



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 1st April 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [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](#) |
[Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)
| [AICIS](#)

LINKS

[Click here to view full print articles in this report](#)

[Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 11) reports that NDIS Minister, Jenny McAllister, has stated that reforms to the NDIS, which passed through the Federal Senate yesterday, were commonsense measures which would improve the quality of care provided by the scheme through the removal of predatory and dangerous operators. *Also reported by: [2GB](#)*
- [ABC Online](#) (online) reports that a survey conducted by healthcare consumer group, Consumers Health Forum, has revealed that nearly 50 per cent of Australians opted not to access a required medical or dental appointment over the past year, with affordability cited as the primary reason by those declining to access healthcare. *Also reported by: [ABC Radio Canberra](#)*
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 16) reports that the Federal Government have announced the introduction of a two-phased mental health care policy, with the initial phase comprising of the Medicare Mental Health Check In which will provide free access to mental health therapy.
- [The Australian](#) (page 5) reports that GLP-1 medication Wegovy will today receive approval for use in treating metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis, a severe fatty liver disease, providing the first treatment option in Australia for people suffering from the condition.
- [ABC Online](#) (online) reports that the Australian Public Service Commission has released data showing that the NDIA added 1,925 new employment positions during 2025, with a

spokesperson for the NDIA stating the hiring levels were required to ensure improved outcomes for NDIS participants.

- The **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 7) reports that newly appointed South Australian Health Minister, Blair Boyer, has indicated that convincing other states and territories to adopt South Australia's organ donor scheme will be his highest priority at a forthcoming meeting with his state and federal counterparts.
- **ABC Online** (online) reports that Australian Services Union NSW/ACT secretary, Angus McFarland, has stated that the Federal Government need to provide fuel relief for NDIS care workers to ensure they are able to attend appointments with participants and provide essential care.
- **ABC Online** (online) reports that the Protecting Migrant Workers - Information and Education program operated by Unions NSW has detected exploitation of migrant workers, including withheld wages, threats and modern slavery, with NDIS support workers among those impacted by the exploitation.
- The **Hobart Mercury** (page 4) reports that researchers at UNSW have established a scientific link between vaping and cancer, with their study establishing the carcinogenicity of vaping. *Also reported by: Daily Advertiser, The Guardian, ABC News*
- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 17) reports that the Royal Australian College of GPs is encouraging individuals to book an appointment to be vaccinated for influenza after data revealed that nearly 25,000 cases of the flu had been recorded before the end of March. *Also reported by: West Australian, 9News, ABC Radio Sydney.*

MINISTER BUTLER

UK weight-loss plan cost could go off the scale

Australian Financial Review, International News, 01/04/2026, Andrew Tillett & Michael Smith, Page 10

Obese British patients are being told they are not sick enough to receive access to taxpayer-subsidised weight loss medications, pharmacists warn, as health authorities try to manage rocketing demand.

Also reported by: Australian Financial Review (Online).

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

Licence organ donation top of Health agenda

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/04/2026, Kate Uren, Page 7

New Health Minister Blair Boyer is putting Labor's election pledge to roll out South Australia's driver licence organ donation agreement at the top of the national agenda for his first meeting with state and federal counterparts next month. Mr Boyer, who has switched from education to health in Peter Malinauskas's new cabinet, said convincing the other states to adopt SA's organ donor scheme would be his "No.1" priority at the May 1 meeting with federal Health Minister Mark Butler and state ministers.

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), Herald Sun (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), The Mercury (Online), Northern Territory News (Online).

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

Free help for mental health

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/04/2026, Abisha Sapkota, Page 16

Australians now have access to free early mental health support through a new two-phased service introduced by the federal government. [...] "By helping people with mild or temporary challenges, it will head off more serious challenges and free up capacity in the mental health system for those with deep-seated challenges," health minister Mark Butler (pictured) said.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), Herald Sun (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), The Mercury (Online), West Australian (Online), NEWS.com.au (Online), Northern Territory News (Darwin).

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

Wegovy the first TGA-approved drug to treat severe fatty liver disease

The Australian, Other, 01/04/2026, Penny Timms

In a landmark decision, Australia's drug regulator will on Wednesday approve the GLP-1 medication Wegovy as the nation's first treatment for people with a severe fatty liver disease called metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis. [...] Earlier this week, Health Minister Mark Butler spoke about the growth of GLP-1 drugs and their impact: "New GLP-1 treatments offer the potential to reduce those pressures, helping people stay healthier for longer, and easing the economic strain on the health system in the long term," he said.

[Read More](#)

All the changes coming on April 1 that will impact your hip pocket

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 31/03/2026, Bronte Gossling

It may be April Fool's Day but April 1 is no laughing matter for the hip pocket Australians already grappling with interest rate hikes have two more growing household bills their budgets need to account for. [...] The above-inflation hike, up from last year's 3.73 per cent increase, reflected the rising costs of delivering hospital and medical services, said Health Minister Mark Butler.

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

[Read More](#)

50 per cent of Australians avoid health care they need due to cost, according to Consumers Health Forum report

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2026, Stephanie Dalzell

Sandwiched between the unrelenting pressures of caring for three young children and an aging and sick mother, Ella Helman has been struggling to ensure everyone in her family receives the health care they need. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler pointed to measures the federal government had implemented to make health care more affordable since coming to office, like slashing the cost of medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and an \$8.5 billion pre-election commitment to expand bulk billing and bolster the workforce.

Also reported by: [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Urgent warning for Australians: How everything is about to get more expensive tomorrow

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 31/03/2026, Sarah Brookes

Australian households are bracing for a financial firestorm as a tidal wave of bill hikes prepares to slam family budgets and overshadow last-minute fuel tax relief. [...] Health insurance premiums will jump by an average of 4.4 per cent, a move announced last month by the Minister for Health Mark Butler and adding between \$80 and \$160-a-year for many households.

[Read More](#)

The Zap: another bumper edition of health and aged care news, plus consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 31/03/2026, Melissa Sweet

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced Government funding would "deliver three new bulk billing GP Clinics in the ACT as well as securing the future of Interchange Health Co-op at the Tuggeranong Family Medical Centre, by supporting the new provider, ForHealth Group to take over and maintain services". [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae was interviewed on ABC Melbourne Radio about the aged care Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT), which has been receiving a lot of criticism.

[Read More](#)

National diabetes summit highlights impact on Upper Hunter community

98.1 Power FM, Other, 31/03/2026, Cameron Smith

Australia's growing diabetes crisis is in the national spotlight today, with Health Minister Mark Butler and leading experts gathering in Canberra for the National Diabetes Summit. Hosted by Diabetes

Australia, the Summit brings together policy makers, clinicians, researchers and people living with diabetes to address what has been described as one of the country's most complex health challenges.

Also reported by: [2NM AM981 \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Patient groups push 'prompt' CGM funding as policy lag hits vulnerable

Health Industry Hub, Other, 31/03/2026

Ten patient advocacy groups have escalated pressure directly to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, calling for the "prompt expansion". [Paywall]

Also reported by: [Health Industry Hub \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Diabetes crisis intensifies as national leaders convene in Canberra

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 31/03/2026

Australia's Minister for Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, and leading diabetes experts gathered at Parliament House in Canberra on Monday (30 March) for the National Diabetes Summit, as figures underscore the scale of one of the nation's most complex health challenges. Policymakers, clinicians, researchers, advocates, and people living with diabetes attended the Summit, hosted by Diabetes Australia, with the aim of "addressing the escalating effects of diabetes and identifying solutions".

[Read More](#)

A sensible approach to a process already underway must focus on making the system better, not just cheaper

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 01/04/2026

Health Minister Mark Butler's speech to the AFR Healthcare Summit made that unmistakably clear. In effect, he has fired the starter gun, against a backdrop of non-disclosure agreements already being deployed across the industry.

[Read More](#)

RACGP slams Government's 'cherry picked' bulk-billing intervention

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 31/03/2026, Morgan Liotta

Angered by recent Federal Government bulk-billing intervention in Canberra, the RACGP is warning that policies forcing universal bulk billing will destabilise the health system and undermine existing practices. Federal Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler recently announced a 'future secured' for general practice in the Australian Capital Territory under a \$10.5 million initiative to deliver new bulk-billing clinics in the capital – where rates remain low compared to the rest of Australia.

[Read More](#)

Labor's fuel relief may be slow to arrive, Spain closes airspace to US military, gen Z's old-fashioned views

The Guardian, Other, 31/03/2026, Anna MacDonald

Despite Labor's temporary halving of the fuel excise, savings might take a while to be passed on to customers, experts warn. [...] Health minister Mark Butler will give a keynote at the National Diabetes Summit.

[Read More](#)

MPs tell Parliament: constituents dying waiting for home care

The Weekly Source, Other, 31/03/2026, Caroline Egan

Politicians in the House of Representatives have shared stories of older constituents waiting so long to receive home care, they die before Government-funded support arrives. [...] Both the Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler and Minister Rae continue to defend the Support at Home reforms.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, The Rita Panahi Show, 31/03/2026, Rita Panahi

Health Minister Mark Butler has revealed that the Albanese government is considering reducing the number of people eligible for the NDIS. Speaking at an event on Monday night, Mr Butler stated that research is showing Australians cherish the NDIS they're proud of it, but they think it's gotten way out of control and they're determined that their governments get it back on track.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 31/03/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Anne Ruston, Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care, about opposition to aged care reforms. Ruston argues the new system increases costs through excessive red tape without improving services, while long waitlists and reduced packages leave older Australians without adequate care. She criticises Health Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae for their response and calls on the government to address widespread concerns from older Australians, providers, and advocates.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 31/03/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Justine Cain, Group CEO of Diabetes Australia, about Australia's growing diabetes crisis and national response. Cain highlights that nearly 2m Australians live with diabetes and calls for a coordinated national approach that brings together patients, clinicians, and policymakers to improve care and access. She urges the government to expand subsidies for insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors, encouraging Health Minister Mark Butler to take further action through upcoming budget decisions.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Breakfast, 31/03/2026, Ben Fordham

Health Minister Mark Butler has indicated that the Federal Government is considering reforms to the NDIS. Mr Butler stated that, while the NDIS is valued by the Australian public, there is growing demand to reform the scheme.

[Play Now](#)

5CC, 08:30 Regional News, 31/03/2026

Health Minister Mark Butler is attending the National Diabetes Summit in Canberra today as experts warn of a growing health crisis. With 2 million Australians currently living with the condition and another 2 million at high risk, the summit aims to fast-track the National Diabetes Action Plan, focusing on expanded access to life-saving technology and preventative healthcare to curb rising diagnosis rates.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Drive, 31/03/2026, James Findlay

Interview with Hannah Jackson, Group Executive of External Affairs at Diabetes Australia, about the National Diabetes Summit. Jackson highlights strong advocacy efforts and collaboration with Health Minister Mark Butler to address challenges such as rising costs, limited access to affordable diabetes technologies, and the need for better prevention and integrated care. She stresses improving coordination between health professionals and using technology and policy changes to support people living with diabetes.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, 07:00 News, 31/03/2026

A Consumers Health Forum survey of 5,000 Australians reveals a healthcare affordability crisis, with only one in three citizens confident they can afford treatment for a serious illness. The report found that nearly half of all Australians are delaying care due to financial pressure, prompting Health Minister Mark Butler to reaffirm the government's commitment to cost-relief measures, including tripled bulk-billing incentives and significantly cheaper prescriptions through the PBS.

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

MINISTER MCALLISTER

Lengthy jail time for NDIS rorters

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/04/2026, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer, Page 11

Dodgy National Disability Insurance Scheme providers could be jailed for years and fined millions - amid widespread reports of rorting - under new laws passed by the Senate. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the NDIS "is meant to be a disability support scheme, not a get rich quick scheme".

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

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

ABC News, ABC National News, 31/03/2026, Joe O'Brien

New NDIA data shows the agency hired nearly 2000 staff last year, making up 70% of new public service jobs and growing its workforce by 21%. The expansion aims to improve participant outcomes and cut wait times as the government works to control NDIS costs projected to hit \$50b and potentially rival the defence budget later this decade.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, 16:00 News, 31/03/2026

Federal Parliament has passed new laws to crack down on fraud and exploitation in the NDIS, including making it a crime for banned providers to return and strengthening reporting mechanisms. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister says the changes will help protect people with disabilities, with fines applying for serious Code of Conduct breaches.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

MPs demand showering be categorised as clinical care

Community Care Review, Other, 31/03/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The government must consider categorising bathing, showering, dressing and continence management into the clinical care category of the Support at Home program, hundreds of members of parliament from across the political spectrum have demanded. In a joint letter addressed to the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae, 21 federal politicians have signed on behalf of their respective parties to ask the government to also: restore human oversight to aged care needs assessments.

[Read More](#)

David Pocock leads cross-party push to overhaul Support at Home

The Weekly Source, Other, 31/03/2026, Caroline Egan

An "avalanche" of constituent concerns has prompted politicians across the political divide to sign a letter to Aged Care Minister Sam Rae urging changes to Support at Home. The letter, signed by 21 Senators from the Liberals and crossbench, was instigated by Independent Senator David Pocock, his office has confirmed to The Weekly Source.

[Read More](#)

MPs tell Parliament: constituents dying waiting for home care

The Weekly Source, Other, 31/03/2026, Caroline Egan

Politicians in the House of Representatives have shared stories of older constituents waiting so long to

receive home care, they die before Government-funded support arrives. [...] Both the Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler and Minister Rae continue to defend the Support at Home reforms.

[Read More](#)

The Zap: another bumper edition of health and aged care news, plus consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 31/03/2026, Melissa Sweet

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced Government funding would "deliver three new bulk billing GP Clinics in the ACT as well as securing the future of Interchange Health Co-op at the Tuggeranong Family Medical Centre, by supporting the new provider, ForHealth Group to take over and maintain services". [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae was interviewed on ABC Melbourne Radio about the aged care Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT), which has been receiving a lot of criticism.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

New Wagga clinic offers tailored care for endometriosis pain

Coly Point Observer, Other, 31/03/2026

Wagga's new endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic was opened on Monday, March 30, ready to give women access to specialised care locally. [...] Assistant Minister for Women Rebecca White said the clinic will help address longstanding gaps in access to specialised care for women, particularly in regional communities.

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

[Read More](#)

Govt grant provides aged care facility's extension

The Weekly Source, Other, 31/03/2026, Caroline Egan

A 47-bed aged care facility in the central north of Tasmania will be able to expand, thanks to an Australian Government grant. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Ageing Rebecca White said: "For us as the Federal Government, we're just so pleased to be able to partner with really fantastic organisations like this one to be able to provide more options for older Tasmanians to age in the communities where they've lived their whole lives.

[Read More](#)

LA FM, Breakfast, 31/03/2026, Belinda King

Interview with Federal Member for Lyons, Rebecca White. Compere mentions that the Federal Government is pointing to two major initiatives to help fix issues pertaining to GP shortages, long waits, and no space availability in hospitals. White points out that they have 74 training places in Tasmania, and 72 of those positions have filled already, so there are doctors there right now who are taking advantage of the announced \$1b national investment in GP training.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

DEPARTMENT

Fuel crisis impacting service delivery

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 31/03/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Ageing Australia has welcomed the news of a cut to the fuel excise and the dropping of user charges following this week's National Cabinet meeting. [...] The organisation has urged the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to release the existing emergency grant GO7393 and designate community transport as an essential service.

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

[Read More](#)

The Zap: another bumper edition of health and aged care news, plus consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 31/03/2026, Melissa Sweet

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced Government funding would "deliver three new bulk billing GP Clinics in the ACT as well as securing the future of Interchange Health Co-op at the Tuggeranong Family Medical Centre, by supporting the new provider, ForHealth Group to take over and maintain services". [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae was interviewed on ABC Melbourne Radio about the aged care Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT), which has been receiving a lot of criticism.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

The bank of mum and dad has few rules but there are pitfalls

Sydney Morning Herald, Money, 01/04/2026, Dominic Powell, Page 27

Most of us are familiar with Australia's banking oligopoly, where the big four - ANZ, CBA, Westpac and NAB- take up the lion's share of the market for Australian bank accounts, mortgage lending, and three-letter acronyms. [...] "Look carefully at your retirement income and savings, as well as any potential unplanned costs like health and aged-care costs that you may need to take care of," says Aware Super chief Deanne Stewart.

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

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

No curb on parking fees

Herald Sun, General News, 01/04/2026, Brendan Kearns, Page 4

The City of Melbourne has tightened the belt in its latest budget, squeezing ratepayers with a double hit - a rate rise and parking fee hikes - as it prioritises surpluses over cost-of-living relief. [...] With those cost-of-living promises wound back, the city's offering has been slimmed to 600 free swimming lessons and \$2 swims in select pools, free fitness classes across Melbourne and a 25 per cent rates discount for pensioners.

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

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

Aged care: where food should be treated as medicine

Newcastle Herald, General News, 01/04/2026, Chris Deed, Page 18

Aged-care reform in Australia has focused heavily on staffing levels, regulation and funding. All of these matter.

Moruya: IRT lodges massive intergenerational retirement village plans with NSW Government for South Coast

The Courier Mail, Other, 31/03/2026, Tom McGann

An aged care giant is pushing ahead with plans to build a massive intergenerational retirement community in a small South Coast town, lodging a State Significant Development Application with the NSW Government. Not-for-profit provider IRT Group has submitted plans for the proposed Wattleview development, a large-scale precinct combining retirement living, aged care, key worker accommodation and community facilities.

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

[Read More](#)

Council pushes ahead with retirement village rate hikes affecting 2000 residents

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 31/03/2026, Paul Weston

Thousands of pensioners in retirement villages are facing continued rate hikes despite Gold Coast City Council saying reforms will see a fairer system for all retirees. Councillors at a special budget meeting on Monday considered separate petitions from Coomera and Helensvale residents about changes to retirement village rating categories.

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

[Read More](#)

Care in retirement living is infrastructure

The Weekly Source, Other, 31/03/2026, Ian Horswill

The Retirement Living Council Executive Director has countered the argument that independent living units in villages will inevitably become aged care beds. The prevailing narrative suggests that as care needs increase, independence must recede.

[Read More](#)

IRT submits Moruya development application

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 31/03/2026

IRT Group has submitted a State Significant Development Application for its multi-generational community in Moruya, after making amendments to its masterplan in January. The new community is located on the far South Coast of New South Wales and is named Wattleview.

[Read More](#)

Australia's aged care system is nearing a tipping point

Your Life Choices, Other, 31/03/2026

There's no gentle way to say this. Australia's aged care system is stretched to near breaking point, and the generation that will need it most is only just approaching the front door.

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 31/03/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Miranda Starke, CEO of COTA SA, about older South Australians' views on the state election and aged care challenges. Starke reports that many older voters support the election result but remain cautious about concentrated political power. She calls for more aged care beds, better access to services, and public aged care options to support the growing number of older people stuck in hospital without suitable places to go.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

From failed developer to guru

The Australian, Business News, 01/04/2026, Nick Evans & Joseph Carbone, Page 15

Who doesn't love a bit of creative reinvention of a chequered business career? [...] Nope, the failure of Saorsa was simply down to the fact that "government policy changes to NDIS pricing and rental structures fundamentally altered the economics of the model".

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

Schools net \$5bn in disability funding

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/04/2026, Susie O'Brien, Darcy Fitzgerald & Lauren Novak, Page 8

More than one third of South Australian students receives disability assistance in schools, with payments of up to \$45,000 per student for those with the most severe needs. Public and private schools are receiving millions of dollars annually to boost the learning of students with physical, mental and socioemotional disabilities, with the federal bill topping \$5bn a year, latest figures show.

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

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

Friends for life

West Australian, Supplements, 01/04/2026, Jay Hanna, Page 3

Madeleine and Daisy don't like it if you refer to them simply as friends. [...] DSWA, which has been receiving Telethon funding for 10 years, also offers practical help navigating the National Disability Insurance Scheme, recommending treatments, therapists and schools.

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

A helping hand for

West Australian, Supplements, 01/04/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 10

Many children like to carry something around with them - a beloved blankie, a favourite toy or an ever-present pacifier. For Honey Goebel, her constant companion is a bag. But it doesn't offer comfort; instead it harbours a pump that helps keeps her alive.

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

'High reward, high risk'

Ballarat Courier, General News, 01/04/2026, Gwen Liu, Page 1

The Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) market grew sharply to more than \$600 million, attracting property investors to build, including in Ballarat. The latest report shows total SDA support rose 43 per cent over two years to \$626 million, with 15,925 participants.

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

New research finds Tasmanians are 40 per cent more likely to die from MND

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2026, Crystal McKay

Kelli Skipper knows all too well the difficulty regional Australians face when it comes to getting diagnosed with motor neurone disease (MND). Mrs Skipper was last year diagnosed with a form of MND known as progressive bulbar palsy.

[Read More](#)

Disability agency adds nearly 2,000 new employees while trying to rein in costs

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2026, Nas Campanella & Mary Lloyd

The agency that runs the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has defended hiring nearly 2,000 new employees last year despite major changes being rolled out to rein in the program's cost. The NDIA grew its workforce by 1,925 new positions in 2025, accounting for nearly 70 per cent of all new hires to the Commonwealth public service last year.

Fuel crisis puts pressure on workers, business, as calls to work from home reignite

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2026, Bronwyn Herbert & Melanie Vujkovic

The fuel crisis is putting pressure on workers who rely on car travel and those who meet with vulnerable clients, with fresh calls for frontline support staff to be exempt from possible fuel rationing mandates. There are also renewed calls for more employees to work from home, although experts say the crisis has not yet reached "tipping point".

[Read More](#)

The 'miracle' drugs giving children with spinal muscular atrophy another shot at life

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2026, Janelle Miles

Willow McIntosh takes a few wobbly steps, clutching her father's fingers for support. She's nine months old and close to walking on her own.

[Read More](#)

National migrant worker scheme uncovers 'shocking' exploitation in first year of operation

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2026, Melinda Hayter & Isobel Roe

Migrant worker Viviana thought she had no choice but to work for a woman who refused to pay her, until a Facebook post helped her realise she was being exploited. The Colombian national and qualified clinical psychologist came to Australia for what she thought would be better work opportunities as a support worker with the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

[Read More](#)

'Let's send them to Dreamworld': Karl Stefanovic unloads on NDIS after scheme funded youth offenders' theme park outing

Sky News Australia, Other, 31/03/2026, Megan Watts

Karl Stefanovic has blasted the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) following a report it was used to pay for two youth offenders to visit Gold Coast theme parks last year. In November, ABC reported two teenage offenders - who committed violent crimes such as carjackings and home invasions - were flown from Melbourne to the Gold Coast at taxpayers' expense as part of their rehabilitation, after having their Community Corrections Orders (COO) altered by Victoria's Department of Justice and Community Safety.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, The Kenny Report, 31/03/2026, Chris Kenny

Interview with Dr Nick Coatsworth, former Deputy Chief Medical Officer, about the sustainability of Australia's NDIS system. Coatsworth expresses frustration over the NDIS's rapid growth, arguing it strains funding and contributes to imbalances with aged care and hospitals, while also highlighting concerns about misuse of funds. He calls for a fairer system, and criticises federal leadership for being reactive in crises and lacking strong planning.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 31/03/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Mark Woodland, CEO of Kismet, about NDIS reform and service access. Woodland points to low utilisation in Canberra and argues that many people struggle to find personalised supports because awareness, connection, and service discovery lag behind demand. He criticises price caps and middlemen for driving up costs and calls for a system that prioritises personalised support and clear access to services.

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Home calling

West Australian, Supplements, 01/04/2026, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 20

Peyton Flanner was happiest in the outdoors, roaming her family's Boyup Brook property, doing flips on the trampoline, playing with her two sisters and cuddling her beloved pets. It was here that this cheeky, funny and kind country kid longed to return to during the many months she spent at Perth Children's Hospital, receiving gruelling treatment for an aggressive brain tumour.

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

The health gap facing Yazidi women in region

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 01/04/2026, Erin Blond, Page 7

For women in Toowoomba's Yazidi community, language barriers and cultural differences often limit their access to health education and leave them disproportionately affected. Toowoomba is home to the largest Yazidi population in Australia, making this a key focus area for Queensland Health.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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

MPs writing to local GPs suggesting they bulk-bill — outreach or outrage?

Australian Doctor, Other, 31/03/2026, Jamie Thannoo

While many MPs have ambitions of running Australia, most spend their working days focused on club sheds, bike paths, roundabouts and other parts of their constituents' everyday lives. This is important context for the latest controversy on medical social media: a nine-line letter an MP sent to a local GP practice manager.

[Read More](#)

Specialist fees excessive? AMA says these are five ways to fix affordability

Australian Doctor, Other, 31/03/2026, Paul Smith

Specialists are facing a concerted public campaign about their fees — with the media awash with numerous allegations that some are profiteering on the back of the care they provide. A revamped version of the Medical Costs Finder website listing their fees is being rolled out and there are even discussions within government to effectively ban those charging so-called excessive fees from accessing Medicare.

[Read More](#)

Affordable healthcare remains elusive for many: Report

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 31/03/2026, Jo Roberts

Most Australians have trust in the quality and reliability of healthcare in Australia, according to a new national survey. Their ability to afford it, however, is another matter. That's according to the 2025 National Consumer Sentiment Survey, an annual survey of around 5000 Australian adults by the Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF).

[Read More](#)

New AI progression rolls out for GPs

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 31/03/2026, Michelle Wisbey

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to grow and evolve, new uses are emerging, including in general practice. AI scribes have become commonplace in clinics, with around 40% of GPs now using them in their daily practise.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 31/03/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Simon Blacker, Senior National VP of the ACT Pharmacy Guild, about rising medication costs and access to prescriptions. Blacker says more Australians struggle to pay for medicines, with some patients rationing scripts or delaying fills as cost-of-living pressures rise and expenses add up for families with multiple prescriptions. He notes the government lowers the maximum PBS co-payment to \$25 and advocates for freezing future price increases to improve affordability.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 31/03/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Dr Elizabeth Devaney, CEO of Consumers Health Forum, about new figures showing Australians missing out on healthcare due to cost. Devaney highlights that a survey of 10,000 Australians shows one in two miss out on needed care mainly due to cost, with people delaying or skipping GP visits, dental care, and medicines while also facing economic barriers. She calls for reducing cost pressures, improving access, and strengthening awareness of existing supports like the PBS safety net and Medicare safety nets, so more people can access care more efficiently.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Vaping found to cause cancer

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/04/2026, Jack Nivison, Page 4

A major scientific breakthrough has been made in the world of vaping research, with experts finally concluding that vaping causes cancer. While it has been widely acknowledged that vaping poses inherent health risks, UNSW researchers have now concluded that vapes have "carcinogenicity in their own right".

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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

Vapes may cause cancer despite 'safer than smoking' claim

Daily Advertiser, General News, 01/04/2026, Kat Wong, Page 2

People who vape are at higher risk of cancer than those who do not, a landmark study has found, casting doubt over whether the habit is safer than smoking. Public health experts and scientists generally don't consider e-cigarettes to be safe but early marketing has offered nicotine-based vapes as a less harmful alternative to cigarettes that could supposedly help people quit.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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

Vapes likely cause lung and oral cancer

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 01/04/2026, Page 8

Nicotine-based vapes, or e-cigarettes, are likely to cause cancers of the lung and oral cavity. A study led by UNSW identified carcinogenic compounds in e-cigarette aerosols, including volatile organic chemicals and metals released from heating coils.

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

Retailer warns crime gangs will buy supermarkets to flood market with illegal tobacco

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/03/2026, Andrew McKaysmith

Townsville tobacco retailer Pam Wright has warned ruthless crime syndicates will buy up supermarkets and corner stores to flood the market with illegal products. [...] "Health advocates are also doing interesting work reflecting on the ideal future licensing and retail model, asking why our society continues to permit stand-alone tobacconists," Mr Hill said.

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

[Read More](#)

Impossible to ignore: joy as largest trans flag unfurls

Canberra Times, Other, 31/03/2026, Maeve Bannister

Trans and gender-diverse advocates say they will not be erased, unfurling the world's largest trans flag in protest against government restrictions to gender-affirming healthcare. The flag, which took 30 people 10 days to sew and measures 40 metres by 20 metres, has been unveiled in Brisbane.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Vaping shown to likely cause lung and oral cancer in strongest review yet, Australian researchers say

The Guardian, Other, 31/03/2026, Melissa Davey

Vaping is likely to cause lung and oral cancer, researchers have found, as they urged regulators to act now rather than wait decades for a definitive level of risk. Cancer researchers led by the University of New South Wales in Sydney analysed reviews of evidence from animal studies, human case reports and laboratory research published between 2017 and 2025, in one of the most detailed assessments to date of whether nicotine e-cigarettes could cause cancer.

[Read More](#)

Communication reform flagged as key to closing the Indigenous mental health gap

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 31/03/2026

A significant mental health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians could be reduced through improved clinician communication, according to new research by Flinders University. Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) shows the scale of the challenge, with suicide rates almost twice as high among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as they are among other Australians.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 31/03/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

A landmark UNSW review delivers the strongest evidence yet that vaping causes cancer, drawing on animal studies, human case reports and biomarker research. It finds that nicotine-containing vapes likely cause oral and lung cancer, along with a range of other diseases.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 31/03/2026, Catherine Murphy and James Glenday

Interview with University of Sydney's Dr Becky Freeman. Compere says for the first time, researchers have discovered a link between vaping and cancer. The University of NSW has led a review and have looked at a range of evidence showing that nicotine vapes are likely to cause oral and even lung cancer. Freeman adds that the study draws from a wide range of different types of studies, everything from chemical studies, to medical records to studies in animals.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 31/03/2026, Sandra Sully

A world-first UNSW-led review in Sydney finds vaping is likely to cause both lung and oral cancer, drawing stronger conclusions than past studies that mainly compared vapers with cigarette smokers. University of Sydney public health professor Becky Freeman notes that previous research often focused on comparisons with traditional smoking rather than the broader cancer risks linked to vaping.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 31/03/2026, Peter Mitchell

Groundbreaking UNSW research confirms a link between e-cigarettes and cancer, raising concerns that vaping may be as harmful as conventional cigarettes despite restrictions. Researchers warn that delays in recognising the risks could expose a new generation to irreversible harm, similar to how long it took to confirm the dangers of cigarettes.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 31/03/2026, Mark Burrows

A UNSW review finds vaping is likely linked to lung and oral cancer, drawing on lab and human evidence, including chemical exposure in users' blood and urine. Researchers, including Professor Bernard Stewart, say the findings should push authorities to tighten regulations while calling for further long-term studies on vaping's health impacts.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Afternoons, 31/03/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with Prof Robin Daly, Chair of Exercise and Ageing at Deakin University, about the benefits of resistance training for muscle and overall health. Daly explains that resistance training boosts muscle strength, mass, metabolism, and even brain health through muscle-brain signalling, making it one of the most effective ways to reduce disease risk. He emphasises that people can safely train across all ages with proper technique and tailored exercises.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 31/03/2026, Lucy Breden

Interview with A/Prof Freddy Sitas, Researcher at the UNSW Centre for Future Health Systems, about evidence linking vaping to cancer. Sitas explains that a review of over 100 papers finds strong biological evidence that vaping can cause lung and mouth cancer, even as long-term epidemiological studies continue to develop. He highlights that researchers meet World Health Organisation criteria to support this conclusion and warns that vaping carries serious risks despite common perceptions of safety.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 31/03/2026, Renee Krosch

Interview with Simon Chapman, Emeritus Professor in Public Health at the University of Sydney, about research into the long-term cancer risks of vaping. Chapman explains that, unlike infectious diseases, vaping-related harms may take decades to appear, warning that current users may not yet see the full impact despite growing biological evidence linking vapes to lung and oral cancer.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 31/03/2026, Hamish Macdonald

A landmark study from the University of NSW (UNSW) has concluded that nicotine-based e-cigarettes are likely to cause lung and oral cancer. The comprehensive review, published in Carcinogenesis, found "unequivocal" evidence of pre-cancerous cellular changes and DNA damage in vapers.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

One Nation speaks for those ignored

Australian Financial Review, General News, 01/04/2026, Kos Samaras, Page 29

There is a moment in the life of a democracy when anger stops being episodic and becomes structural. Australia reached that moment quietly.

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

Patients welcome approval of drug for liver disease

The Australian, General News, 01/04/2026, Penny Timms, Page 5

In a landmark decision, Australia's drug regulator will on Wednesday approve the GLP-1 medication Wegovy as the nation's first treatment for people with a severe fatty liver disease called metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis. Until now, there has been no therapeutic option for the half a million people living with the disease, which can turn fatal and affects Australians at a disproportionately high rate compared to the rest of the world.

Also reported by: [Medical Forum \(Online\)](#).

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

'Everyone should have the choice'

Canberra Times, General News, 01/04/2026, Eleanor Campbell & Lanie Tindale, Page 1

When Anthea Smith made the phone call at 8.30am on November 3, her husband Jason had already been thinking about dying for some time. It was the first day of the ACT's scheme, so he could finally plan for it.

Also reported by: [Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal \(Online\)](#).

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

Happy place

West Australian, Supplements, 01/04/2026, Hannah Cross, Page 12

Jade Reynolds recalls of being told her six-month-old baby had a grade-four brain tumour. Reid was diagnosed with glioblastoma, a highly aggressive, treatment-resistant form of brain cancer. Survival rates are low, and relapse is almost guaranteed.

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

Passing of Robbi has shown the shortfalls

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 01/04/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 6

Robbi Flynn was only 33 when she accessed voluntary assisted dying after a terminal cancer diagnosis, but her final weeks in a faith-based public hospital made her ability to have control over her death nearly impossible. The barriers she faced are one of the key issues highlighted in the latest State of VAD report, compiled by Go Gentle Australia, which saw WA have the second biggest increase in VAD deaths in the country.

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

7000: Astonishing number of Queenslanders who have ended their lives

The Courier Mail, Other, 31/03/2026, Kate Kyriacou

Less than one per cent of Queensland doctors are trained to assess and administer voluntary assisted dying despite the state having the highest number of people who use it, the annual State of VAD report has revealed. The report, compiled annually by Go Gentle Australia and to be released on Tuesday, found 14,000 people have applied for assisted dying since states first began legalising the process in 2019.

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

[Read More](#)

GP turned politician on his metastatic melanoma diagnosis and \$10,000 life-saving drugs

Australian Doctor, Other, 31/03/2026, Jamie Thannoo

At \$10,780.47 per 80mg, with 3mg/kg needed every three weeks, ipilimumab is not cheap. It is something that has stuck with GP Dr Tim Read during immunotherapy to treat metastatic melanoma.

[Read More](#)

'I thought my pain was normal. Then a surgeon gave me an impossible choice.'

Mamamia, Other, 31/03/2026, Catie Powers

"Pain with periods is common," the doctor told Sally*, tossing the then-13-year-old a script for the contraceptive pill. The teenage girl had been after answers for her heavy periods.

[Read More](#)

New PBS listings for Keytruda

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 31/03/2026

The Federal Government has announced the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing of immunotherapy drug Keytruda (pembrolizumab, MSD) for Australians diagnosed with certain early-stage cancers from 01 Apr 2026. The new listings are for locally advanced cervical cancer, locally advanced head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, and kidney cancer at risk of recurrence after surgery.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Big tech 'tricks' are undermining child social media ban, says Wells

Australian Financial Review, General News, 01/04/2026, Emma McGrath-Cohen, Page 8

Communications Minister Anika Wells says big tech firms are "taking the mickey" with their efforts to comply with the under-16 social media ban, after revealing just 300,000 accounts have been removed from platforms since an initial cull.

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

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

Freeze over: City to lift fines, rates, parking charges

Age, General News, 01/04/2026, Cara Waters & Rachael Dexter, Page 13

Living and parking in Melbourne is set to get more expensive, with the City of Melbourne hiking rates and charges to rake in an extra 8.49 per cent in revenue after a one-year rate freeze. [...] For the first time, contracted mental health workers will also be patrolling the CBD at a cost of \$1.1 million for 10 staff.

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

Social media platforms face non-compliance crackdown

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 01/04/2026, David Swan & Nick Newling, Page 23

Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat and YouTube are under investigation for potential noncompliance with Australia's worldfirst social media ban for under-16s, with the eSafety Commissioner flagging "major gaps" in how platforms are enforcing the law. [...] The eSafety report found no discernible drop in the number of cyberbullying and image-based abuse complaints from under-16s since the ban took effect a metric that suggests the law has not yet reduced the harms it was designed to address.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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

Social media giants 'not respecting' under 16s ban

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/04/2026, Ellen Ransley, Page 5

Australia could consider threatening social media companies with fines in the hundreds of millions of dollars, as they're accused of "taking the mickey" out of world-leading laws banning under 16s from using platforms. A compliance update, released three months into Australia's social media ban, found five platforms were breaching the laws with the eSafety Commission now shifting its focus to enforcement.

Time to really hold big tech to account

Courier Mail, Editorials, 01/04/2026, Page 20

It is now almost four months since Australia introduced its world-first laws to protect our children by keeping kids under 16 off social media. Spurred by The Courier-Mail's Let Them Be Kids campaign, the laws came into effect to much fanfare last December 10.

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

Throw book at Big Tech

Herald Sun, Editorials, 01/04/2026, Page 20

The Albanese government must ensure significant pressure - financial and legislative - is applied to Big Tech social media companies that pay lip service to under-16 bans or simply ignore their responsibilities. Australia has been a global leader in the initiative to prioritise the protection of children above the profits of these multibillion-dollar platforms.

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

A new dawn in eSafety is about to arrive

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/04/2026, Julie Inman Grant, Page 24

As Australia's eSafety Commissioner, my mission is simple but urgent: to make the online world safer for all Australians - but especially children. After a decade of building trust and delivering impact, we are now on the cusp of providing significant changes on several crucial fronts.

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

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

One in five maternal deaths following childbirth are preventable

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 31/03/2026, Bronte Gossling

A world-first analysis from a team of Australian researchers has found one in five maternal deaths in the five years following childbirth are preventable. Suicide has long been accepted as a leading cause of maternal death in Australia, but experts have warned previously reported statistics did not reflect the full extent of the issue.

[Read More](#)

'Man enough': toxic gender norms hamper dads and kids

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 31/03/2026, Alex Mitchell

Outdated gender norms, including men as financial providers, are holding back fathers' ability to care for their children, a study suggests. Australian State of the World's Fathers research found almost two-thirds (63 per cent) of men did not feel "man enough" unless they provide financially for their family

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

Horror flu season fears

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/04/2026, Page 17

Australia is facing a concerning rise in flu cases in 2026, with nearly 25,000 infections recorded by the end of March a warning sign after last year's record-breaking outbreak. The Royal Australian College of GPs is urging Australians to book their annual flu vaccination now before the winter months push hospitals to their limits.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#).

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

Free WA flu vaccines would help system according to RACGP WA chair Ramya Raman

West Australian, Other, 31/03/2026, Oliver Lane

The head of the RACGP has backed calls for WA's free flu vaccine program to be brought forward to April but the Cook Government won't change the timing of the rollout. Dr Ramya Raman said having free flu vaccines available from April would provide "some value" for the community ahead of the flu season.

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

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 31/03/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Dr Michael Wright, President of the RACGP, about rising flu cases in Australia. Wright says Australians should get vaccinated now as flu cases rise, with protection peaking around winter and current vaccines targeting the most severe strains, including the emerging "super K." He stresses that flu circulates year-round, urging people to vaccinate early to reduce illness and transmission.

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

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 31/03/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Dr Ramya Raman, VP of the RACGP, about rising flu cases and vaccination timing in Australia. Raman urges people to get vaccinated now, noting flu cases have already reached about 25,000 and new strains circulate, with higher rates among young children. She stresses vaccination reduces hospitalisation and severity, recommends April to June as the best window for protection, and highlights that immunity lasts around four months.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Mackay Private Hospital closing June 16 due to rising costs

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/03/2026, Paul Brescia

A private hospital in Mackay is shutting its doors from June, pulling 30 beds out of the city and pushing more patients into the public system. Mackay Private Hospital, operated by Aurora Healthcare, will not renew its lease at its Mount Pleasant site, citing "rising operating and maintenance costs".

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

[Read More](#)

Why Albo's fuel tax cut won't ease a thing when it kicks in today

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/04/2026, Maisy Rae

Aussies have called on the Anthony Albanese to do more to ease the cost of living amid the \$2,000 bill timebomb that's set to explode for households from today. The Albanese government's increase of private health insurance premiums combined with the end of its energy bill rebate and the impact of the RBA's interest rate rise are all expected to come into force on April 1.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 31/03/2026, Rory McClaren

Interviews with Dr Peter Subramaniam, President of the AMA SA, and Rachel David, CEO of Private Healthcare Australia, about private insurers investing in GP clinics. Subramaniam warns that vertical integration creates conflicts of interest and risks affecting bulk billing and rural access, so he calls for stronger transparency and regulation. David argues that insurer investment fills service gaps and notes

that telehealth now supports simple care needs and helps patients access services alongside their regular GP under existing protections.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

On the right footpath to health, cost saving

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/04/2026, Duncan Abey, Page 2

Tasmanian research has revealed a link between connected footpath networks and community health, with residents living in "walkable" regional towns found to exercise more than an hour more each week. The study, led by the Menzies Institute for Medical Research and published in the Australia and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, has led to calls for greater investment in pedestrian infrastructure as regions battle increasing rates of preventable disease, and with more people seeking alternative transport options amid the fuel crisis.

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

Innovation in blood tracking

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/04/2026, Riley Dean, Page 17

Blood test results could become faster and more reliable for patients thanks to innovative tracking technology that has been developed by a Geelong-based medical technology company. HealthRFID says it has created seven new jobs and has received interest from lucrative foreign markets, including the US and the Middle East, following the development of BloodControl technology that makes delivering blood test results easier.

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

IOC should not use SRY test to determine gender of women's athletes, says scientist who discovered it

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2026, David Mark

The genetic test the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is relying on to determine who can compete as a woman is inconclusive and should not be used in that manner, according to the scientist who discovered the key gene. Andrew Sinclair, the deputy director of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne, said testing for the SRY gene was not a reliable test for determining biological sex.

[Read More](#)

Research roundup: pain

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 31/03/2026, Tim Hewitt

Debbie Rigby summarises some of the latest clinical research in the field of pain. A systematic review and meta-analysis of the efficacy and safety of pharmacological treatments for obesity in adults.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Binar uses the popularity of sport to bring health checks to children

West Australian, Supplements, 01/04/2026, Brooke Rolfe, Page 4

A simple game of basketball is making the crucial link between Aboriginal children and critical health care. By just showing up to a tournament across Western Australia, thousands of Aboriginal children have accessed free health checks they might not have otherwise sought out.

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

Hearing the call of remote East Pilbara communities

National Indigenous Times, Other, 31/03/2026, Giovanni Torre

Critical ear and hearing care will continue reaching some of Western Australia's most remote communities, with Mineral Resources (MinRes) committing to a further three years of partnership with Ear Science Institute Australia. The \$600,000 partnership extension bolsters support for the Healthy Hearing Outback program, which delivers on-Country assessments and consultations to diagnose and treat ear disease and hearing loss.

[Read More](#)

Critical work begins to deliver water security projects for Queensland Indigenous communities

National Indigenous Times, Other, 31/03/2026, Giovanni Torre

Critical work has begun to deliver water security projects for the Indigenous communities of Cherbourg, Doomadgee, Mornington Island, Northern Peninsula Area and Wujal Wujal in Queensland. Jointly funded by the federal government, through the National Water Grid Fund, and the Queensland government, the projects aim to ensure all five communities have access to safe, clean and secure drinking water supply into the future.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

'Pushing me': mums feel pressured as c-section rates rise

Canberra Times, General News, 01/04/2026, Lucy Arundell, Page 3

Jordyn Stanley did not want to give birth to her first baby via c-section, but after almost two days in labour, she felt like she had no choice. [...] New statistics show the rate of births via c-sections have steadily increased across the ACT's two public hospitals in the past six years to more than 40 per cent in 2025.

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

Tasmania's broken hospital flow is failing the sickest patients on the scale as threat of ED wait times grows

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/04/2026, Emily Shepherd, Page 20

The Australasian Triage Scale and associated categories are well known by nurses working in emergency departments in Tasmania. They are, in fact, cited by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare to support the assessment of nursing staff in EDs in determining the maximum wait time for a patient when they present based on their clinical signs and symptoms.

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

Medical marvels

West Australian, Supplements, 01/04/2026, Bethany Hiatt, Page 14

Little Leo Piliae was not quite two months old when his parents realised he was struggling to breathe and rushed him to hospital. A cascade of infections meant Leo had to spend four nights in Perth Children's Hospital, while his parents juggled the need to also care for their other three children at home.

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

Ambulance target not met in region

Shepparton News Online, Other, 31/03/2026, Billie Davern

The latest Ambulance Victoria data indicates just a 0.1 per cent improvement in response times to Code One emergencies across Mitchell Shire, while in Strathbogie Shire, a reduction of 1.2 per cent has been reported. The data has been recorded over the second quarter of 2025/26, from October to December of 2025, and is compared with data recorded from July to September, 2025.

[Read More](#)

New boss responds to Clancy, Stuchbery affairs involving Albury Wodonga Health

The Border Mail, Other, 31/03/2026, Anthony Bunn

Albury Wodonga Health's new interim chief executive is moving to speed up the process surrounding suspended emergency department leader David Clancy, saying the situation was "intolerable". Andrew Way told The Border Mail he wanted a more rapid resolution to Dr Clancy's situation.

[Read More](#)

New chief explains why he thinks Albury hospital redevelopment is the only path

The Border Mail, Other, 31/03/2026, Anthony Bunn

Albury Wodonga Health's new interim chief executive has strongly backed the existing \$558 million hospital redevelopment, saying "there are places around Australia that would bite your hand off for that sort of money". Andrew Way also defended the expansion of the existing Albury hospital on the basis of the campus having room for future construction and governments not being willing to junk their investment.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Grads celebrate years of hard work

Cairns Post, General News, 01/04/2026, Catherine Duffy, Page 1

After swapping the emergency department for 4am study sessions, an ex-nurse has finished her degree, celebrating her graduation from James Cook University with 250 peers at the Cairns Convention Centre. Mum-of-two Kylie Ferrier, who graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy, said her experience working as an emergency nurse at the Alfred Hospital in Victoria sparked her desire to further her career.

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

Imaging strike threat

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/04/2026, Zoe De Koning, Page 9

Staff are walking out "every day" from a major Geelong medical imaging provider, it is claimed, amid allegations of unpaid work, ignored safety concerns and management inflexibility that has pushed experienced workers to threaten strike action. Lake Imaging, owned by the Integral Diagnostics (IDX) Group, services central and western Victoria with clinics across Greater Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula.

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

Northern Territory paramedics face record rates of assault amid critical resourcing shortage

ABC Online, Other, 31/03/2026, Joseph Hathaway-Wilson

At about 8pm on a Wednesday night at the St John Ambulance NT call centre in Darwin, a queue of incidents from across the Northern Territory bank up on Alice Crooman's computer screen. As territory deployment manager, Ms Crooman has a limited number of ambulances at her disposal, and the response time beside every incident is only growing.

It's time to lift the 99c per km rate for home care workers

HelloCare, Other, 31/03/2026, Jakob Neeland

Australia's home-care workers are asking a simple but urgent question: with fuel prices skyrocketing, why are they still only paid 99 cents per kilometre? The issue was put to Mark O'Brien, CEO of Prestige Inhome Care, during an interview conducted the day after the Albanese government announced a three-month halving of the fuel excise.

[Read More](#)

PSA welcomes new SA health minister

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 31/03/2026

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed Blair Boyer (pictured) as South Australia's new Minister for Health and Wellbeing, thanking outgoing Minister Chris Picton for his strong engagement with the pharmacy profession. "Minister Picton has been a committed partner in advancing pharmacist scope in South Australia," said PSA South Australia and Northern Territory president, Adjunct Professor Manya Angley.

[Read More](#)

PSA honours Darragh legacy through inaugural PSA Foundation Postgraduate Scholarship

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 31/03/2026

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Foundation is delighted to announce the recipient of the inaugural Hugh and Mary Darragh Postgraduate Scholarship, Mo'men Garybeh. Mo'men Garybeh, a community pharmacist from Wollongong, NSW, has been selected as the Hugh and Mary Darragh Scholar for his demonstrated leadership in the quality use of medicines, excellence in disease-state management, particularly diabetes management, and the improvement of patient outcomes within his local community.

[Read More](#)

Western Australia appoints chief health officer

The Mandarin, Other, 31/03/2026, Dan Holmes

Clare Huppatz will be Western Australia's next chief health officer. Huppatz, who is currently deputy chief health officer, will be the first woman to serve as Western Australia's most senior health official.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor probed over news post on gender care

Prominent child psychiatrist Jillian Spencer is being investigated by the national health regulator after she shared on social media an article from The Australian that quoted her concerns about gender-affirming medical treatment for children. Dr Spencer has been told by the Health Ombudsman that it is referring a complaint against her to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency after a notification that her post "criticised gender affirming care and encouraged followers to petition against it".

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

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

Hospital unable to deliver

Daily Advertiser, General News, 01/04/2026, Taylor Dodge, Page 1

A Riverina hospital has been left without full obstetrician coverage after the doctor who had been delivering obstetric services was ordered to stop. After an investigation by the Medical Council of NSW, Tumut's Dr Mohamad Osman Darwiche was banned from delivering obstetrics at all hospitals in NSW and was placed under supervision.

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

Dr Amal Abou-Hamden rejects criticism after Women's and Children's Hospital benches her pending investigation

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 31/03/2026, Brad Crouch & Evangeline Polymeneas

The Women's and Children's Hospital sought independent reviews of at least two other neurosurgery cases in addition to the catastrophic outcome for Malekai Croxton, who is now unable to walk and struggles with memory loss and multiple health problems. One senior doctor, who is part of the review team, alleged the neurosurgeon involved answered questions about adverse events "in a misleading or misdirected fashion ... well below the standard of ethical and professional conduct expected from the lead neurosurgeon."

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

[Read More](#)

Aussie doctor is suspended after he is accused of heinous act online: 'No tolerance'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 31/03/2026, Sarah Brookes

A senior Perth doctor has been suspended amid explosive allegations he ran a covert online trolling network that targeted fellow medical professionals with antisemitic and racially abusive attacks. The Medical Board of Australia has referred Royal Perth Hospital nephrologist Dr Omar Azzam to a professional standards tribunal for alleged professional misconduct, with AHPRA suspending his registration pending the outcome of the hearing.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

Cicada COVID variant: BA.3.2 spreads across US and Europe with symptoms Australians should know

West Australian, Other, 31/03/2026, Madeline Cove

A highly mutated COVID-19 variant spreading across parts of the United States and Europe is being closely monitored by global health authorities, with experts urging Australians to remain aware of symptoms as the virus continues to evolve internationally. While the variant has not been identified as a major strain circulating in Australia, previous COVID waves have often reached the country after first spreading overseas, particularly as international travel continues to increase.

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

[Read More](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

TGA unlawful importation bust

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 31/03/2026

Three health practitioners have been issued with infringement notices totalling \$23,760 by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for the alleged unlawful importation of unapproved therapeutic goods. The cases involved a nurse who allegedly imported unregistered botulinum toxin, hyaluronic acid and lidocaine; a podiatrist who allegedly imported unregistered hyaluronic acid; and a medical practitioner who allegedly imported unregistered glutathione for a NSW IV clinic.

[Read More](#)

Frog poison ceremony leader charged with manslaughter

The New Daily, Other, 31/03/2026

A second person has been charged with manslaughter over the death of a man who consumed frog poison and psychedelics at a retreat. [...] It is classified as a Schedule 10 poison by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the highest level of classification, meaning it is completely banned from use.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Olympian Shayna Jack warns of 'vicious cycle' after surviving doping scandal

Sky News Australia, Other, 31/03/2026, Euan Kennedy

Even in the darkest days of her public doping scandal, Aussie swimming golden girl Shayna Jack refused to use alcohol as a crutch. It's her mission now to ensure the next generation don't either.

[Read More](#)

Injectable peptides are touted online as a 'glow up potion'. Here's why experts warn against unapproved use

The Guardian, Other, 01/04/2026, Natasha May

Influencers are telling their audiences that injectable peptides are the "glow up potion" they need for everything from clearing up hormonal acne, thickening hair, relieving back pain and even treating chronic UTIs. [...] They either act as "something that our body uses" (like collagen peptides for example) or they're cell signalling like hormones that "tell our body to do really important things," Dr Michael Bonning from the Australian Medical Association says.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Second childcare centre ordered to temporarily close

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/04/2026, Ruby Stewart, Page 2

Another Edge Early Learning centre has been subject to Education Standards Board (ESB) compliance action, just over a week since one in Elizabeth Park was under similar scrutiny. The centre on North Parade in Strathalbyn has been ordered to cease operations for two weeks.

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

Raw C Easter Coconut Water sold in Woolworths across Australia recalled over undeclared allergen

7News.com.au, Other, 31/03/2026, Savannah Meacham

A popular Easter themed drink has been recalled nationally over fears it contains an undeclared allergen. [...] "Any consumers who have a milk allergy or intolerance may have a reaction if the product is consumed," Food Standards Australia New Zealand said.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by ISENTIA

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.
See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

