space, offering drugs that are being sold to Australians as cheaper and more effective. One major competitor, Eli Lilly, confirmed that its blockbuster weight-loss drug Mounjaro was Australia's highest-selling brand of prescription medication last year across all categories.

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

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### Fear at rise of nicotine teens

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05/02/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 17

One in 10 Aussie teenagers show signs of nicotine dependence as concern grows over the next product designed to reel them in. The latest child health poll from The Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne found 26 per cent of Australians aged 12 to 17 have used a nicotine product mostly vapes and cigarettes at some point.

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

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### Clarity on IVF costs

Herald Sun, Editorials, 05/02/2026, Page 28

Medical assistance to start a family should be a fundamental area of health care where costs are not a prohibitive factor. But the Herald Sun on Wednesday revealed that rising costs were indeed becoming a major hurdle for prospective parents who turn to IVF.

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## Spike in young Aussies vaping despite knowing risks

Canberra Times, General News, 05/02/2026, Allanah Sciberras, Page 10

Young Australians are continuing to vape in alarming numbers, despite being aware of the severe health risks involved. The habit has risen by 10 per cent among 15 to 29-year-olds in the past year alone, with one in three telling the Burnet Institute's annual Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll survey that they vape.

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

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## Star player sues AFL over injury in sport

Northern Territory News, General News, 05/02/2026, Nathaniel Chambers, Page 1

An NTFL premiership player is suing his former club and the AFL for allegedly failing their duty of care after a midmatch head clash left him with serious concussive injuries. Trent Melville was a key part of Nightcliff's NTFL three-peat, playing in each and winning the Chaney Medal for a best on ground performance in the 2019-20 grand final, kicking five goals.

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## 'Way you look at things'

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/02/2026, Lisa Edser, Page 5

A 54-year-old who chose not to have children, is urging Aussies who don't have grandkids to look at what they have in their lives instead of grieving for what they don't. [...] The Australian birthrate in 2023 was the lowest since 1998 - at just 52 per 1,000 women having a child - a continuing downward trend since 2007, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's newly released data.

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## Dementia before 65: a hidden crisis

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/02/2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 9

Legal experts are calling for improved safeguards for the tens of thousands of Australians living with young-onset dementia. [...] "A diagnosis may occur at an age when the demands of family and work are at a peak, placing a severe strain on family and carer dynamics and finances," according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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## Extreme heat will make Northern Territory unlivable within 40 years, activists warn

ABC Online, Other, 04/02/2026

The Climate Justice Alliance, a coalition of health, housing, environmental and social service organisations, says rising temperatures and increasingly severe heatwaves present a direct and immediate threat to people across the Territory, particularly in the Top End. Environmental advocate Ned Bible from Jesuit Social Services said the scale and speed of warming meant urgent, coordinated action was needed from all levels of government.

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## RBA rate hike highlights plight of borrowers versus boomers

ABC Online, Other, 04/02/2026, Emilia Terzon, Yiyang Li and David Chau

Gathered around the bar after a successful bowls match, a group of retirees has mixed feelings about the Reserve Bank of Australia's call to increase interest rates for the first time in two years. [...] One-third of Australians own their homes outright, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data, which means they won't be impacted by higher mortgage repayments.

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## Dementia cases surge in Australia prompting urgent calls for action

NEWS.com.au, Other, 05/02/2026, Lillian Saleh

Even with three generations of nurses in her family, Amy Price still struggled to get doctors to consider the thought her mother may have dementia. [...] Figures compiled by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and released by Dementia Australia show 446,500 Aussies are impacted by the brain health condition – up 13,500 cases.

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

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## More than half of Aussie women unprepared for menopause

NEWS.com.au, Other, 04/02/2026, Holly Byrnes

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 ominously as 'the change' – the stigma surrounding it means it remains one of Australia's most under discussed diagnoses.

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

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## ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 04/02/2026, Jess Ong

Interview with Gary Kennedy, Managing Director, Connect Food Systems. Kennedy points out that people who want a healthier alternative in breakfast cereals can simply refer to the Health Star rating seen on breakfast cereal boxes. He mentions that Health Star ratings will become mandatory this year for all products in supermarkets that are pre-packaged.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### Lung cancer tests help 'turn tide'

Herald Sun, General News, 05/02/2026, Isabella Pesch, Page 3

More than 700 Australians have been referred for further assessment since a major national cancer-screening program was kickstarted last year, with a peak medical body applauding the success of the lifesaving service. In just seven months since launching on July 1, the National Lung Cancer Screening Program has already seen more than 60,000 Australians enrol.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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### Cancer care gap for First Nations

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/02/2026, Page 9

First Nations Australians are dying at significantly higher rates from blood cancer and face substantial barriers to treatment and care compared to non-Indigenous Australians. Leukaemia Foundation-commissioned research by the University of Queensland found that awareness of blood cancer symptoms is low among First Nations Australians, and understanding of complex treatments is limited.

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### Cancer 'switch off' find

West Australian, General News, 05/02/2026, Page 5

Monash University researchers, in collaboration with Harvard University, have discovered how to permanently "switch off" cancer-causing genes. It could result in shorter treatment periods and dramatically reduce the debilitating side effects of cancer treatment.

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

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## How what you eat affects your cancer risk

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 04/02/2026, Nina Agrawal

Over decades, a growing body of literature has shown clear links between what we eat and how likely we are to develop various cancers. In recent years, the research has moved away from the impact of individual "superfoods" and antioxidants to focus on how overall, long-term dietary habits affect risk.

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## Nearly 40 per cent of all cancer cases preventable

West Australian, Other, 04/02/2026

Nearly 40 per cent of cancer cases worldwide in 2022 were linked to preventable causes, according to a global analysis published in the journal Nature Medicine. The study, led by Isabelle Soerjomataram of the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, found that tobacco, alcohol and infections were the most common risk factors.

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

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## Financial toll hangs heavy over cancer patients

West Australian, Other, 04/02/2026, Allanah Sciberras

Jacinta Andrews knows all too well that the true cost of cancer extends far beyond medical bills or day treatment. Her husband has been battling multiple forms of cancer for decades, and although he is in remission the family continue to navigate the ongoing effects of his treatments, with some procedures costing thousands.

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

[Read More](#)

## Major gaps miss women's heart attack risk and symptoms

West Australian, Other, 04/02/2026, Maeve Bannister

Women who experience heart disease, including heart attacks, are facing misdiagnosis or under treatment due to critical gaps in how their symptoms are recognised by health professionals. Heart disease is the leading cause of death worldwide and the second in Australia but experts say pre-menopausal women, typically under the age of 50, face significantly worse outcomes as they don't fit what is considered the 'traditional' risk profile.

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

[Read More](#)

## First Nations people dying at far higher rates from blood cancer as new research reveals gaps in care

National Indigenous Times, Other, 04/02/2026, Giovanni Torre

The Leukaemia Foundation has revealed world-first new research showing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are dying at significantly higher rates from blood cancer and face substantial barriers to treatment and care compared to non-Indigenous people in Australia.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 04/02/2026, Peter Mitchell

Australian researchers have made an incredible breakthrough to help women battling breast cancer. In a world first, they have discovered a new cancer-fighting molecule that can provide a treatment when other drugs stop working.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 04/02/2026, Brenton Ragless

Australian scientists have discovered a new molecule that could fight cancer, giving fresh hope for women with advanced breast cancer. The previously unknown RNA molecule, when introduced to hormone receptor-positive cells, destroys these cells using a two-pronged attack. After seven years of research, the team is looking to secure more funding to progress the delivery of this molecule to patients across the globe.

[Play Now](#)

### **Channel 10, 10 News, 04/02/2026, Sandra Sully**

Brisbane researchers have uncovered a new cancer-fighting RNA molecule, which could potentially save thousands of women's lives. The molecule targets hormone-receptor-positive breast cancer, the most common form seen in Australian women. The team is now seeking further funding for the next stage of drug development, intending to conduct a clinical trial in patients with advanced breast cancer.

[Play Now](#)

### **2CC, Canberra Live, 04/02/2026, Leon Delaney**

Australian researchers may have discovered a way to permanently switch off genes that cause cancer. The Monash University study could reduce treatment times and side effects. Senior Research Fellow Dr Omer Gilan says the new approach uses epigenetic therapy to exploit cancer's weaknesses.

[Play Now](#)

### **2GB, Afternoons, 04/02/2026, Michael McLaren**

Interview with University of Sydney Cancer Elimination Collaboration lead researcher Professor Karen Canfield. Canfield talks about preventable cancers, which people usually get from smoking, alcohol, infections, and UV radiation. She claims that screening and early detection are important to treat cancers and notes that Australia has national screening programs and fantastic approaches for cancer prevention.

[Play Now](#)

### **ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, 04/02/2026, Joel Rheinberger**

Interview with BreastScreen Tasmania physician Dr Ginny Baird. Tasmania has four preventative cancer screenings available to people at risk. Baird says about 70 per cent of women have breast pain at some point in their lives. She claims that Tasmania has never had a breast specialist doctor.

[Play Now](#)

### **ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 04/02/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos**

Interview with Royal Perth Hospital consultant medical oncologist Dr Aesha Gandhi. Every year, over 1,800 young Australians are diagnosed with bowel cancer. Gandhi says colon cancer is one of the most common types of cancers in Australia and the world, with its prevalence starting to increase more in the younger population. She claims that the rising rate of colorectal cancers in young people is multifactorial, noting that people today are eating more processed foods, smoking, and living a more sedentary lifestyle.

*Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#).*

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[Back to Top](#)

---

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### **Telehealth ADHD plan faces safety backlash**

The Australian, General News, 05/02/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 6

Psychiatrists and GPs are warning that the safety of ADHD patients is threatened by the Victorian government's plan to allow its Virtual Emergency Department to prescribe up to six months of ADHD medication refills via telehealth consultations. Just a day after announcing it would allow trained GPs to

diagnose ADHD and prescribe medication, the Alban government went a step further on Wednesday, saying its Virtual ED service would be available to dispense urgent top-up prescriptions.

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

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

## How weight-loss medications are triggering new eating disorders

Age, General News, 05/02/2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 14

When Kacey Martin started taking weight-loss medication in June in consultation with her health providers, she experienced immediate relief. "It reduced the food noise," Martin said, who has previously experienced bulimia along with binge and restrictive eating.

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

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

## ADHD change one step too far

Herald Sun, General News, 05/02/2026, Ryan Bourke and Sarah Booth, Page 2

Psychiatrists and general practitioners have slammed the government's decision to let the virtual emergency department prescribe ADHD medication as an "unsafe, untested" scheme that "bypasses proper clinical care". Announced by Premier Jacinta Allan on Wednesday, the new policy allows patients with an existing diagnosis who cannot see their usual specialist to dial into Victoria's Virtual Emergency Department online and get up to six months of medication prescribed for free.

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## Fires hit mental health

Herald Sun, General News, 05/02/2026, Page 18

Bushfire smoke may be affecting the mental health of children, with Australian-led research showing that emergency department visits for child mental health increased in the six days after exposure. The Monash University research looked at how levels of air pollution following a bushfire impacted emergency department visits for kids' mental health and compared this data with visits following exposure to air pollution from other sources.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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## Heartbreaking losses must end

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/02/2026, Shashi Baltutis, Page 3

After the tragic suicide death of her uncle last year, Acacia Coaby wants to prevent further loss with mental health support for Indigenous young people. The Tjindu Foundation student applied to The Advertiser's Teen Parliament 2026 with her suicide prevention plea.

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

## No help left him with no hope

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/02/2026, Talara McHugh, Page 6

Corey Leondiou wanted to be a doctor so he could help people in their darkest moments. But when the 24-year-old medical student presented to Lyell McEwin Hospital with suicidal thoughts, he was told he'd have to wait at least five hours for support.

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

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

## What the doctor ordered

Ballarat Courier, General News, 05/02/2026, Michelle Smith, Page 1

Specially trained GPs will be able to diagnose and treat ADHD in a move that could ease wait times and reduce the costs associated with diagnosis in regional areas. Ballarat experts have welcomed the move, saying it will be "life-changing" for many struggling to overcome the barriers to being diagnosed.

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## Site set for new youth mental health facility

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 05/02/2026, Nikita McGuire, Page 7

The site of a six-bed youth mental health hub has been decided for Townsville as the state government attempts to fill a gap in the space between hospitals and communitybased services. The purpose-built facility will be located at the Townsville Hospital and Health Service Vincent Campus on Cambridge Street, providing short-term residential care for people aged 16 to 21.

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

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## Mental boost

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/02/2026, Page 33

Research from People and Nature in collaboration with Griffith University has revealed walking in nature can provide measurable, lasting mental health benefits for women. A study of over 400 participants on a 12week Coastrek program showed a 5.6 per cent increase in well-being, sustained by those who continued walking.

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

## Mental health failures behind Bondi Junction tragedy

The Australian, Other, 04/02/2026, Dr Pramudie Gunaratne

As the coroner prepares to hand down findings on the death of six stabbing victims and the perpetrator at Bondi Junction's Westfield shopping centre in 2024, the spotlight will fall on our mental health system. The image of a young man in a footy shirt hurtling through a shopping centre on a perfectly ordinary Saturday will be forever seared into our collective national consciousness.

[Read More](#)

## Bondi stabbings legacy: Experts say little has changed for mentally ill homeless

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/02/2026, Madeleine Bower

Mental health experts warn little has changed in NSW's struggling system nearly two years after schizophrenic Joel Cauchi killed six people at Bondi Junction. Rough sleepers suffering from severe mental health issues have increased over the last year, with little change occurring in the state's struggling mental health system nearly two years after the tragic Bondi stabbings.

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

[Read More](#)

## Firefighters face repeat trauma. We learned how to reduce their risk of PTSD

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 04/02/2026

In their day-to-day work, first responders – including police, firefighters, paramedics and lifesavers – often witness terrible things happening to other people, and may be in danger themselves. For some people, this can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which usually involves intrusive memories and flashbacks, negative thoughts and emotions, feeling constantly on guard, and avoiding things that remind them of the trauma.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 04/02/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Butterfly Foundation CEO Dr Jim Hungerford. Hungerford says eating disorders have been an issue for the NT, and claims that people must have access to an eating disorder clinic. He praises state governments for investing more into mental health, but states that there is not enough funding going into specialist supports for eating disorders.

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[Back to Top](#)

## IMMUNISATION

### **PBAC recommends new NIP adult vaccine listings**

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 04/02/2026, Chloe Hava

New Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) recommendations could significantly change who can access funded COVID-19 and RSV vaccines. At its December 2025 meeting, PBAC considered applications for funding COVID-19 vaccines and RSV vaccines on the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### **Radio National, AM, 04/02/2026, Isabella Higgins**

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) has launched a stinging critique of the nation's private health insurers, accusing the five largest companies of using their 80 per cent market share to "coerce" doctors and limit patient care. AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen warned today that a "broken" contracting system is allowing insurers to dictate clinical models on their own terms, often prioritising cost-cutting over medical necessity.

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### **Billions worth of medical imaging concerns in play**

The Australian, Business News, 05/02/2026, Bridget Carter, Page 14

Almost \$5bn worth of diagnostic imaging businesses are set to be on the market this year, the latest potentially coming up on offer being Perth Radiological, which could fetch a price close to \$1bn. DataRoom understands Stanton Road Partners has been appointed to assess potential exit options for the group. Investment bank JPMorgan has also been undertaking work on the business ahead of a possible sale.

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

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### **ADHD breakthrough bid**

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/02/2026, Page 3

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.

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### **Big sugar hit**

West Australian, General News, 05/02/2026, Page 19

University of Sydney researchers have developed a powerful way to target deadly, drug-resistant bacteria by designing antibodies that recognise a sugar found only on bacterial cells an advance that could underpin a new generation of immunotherapies for multidrug-resistant hospital-acquired infections. The research shows a lab-made antibody can clear an otherwise lethal infection in mice by targeting a bacterial sugar and flagging the pathogen for destruction by the immune system.

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

## Opposition's move to fight VicHealth abolition won't help budget: S&P

Australian Financial Review, Other, 04/02/2026, Sumeyya Ilanbey

Global credit ratings agency S&P has weighed into Victorian state politics, warning the Coalition that its opposition to the government's plan to axe an agency, as recommended by an independent cost-cutting review, risks further delaying much-needed...

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[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### SBS, World News Australia, 04/02/2026, Janice Petersen

First Nations Australians have been found to be five times more likely to die from blood cancer, according to the Leukaemia Foundation. It comes as the NSW Government announces the state's first Aboriginal cancer strategy backed by a \$12 million funding boost to improve cancer outcomes for Aboriginal communities.

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[Back to Top](#)

## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Under the microscope

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/02/2026, Jamieson Murphy, Page 1

The Calvary Mater Hospital will be the centre of a parliamentary inquiry, following a string of high-profile scandals that ranged from deadly mould to maggots. The inquiry was put forward by the Coalition, who pushed it through the NSW Parliament yesterday with the support of the Greens, despite Labor voting against it.

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

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### Inside the new \$411 million 'purpose-built' St George Hospital redevelopment

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/02/2026, Thomas Sargeant

A major hospital upgrade in Sydney's south has been completed to the tune of \$411 million 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.

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

[Read More](#)

### Nurses claim Bundaberg Hospital in crisis after Director-General 'crisis talks'

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 04/02/2026

Whistleblowers have revealed the Queensland Health Director-General paid a visit to Bundaberg Hospital last week for "crisis talks" amid claims emergency wait times have ballooned by nearly nine per cent. A media release from Bundaberg Labor MP Tom Smith said exhausted nurses had revealed the hospital had been operating at a Tier 3 crisis level for three weeks.

[Read More](#)

### Warning overcrowded Adelaide emergency departments could push

## more patients into hospital corridors

7news.com.au, Other, 04/02/2026, Mitchell Sariovski

Doctors are warning that South Australia's overcrowded emergency departments could see even more patients treated in corridors, as pressure intensifies for an urgent review into the death of Kilburn grandmother Helen Sargent at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Royal Adelaide and Queen Elizabeth Hospital doctor Dan Haustead told 7NEWS the system is buckling.

[Read More](#)

## This is how much of the extra federal funding WA public hospitals will get

Medical Forum, Other, 04/02/2026, Aleisha Orr

Western Australian public hospitals will see an additional \$2.4 billion in funding from the Commonwealth across the next five years. The AMA (WA) has said this agreement must be "the floor, not the ceiling" for hospital funding reform.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 04/02/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

There is a warning tonight that overcrowded hospital emergency departments in South Australian hospitals could force more patients into corridors. It comes as pressure mounts for the state government to launch an urgent review into the death of a Kilburn grandmother at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Dr Dan Hausted from the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine says the state hospital system is "getting worse" and "not functioning optimally."

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 04/02/2026, Peter Overton

A major update to the St George Hospital in Sydney South has been completed. More than \$400 million has been dedicated to the development of the nine-storey building where staff will treat patients with multiple conditions, including dementia and brain trauma. The facility will open in the coming months.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Toowoomba Hospital's midwife guide slammed as 'papering over the cracks'

The Courier Mail, Other, 05/02/2026, Jackie Sinnerton and Michael Nolan

Moves to introduce the state's first-ever "midwife guide" to oversee care at the beleaguered maternity unit at a top Queensland hospital have been called "papering over the cracks" of a health crisis. Toowoomba Hospital maternity has been at the centre of shock allegations of two rare placental abruptions leaving one baby dead and another with brain damage in a matter of months as well as claims of obstetric violence and slashes to a baby's ear and mother's bladder during C-sections.

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### 'Unacceptable': Doctors sue for unpaid overtime

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/02/2026, Kate Aubusson, Page 1

Junior doctors are suing St Vincent's Hospital for millions in unpaid overtime, alleging the hospital

enforces a shadow policy that demands they work excessive hours off the books, or risk career sabotage. As many as 2500 doctors are expected to join the class action launched this week, which has the hallmarks of another class action against NSW Health that led to the biggest underpayment settlement in Australian history.

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

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## Elective surgery queues hit record high

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/02/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 4

Elective surgery queues have blown out to new records as the state election looms and nurses plan a stop-work rally today over a pay dispute. The government on Wednesday made nurses a new offer of 11.1 per cent over three years, resulting in rises of \$320 to \$436 a fortnight from 2028, but the union executive rejected it.

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## Nurses hurt as tank erupts

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 05/02/2026, Luke Griffiths and Lucy Crock, Page 1

Nurses who responded to a fire that caused chaos within the intensive care unit of a Geelong hospital have been lauded for their heroic actions, as Victoria's workplace safety watchdog seeks answers on how it all unfolded. Two Epworth Geelong nurses were hospitalised after an oxygen cylinder combusted on January 28.

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

## Channel 7, Seven News, 04/02/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

Thousands of SA nurses and midwives will walk off the job tomorrow, escalating their pay battle with the state government. The union has rejected the recent government pay offer, demanding a 23 per cent increase by the end of next year. Other major medical unions, including doctors, ambulance staff, and allied health workers, have agreed to pay increases of around 13 per cent over four years. The nurses' union says their decision won't influence its own campaign for a better deal.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 04/02/2026, Brenton Ragless

Nurses and midwives have rejected the latest pay offer from the South Australian Government. The state government has offered an 11.15 per cent wage increase over three years, which is below the union's request of 23 per cent by the end of next year. The workers will launch a mass rally tomorrow on the steps of the state parliament.

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## Channel 10, 10 News, 04/02/2026, Tiffany Warne

Thousands of nurses will stop work tomorrow for a mass rally after rejecting the SA Government's latest pay offer. The state government has offered an 11.15 per cent wage increase over three years. Nurses and midwives who have been fighting for a pay rise for almost a year, asking for 23 per cent, rejected the offer immediately.

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[Back to Top](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Channel 7, Seven News, 04/02/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

A new drug called donanemab, designed to treat Alzheimer's, has shown remarkable results in the

clinical trial, providing renewed hope for dementia sufferers. There is now a push to make it much more accessible. The drug has previously rejected for listing on the PBS.

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## **Channel 9, Nine News, 04/02/2026, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort**

Early results from Australian trials of new dementia drugs show they are exceeding expectations. Doctors say they could reshape the treatment of the disease if patients can afford the medication. They hope the positive results will lead to the inclusion of the drugs on the PBS.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### **4BC, Breakfast , 04/02/2026, Dean Miller and Sofie Formica**

Australian families pursuing IVF are facing a steep new financial hurdle as major fertility clinics ring in the new year with significant price increases. As of January 2026, the out-of-pocket cost for a single stimulated IVF cycle has jumped by nearly \$900 at several premium clinics, with patients now expected to pay upwards of \$7,000 for an initial round of treatment after Medicare rebates.

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[Back to Top](#)

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### **Psychologist pays price of vexatious complaints from former employee**

Age, General News, 05/02/2026, Charlotte Grieve, Page 15

A registered psychologist repeatedly targeted with vexatious complaints from a disgruntled former employee, which prompted reports to the police, claims the health regulator's conduct puts practitioners at risk of mental and financial harm. Jenna Jones' issues came after she dismissed an employee from her psychology practice who solicited patients for her tarot card reading business, misrepresented her qualifications and became aggressive at work, prompting police intervention.

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### **Probe into controversial surgeon's appointment to top Queensland role**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 04/02/2026, Courtney Kruk

Queensland's premier has vowed to investigate the appointment of a controversial heart and lung surgeon after he was named head of a new surgical quality and safety program. Clinical Excellence Queensland, an initiative of Queensland Health, announced Dr Michael Byrom as the state's new surgical medical lead on Tuesday.

[Read More](#)

### **Doctor previously banned from complex surgery in NSW given senior clinical safety role with Queensland Health**

The Guardian, Other, 04/02/2026, Melissa Davey

A cardiothoracic surgeon previously restricted from performing major heart and lung surgery by the New South Wales medical regulator has been appointed to a senior Queensland government clinical safety position. On Tuesday the deputy director general of Clinical Excellence Queensland, Dr Helen Brown, announced Dr Michael Byrom as the inaugural surgical medical lead for the organisation, which focuses on healthcare quality, safety and efficiency.

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[Back to Top](#)

### **Meningococcal in WA: Four new type B cases reported to health authorities**

7news.com.au, Other, 04/02/2026, Hannah Cross

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.

[Read More](#)

### **The new 'highly transmissible' COVID-19 variant: what Aussies need to know**

The Senior, Other, 04/02/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

A new COVID-19 variant is spreading quietly - and older Australians are paying the price, experts say. The dominant strain, NB.1.8.1 - a sub-lineage of Omicron - is now circulating widely across Australia, although it is flying under the radar.

[Read More](#)

### **Channel 7, Seven News, 04/02/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings**

There are now fears of a measles outbreak in Adelaide, with SA Health reporting a person became infected late last month. Anyone who thinks they may have measles is advised to call ahead before seeing their GP, as the disease is so contagious.

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### **FIVEAA, Mornings, 04/02/2026, Graeme Goodings**

Interview with SA Chief Public Health Officer Nicola Spurrier. Spurrier says the state has detected a measles case this week, claiming that they have done contact tracing interview with the individual. She advises the public to ensure that they are vaccinated against measles. She notes that the SA Government is now funding a free second dose of measles vaccination.

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[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### **Blobby sunscreen recall**

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/02/2026, Page 3

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.

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

### **New drugs deployed in fight against dementia**

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 05/02/2026, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 4

Two Gold Coast patients have become the first in Queensland to receive new medications which doctors hope may offer a better quality of life for some dementia sufferers. [...] Dr Leihy said while clinical benefit varies between patients, new drugs Donanemab and Lecanemab registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) last year had shown promise.

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

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## It created Ozempic. Now this company has run into major problems

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 04/02/2026, Nick Bonyhady and Colin Kruger

Ozempic maker Novo Nordisk is at risk of losing its weight loss crown as rivals crowd into the obesity drug space, offering drugs that are being sold to Australians as cheaper and more effective. [...] Both form factor and efficacy innovations are ultimately wins for patients with obesity" An Eli Lilly spokeswoman said: "Lilly is seeking Australian registration of its next-generation obesity management medicine, orforglipron, with the TGA recently accepting an application for registration."

[Read More](#)

## Australian researchers believe wattle may contain the 'next gen' of psychedelics

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 04/02/2026, Sarah Berry

In a lab in Western Sydney, three piles of dirt are laid out on aluminium foil. [...] Then in 2023, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) authorised psychiatrists like Strauss to start prescribing MDMA for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and psilocybin for treatment-resistant depression.

[Read More](#)

## Serena Williams pics blow minds amid swirling rumour

NEWS.com.au, Other, 04/02/2026, Tyson Otto

Shocking photos of tennis legend Serena Williams looking unrecognisable have been shared days after setting the rumour mill alight. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration warns that prescription medicines are "higher risk and should only be determined as an appropriate treatment option in consultation with a professionally trained medical practitioner".

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

[Read More](#)

## Sunscreen recalls

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 04/02/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued recall alerts for several sunscreen products. Edgewell Personal Care Australia Pty Ltd is recalling all unexpired batches of Banana Boat Baby Zinc Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50 and Hawaiian Tropic Mineral Zinc Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50 - more here.

[Read More](#)

## Sunscreen scares filling your feed? Here's the truth

The New Daily, Other, 04/02/2026, Laura Dare

Two more sunscreens have just been recalled in Australia, piling on the uncertainty around a product we all need to use and trust. [...] After consumer group Choice tested 20 popular products and found 16 didn't meet SPF claims on their labels, the Therapeutic Goods Administration stepped in, recalls followed, and social media lit up.

[Read More](#)

## 2GB, Breakfast, 04/02/2026, Ben Fordham

Compere says the Banana Boat Baby Zinc Sunscreen Lotion has been recalled by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. He adds that according to the TGA, uneven texture and visible water are separating out of the product, which means that the ingredients might no longer be properly mixed.

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[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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