



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 3rd March 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **[Courier Mail \(page 10\)](#)** reports that Queensland Health is considering adding organ donation registration to driver licence applications. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said that the driver's licence system was a critical factor in the uptake of organ donation volunteers.
- **[The Age \(page 2\)](#)** reports that thefts from Victorian aged-care facilities have risen from 132 in 2021 to 183 in 2025. A spokesman for federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said that the Federal Government has invested resources into the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to help improve the safety of aged-care residents.
- **[The Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the Medical Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency have ordered psychiatrist Andrew Amos to halt making online statements on gender-affirming care.
- The **[Sydney Morning Herald \(page 3\)](#)** reports that a study published in *Microbiology Open* has found that bees fed on a diverse range of flowers produced stronger anti-microbial honey, potentially helping the development of medication for drug-resistant bacteria.
- The **[Courier Mail \(page 3\)](#)** reports that a general screening tool for ovarian cancer developed by the University of Queensland is being trialled among 1500 women, with the device having an extremely low false positive rate.

- **The Australian (page 8)** reports that St Basil's Homes for the Aged in Victoria admitted wrongdoing in its failure to provide appropriate training – as well as appropriate PPE policies and mitigation measures – to its staff members, contributing to the deaths of 45 residents.
- The **ABC (online)** reports that a NSW Government review into public hospital maintenance has found 112 non-routine issues in the past year, with 74 resolved, 32 currently being rectified and six currently under further investigation.
- The **ABC (online)** reports that a WA and Federal Government funded Joint Work Program will provide up to five regional WA areas NDIS access via a fly-in fly-out service.

MINISTER BUTLER

Tick for transplants

Courier Mail, General News, 03/03/2026, Hayden Johnson and Ellen Ransley, Page 10

The state government will investigate reinstating organ donation registration on driver licences, in a major win for The Sunday Mail's Count Me In campaign.

[...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has also called on states to look at introducing or reintroducing organ donation registration on driver licences.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

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Excise in stupidity a free kick for gangsters

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 03/03/2026, Theo Foukkare, Page 15

If you wanted to design a policy that guarantees bigger profits for organised crime, you'd start by further blowing out the price gap between legal and illegal cigarettes. On March 3, that's exactly what Canberra is doing. [...] We're told by Health Minister Mark Butler that smoking rates are still falling, so everything is fine.

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'Legitimately sorry': Karl Stefanovic apologises for role in Channel 9's Covid vaccine campaign

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/03/2026, Frank Chung

Karl Stefanovic says he is "legitimately sorry" for encouraging Aussies to take the Covid jab. [...] "We have a responsibility, particularly as a government, to examine our response to the pandemic, to learn what we did well, and in particular, to learn what we could have done better, and importantly, to build, as this report describes it, a high-level playbook for the next pandemic because we know there will be the next pandemic," Health Minister Mark Butler said at the time.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#)

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Hospital peak bodies unite on joint position to address private hospital viability

Catholic Health Australia, Other, 02/03/2026

The Australian Private Hospitals Association (APHA) and Catholic Health Australia (CHA) have today released a Joint Position Statement calling on the government to "guarantee and legislate" a minimum private health insurer benefit-payout ratio of 90 per cent. [...] "Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said in March last year that with high profits and management fees the insurers must pass on much more to hospitals, or he would force them to do so.

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BMS scores world first PBS win

Pharma In Focus, Other, 02/03/2026

The Federal Government has claimed a world first for the multi-indication PBS listing of BMS

immunotherapy drugs Opdivo and Yervoy from this month. [...] "This world first single PBS listing to cover multiple cancers will mean Australian patients can (access) the treatment they need faster and at an affordable price," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

New era for cancer care on PBS

The Medical Republic, Other, 02/03/2026, Amanda Sheppard

Tumour-agnostic access to nivolumab and ipilimumab will cut costs and expand hope for thousands of Australians. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler said that from now, nivolumab (Opdivo) and ipilimumab (Yervoy) would be subsidised under a single tumour-agnostic PBS listing, allowing prescribing based on clinical judgement rather than tumour type.

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New framework and \$110m for killer conditions

The Medical Republic, Other, 02/03/2026

Grant applications will open mid-year for projects aimed at helping prevent chronic conditions. Federal health minister Mark Butler has announced a new investment of \$110 million over three years into projects that help prevent chronic conditions and improve care.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

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MINISTER RAE

Nell was dying when rings vanished. She wasn't the only one

Age, General News, 03/03/2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 2

Police are responding to almost 200 reported thefts in Victorian aged care every year, including the alleged robbery of more than \$40,000 of jewellery from a 97-year-old woman who was dying. [...] A spokesman for federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the government had strengthened quality standards, improved reporting and invested resources into the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to protect people in aged care.

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

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Government prioritises in-home support

Aged Care Insite, Other, 02/03/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The Albanese government has reiterated its commitment to enabling older Australians to age in their own homes, saying it is a cornerstone of its ambitious aged care reform agenda. Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae has highlighted the significant investment and policy changes to help make this happen, all of which he says benefits individuals, communities, and the efficiency of government services.

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Advocates fear My Aged Care funding algorithm could become Australia's next robodebt

Your Life Choices, Other, 02/03/2026

Each morning Gaynor Crossan lovingly prepares her husband of 57 years for the day ahead. [...] The ABC asked the Federal Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae whether the government was aware of

complaints around the IAT and if it intended to make changes.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Expansion of Rockhampton Medicare Mental Health Centre

CQ Today, Other, 02/03/2026

Central Queenslanders struggling with mental health now have more local support, with expansion work underway at the Rockhampton Medicare Mental Health Centre. [...] The expansion was announced earlier this week during a visit to Rockhampton by Federal Mental Health and Suicide Assistant Minister Emma McBride, who said the government was committed to putting mental health at the heart of Medicare.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Tasmania considers reintroducing organ donation option on driver's licences

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/03/2026, Bridget Clarke

The Tasmanian Government will consider reintroducing organ donation as an option on driver's licences in a bid to boost enrolments. [...] Despite this, federal assistant health minister Rebecca White said there was always more work to do to boost enrolments, with relinking organ donor registration to driver's licences a consideration.

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Scholarship boost for First Nations future leaders in fight against cancer

National Indigenous Times, Other, 02/03/2026, Jarred Cross

Hannah Mason knows first-hand how crucial culturally safe care and representation in the health workforce is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accessing cancer care. [...] Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Rebecca White agreed increased Indigenous representation in cancer care is essential in improving outcomes.

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2YOU FM, Mornings, 02/03/2026, Johnny Mac

Residents across Tamworth and the New England are being urged to sign up for the Australian Organ Donor Register. More than 20,000 Australians have received life-saving transplants, with 1,448 last year. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White says the latest data is encouraging for locals to sign up. She says it's simple to register online at donatelife.gov.au or through the Medicare app.

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Loving Life FM, 06:00 Local News, 02/03/2026

The Federal Government is calling on Clarence Valley residents to help sustain a national surge in organ donation. Following the release of 2025 data showing that 1,438 Australian lives were saved by the generosity of 557 deceased donors, Assistant Minister Rebecca White is championing a local push for new registrations.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Immunisation handbook updates

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 02/03/2026, Page 1

The respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) chapter of the Australian Immunisation Handbook has been updated to reflect the new recommendation for RSV vaccine Abrysvo to be given in each pregnancy from 28 weeks gestation. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has also advised that the Australian CDC has assumed responsibility for publishing the Handbook, with minor changes to logos, branding and administrative elements to be updated over the next few weeks.

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Claiming deadline extended after Catholic sector raises concerns

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

The Albanese Government has extended the claiming deadline for the first quarter of the new Support at Home program, following concerns raised by Catholic aged care providers during the transition. The Department of Health and Aged Care has confirmed aged care providers will now have 90 days instead of 60 days to submit claims for services delivered between November 1 and December 31, 2025, with the deadline extended to March 31.

[Read More](#)

Government quietly extends Support at Home claims deadline amid rollout chaos

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

The federal government has quietly extended the claiming deadline for the first quarter of the Support at Home program, a move that highlights the ongoing challenges in rolling out this much-trumpeted reform. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care made the adjustment after feedback from the sector, including advocacy from groups such as Catholic Health Australia, pointing to the administrative strain during the early transition.

[Read More](#)

Anglicare opens specialist dementia care unit in Manly

Redland Bayside News, Other, 02/03/2026, Andrew Jefferson

Anglicare Southern Queensland has officially opened its third Specialist Dementia Care Program (SDCP) unit at the E.M. Tooth Residential Aged Care home in Manly in Brisbane's south, supported by the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Failure that sparked 45 deaths in a month

The Australian, General News, 03/03/2026, Liam Beatty, Page 8

The aged care home at the centre of a deadly Covid outbreak in July 2020 has admitted it failed to ensure all staff were properly trained. St Basil's Homes for the Aged in Victoria was charged by the workplace watchdog WorkSafe after 45 residents died from Covid-related complications within a month of the outbreak.

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

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Just Better Care celebrates 15 years of personalised disability and aged care

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 02/03/2026, Nicki Davey

When Jason Ballerini started Just Better Care Illawarra and Southern Highlands 15 years ago, he set out to build an aged care and disability service that was grounded in dignity, independence and genuine community care. "I moved to Wollongong just over 16 years ago and quickly recognised a clear gap in the market," Mr Ballerini said.

[Read More](#)

Australians who need care because of age or disability shouldn't be reduced to an algorithm

The Guardian, Other, 03/03/2026, Georgia Van Toorn

A quiet transformation is taking place across Australia's care systems. Every day, hundreds of elders and people living with disability are assessed for essential supports, such as home care, mobility aids, home modifications and therapies that help them live safely with dignity at home and in their communities.

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Algorithm denies Melbourne man with MND critical home care funding

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

Melbourne man Graham Crossan, who has advanced motor neurone disease (MND), has been denied additional funding for essential home care due to a new algorithm used in Australia's My Aged Care system. The case, first reported by the ABC, has raised serious concerns among advocates that the automated tool could lead to widespread issues similar to the robodebt scandal.

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Anglicare Sydney expands nationally in major acquisition

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/03/2026, Lauren Broomham

Three-and-a-half years after acquiring 50% of LDK Seniors' Living, Anglicare Sydney has signed an agreement to acquire Infinite Care. The deal creates what the Not For Profit says will be a leading national Christian for-purpose residential aged care platform. MA Financial, the co-owner of Infinite Care, said the transaction, subject to relevant approvals, is expected to be complete around May 2026. MA Financial said the transaction will realise a gain of approximately \$20 million.

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Summerset flags Melbourne continuum-of-care debut and interstate push

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/03/2026, Ian Horswill

The New Zealand-based continuum of care operator today delivered a record underlying profit of NZ\$234.2 million (AUD\$197.06 million) for the 2025 year, up 13% on FY24. Summerset recorded 1,560 total sales of occupation rights, up 26% on FY24, with 693 new homes delivered under occupation right agreement (637 in New Zealand and 56 in Australia).

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Hall & Prior plants QLD flag with aged care and village acquisition

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/03/2026, Lauren Broomham

Private provider Hall & Prior has made its first aged care investment in southeast Queensland. The operator has acquired Sir James Terrace residential aged care facility and associated retirement villas in Deception Bay, around 45 minutes north of the Brisbane CBD.

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'Hidden fees, hidden costs': The aged care invoicing scandal leaving older Australians short-changed

Your Life Choices, Other, 02/03/2026, Lexanne Garcia

Older Australians on home care packages are being charged more than the actual cost of outside services such as gardening, podiatry, and home maintenance—with the difference quietly absorbed by their care agency as an undisclosed handling fee. The practice is not new, but it is becoming harder to ignore as rising costs under the new Aged Care Act put household budgets under renewed strain.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 02/03/2026, Jennifer Keyte

An aged care home at the centre of Vic's COVID-19 breakouts has admitted it failed to properly train its staff. Forty-five people living at St Basil's Homes for the Aged died after contracting COVID-19. Their grieving families say the incompetence cost them valuable time with their loved ones.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Expelled because he can't say yes

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 03/03/2026, Kate Uren, Page 11

An Adelaide mum whose eight-year-old son has already been temporarily excluded from his primary school four times is pushing for medical recognition of his "contentious" form of autism that makes obeying teachers' commands almost impossible. Louise said her year 3 son who was also expelled from his original private school and has been suspended a "multitude of times" had pathological demand avoidance (PDA), a disorder that was acknowledged by psychologists but had not been granted an official medical diagnosis.

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NDIS help for youth is flailing

Courier Mail, General News, 03/03/2026, Amanda Mazzoni, Page 19

The NDIS was built on a simple promise: choice and control. For families of children with developmental delays and disabilities, that promise is slipping away. Over the past two years, administrative changes have fundamentally reshaped how children access support, and not for the better.

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NDIS regional support services boosted by FIFO healthcare program

ABC Online, Other, 02/03/2026, Andrew Williams, Piper Duffy and Dunja Karagic

Disability support programs tailored to regional Western Australia are aiming to bridge geographical gaps by bringing services to the country areas. The initiative, which aims to connect diverse communities in remote areas with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), will roll out in five regional areas across WA.

[Read More](#)

How one change to Disability Discrimination Act could make it less 'daunting'

ABC Online, Other, 02/03/2026, Tessa Flemming

Growing up on a farm outside of Tamworth, Gomeri country, Caitlin Blanch was never wrapped in cotton wool. She roughhoused with her brothers, drove tractors, and looked after the animals.

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PRIMARY CARE

Matt Jacobs has a tick-induced red-meat allergy. Four doctors didn't know what it was

ABC Online, Other, 02/03/2026, Charlie McLean

In early 2025, Queenslander Matt Jacobs couldn't figure out why everything was making him sick. [...] "GPs generally understand about direct food and venom-related anaphylaxis but are less well trained in rarer anaphylaxis syndromes such as alpha-gal syndrome," Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Allergy Chair Dr Nick Cooling said.

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'Asleep at the wheel': gas emissions spark criticism

Shepparton News Online, Other, 02/03/2026

Claims toxic emissions from two gas plants pose a low risk to human health cannot be trusted and a public inquiry is needed, an environmental watchdog says. The Northern Territory's Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been accused of being "asleep at the wheel" after releasing an independent human health risk assessment on the under-reporting of emissions by gas giant INPEX at its Darwin plant.

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Tenders called for redevelopment of Moa Island primary health care centres

National Indigenous Times, Other, 02/03/2026, Giovanni Torre

Tenders have been called for the redevelopment of the St Paul's and Kubin community primary health care centres on Moa Island in the Torres Strait. Member for Cook David Kempton confirmed on Monday that funding for the \$13.5 million project has been allocated by the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service through the Queensland government's Timely Investment Infrastructure Maintenance Program.

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Local graduates boost culturally safe healthcare in Wagga Wagga

National Indigenous Times, Other, 02/03/2026, Giovanni Torre

Fourteen students - the first cohort in Wagga Wagga for several years - graduated on Friday from the Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice, boosting the region's culturally appropriate healthcare workforce. The region's need for culturally safe care is high, with Aboriginal people making up 5.9 per cent of the population and experiencing more than double the disease burden of the non-Indigenous population.

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POPULATION HEALTH

The Great Australian Dream is looking very different these days

Age, General News, 03/03/2026, Caroline Zielinski and Alice Uribe, Page 12

Ricky Banga was working two jobs, his brother was working two jobs and his wife was working night shifts. [...] People born in the late 1980s are the first generation in which more than half did not own their home by their early 30s, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare research.

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

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700k in illegal cigarettes seized in 10-day blitz

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/03/2026, Anna Shreeves

A staggering 700,000 illegal cigarettes have been seized in 10 days as NSW authorities shut down more than 100 tobacco shops flouting new laws. NSW Health Inspectors have shut down over 100 illicit tobacconists in a massive crackdown since last year's legislative reforms, seizing 700,000 cigarettes and nearly 4,000 vapes in the last 10 days alone.

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Hidden in plain sight: the brutal reality of homelessness in a regional city

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 02/03/2026

Ethan Stephenson would rather sleep in a cave than seek refuge at North Wagga's Wilks Park, but at one stage, he had no other choice. Mr Stephenson, who regards himself as "just your normal Aussie bloke", said he was shocked when he ended up with nowhere to live.

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Palliative care: Victoria needs urgent fix

Aged Care Insite, Other, 02/03/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Palliative Care Victoria (PCV) has launched an urgent campaign, 'Tomorrow's Care Starts Today!', calling for significant improvements to palliative care services across the state. The organisation warns that a rapidly ageing population and increasing demand for services are creating a critical gap in support, with many Victorians dying without the care they need.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Heavy toll of ignoring obesity

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/03/2026, Taylor Penny, Page 15

Obesity and weight-related issues are costing the Australian economy \$45bn each year in lost productivity and health resources, new analysis shows. It is also linked to 22 million missed days of work, the modelling carried out by analytics and consulting firm GlobalData found.

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

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Drug fails to help knee pain

Herald Sun, General News, 03/03/2026, Page 13

The arthritis drug diacerein does not improve pain levels in people with knee osteoarthritis, a study has found. Diacerein was derived from a compound initially discovered in plants like rhubarb and aloe vera, which are known for their anti-inflammatory qualities.

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

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Woman given hours to live became godmother to her organ donor's baby

The Mercury, Other, 02/03/2026, Jackie Sinnerton

Aussie woman Caz Boyd received lifesaving lungs from pregnant donor Natalie who died from an aneurysm, then became godmother to the baby who survived. CAZ Boyd decided she would never have children — too scared she wouldn't live long enough to raise them.

[Read More](#)

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

Interview with Hearing Care Industry Association independent chair Nina Quinn on hearing aids. Quinn says tinnitus is something that impacts a lot of people. She says the majority of the time, it is an early

sign that maybe there is a little bit of decrease in your hearing. She says hearing loss is one most prevalent but also unrecognised health challenges.

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2GB, Mornings, 02/03/2026, Mark Levy

Levy says a team of Wollongong scientists are preparing an Australian-first research project in the fight against MND, motor neuron disease. He says they're setting out to produce human spinal cords to find new targeted drugs and therapies. He says MND gradually kills the nerve cells responsible for muscle movement, and patients eventually lose their ability to walk, talk, swallow, and breathe. He says about 2,800 Australians live with it, while two are diagnosed with it each day.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

No relevant coverage

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IMMUNISATION

Push benefits of flu vax

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/03/2026, Kay Dunkley

"Your recommendation to your patients is one of the most influential drivers of vaccination acceptance", Australia's Chief Medical Officer Professor Michael Kidd says in a letter to immunisers. Kidd noted that while there were "small improvements in influenza immunisation rates in 2025, compared to 2024", uptake of the

[Read More](#)

ATAGI 2026 influenza update: what's changed?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 02/03/2026, Chloe Hava

In 2025, around 1,701 influenza-associated deaths were recorded, more than those related to COVID-19 – which fell compared to the previous year. Against that backdrop, improving vaccine uptake, particularly in priority populations, is a clear national focus.

[Read More](#)

2026 flu vaccines ready to go

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/03/2026

Australia's chief medical officer, Professor Michael Kidd, has written to healthcare professionals ahead of the flu season to reinforce the importance of annual influenza vaccination in protecting individuals, families and communities, and the vital role of health professionals in encouraging uptake.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

STIs get the itch to travel

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03/03/2026, Blair Jackson, Page 5

Travellers are spreading drug-resistant gonorrhoea at alarming rates, prompting calls to embed sexual health advice into all stages of the Australian travel pathway. New University of Queensland research

points to unprecedented levels of global travel sparking heightened sexually transmitted infection cases.

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

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Fears eased as state government confirms private services will continue at Northern Beaches Hospital

The Courier Mail, Other, 02/03/2026, Jim O'Rourke

The troubled Northern Beaches Hospital will continue to offer private health services until at least the middle of next year, the NSW Government has confirmed. There were concerns that the hospital at Frenchs Forest would stop providing surgery for private patients when it is taken over by the government on April 29.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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2GB, Drive, 02/03/2026, Clinton Maynard

Maynard says the Northern Beaches Hospital will continue to offer private services. He says there had been some concern with Healthscope handing over control to the NSW Government that it would only be open for public patients. He says 20,000 operations are conducted each year for private patients. He says the government has confirmed they will keep offering private facilities, at least for the moment.

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

Interview with Oren Klemich on organ donation. Klemich says he became an unauthorised spokesman about organ donation and then got asked to do a few things with Donate Life, which led to a board position on the Organ and Tissue Authority in Canberra. He says organ donation is work he enjoys, which is a little bit of making sure his son Jack's memory stays alive.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

If you're ovary concerned

Courier Mail, General News, 03/03/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 3

A potential world-changing test developed in Queensland is set to be trialled among 1500 women in the hopes it can become a general screening tool for deadly ovarian cancer. The simple test, which could be a world-changer in the fight against the "silent killer", has been developed by scientists at the University of Queensland and has shown 100 per cent detection rates.

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

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Close look at eye cancer

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03/03/2026, Page 5

Flinders University eye experts have released new global findings that reveal how a rare eye cancer first appears, offering vital insights that will help doctors diagnose the disease earlier and improve care for patients around the world. The research draws on the International Vitreoretinal BCell Lymphoma Registry, the world's largest global project dedicated to understanding this aggressive form of eye cancer.

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

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Researchers teach 'biological computer' made from human brain cells to play Doom

NEWS.com.au, Other, 02/03/2026, Frank Chung

Researchers at a Melbourne start-up have taught their "biological computer" made from living human brain cells to play Doom. Cortical Labs, which made headlines in 2022 after teaching neurons in a dish to play Pong, said the internet had "immediately asked the only question that matters in computing: can it run Doom?"

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

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 02/03/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

Pigeon droppings, mould infestations, and a resident possum are just some of the maintenance issues identified by NSW's health minister in a snap review of hospital cleanliness. The review was called after two patients with fungal infections died at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Family sue on 'duty of care'

Northern Territory News, General News, 03/03/2026, Zizi Averill and Gera Kazakov, Page 3

A Northern Territory mum who devoted herself to building a better life for her family spent her final moments in a hot, dirty and lonely watch house cell, with her grieving loved ones accusing police of failing in their duty of care. On Wednesday, the family of Kumanjayi Dempsey filed a civil case against the NT government in the Federal Court, alleging NT Police breached its duty of care to the 44-year-old during her 43 hours in custody after an alleged Christmas Day assault.

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Senate erupts as Closing the Gap debate sparks audit calls and racism clash

National Indigenous Times, Other, 02/03/2026, Dechlan Brennan

A heated debate in the Australian Senate has reignited divisions over the nation's Closing the Gap strategy, with the Opposition renewing calls for a wide-ranging audit of Indigenous programs while the government defended its record on jobs, health and economic participation. Tensions flared as independent senator Lidia Thorpe clashed with Pauline Hanson, labelling her an "absolute disgrace", while Coalition figures argued Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander outcomes had deteriorated under Labor.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Ramping spike has wheels spinning

West Australian, General News, 03/03/2026, Jessica Page, Page 15

A February record for ambulance ramping has poured doubt over Roger Cook's hospital strategy, according to the State Opposition which is predicting a "horror" winter in Perth. Figures from St John WA confirm it recorded 4892 hours of ambulances and patients stuck outside hospitals that were full in February, above the 4840 hours recorded in the same month in 2025.

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

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Bad end to summer in WA's hospitals points to an even worse winter

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

New ambulance ramping figures have poured cold water over the Cook Government's newfound confidence it was prepared for this year's upcoming flu season. Ramping figures released today for last month show it was the worst February on record, with ambulances parked outside public hospitals for nearly 4893 hours while waiting to transfer their patient.

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'Ongoing pigeon problem': Hospital review finds 112 maintenance faults

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/03/2026, Kate Aubusson

The Minns government has launched a snap review into the state's hospitals' menagerie of maintenance issues, after fungus, maggots and pigeons wreaked havoc on patient care, in two instances causing patient fatalities. The review ordered by Health Minister Ryan Park has so far identified 112 "non-routine" issues over the past year, of which 74 have been resolved, 32 are being rectified, and six are being examined more closely.

Similar coverage reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Minister in dark for weeks over hospital fungus deaths

Canberra Times, Other, 02/03/2026, Tom Wark

Knowledge of a serious hospital fungal outbreak that claimed the lives of two transplant patients was kept from the relevant minister for more than a month after health authorities discovered it. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park's office was alerted on Christmas Eve to possible fungal-related deaths and illnesses in the Royal Prince Alfred transplant unit, related to the hospital's \$940 million redevelopment.

Also reported by: [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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NSW health minister rejects 'negligence' claims after snap review into hospitals

ABC Online, Other, 02/03/2026, Rachel Holdsworth

The New South Wales health minister has rejected accusations of "negligence on his watch" over major maintenance issues across the state's hospitals. Newly identified maintenance issues have been uncovered in hospitals across NSW as part of a state government snap review.

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Former patients of gynaecologist Simon Gordon not included in Epworth Hospital review

ABC Online, Other, 02/03/2026

The women had surgery for "severe" endometriosis despite pathology showing little trace of the disease. Former patients of gynaecologist Simon Gordon have expressed anger and dismay that they have not been formally invited to participate in an external review being conducted at the hospital where he worked.

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Hunter hospitals flag nine issues in statewide maintenance review

Newcastle Herald, Other, 02/03/2026

A snap review of the state's hospitals has found more than 100 non-routine maintenance issues in the past year, including nine in the Hunter New England district. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park ordered the review to get an overall snapshot of the state's health system, following the Newcastle Herald's ongoing coverage of the maintenance issues at the Calvary Mater Hospital and a batch of secret documents that revealed three mould-related deaths at the Royal Prince Alfred in Sydney, along with a host of other maintenance-related issues across the state.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 02/03/2026, Sandra Sully

It has been revealed that health authorities ignored some of their own safety protocols and left vulnerable transplant patients exposed to the risk of fungal infections during building work at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. The health minister today was grilled in a parliamentary hearing on whether two patients' deaths were preventable.

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

Ambulance ramping has reached a record high for February. The WA Government says it's throwing billions of dollars at WA's health services, but the Opposition says it's a dire warning of the flu season to come.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 02/03/2026, Tom Connell

Interview with independent candidate for Farrer Michelle Milthorpe on hospitals. says they have been let down by major parties. She says they've had the PM fly in recently and say they don't federally fund hospitals and then go and give \$100m to a hospital in Sydney.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 02/03/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with SA Health CEO Dr Robyn Lawrence on a power outage that impacted equipment at Flinders Medical Centre. Lawrence says everybody will understand that the weather over the weekend was unusual, adding that this was an issue that was unanticipated. [...] Interview with AMA SA president Assoc Prof Peter Subramaniam on power outages. Subramaniam says when these outages happen, the immediate priority is patient safety.

Continues on: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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FIVEAA, Afternoons, 02/03/2026, Stacy Lee

Interview with SA Salaried Medical Officers Association's Bernadette Mulholland on the state of hospitals, such as the power outage at Flinders Medical Centre. Mulholland says there were problems with the air conditioning, and when the power came back on, it appears the air conditioning started to provide hot air and therefore increased the humidity throughout the hospital, giving to problems for theatres, which have certain standards they have to meet in relation to the humidity.

Continues on: [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Midwife advice 'a danger'

Herald Sun, General News, 03/03/2026, Page 15

A woman who refers to herself as a "traditional midwife" despite not being registered with the health regulator has released a course for pregnant women that has been described as "dangerous". It comes as doctors call for stronger regulation in the birth space, with experts raising concern about the term "midwife" being misused.

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Midwife numbers boosted

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/03/2026, Jonathan Mendelsohn, Page 3

Thirty-nine new midwife graduate students will be welcomed to practices this year, helping support women and families across the area. Coming from all across the country, the graduates will join

Midwifery Group Programs in Toowoomba, Kingaroy, Dalby and Warwick.

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

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Nurses ready to fight for better conditions

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/03/2026, Alison Foletta, Page 10

Tasmanian nurses are gearing up to fight for better wages and workplace conditions with negotiations for their new agreement due to kick off. The Australian Nurses and Midwifery Federation says with the workplace agreement ending in June, negotiations for the new agreement should have started back in November 2025.

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Nurses fight for better pay as union warns government of looming health crisis

The Mercury, Other, 02/03/2026, Alison Foletta

The state's health system faces "catastrophic" consequences, unions warn, as frustrated nurses demand urgent pay talks while colleagues flee interstate for higher wages. Tasmanian nurses are gearing up to fight for better wages and workplace conditions with negotiations for their new agreement due to kick off.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Tasmanian government spent more than \$105 million last year to employ temporary nurses

ABC Online, Other, 02/03/2026, Madeleine Rojahn

State government spending on locum nurses each year has risen to more than \$100 million, making up nearly five per cent of the total health budget, according to health department data. During the 2024-25 year, the Tasmanian government spent \$105 million to employ locum nurses.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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

Interview with Canberra Liberals deputy leader and Shadow Police, Emergency Services, and Community Safety Minister Deborah Morris on the crisis in the ACT Ambulance Service. Morris says they knew the staffing shortages were bad and last year some ambulance stations were having to close because they didn't have enough staff to man them. She says it paints a picture of ambulance paramedics being required to work sometimes in excess of 16 hour long shifts and sometimes without a meal break.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor silenced on gender

The Australian, General News, 03/03/2026, Stephen Rice, Page 1

A prominent psychiatrist who has warned of the risks of gender-affirming medical treatment for minors has been banned from posting his objections on social media and had restrictions put on his practice by the national health regulator. Andrew Amos has been ordered by the Medical Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency to stop making online statements about gender issues and is barred from having direct clinical contact with patients.

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

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Suspension for doctor

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/03/2026, Amber Wilson, Page 6

A locum doctor has been suspended from practice for six months after he was fired from Launceston General Hospital for prescribing addictive drugs to his seriously ill mother. Obstetrician and gynaecologist Babak Shakeri, who also worked at the North West Regional Hospital in Burnie, had been working in Perth when his mother arrived in Australia from Iran in December 2023.

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Mercy or misconduct?

Burnie Advocate, General News, 03/03/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 1

A specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist who worked at two Tasmanian hospitals has been suspended for six months after deceptively prescribing drugs of dependence to his terminally ill mother. The Health Practitioners Tribunal issued a formal reprimand to the locum doctor following a series of professional misconduct findings while he was working at the North West Regional Hospital and the Launceston General Hospital.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Bees may be key to crisis killing 100 Australians a week

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/03/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 3

Like the opening scenes of a horror movie, last month scientists described the discovery of ancient bacteria entombed within a Romanian ice cave that was resistant to 10 modern antibiotics. The 5000-year-old bacteria thawing from the ice could theoretically pass their drug-resistant genes to infectious microbes, highlighting yet another way microbial evolution can render once-lifesaving drugs useless.

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

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South Australia warned of mosquito outbreak after heavy rain and warm weather

7news.com.au, Other, 02/03/2026, Gertie Spurling

One state's wet weekend has created the perfect storm for a surge in mosquito numbers, with experts warning the timing couldn't be worse as disease-carrying species begin to boom. Days of heavy rain followed by warm, humid weather have produced ideal breeding conditions in South Australia, and

authorities say many of the mozzies emerging at this time of year are capable of spreading Ross River virus and even the potentially deadly Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV).

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Channel 7, Seven News, 02/03/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

Australia's wet weekend has created the perfect storm for an explosion in mosquito numbers. Many of them carry diseases like Ross River virus, even the deadly Japanese encephalitis virus.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

TGA issues fake GLP-1 warning

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/03/2026, Benjamyn Sung

Testing confirms imported unregistered GLP-1 weight loss products are not what they claim to be. Consumers are being urged to avoid purchasing online medicines claiming to contain glucagon-like peptide-1s (GLP-1s), warning they make pose health risks. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) issued an updated warning on Monday (2 March 2026) after testing of 10 products revealed they did not contain GLP-1s.

[Read More](#)

Implant nightmare: fit and healthy 39-year-old mum's cancer diagnosis Jessie Herbert battles rare cancer linked to breast implants

Newcastle Herald, Other, 02/03/2026, Damon Cronshaw

A breast implant that caused a tumour in Jessie Herbert's breast left her in pain for months while facing major surgery. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration cancelled several breast implant products in 2020 over their links to the cancer in question.

[Read More](#)

Karl Stefanovic issues an apology to Australia after pushing people to get the Covid-19 vaccine: 'I have regrets'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/03/2026, Kylie Stevens

Karl Stefanovic has revealed that he now regrets urging Aussies to get the Covid jab during the pandemic. [...] Rennick said that Stefanovic was not solely to blame and should have been given proper advice from the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

[Read More](#)

Zimstat 5mg shortage extended

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/03/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has been advised that the shortage of Zimstat (simvastatin, Alphapharm) 5mg tablets () will continue to the end of Apr 2026. The TGA has extended the Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI) until 31 May 2026, allowing a pharmacist to dispense an equivalent quantity of simvastatin 10mg tablets, if appropriate, without a new prescription.

[Read More](#)

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

Interview with What's That Rash? podcast host Dr Norman Swan on peptides. Swan says some of these peptides are on prescription only, which seems to give you the indication that they're approved products by the TGA. He says pretty much none of these peptides are approved by the TGA. He says the reason they're on prescription only is that they're on the poison standard.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Dairy farmers want end to udder madness

Courier Mail, General News, 03/03/2026, Emma Kirk, Page 16

Australia's dairy industry is calling for stronger labelling laws following a court ruling that banned an oat drink company from using the word "milk" to describe its products in the UK. [...] Nutritionist Courtney Steward said research conducted by Food Standards Australia New Zealand indicated that consumer confusion was more associated with animal imagery rather than with dairy terminology.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Dairy farmers want plant-based drinks to stop using the word 'milk'. But does it really confuse consumers?

ABC Online, Other, 02/03/2026, Selina Green and Kerrie Lush

When is milk, not milk? Debate has raged over whether non-dairy products should be able to use labels such as milk, yoghurt and cheese. [...] "There was some research done by Food Standards Australia New Zealand, and they found that consumers generally were pretty clear about the difference between dairy versus plant-based alternatives," she said.

Similar coverage reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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AICIS

Hundreds march in Parkes to protest 'dumpster fire' Sydney waste incinerator

The Courier Mail, Other, 02/03/2026, Dane Millerd

Hundreds of residents, farmers and political representatives have marched through Parkes in a powerful show of opposition to the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) facility that would burn up to 700,000 tonnes of Sydney's red-bin rubbish each year. [...] Research cited by organisers pointed to international studies identifying elevated levels of dioxins, PFAS and heavy metals in soils near incinerators in Europe and China.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Plastic produce stickers, lollipop sticks, soy sauce containers and confetti could be banned

Canberra Times, Other, 02/03/2026, Lanie Tindale

The ACT government is considering banning 14 more single-use plastic products, such as produce stickers, coffee cups, soy sauce containers, cigarette filters, confetti and food sticks for items like lollipops and ice-cream. [...] "Emerging research has shown that compostable products may contain potentially harmful chemicals such as per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

[Read More](#)

Urgent warning to pet owners as scientists discover TOXIC cancer-causing chemicals in popular wet foods

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/03/2026, Xantha Leatham

Your pet could be at risk from toxic cancer-causing 'forever' chemicals found in popular wet foods, according to a new study. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of synthetic chemicals often used in plastics, cleaning products and non-stick coatings.

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