



# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 4th March 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 Age](#)** (page 2) reports that researchers at the Doherty Institute in Melbourne claim to have developed the world's first single-device rapid test for detecting all major sexually transmitted infections.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 2) reports that another patient has escaped from a Sydney hospital when they were meant to be under strict guard.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 4) reports that the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists has used its federal budget submission to call for an investment of \$22.9 million over two years in order to address the country's looming mental health staffing crisis.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 3) reports that new data released by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency shows the Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union has a wage gap of 14.3 per cent despite having a predominantly female workforce.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 8) reports that roughly 100 staff at Launceston General Hospital stopped work for an hour as part of statewide industrial action over pay and workload disputes. The Health and Community Sector Union said they will not put patients' safety at risk, however the stoppages may impact access to PBS and Medicare billing.

## Govt to probe reinstating organ donation driver's licence scheme

Northern Territory News, General News, 04/03/2026, Hayden Johnson and Gary Shipway, Page 8

The federal government will investigate how to strengthen Australia's languishing organ donation rates amid overwhelming support to reinstate the choice on driver's licences. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's office did not respond to questions about whether the Commonwealth would push states into reinstating organ donation into the driver's licence process, but noted Mr Butler previously said the removal was a "terrible backward step".

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

## The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus important consultations now open

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

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler said: "I have to say it's one of the worst cases I've seen, one of the worst stories I've read, as Health Minister about care being delivered in what is otherwise a terrific health care system. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae emerged from witness protection to give an interview to Radio 4CA in Cairns (his second live media interview since 6 November last year).

[Read More](#)

## Queensland could reintroduce organ donor registration on driving licence applications to boost number of organ donor sign-ups

Sky News Australia, Other, 03/03/2026, Matt Hampson

The Queensland government is considering whether to reintroduce a key feature on driving licence applications in an effort to boost the dwindling number of Aussies signed up as organ donors. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has called on the states to consider allowing residents to register as organ donors on their driving licence applications.

[Read More](#)

## New research finds almost half of Aussies will scrap their health cover ahead of 4.41 per cent premium rate rise

Sky News Australia, Other, 03/03/2026, Preston Potts

Fresh research has revealed almost half of Australians are set to scrap their health cover ahead of a premium rate rise. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler previously said the rise in premiums was "moderately higher" than last year's increase of 3.73 per cent.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 03/03/2026, Tim McMillan and Angela Tsun

Australians with macular degeneration, like Lesley Morton, face higher costs if the federal government reclassifies sight-saving injections. Health Minister Mark Butler says Medicare will limit injections to out-of-hospital settings, meaning private insurance won't cover them.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Melbourne, Drive, 03/03/2026, Ali Moore

Interview with Rohit D'Costa, State Medical Director of DonateLife Victoria, about organ donor registration in Vic. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler urged other states to reintroduce organ donor registration on driver's licences, calling it an important step toward improving donation rates. [...] D'Costa supports keeping multiple registration pathways like MyGov and Medicare and notes that international opt-out systems haven't reliably increased donation rates.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### ABC Goldfields WA, Breakfast, 03/03/2026, Ivo Da Silva

Interview with Jo Russell, Disability Advocate from PWDWA, about a new NDIS initiative for regional WA. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister says the Katanning trial showed that having NDIA staff on the ground and talking to people in local spaces helps participants. Russell says the initiative could help some areas like Kalgoorlie, but misses more remote First Nation communities where access gaps are greatest.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER RAE

### The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus important consultations now open

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

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler said: "I have to say it's one of the worst cases I've seen, one of the worst stories I've read, as Health Minister about care being delivered in what is otherwise a terrific health care system. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae emerged from witness protection to give an interview to Radio 4CA in Cairns (his second live media interview since 6 November last year).

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Gawler headspace celebrates three months at official launch

Bunyip, General News, 04/03/2026, Page 8

An official opening event was hosted at headspace Gawler last week following the clinic's soft launch into the community in November 2025. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride cuts the ribbon at the headspace Gawler opening.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### Govt to probe reinstating organ donation driver's licence scheme

Northern Territory News, General News, 04/03/2026, Hayden Johnson and Gary Shipway, Page 8

The federal government will investigate how to strengthen Australia's languishing organ donation rates amid overwhelming support to reinstate the choice on driver's licences. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's office did not respond to questions about whether the Commonwealth would push states into reinstating organ donation into the driver's licence process, but noted Mr Butler previously said the removal was a "terrible backward step".

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

### Bulk billing rates rise across Franklin electorate

Kingborough Chronicle, General News, 03/03/2026, Page 6

Seven general practices in the Franklin electorate are now fully bulk billing, according to new federal health data showing an increase in Tasmania's overall GP bulk billing rate over the past year. [...]

Caption Text: Federal Member for Franklin Julie Collins and Tasmanian Labor Leader Rebecca White meet with a local GP to discuss bulk billing and access to primary health care services.

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

## The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus important consultations now open

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

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler said: "I have to say it's one of the worst cases I've seen, one of the worst stories I've read, as Health Minister about care being delivered in what is otherwise a terrific health care system. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae emerged from witness protection to give an interview to Radio 4CA in Cairns (his second live media interview since 6 November last year).

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### Bulk billing rates rise across Franklin electorate

Kingborough Chronicle, General News, 03/03/2026, Page 6

Seven general practices in the Franklin electorate are now fully bulk billing, according to new federal health data showing an increase in Tasmania's overall GP bulk billing rate over the past year. [...]

Caption Text: Federal Member for Franklin Julie Collins and Tasmanian Labor Leader Rebecca White meet with a local GP to discuss bulk billing and access to primary health care services.

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

### Raising awareness about shingles

Australian Rural & Regional News, Other, 03/03/2026, Anita McInnes

It is rare for someone under the age of 12 to get shingles while people over the age of 50 are most at risk, according to the WA Department of Health. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said free shingles vaccination under the national immunisation program is available for eligible people at moderate to high risk of severe illness and complications from shingles.

[Read More](#)

## The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus important consultations now open

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

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler said: "I have to say it's one of the worst cases I've seen, one of the worst stories I've read, as Health Minister about care being delivered in what is otherwise a terrific health care system. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae emerged from witness protection to give an interview to Radio 4CA in Cairns (his second live media interview since 6 November last year).

[Read More](#)

### Sound advice for healthy hearing

Moreton Daily, Other, 03/03/2026, Nick Crockford

In World Hearing Week, a Moreton Bay audiologist has reminded residents "hearing health is about far more than simply detecting sound". [...] The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care says around one-in-six Australians experience some degree of hearing difficulty.

[Read More](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### **This 37-page aged care 'test' for retirees is a waste of time**

Sydney Morning Herald, Money, 04/03/2026, Rachel Lane, Page 27

There is a moment in everyone's aged care journey when someone hands over a 37-page document and says, "you need to fill this in". This calculation of your cost of care form is spoken about as if it's mandatory.

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

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

### **A \$300k-a-year job that nobody wants**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/03/2026, Ashleigh Gleeson, Page 6

A medical business owner says he cannot hire GPs to work in aged care despite the role equating to what he says could be a \$300,000 a year salary for just two days a week of work. Others have revealed similar struggles, warning that a shortage of GPs in the sector was creating gaps in care that exacerbated issues like bed block.

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

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

### **Government is perpetuating the 'Wealthy Boomer' myth to justify aged care funding cuts**

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

The stereotype of the cashed up baby boomer is not accidental. Speaking with HelloCare, Professor Kathy Eager, who designed the national funding model for residential aged care known as the AN-ACC and served as an adviser to the Aged Care Royal Commission, says Treasury is actively pushing this narrative to justify tougher reforms and higher consumer payments.

[Read More](#)

### **Approved but still waiting: The aged care delay costing families dearly**

Your Life Choices, Other, 03/03/2026

The phone call Emma Nicolle had been bracing for finally came on a Wednesday in February. Her father, Alan, had been unwell for some time, and the weeks leading up to that day had been filled with hospital visits, paperwork, and long, anxious nights.

[Read More](#)

### **Channel 7, Seven News, 03/03/2026, Max Futcher and Katrina Blowers**

Australia's aged care sector faces a worsening workforce shortage as the population ages and many current workers approach retirement. Research from Informed Decisions predicts a shortfall of about 400,000 care workers by 2050, and industry leaders say solutions include a dedicated care visa for overseas workers alongside local training.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### **Fix tax, cut NDIS for long-term prosperity, CEOs tell Chalmers**

Australian Financial Review, Wrap, 04/03/2026, John Kehoe and Angira Bharadwaj, Page 1

Leaders of the country's two largest companies say the Albanese government should use its next budget to implement ambitious tax reform and pro-growth...

## Desperate pair question system

Burnie Advocate, General News, 04/03/2026, Sean Ford, Page 5

Severely disabled Silvio Smigielski can't get NDIS help that could save his life, while, up the road, a provider is making enough profit to pump more than \$20,000 into sports clubs. Mr Smigielski's wife, Charmaine, said the Latrobe man needed special equipment worth \$10,000 to better monitor his severe diabetes and inject insulin.

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

## One-in-three NDIS plans mostly untouched, report finds

West Australian, Other, 04/03/2026, Nick Wilson

One in three NDIS participants use less than half their entitlements, new research shows, raising questions about whether billions of dollars in disability support reaches the people it is meant to help. The average National Disability Insurance Scheme participant uses about 58 per cent of their entitlements, according to figures compiled by economic research organisation the e61 Institute.

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

[Read More](#)

## Gin Gin man Raymond Manderson hit with permanent nationwide NDIS ban

Cairns Post, Other, 03/03/2026

A Gin Gin man faces a lifetime ban from all NDIS work across Australia after regulators took the extraordinary step of blocking his access to disability services. Gin Gin's Raymond Andrew Robert Manderson has been hit with a nationwide ban under the federal National Disability Insurance Scheme, newly published documents reveal.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### SA's new RFDS air fleet is up and away

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/03/2026, Thomas Stewart, Page 12

The first aeromedical-fit next generation aircraft in the world, has landed in Adelaide following a seven day trip and it won't be the last to arrive this year. The Pilatus PC-12 Pro is the next-generation of aviation, fitted with the latest in avionics and enhanced aeromedical capability.

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

### Island's \$13.5m health solution

Cairns Post, General News, 03/03/2026, Page 3

Residents of Moa Island are set for a major healthcare boost as tenders officially open for the \$13.5m redevelopment of its health centres. The project is split across the island's two main communities, focusing on upgrading its St Paul's and Kubin health centres.

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

### Tasmanian uni student Mia Goody sent taxi instead of ambulance during seizure

7news.com.au, Other, 03/03/2026, Alessandro Rosini

A Tasmanian woman who suffered a major medical emergency was sent a taxi instead of an ambulance by a Triple Zero dispatcher. Mia Goody, 20, suffered her first-ever seizure late last Tuesday in her Hobart university dorm room and her partner immediately called emergency services.

[Read More](#)

## Increased cost of extra minutes with a GP 'not acceptable'

Medical Forum, Other, 03/03/2026

Often, the sicker a patient, the more they pay out of pocket to see a doctor. The RACGP and 20 peak patient bodies are calling for the federal government to change this by increasing funding for longer GP consultations.

[Read More](#)

## WIN Rockhampton, WIN News Central Queensland, 03/03/2026, Steve Hart

Twenty peak medical bodies are urging the government to lift Medicare rebates so patients can afford longer GP consultations. Advocates say a 40% increase would significantly boost rebates for extended visits and help keep people out of overcrowded emergency departments.

[Play Now](#)

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

Tas doctors have secured a 3% pay rise after negotiations with the Tasmanian Government. Tas Premier Jeremy Rockliff says the one-year wage agreement was agreed upon by the Australian Medical Association.

[Play Now](#)

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

Interview with Dr Michael Wright, President of the RACGP, about increasing Medicare rebates for longer consultations. Wright says Australians are living with more complex conditions, consultations now average around 20 minutes, and longer appointments often create out-of-pocket costs for patients. He calls for a 40% increase to Level C and D rebates to halve these costs and ensure patients get adequate time with their GP for better care.

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

[Play Now](#)

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

Interview with Michael Wright, President of the RACGP, about increasing Medicare rebates for long consultations. Wright says more than 15m Australians live with complex chronic conditions that require longer GP visits, but current Medicare rebates decrease as consultation time increases. He emphasises that longer consultations improve health outcomes, reduce hospital pressure, and notes that average consultations are now 20 minutes.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Eight habits for a healthier heart

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/03/2026, Anahad O'Connor, Page 37

Cardiovascular disease is a big killer globally. A simple plan can help you slash your odds of developing it...

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

### Spirit of deception

Courier Mail, General News, 04/03/2026, Page 17

Alcohol companies are hijacking the wellness trend and new Australian research shows it's working. "Low sugar" and "low carb" labels make drinkers up to three times more likely to see alcohol as healthy despite identical alcohol content.

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

## There's no quick health fix

West Australian, General News, 04/03/2026, Jessica Page, Page 13

Any plan is better than no plan. WA discovered that the hard way last winter. [...] The 1.175 million ED attendances in WA Health's annual report is itself at odds with the 2024/25 figures in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's database that recorded 1,027,017 emergency presentations in WA last financial year.

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

## Tobacco shop firestorm

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 04/03/2026, Nadine Morton, Page 1

With suspicious fires at four tobacco shops and another 12 shut down, authorities are closing in on illegal activities. During a three-month period, fires ignited in tobacco shops at Corrimal, Nowra, Sanctuary Point and Moruya.

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

## Doula's 'sovereign birth' course slammed by top medical experts

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/03/2026, Tamara Mcdonald

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.

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

[Read More](#)

## Queensland government to scrap three-strike drug diversion as doctors question lack of consultation

ABC Online, Other, 03/03/2026, Nicole Hegarty

The Crisafulli Government is moving ahead on its plans to wind back a drug diversion program that gave offenders three chances before being charged. The legislation would allow first-time offenders a single chance to be referred to a drug diversion program, with subsequent offending attracting fines or criminal charges.

[Read More](#)

## How public and community housing works in Australia

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

In Australia, government-subsidised rental housing is available for eligible households. [...] Data collected by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show that in 2023-4 the average wait time for public housing was nearing 18 months.

[Read More](#)

## 'Health halo': How we're being misled by 'guilt-free' booze

The New Daily, Other, 03/03/2026

No carb, low carb, low sugar, lite, keto-friendly... these are just some of the terms the alcohol industry has adopted to convince us that its drinks are healthy. Type "low-carb beers" into a search engine, and an AI overview summarising the brewers' marketing pitches describes them as a "crisp, reduced-carbohydrate" alternative to traditional lagers – and a "guilt-free" drinking choice.

[Read More](#)

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

NSW Health has issued 105 short-term closure orders on illegal tobacconists under new tobacco and vaping laws, forcing affected stores to shut for 90 days. In the past 10 days, 30 premises have closed, with inspectors seizing around 700,000 illicit cigarettes and nearly 4000 illicit vapes.

### 3AW, Afternoons, 03/03/2026, Tony Moclair

Interview with Dr Moira Junge, CEO of the Sleep Health Foundation, about the correlation of screen time and sleep. Junger says research shows big individual differences, with screen use mainly delaying bedtime rather than directly harming sleep, depending on content, duration and sensitivity to light. She adds that poor sleep usually stems from stress, habits, caffeine and alcohol, not screens alone.

[Play Now](#)

### 3AW, Afternoons, 03/03/2026, Tony Moclair

Interview with Mona Hemsley, Director of Audiology at Audika Australia, about protecting hearing on World Hearing Day. Hemsley says 13% of Australians live with hearing loss, and many notice issues but avoid testing because the loss develops gradually and people normalise it as ageing. She explains that hearing aids support hearing and keep the brain engaged while urging anyone with sudden hearing loss to seek urgent medical care within hours.

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

## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### Weight loss jabs 'able to stop heart damage'

The Australian, General News, 04/03/2026, Eleanor Hayward, Page 7

Weight-loss jabs could be given by paramedics at the scene of a heart attack to cut the risk of complications, researchers have discovered. Drugs such as Wegovy and Ozempic were found to have a powerful effect in preventing tissue damage, which has the potential to cut the risk of serious problems that affect up to half of all patients after a heart attack.

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

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

### Drop in breast cancer deaths

Courier Mail, General News, 04/03/2026, Page 15

Deaths from breast cancer in Australia fell by more than 40 per cent from 1990 to 2023. A global Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation study in the US found cases dropped in Australia by 5.6 per cent during the period and there were 45.8 per cent fewer deaths.

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

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

### Autism help at schools

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/03/2026, Page 3

All public high schools in the state will have an autism program under a \$2.5m Labor election promise. Staff will be provided with professional learning to support students with autism to navigate the transition to high school, interact with new teachers and move between classrooms.

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

### Queensland researchers developing groundbreaking ovarian cancer screening test

9News, Other, 03/03/2026, Rebecca Masters

New ovarian cancer test to be trialled Queensland researchers are developing a potentially world-changing screening test for ovarian cancer, one of the most serious cancers affecting women. Currently, less than half of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer will be alive five years later, and there is no screening program despite survival rates being much higher when the cancer is detected early.

[Read More](#)

## Weight loss jabs could slash risk of life-threatening complications after heart attack

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/03/2026, Shaun Wooller

Weight loss jabs such as Ozempic and Wegovy may slash the risk of life-threatening complications after a heart attack, a new study suggests. The drugs had a powerful effect in preventing tissue damage and helped to open up tiny blood vessels in the heart, which would otherwise remain narrowed in around half of patients.

[Read More](#)

## Repeat UTIs increase risk of cancer, experts claim - as they pinpoint the age group most at risk

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/03/2026, Zoe Hardy

Having more than one urinary tract infection (UTI) within six months could dramatically raise the risk of deadly bladder cancer in older adults, a major study warns. Researchers found that the danger rises sharply the more infections people have in a short space of time.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News, 03/03/2026, Sharyn Ghidella

The University of Qld launches a study to detect ovarian cancer early using a blood test that identifies microscopic cell-released bubbles carrying protein and genetic markers. Researchers aim to recruit 1500 women aged 50 to 74 with no prior ovarian cancer, building on tests of over 500 samples that detected all early-stage cases.

[Play Now](#)

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

Interview with Kirsten Pilatti, CEO of Breast Cancer Network Australia, about triple-negative breast cancer in younger women. Pilatti explains that this fast-growing subtype affects around 15% of all breast cancers and is most common in women under 40, who are often not part of standard screening programs. She emphasises early detection through self-awareness and prompt GP visits, noting that treatment outcomes are improving and early diagnosis makes the cancer more treatable.

*Interview continues on: [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#).*

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Just a dollar from each of us could curb mental health crisis

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/03/2026, Jessica Wang, Page 4

An investment of less than a dollar per Australian could turn around a looming mental health staffing crisis, the country's peak body representing psychiatrists has said. In its submission for the May federal budget, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) said an investment of \$22.9 million over two years could plug critical workforce gaps in rural areas and support up to 70 bush doctors.

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

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

### Millions promised for mental health housing support undelivered, years after royal commission

ABC Online, Other, 03/03/2026, Jesse Thompson and Ben Knight

Housing Policy CHIA Vic chief executive Sarah Toohey is urging the government to restore the support

funding. ABC News: Simon Tucci In short: The Victorian government is yet to deliver on a 2021 budget commitment to provide supported housing for people with severe mental illness.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## IMMUNISATION

### **Why RFK's hepatitis B vaccine policy puts a generation of children at risk in US and beyond**

The Australian, Other, 03/03/2026, Michael Gannon

Giving newborns jabs has virtually eliminated childhood hepatitis B infection in the US and Australia. Refusing the extremely safe vaccine makes no sense.

[Read More](#)

### **Tassie vaccination changes a 'significant step'**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 03/03/2026

Moves to authorise Tasmanian pharmacist immunisers to administer flu shots to children aged two years and older, "a big step forward" Changes to the Tasmanian Authorised Pharmacist Immuniser and Program Guidelines are being welcomed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

[Read More](#)

### **Expanded kids vax in Tas**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 03/03/2026

Pharmacist immunisers in Tasmania are now able to initiate and administer a broader range of vaccines to children following yesterday's expansion of the Tasmanian Authorised Pharmacist Immuniser and Program Guidelines. Authorised pharmacist immunisers will be able to vaccinate children aged from two against the flu, and also initiate and administer a greater range of vaccines to kids aged between five and 10 years.

[Read More](#)

### **PSA pushes for broader vax access in Tasmania**

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 03/03/2026

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed the expansion of pharmacist-led vaccination access in Tasmania, describing the regulatory update as a "significant step forward" — while calling on the state government to go further. 'A big step forward' Under the expanded Tasmanian Authorised Pharmacist Immuniser and Program Guidelines, pharmacist immunisers can now initiate and administer a wider range of vaccines to children.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

---

## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### **'Complete joke': Efforts to reduce funding wait times ends with longer blowout**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 03/03/2026, Liam Mannix

A long-running campaign to improve the nation's glacial scientific research bureaucracy has culminated in an extraordinary blowout to grant approval times, leaving scientists waiting more than a year for essential funding and despondent about the future of research in Australia. Turning around taxpayer-funded grants within six months of scientists applying for them is considered international best practice.

[Read More](#)

## GLP-1 RAs work better for women

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 03/03/2026

Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) are more effective for women than men when it comes to weight loss, according to a large review published in JAMA Internal Medicine today.

Researchers looking at findings from 64 trials found that apart from sex differences, the efficacy of GLP-1 RAs appeared to be consistent across age, race and ethnicity, baseline body mass index, and baseline haemoglobin A1c.

[Read More](#)

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

Interview with Dr Andrew Singleton, Lead of the Global Parkinson's Genetics Program, about Parkinson's disease research and risk factors. Singleton explains Parkinson's arises from a mix of genetic and environmental factors, with symptoms and progression varying widely between patients. He highlights his work enrolling 10,000 Australian patients to study genetics, exploring environmental risks like rural living and pesticide exposure.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Respected health leader Donna Ah Chee steps into role as chief exec of AMSANT

Northern Territory News, Other, 03/03/2026, Lottie Hood

Respected Aboriginal health leader Donna Ah Chee has taken the helm at AMSANT after 26 years leading Central Australian Aboriginal Congress. The former big wig of the Territory's largest Aboriginal community controlled health organisation has officially stepped into a new role as chief executive at the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT.

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

[Read More](#)

### New rural birthing on Country model shows positive results

National Indigenous Times, Other, 03/03/2026

A new study into the clinical effectiveness of a rural Birthing on Country service - compared to mainstream maternity services - has recently revealed First Nations women had significantly more normal vaginal births, were more likely to be exclusively breastfeeding upon hospital discharge, and had greater engagement with culturally safe wellbeing programs.

[Read More](#)

### Experienced leader steps into key Central Australian Aboriginal health role

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

One of the Territory's most experienced Aboriginal health leaders is set to lead the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT), with Donna Ah Chee beginning her role as the body's new CEO. Announced in December, Ms Ah Chee joins AMSANT after 26 years with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, including more than a decade as CEO, where she oversaw significant growth in workforce, services, and community reach at one of the country's largest Aboriginal community-controlled health services.

## Bupa Foundation supports First Nations health pathways

National Indigenous Times, Other, 03/03/2026, Joseph Guenzler

The Bupa Foundation has announced \$150,000 in funding for three First Nations-led organisations working to strengthen education, career and health pathways for First Nations students entering the health sector. Malpa, Weenthunga Health Network, and the Deadly Ed Foundation will each receive \$50,000 to support initiatives aimed at improving health, education and employment outcomes in First Nations communities.

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

---

## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Hospital crisis underscores need to know

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 04/03/2026, Page 18

A lack of transparency by the Minns government and NSW Health over outbreaks of fatal fungal infections at a major Sydney hospital and animal infestations in other hospitals can only jeopardise public confidence in the system. For months, the public was kept in the dark. And, somewhat astoundingly, authorities also spared Health Minister Ryan Park from being informed too.

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

### Inmate flees hospital

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/03/2026, Jake McCallum, Page 2

Yet another patient meant to be under strict guard in the NSW Health system has escaped from a Sydney hospital, with a female prisoner absconding from corrections officers this week. The Daily Telegraph can reveal 45-year-old Charmaine Lea Brown allegedly absconded from Royal North Shore Hospital about 3pm on Monday, during a "medical escort".

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

### Can't break the mould

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/03/2026, James O'Doherty, Page 16

Kids at risk as hospital infestation keeps coming back A hospital ward caring for some of the state's sickest and most vulnerable children is plagued by recurring mould outbreaks, a year after an infestation posed a "serious risk" to immunocompromised kids.

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

### Hospitals in hot seat on humidity

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/03/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 1

As the southern suburbs' major hospitals cancel dozens of surgeries and divert patients due to airconditioning and humidity issues, it has emerged the Auditor-General warned of the need for its assets management to be improved - including getting maintenance manuals for equipment. Just two of Flinders Medical Centre's 12 operating theatres were in action on Tuesday, after a lightning strike on Saturday caused a power surge that cut the airconditioning for three hours.

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

### Ramping blamed on old and new

West Australian, General News, 04/03/2026, Page 14

The Cook Government has shrugged off WA's ambulance ramping plight, blaming an ageing and growing population. The 4892 hours ambulances spent in limbo outside hospital emergency departments last month was the worst February on record, raising concerns from doctors and the Opposition that this year's winter season could be even worse.

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

## Upgrades one step closer

Burnie Advocate, General News, 04/03/2026, Sarah Fittock, Page 1

One of the many upgrades part of a major \$1.4 billion North West Hospitals Masterplan is one step closer. The development application for a \$14.5 million redevelopment of the North West Regional Hospital's emergency department (ED) and ambulance drop-off area will be submitted to Burnie City Council this week.

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

## 'This is bad for you'

Central Western Daily, General News, 04/03/2026, Bradley Jurd, Page 1

Damning parliamentary documents have exposed the state's crippling health crisis, revealing a ceiling collapsed on a health work and a mould outbreak forced the closure of five beds in a mental health ward. Parts of the ceiling fell on the doctor's head at Orange Hospital in September 2025, while across the road at Bloomfield Hospital only a month later, the documents detailed that five of the 20 beds were closed for three months due to an outbreak of mould.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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

## Pigeon poo dripping through vents

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 03/03/2026, Nadine Morton, Page 4

Pigeons are living in Wollongong Hospital, their poo dripping through vents, a review has revealed. A snap review of NSW hospitals has uncovered a raft of "maintenance" issues, including fungus, maggots, beetles and pigeons that have affected patient care and caused two deaths.

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

## The human cost of state's hospital crisis

Launceston Examiner, General News, 04/03/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 5

A woman has issued a personal plea for change at Launceston General Hospital (LGH) after systemic issues eroded her trust in the facility. Posting to Facebook and creating a petition on Change.org, Ashleigh Brooks wrote that what should have been a sanctuary for the ill was instead a frightening experience.

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

## Hospital walls peeled back after mould infestation found

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/03/2026, Jamieson Murphy, Page 3

The walls of a regional hospital had to be peeled back after a mould infestation was discovered, new documents have revealed. Wyong hospital was forced to bring in a specialist mould contractor in August 2025, after the growth was identified behind some walls in the Miri Miri unit, within the hospital's mental health unit.

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

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

## Hunter hospitals flag issues in review

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/03/2026, Jamieson Murphy, Page 3

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.

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

## 'Dripping down the walls'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 04/03/2026, Tom Plevey, Page 1

A frontline worker at Tamworth hospital has described "literally mounds of pigeon droppings" on

windowsills at the health facility. It comes after a snap maintenance review of the state's health buildings revealed outbreaks of cockroaches, possums, birds and insects at major NSW hospitals.

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

## **Osborne Park Hospital expansion: Work begins on new facility for northern suburbs mums**

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

Work has started on the Osborne Park Hospital expansion, which will be a key component to expectant mothers in the northern suburbs as the state moves its major maternity hospital to Murdoch in Perth's south. The milestone comes as the Cook government was forced to defend the WA hospital system's readiness for the upcoming flu season amid new record ambulance ramping figures.

[Read More](#)

## **WA Health Minister won't guarantee statewide ambulance transfers for mums in labour after freeway birth**

West Australian, Other, 03/03/2026

Health Minister Meredith Hammat won't guarantee that pregnant mothers in labour turned away from WA hospitals will be examined first and have ambulance transfers. The key recommendations were made after Perth mother, Lena, was forced to deliver her baby in the back seat of her car on the freeway in November, when she couldn't get a bed in the maternity unit at St John of God Midland Public Hospital.

[Read More](#)

## **Meredith Hammat admits additional hospital beds claim was wrong as she shrugs off ambulance ramping record**

West Australian, Other, 03/03/2026, Jessica Page

Construction has begun on a major upgrade of Osborne Park Hospital, as Health Minister Meredith Hammat shrugs off WA's latest ambulance ramping record. The 4892 hours ambulances spent in limbo outside hospital emergency departments last month was the worst February on record, raising concerns from doctors and the Opposition that this year's winter could be even worse.

[Read More](#)

## **Minister grilled at budget estimates over mould and leaks at Tamworth Hospital**

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 03/03/2026, Fiona Ferguson

The issue of mould and leaks in operating theatres and in the intensive care unit at Tamworth hospital will require "a longer-term remediation plan", according to health minister Ryan Park. During questioning at budget estimates on Monday, the minister was grilled by his opposition health spokeswoman Sarah Mitchell MLC about several issues at the hospital including mould and an ongoing pigeon infestation.

[Read More](#)

## **NSW Premier Chris Minns promises transparency after two kids die with mould infections at the Children's Hospital, Westmead**

7news.com.au, Other, 04/03/2026, Sarina Andaloro

The Premier has offered his condolences to the families of two children who died with mould infections at the Children's Hospital at Westmead, promising transparency about deadly mould problems in NSW hospitals. The tragic deaths come as a \$10 billion hospital rebuild program charges ahead across the state, with serious challenges uncovered in ageing facilities.

[Read More](#)

## **Channel 9, Nine News, 03/03/2026, Michael Thomson**

Construction starts on a new six-storey building at Osborne Park Hospital, featuring a family birth centre and a mental health unit for new mums. WA Health Minister Meredith Hammat says the

redevelopment gives northern suburbs families more choice and capacity to welcome their newest members.

[Play Now](#)

### **3AW, Drive, 03/03/2026, Jacqui Felgate**

Interviews with Danny Hill, Secretary of the Vic Ambulance Union, and Jordan Emery, CEO of Ambulance Vic, about the impact of MICA roster changes on patient care. Hill warns that cutting specialist night shifts forces crews to travel farther, reducing timely access to critical care, and cites two recent cardiac arrest cases where patients died. Emery responds that Ambulance Vic is reviewing rostering, highlighting improved night shift coverage and response times since the changes.

*Interview continues on: [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#).*

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### **Women miss out in unions**

Courier Mail, General News, 04/03/2026, Page 3

Two leading Queensland unions are paying men significantly more than women despite having a predominantly female workforce, new data has revealed. The Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union and the Queensland Teachers Union have wage gaps of 14.3 per cent and 12.1 per cent respectively, according to data released by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency on Tuesday.

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

### **Senate Committee recommends passing nurse prescribing laws**

Nursing Review, Other, 03/03/2026, Stefanie Schultz

After a decade of advocacy, endorsed nurses and midwives are another step closer to prescribing medicines, boosting equitable care. The Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee has recommended the passage of the Health Legislation Amendment (Prescribing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Bill 2025, a move that could see designated registered nurses prescribing medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from July 2026. [...] The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) also supports the Bill, noting in their submission to the Committee that it will allow designated registered nurse prescribers to prescribe certain medicines under the PBS.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### **Women miss out in unions**

Courier Mail, General News, 04/03/2026, Page 3

Two leading Queensland unions are paying men significantly more than women despite having a predominantly female workforce, new data has revealed. The Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union and the Queensland Teachers Union have wage gaps of 14.3 per cent and 12.1 per cent respectively, according to data released by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency on Tuesday.

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

### **Just a dollar from each of us could curb mental health crisis**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/03/2026, Jessica Wang, Page 4

An investment of less than a dollar per Australian could turn around a looming mental health staffing crisis, the country's peak body representing psychiatrists has said. In its submission for the May federal budget, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) said an investment

of \$22.9 million over two years could plug critical workforce gaps in rural areas and support up to 70 bush doctors.

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

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

## Government strikes deal with doctors

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/03/2026, David Killick, Page 5

Questions over public sector wage negotiations kicked off the first question time in state parliament this year. The House of Assembly has returned after the long summer break.

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

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

## Hospital strikes could escalate

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/03/2026, Alison Foletta, Page 8

Launceston General Hospital staff walked off the job on Tuesday, on day two of statewide industrial action. For one hour, about 100 staff dropped tools as negotiations and frustrations continue over their workplace agreement.

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

## New journey begins for nurses

Daily Advertiser, General News, 04/03/2026, Maryam Sulaiman, Page 1

Lauren Cameron and Ashlee D'Aran are among 150 registered nurse graduates who hope to make a difference at the Murrumbidgee Local Health District this year. From Bowral, Ms Cameron has followed her passion passed down from her family in the health sector as she came to Wagga to study at Charles Sturt University.

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

## 'Not going to stop': LGH workers strike

Launceston Examiner, General News, 04/03/2026, Bailey Forbes, Page 2

Workers at the Launceston General Hospital have gone on strike amid stalled wage negotiations, with the union warning industrial action could increase. The industrial action follows stalled wage negotiations with the state government, after the Health and Community Services Union (HACSU) said they were promised wage increases similar to what police officers received in December, but the state government rescinded the offer.

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

## Attracting junior doctors is the 'only reason' AMA accepted wage agreement with Tasmanian government

ABC Online, Other, 03/03/2026, David Reilly

With wage agreement battles continuing across the public sector, the state government has reached a one-year wage deal with the Australian Medical Association (AMA) for doctors. AMA Tasmania president Dr Michael Lumsden-Steel tells Ryk Goddard on Hobart Breakfast he has a "blunt message" for politicians.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 03/03/2026, Tracey Strong

Interview with Dr Michael Lumsden-Steele, President, Australian Medical Association. Compere mentions that Tas Premier Jeremy Rockliff and his government have agreed to a one-year 3% payrise for doctors. Lumsden-Steele says they were disappointed as they were originally negotiating for a three-year offer, but due to the political landscape in 2025, they were unable to reach an agreement that's essential for doctors to be able to attract the junior workforce.

[Play Now](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Doctor banned after treating his dying mother

Launceston Examiner, General News, 03/03/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 5

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.

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

### Doctor accused of excessive pap smears, kissing patients banned indefinitely

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 03/03/2026, Courtney Kruk

A Brisbane doctor accused of performing unnecessary pap smears, breast checks and pelvic examinations, and of kissing a patient on the lips, has had his registration cancelled indefinitely. Last year, the Office of the Health Ombudsman filed disciplinary action against 74-year-old Dr Stellios (Stan) Theodoros, a former general practitioner and co-owner of Wellers Hill Medical Centre in Tarragindi, in relation to 25 allegations of professional misconduct involving seven patients.

[Read More](#)

### Queensland Doctor assaulted two patients days apart at clinic

The Courier Mail, Other, 03/03/2026, Nicola McNamara

A vulnerable Brisbane woman, who was sexually assaulted by her doctor in front of her toddler daughter, has slammed her abuser's "dehumanising" acts in court. In an emotional victim impact statement, the woman shared how she struggled to shield her daughter from trauma whilst navigating the devastating aftermath of sexual abuse inflicted by her general practitioner, John Norman Parker.

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

[Read More](#)

### Locum LGH doctor suspended for prescribing addictive drugs to gravely ill mother

The Mercury, Other, 03/03/2026, Amber Wilson

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.

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

## Channel 10, 10 News, 03/03/2026, Sharyn Ghidella

Former Brisbane GP Stellios Theodoros carried out unnecessary clinical exams on several women between 2007 and 2015, according to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. At least seven patients reported misconduct involving pap smears, breast exams, and skin checks, with Theodoros actively texting them to attend appointments.

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

## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Melbourne device will transform STI detection

Age, General News, 04/03/2026, Broede Carmody, Page 2

Australian researchers say they have developed the world's first rapid test that can detect all major sexually transmitted infections on a single device. Health experts say it will be a "game changer" for reducing common STIs such as syphilis which Australia has declared a disease of national significance which can be misdiagnosed as genital herpes or missed altogether.

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

### STIs are getting the itch to travel

Cairns Post, General News, 03/03/2026, Blair Jackson, Page 9

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.

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

### Alarm as flesh-eating fungus outbreak spreads across Aussie suburbs: 'Really worried'

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

Concerns are mounting that soil in an Australian city is laced with a deadly pathogen that's sparked a disease outbreak. Hundreds of native reptiles at multiple sites around Brisbane appear to have contracted yellow fungus, an infection that feeds on keratin in their skin and causes a slow death.

[Read More](#)

### Channel 9, Nine News, 03/03/2026, Brenton Ragless

A University of Sydney-led study finds honey from native plants like eucalyptus, tea tree, and paperbark can kill dangerous bacteria, including E. coli and golden staph. Researchers tested 56 samples from NSW and Vic, with three-quarters of the native-plant honeys destroying the superbugs.

[Play Now](#)

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

Interview with Craig Williams, Professor from the College of Health at Adelaide University, about mosquito activity after humid weather. Williams explains that recent rain and humidity boost mosquito breeding and survival, allowing adults to disperse more widely and stay active longer. He notes that SA Health and local programs track mosquito numbers, while community initiatives like Mozzie Monitors help residents monitor at home.

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

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

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### The supplements doctors want you to avoid

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/03/2026, Euan Black, Page 36

It's not uncommon for health-conscious Australians to take a bunch of vitamins and minerals every morning...

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

### Jessie's breast implant nightmare

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/03/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 12

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

### Drinks are soft, evidence softer

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/03/2026, Ashleigh Gleeson, Page 28

Dietitians say people should be wary of 'healthy' soft drinks that are marketed as doing everything from boosting our memory to helping us feel calm or focused. [...] The drinks don't fall under the remit of the vitamins watchdog, the Therapeutic Goods Administration or Food Standards Australia New Zealand, which said it had not assessed such beverages, leaving it up to state agencies.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

### Perth restaurant fined \$40k after children accidentally served citronella instead of cranberry juice

ABC Online, Other, 03/03/2026, Bridget Mcarthur

Two children who unknowingly drank insect repellent after being served citronella instead of cranberry juice at an Italian restaurant in Perth has seen the former owner and the now-closed establishment hit with a \$40,000 fine. Hannah Lemin, 12, and her sister Olivia, 11, were having dinner with their parents Marcus and Michele at Miky's Italian Fusion restaurant in the Perth suburb of Crawley in June 2024.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

### Radio National, Life Matters, 03/03/2026, Tegan Taylor

Panel discussion with Prof Simone Pettigrew, Head of Food Policy at The George Institute for Global Health, and Dee Madigan, Executive Creative Director at Campaign Edge, about the marketing of zero alcohol products and their impact on young people. Pettigrew explains that big alcohol brands now dominate zero alcohol products on supermarket shelves, exposing children to branding previously restricted to alcohol aisles. Madigan warns that even if unintended, this exposure normalises alcohol for teenagers, potentially creating a new marketing channel.

[Play Now](#)

[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](#)

