



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 10th February 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports the Victorian government is considering using emergency industrial powers to prevent health worker strikes, amid concerns that the HWU's actions pose a risk to public safety. A government spokesperson said the Victorian Hospitals Industrial Association with the assistance of the Fair Work Commission is negotiating with the union.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 15) reports the Victorian government spent \$227,000 to redesign a health service website in January 2025, months after approving a \$1.5 billion bailout for the state's hospital system. A government spokeswoman said the website was for the Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing, an independent body that manages its own budget.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 6) reports that SA Premier Peter Malinauskas made an election pledge of \$1 million to expand pharmacist training in the state, allowing them to treat acute conditions and ease pressure on GPs.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 2) reports that Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls will announce today an independent review into Toowoomba Hospital's maternity unit after recent baby death and claims of obstetric violence.
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 2) reports that Productivity Commission data showed ACT residents have the lowest GP bulk-billing rates nationwide and are paying more out-of-pocket,

with patients delaying doctor visits or buying medicines due to cost.

- **Townsville Bulletin** (online) reports that Queensland Health is investigating a breach of patient privacy at Townsville University Hospital after sensitive information and image were allegedly leaked to Dr Joanna Howe, an anti-abortion campaigner, and posted online.
- **Women's Agenda** (online) reports that more than 660,000 women have accessed cheaper PBS prescriptions for new contraceptives, menopausal hormone therapies and endometriosis treatments through the Federal Government's Women's Health Package. Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White said the package has reduced costs and changed lives.
- **The Medical Republic** (online) reports the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's 2025 GP national registrar survey showed that overall satisfaction with training providers has reached 92 per cent for the first time.

MINISTER BUTLER

No relevant coverage

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

Why recognising religious sisters in care minutes matters

Catholic Health Australia, Other, 09/02/2026

Policy reform rarely delivers neat moments of closure. [...] Together with the Department and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, we developed a solution that recognises the contributions of religious sisters in aged care appropriately.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

PBS listings help 660K women

Pharma In Focus, Other, 09/02/2026

Since the Federal Government launched the Women's Health Package a year ago, more than 660,000 women have accessed more than two million scripts for contraceptives, menopausal hormone therapies, and endometriosis treatments, according to figures released by the Department of Health today. "One year on from the launch of the landmark Women's Health Package, the impact is clear," Assistant Minister for Health, Rebecca White, said.

[Read More](#)

More than 660,000 women benefit from cheaper medicines in first year of Australia's landmark health package

Women's Agenda, Other, 09/02/2026, Brianna Boecker

In the year following the government's landmark \$792.9 million women's health package, more than 660,000 women in Australia have accessed more than 2 million cheaper scripts for new contraceptives, menopausal hormone therapies and endometriosis treatment, which were listed on the PBS. [...]

Women are paying less for essential medicines, accessing more support through Medicare and the PBS, and getting access to the health care they deserve," said Rebecca White, the Assistant Minister for Health.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

GP registrar satisfaction reaches new heights

The Medical Republic, Other, 09/02/2026, Holly Payne

General practice registrars are more satisfied with their training partner now than at any other time in the last decade, according to insights from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's 2025 GP national registrar survey. The survey, which was published on Friday, contained responses from more than 1200 GP and rural generalist registrars, around three-quarters of whom were working toward an RACGP fellowship.

[Read More](#)

A comprehensive guide to AI in healthcare

The Medical Republic, Other, 09/02/2026, Laura Andronicos

Use of generative artificial intelligence (genAI), such as chatbots and scribes, has become increasingly normalised in clinical practice. [...] Big picture next steps Professor Parry believes oversight from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is a requirement for genAI use in medicine.

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'Historic high' approval ratings for RACGP training

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 09/02/2026

Registrars' satisfaction with training and education has reached its highest ever level, results of the 2025 National Registrar Survey show. [...] Carried out on behalf of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) report also notes a substantial bounce in satisfaction rates.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

SA Premier's \$250M no-interest loan program for new aged care beds – if re-elected

The Weekly Source, Other, 09/02/2026, Ian Horswill

It's State election time in South Australia and the political promises are coming thick and fast. Labor Premier Peter Malinauskas, who had a visit from Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Saturday 31

January 2026, had already promised to redevelop land at Adelaide University's Magill Campus for an aged care and retirement living facility , although not before 2033-34.

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Ryman Healthcare to keep six development sites as sell-off continues

The Weekly Source, Other, 09/02/2026, Ian Horswill

The operator, which manages 49 integrated retirement villages and aged care facilities across Australia and New Zealand, is being forced to sell down land assets. Ryman Healthcare wants to raise at least NZ\$200 million through sales of land from its land bank as part of its new capital management framework, announced at its Investor Day on Tuesday, 3 February.

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Inquiry exposes shocking cost of aged care essentials

Aged Care Insite, Other, 09/02/2026

Aged care providers are charging older Australians up to seven times more for a meal to be delivered, as fears grow that changes in the aged care sector is turning it into the new NDIS. In addition, co-contributions under the new reforms mean people can no longer afford their continence pads or have a shower.

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Australia faces growing dementia challenge

Aged Care Insite, Other, 09/02/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The number of Australians living with dementia in 2026 has increased to an estimated 446,500 – a figure projected to more than double to over a million by 2065. New data released by Dementia Australia (DA) reveals that the impact of dementia spans all age groups, with an estimated 29,000 Australians aged between 18 and 65 living with younger onset dementia.

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Placing stranded hospital patients in aged care is harder than it sounds

Aged Care Insite, Other, 09/02/2026, Hal Swerissen

The Australian government has finalised a A\$220 billion hospital funding deal with the states and territories. A key part of the negotiation was two billion dollars designed to help hospitals move more than 3000 patients stranded in hospital waiting for discharge to a more appropriate aged-care facility.

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SA announces \$250m to help build aged care beds

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 09/02/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The South Australian government has announced a \$250 million no-interest loan scheme in the hopes it will incentivise the construction of 650 new aged care beds. It has also announced its intention to transform the Women and Children's hospital in North Adelaide into a dedicated, 600-bed health and aged care precinct, and to reactivate the 70-bed College Grove aged care home to help transition older patients from hospital.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 09/02/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Chris Grice, CEO of National Seniors Australia, about SA's proposed aged care expansion at the Women's and Children's Hospital site. Grice says stranded seniors in hospitals face significant personal and family stress, calling for urgent action beyond political blame. He adds that aged care requires coordinated state and federal focus.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 09/02/2026, Sonya Feldhoff & Jules Schiller

Panel discussion with Chris Picton, Minister for Health and Wellbeing for SA and Heidi Girolamo,

Shadow Minister for Health for SA. Girolamo points out that they are looking to keep the current Women's and Children's Hospital as a precinct, noting that ramping is currently felt within SA Labor, but they are now a record high. She adds that they are looking to resolve issues with aged care patients taking up beds in hospital through a transition to home-based care, allowing people to be based in Women's and Children's Hospital.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 09/02/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Chris Picton, Minister for Health and Wellbeing for SA, about hospital congestion and aged care shortages. Picton says 360 elderly patients are stuck in hospitals, which blocks beds needed for other patients and forces measures like renting hotel floors. He explains the state will offer a \$250m no-interest loan scheme to fund the construction of 650 new aged care places and accelerate much-needed facilities.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

APS 'junkets a slap in face'

The Australian, General News, 10/02/2026, Jack Quail & Noah Yim, Page 2

The opposition has set its sights on public service training costs, taking aim at overnight "luxury junkets" for senior commonwealth bureaucrats as the latest example of what it deems to be profligate federal spending. Responses to questions on notice, received by opposition finance spokesman James Paterson, reveal the cost of 10 off-site leadership courses held by the Australian Public Service Commission's APS Academy, an initiative established by the Morrison government.

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

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RBA issues dire warning on economic growth

Australian Financial Review, Other, 09/02/2026, Lea Jurkovic

The Reserve Bank of Australia has forecast the worst medium-term economic growth ever, which economists warn will erode Australians' living standards and put more pressure on the federal government's deteriorating budget.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 09/02/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Cain Beckett, CEO of Carers ACT, about the launch of a new day respite centre in Spence. Beckett explains the centre offers day support for carers, allowing them to attend to their own health or personal needs while trained staff care for those they support. He emphasises that carers in the ACT provide more daily care than the hospital system, and this new facility is a step toward addressing the territory's limited respite services.

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PRIMARY CARE

Sports stars kick in millions for start-up

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/02/2026, Giuseppe Tauriello, Page 7

An Adelaide health start-up has scored a \$46m investment deal backed by some of the country's top athletes, among them Matildas star Sam Kerr and Test captain Pat Cummins. Splose, founded by entrepreneur Nicholas Sanderson in 2016, is an all-in-one practice management platform for

physiotherapists and allied health practitioners, that uses AI and automation to help run their business, including booking appointments, transcribing practice notes processing payments.

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

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'Canberra tax': ACT residents dodge doctors

Canberra Times, General News, 10/02/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 2

ACT residents were the most likely to delay seeing the doctor or buying medication due to cost in 2024-25, new data shows. While the national trend shows a decline in healthcare avoidance and a rise in bulk billing, the ACT is trending the opposite way, data released by the Productivity Commission showed.

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

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Eczema sufferer offers hope after life 'stripped away' by topical steroid withdrawal

7news.com.au, Other, 09/02/2026, Smita Kunvarji

When Heidi Rein chose to stop using steroid medication to treat her eczema she hoped her body would recover. Instead, the decision marked the beginning of the most painful chapter of her life.

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A growing future for general practice in WA

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 09/02/2026

A record 251 registrars in Western Australia are on the way to becoming GPs and Rural Generalists, in what promises to be a boon for the state's general practice workforce. Starting on the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program last week, this year's WA registrars cohort is 28.1% bigger than last year's 194, which itself is a 31% increase from 2024.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Quit premise up in smoke

Cairns Post, General News, 10/02/2026, Tamara McDonald, Page 27

Desperate vape addicts are finding the habit even harder to kick than traditional cigarettes, with experts reporting an alarming trend of people swapping to smoking over puffing to try and quit their nicotine addiction. It comes as results from a national survey, exclusively obtained by this masthead, revealed almost one in 10 Australian adults had purchased under-the-counter vapes in the past 12 months, as the black market continues to thrive.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Heather contracted HIV on an overseas holiday. Women like her are more likely to be overlooked by doctors in Australia

The Guardian, Other, 10/02/2026, Natasha May

When Heather Ellis travelled the world by motorcycle in 1993, the Grim Reaper Aids ads were fresh in the then-28-year-old's mind. Knowing she was travelling to Africa where there was a high prevalence of HIV, Ellis had no intention of having sex and did not pack any condoms.

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'Alcoholism doesn't discriminate': a new reality for addiction

When Australians think of people struggling with alcohol addiction, stereotypes might come to mind of men or people with certain occupations. But the typical person attending an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meeting is a university educated woman in her 50s, employed and who has been sober for 17 years, according to Alcoholics Anonymous' survey.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 09/02/2026, Lucy Breaden

Interview with Dr Kathryn Barnsley, former Member of the National Expert Advisory Committee on Tobacco, about tobacco and vaping risks in Tasmania. Barnsley warns that vaping is never safe, citing hundreds of harmful chemicals in e-liquids and aerosols, and highlights that dual use in young people increases toxic exposure. She also stresses that reducing smoking rates requires funding for programs like Quit Tasmania, not just tougher penalties on illegal sales.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Nurse starts amid 'serious equity concerns'

Ballarat Courier, General News, 10/02/2026, Michelle Smith, Page 5

Inbal Ross sees the reality of higher-than-average rates of melanoma in the Grampians region every day. Mrs Ross is the new dedicated Grampians Health melanoma nurse - a big role in a region that has a 22 per cent higher rate of the potentially deadly skin cancer than the state average.

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'He never showed me mercy': Woman slams law that let abuser end life

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/02/2026, Blair Jackson

The victim survivor of notorious pedophile Daniel Hume is pushing for the public to have their voices heard on assisted dying legislation, which allowed her father and abuser to serve just seven years of a 30-year sentence. Hume, 55, died in Cessnock Hospital near Newcastle in August — his life ended by assisted dying in the face of a terminal cancer diagnosis.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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How robots can reconnect the 1.2m chronically ill Aussie kids back to the classroom

Adelaide Now, Other, 09/02/2026, Darcy Fitzgerald

Arlo Caratti has undergone a bone-marrow transplant, kidney transplant, chemotherapy and a double hip replacement – all by the age of nine years old. He suffers a disease only 20 people in the world have.

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

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Evenings, 09/02/2026, Philip Clark

Interview with Bruce Neal, Executive Director of The George Institute for Global Health, about salt intake and salt substitutes for heart and stroke risk. Neal says people need sodium to survive, but consume far more salt than the body requires, with modern diets delivering about ten times the evolutionary norm. He explains that higher potassium and lower sodium intake support better cardiovascular health and lower stroke risk.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Grieving parents demand Royal Commission into Queensland's 'broken' mental health system

The Courier Mail, Other, 09/02/2026, Ann Wason Moore

The parents of two children who died while under an involuntary treatment order are calling for a Royal Commission into Queensland's mental health system. Dr Jeff Smith and Jane McDonald's only child, Lauren Smith, died in October 2024 and the couple have now added their voices to those of other families, clinicians and mental health activists in campaigning for change, including Steve and Lize Ramsay, parents of Gold Coast teenager Giaan Ramsay.

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

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\$740m veterans plan to fund social 'rehabilitation', psychedelic treatments for PTSD

ABC Online, Other, 09/02/2026, Jake Evans

Yoga, surf therapy, cooking lessons and short education courses will be available to veterans under a \$739 million expansion of the support system for former service people. And new treatments, including MDMA and psilocybin for the worst cases of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), will also receive funding for the first time, as well as medicinal cannabis for chronic pain and other physical illnesses.

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IMMUNISATION

Immunisation handbook updates

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/02/2026

The Department of Health has announced updates to the Australian Immunisation Handbook, including changes to mpox, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and herpes zoster guidelines. Groups recommended for primary vaccination against mpox have been expanded to include humanitarian workers and travellers to a clade I mpox region who might undertake sexual risk activities.

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Free flu shots, expanded vax scope in Qld

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/02/2026

The Queensland Government is providing an expanded free influenza vaccination program, enabling people aged six months and over to access free flu shots ahead of the 2026 peak flu season. Commencing 01 Mar 2026, the program will also include a needle-free nasal spray vaccine for eligible children aged two to five years.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Ramsay poised to scrap spin-off

The Australian, Business News, 10/02/2026, Page 14

Speculation is mounting that Ramsay Health Care will unveil details of a plan to deal with its challenging European hospital division by the time it reports its results on February 26. However,

despite many expecting that the group would demerge the unit by way of an in specie dividend to its shareholders, that's no longer believed to be on the table, according to sources.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Anger at website rebrand

Herald Sun, General News, 10/02/2026, Ryan Bourke, Page 15

The Allan government spent more than \$220,000 to "refine the brand identity" of a health service's website just months after it was forced to announce a \$1.5bn bailout for the state's healthcare system. Tender disclosures show \$227,000 was awarded to creative advertising agency Showpony to "refine established brand identity and undertake redesign and delivery of a website to better align with the approved brand identity".

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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Good hearts easy to find in the regions

Herald Sun, General News, 10/02/2026, Page 13

The lifesaving Good Friday Appeal has marked its regional launch in Ballarat, with the parents of tot Tallulah Nelles-Cribbes far from the only Victorian family eternally grateful for the money raised annually in the epic fundraising effort. For little Tallulah, equipment purchased through funding from the Good Friday Appeal kept her alive, after she was diagnosed at just two weeks old with an abnormally fast heart rate.

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Troubled birthing unit to be reviewed

Courier Mail, General News, 10/02/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 2

An independent review will be launched into the beleaguered maternity unit at Toowoomba Hospital following weeks of pressure from maternity consumer advocates and angry patients. Health Minister Tim Nicholls is set to announce in Parliament on Tuesday that he has instructed the director-general to commission an independent assurance review into the maternity unit.

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Cooking up the excuses

West Australian, General News, 10/02/2026, Caleb Runciman, Page 12

Roger Cook has blamed the private sector and Perth's growing population for diverting women in labour away from our public hospitals. The WA Premier described a mother's experience of having to give birth on the Kwinana Freeway after being refused admission at Midland as "confronting and distressing".

Hospital debate dead

Cairns Post, General News, 10/02/2026, Arun Singh Mann, Page 9

After decades of debate reigniting with every major upgrade, Cairns Hospital chief executive Leena Singh has put the idea of relocating the city's health facility away from the esplanade to bed once and for all. A \$1bn expansion, which is set to deliver four key projects over five years at its existing site, rules out relocation, and puts a pin in questions around a second hospital, which many have called for in the city's south, Ms Singh says.

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Planning to explore new hospital build

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 10/02/2026, Tom Gillespie, Page 4

Work has begun to potentially revamp public health offerings at two of the Darling Downs' largest hospitals. Darling Downs Health on Monday revealed it had issued tenders for consultants to start planning for "future health infrastructure options" at both Warwick and Dalby Hospitals.

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Suffering for art: volunteers angry

Border Mail, General News, 10/02/2026, Hana Humboldt, Page 1

Volunteers have been left outraged after revelations Albury Wodonga Health used about \$200,000 raised by opportunity shops for art installations. Better Border Health director Stan Stavros said the group was "appalled".

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Appeal aims to bring upgrades to regions

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 10/02/2026, Karli Farrell, Page 3

The Mildura Base Public Hospital is one of many regional healthcare providers expected to receive funding from the Good Friday Appeal and the Royal Children's Hospital. Statewide \$3 million in funding will be allocated to more than 30 regional health services, with the aim of helping sick and injured children get the best possible health care.

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Change promised after freeway birth, but Premier can't explain why mother was sent from Midland to Rockingham

West Australian, Other, 09/02/2026

Roger Cook has blamed the private sector and Perth's growing population for diverting women in labour away from our public hospitals, as health bosses promised "immediate changes" to prevent a repeat of a mother's traumatic roadside birth. The WA Premier described Lena's experience of having to give birth on the Kwinana Freeway after being refused admission at Midland as "confronting and distressing".

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#)

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Mother claims missed warning signs in NT hospital led to baby's lifelong disabilities

ABC Online, Other, 09/02/2026, Roxanne Fitzgerald

Mia Pilbrow was just 22 weeks pregnant when she started bleeding and experiencing severe stomach and back pain. Terrified she was losing her baby, she rushed to Alice Springs Hospital seven times over the next four weeks, begging doctors for help.

[Read More](#)

Health van bought with Murrindindi community funds swings into action after fires

As bushfires become more frequent across Australia, a rural community has created a self-reliant way to bring timely medical help to people in need. The Murrindindi Mobile Health Van was officially launched at Yea, in Victoria's north-east last month, and is staffed by doctors and nurses who travel to remote towns to provide care at people's doorsteps.

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'Appalling breach': Townsville hospital investigates after pro-life activist posts image of aborted fetus

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 09/02/2026, Natalie Brown

Queensland health authorities are investigating an "appalling breach" of patient privacy and confidentiality at Townsville University Hospital, after sensitive information, including a photo of an aborted fetus, was sent to a pro-life activist and shared on social media. Prominent anti-abortion campaigner and University of Adelaide law professor Dr Joanna Howe posted the content on Facebook and Instagram last week, thanking the "brave whistleblower" who provided her with the graphic image of the fetus and confidential birth information.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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The government has promised a \$25 billion boost to hospital funding – but only hints at real reform

Your Life Choices, Other, 09/02/2026

Federal and state governments have finally resolved their long-running standoff on public hospital funding. The deal struck at National Cabinet on Friday includes a A\$25 billion boost to hospital funding, and state government commitments on disability services for children.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 09/02/2026, Tiffany Warne

SA Labor pledges to build acute mental health assessment units at three major public hospitals to ease pressure on emergency departments. The first unit at Royal Adelaide will open in at least four years and incorporate lessons from interstate.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 09/02/2026, Peter Mitchell

Regional Vic hospitals receive \$3m from Good Friday Appeal donors to support 30 health services. The funding allows hospitals to invest in life-saving equipment, including high-tech infant resuscitation cots, bringing critical care closer to home for sick children.

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

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Channel 9, Nine News, 09/02/2026, Brett McLeod

Miracle baby Tallulah survives thanks to a resuscitation cot funded by the Good Friday Appeal, part of multi-million-dollar donations shared across regional hospitals for the third year. While community contributions boost regional care, the state government lags, with Maroondah, West Gippsland, Wonthaggi, and Dandenong hospital projects delayed or without start dates.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Allan weighs emergency option as fears grow over health strikes

The Australian, General News, 10/02/2026, Anthony Galloway, Page 6

The Allan government has been briefed on the option of invoking emergency industrial provisions to halt escalating health worker strikes, amid growing concern the Health Workers Union's campaign is jeopardising patient safety and crippling elective surgeries across Victoria. Senior officials within the government recently canvassed the option of the Victorian Hospital Industrial Association applying to the Fair Work Commission to suspend industrial action due to the increased threat of community harm.

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

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Healthcare staffing biz hits auction block

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 10/02/2026, Page 16

A Sydney-headquartered recruitment business that has placed nurses and healthcare professionals in hospitals and medical facilities across Australia for more than 70 years is about to hit the auction block.

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

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Chemists to treat 'acute' ailments

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/02/2026, Aden Hill, Page 6

Hundreds of South Australian pharmacists will receive extra training to directly treat more acute health conditions under a \$1m election pledge from Labor. Under the plan, more people will be able to go to a pharmacy rather than wait for a GP appointment or visit an emergency department for basic medical conditions.

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Revamp to boost pharma's market

Adelaide Advertiser, Business Journal, 10/02/2026, Giuseppe Tauriello, Page 21

Adelaide-based National Pharmaceuticals is embarking on a major revamp, improving customers' in-store experience with the "hero" pharmacist becoming more visible to strengthen the bottom line while fighting soaring power costs. Mark Smith replaced Vito Borrello as chief executive of the member-owned organisation last July, following a four-year stint with OTR and Viva Energy and earlier roles with Coles and Woolworths.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Med union urges 'no' vote

Northern Territory News, General News, 10/02/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 5

An NT medical union is encouraging members to vote against the government's latest pay offer, saying it will mean salaries fall to some of the lowest in the country. Talks between the NT government and the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation (ASMOF) have been ongoing since September, with professionals voting this month.

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

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My skin doctor battle

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 10/02/2026, Lucy Crock, Page 1

Burning cheeks, fever and blurry vision sent an Aireys Inlet woman to emergency but she still can't see a dermatologist. Four months after she was diagnosed with severe rosacea by her GP, Lucila Cabbani

is calling for urgent pathways as specialist waitlists stretch up to a year.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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'Very reasonable': number put on cost to fix medical student placement poverty

The Border Mail, Other, 09/02/2026, Anthony Bunn

Indi MP Helen Haines has described as "very reasonable" a \$290 million four-year cost for taxpayers to cover the expense of practical placements undertaken by medical and allied health students. The figure was contained in an assessment done by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Budget Office after Dr Haines and fellow crossbencher Senator David Pocock independently sought an analysis.

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How expanded scope is redefining pharmacy practice

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 09/02/2026, Brian Bigg

The range of professional services delivered by community pharmacists has expanded rapidly in recent years, from vaccination to UTI prescribing and beyond. As these services increase in popularity, they are shifting from ancillary service to core business.

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Access – not motivation – is a key barrier for men's health

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 09/02/2026

Australian men are increasingly looking to community pharmacies for accessible healthcare, as new research highlights growing frustration with GP wait times and strong support for extended pharmacy hours. According to independent research by Insightfully, one in six Australians (16%) now wait more than three weeks for a GP appointment—up three points in just 12 months.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Most listed statin side effects not backed by evidence: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 09/02/2026

Researchers say their analysis of adverse effects should prompt a review of labels to help patients make more informed decisions. [...] Statin drugs are among the most widely taken medications in Australia, with rosuvastatin and atorvastatin topping the list of the most prescribed drugs under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule and Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in recent years.

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Australia's most prescribed drug gets cleared of causing most side effects

Your Life Choices, Other, 09/02/2026, Don Turrobia

Statins are among Australia's most commonly prescribed medicines, with rosuvastatin and atorvastatin consistently ranking at the top. Now, groundbreaking research from Oxford University suggests those fears may be largely misplaced.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

A software engineer wants to check the MyGov app's code. The government says it's a national security threat

Crikey, Other, 09/02/2026, Cam Wilson

If you're one of the millions of Australians who use myGov to access Medicare, Centrelink or the ATO, you've been told by the federal government to use its Code Generator app to keep your account secure. When it comes to the security of the app itself, the government has spent four years fighting a bid by a Queensland software engineer to look under the hood to see if it is as safe as they claim.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Hobart doctor struck off

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/02/2026, Amber Wilson, Page 8

A Hobart GP with a blemished history has now found himself under fire yet again this time for prescribing addictive drugs to patients with histories of substance abuse. Kim Yong, who previously worked at the Davey Street Medical Centre, has been struck off and banned from applying to practice medicine for a period of two years after admitting to professional misconduct and that he had brought the medical profession into disrepute.

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Nurse abuse, not age bias

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 10/02/2026, Daniel Shirkie, Page 3

A distinguished doctor has lost his age-discrimination lawsuit after a tribunal found his work was cancelled not because of his age, but because he called a nurse a "f--king witch" and verbally abused another so badly she broke down and had to leave the ward. Dr Peter Chilcott, a founding member of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, had his discrimination lawsuit against Townsville Hospital and Health Service dismissed after failing to prove he had work opportunities cancelled because of his age.

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Why some doctors think endometriosis is being treated with unnecessary surgery

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/02/2026, Henrietta Cook & Liam Mannix

A Melbourne gynaecologist has surrendered his medical registration after being accused of performing unnecessary endometriosis surgeries, fuelling broader concerns about ineffective treatments for the painful condition. The allegations coincide with new data showing the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has received about 225 complaints about medical practitioners who treated and managed endometriosis between 2021-22 and 2023-24.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Missing footsteps tell city's sorry tale

Age, General News, 10/02/2026, Cassandra Morgan & Craig Butt, Page 1

In a city crawling out from the long shadow of the coronavirus pandemic, almost 10,000 fewer people walk through some of Melbourne's busiest areas daily. Hulking office precincts resemble concrete wastelands twice a week, and businesses plaster frenzied advertisements over walls and phone screens, vying for attention beside shuttered shopfronts.

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Disease warning as floods on the rise

Northern Territory News, General News, 10/02/2026, Page 11

The growing number of storms and floods associated with climate change is increasing the risk of a serious human infection and Australia's rural communities are underprepared. That's the stark warning from research led by the University of New England.

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

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One man dead, multiple hospitalised in suspected mass overdose at Dreamstate festival in Sydney

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/02/2026, Alexandra Feiam

One man has died and several others have been rushed to hospital after a suspected mass overdose at a music festival in Sydney Olympic Park. A 40-year-old man died and six others required hospitalisation after suffering "medical episodes" on Saturday night while attending the Dreamstate Music Festival in Sydney Olympic Park.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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New alert over two more measles cases in Sydney

7news.com.au, Other, 09/02/2026, Demi Huang

Yet another measles alert has been issued for Sydney with two more cases recorded — including one which was acquired locally, most likely at a coffee shop in a building another measles patient had visited. NSW Health on Monday listed five new potential exposure sites over three days for the highly infectious disease, and warned there was now an increased risk of measles in NSW with 10 cases since January 1.

[Read More](#)

Authorities investigate Dreamstate festival death amid warnings about extra-dangerous batch of MDMA pills

7news.com.au, Other, 09/02/2026, Molly Magennis

Authorities are continuing to investigate the death of a man and illness of several others at a music festival in Sydney. A man in his 40s died and six others fell ill at dance music event Dreamstate, held at Sydney Olympic Park, around 11.30pm on Saturday.

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3AW, Mornings, 09/02/2026, Tom Elliott

Interview with Michael Wheeldon, Director at Integrity Sampling Australia, about drug use among injured drivers in Monash University road crash data. Wheeldon points to changing drug trends over time and calls for stronger anti-drug driving campaigns similar to past alcohol crackdowns. He expresses scepticism about heroin injecting rooms but supports pill testing at music festivals as an acceptable safety measure.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Clinic founder raises alarm on Ozempic

West Australian, General News, 10/02/2026, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 14

The founder of a Perth eating disorder clinic has called for tighter rules around access to weight loss drugs after seeing "preventable harm" in patients, including relapse and hospitalisation. [...] A spokesman for the Therapeutic Goods Administration said that it was in discussions with regulatory bodies to strengthen integration between prescribing platforms and primary care.

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

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