



# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 6th 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 Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that Coalition NDIS and social services spokeswoman Melissa McIntosh said rushing cuts to the NDIS' annual growth is "failing the human element of the scheme" and reducing spending must be done the right way. The comments come as Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler continues discussing the Thriving Kids program with states and territories.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports the ACTU is advocating for the Federal Government to introduce 10 days of paid reproductive health leave annually for all workers, saying millions currently use sick leave or go unpaid to manage health issues like prostate cancer screening, IVF and miscarriage.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 8) reports the Federal Government will allocate \$115 million to the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program to address residential aged care bed shortage in four hotspots – Adelaide, Illawarra, Perth and Hunter. Health Minister Mark Butler said the government is urgently increasing bed capacity to ensure older Australians receive dignity of care and support. *Also reported by: [The Courier Mail](#)*
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 9) reports that Monash IVF has agreed to settle with families linked to the embryo mix-ups at its Brisbane and Clayton clinics last year, and it did not publicly release details of its independent review.

- [The Australian Financial Review](#) (page 6) reports the TGA has accepted applications to assess new oral weight-loss drug, orforglipron, from Eli Lilly and an oral version of Wegovy from Novo Nordisk, potentially expanding Type 2 diabetes and obesity treatment options in the country.
- [The Daily Telegraph](#) (online) reports health experts have raised concerns about more Australians turning to AI technology like ChatGPT for medical advice, saying it can give wrong information or a "wait and see" answer that might delay people from seeking professional care.
- [The Medical Republic](#) (online) reports the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges, along with Assistant Health and Aged Care minister Rebecca White, launched a sector-wide professionalism framework on Ethical Billing and Fee Transparency. It outlines professional expectations for ethical billing, fee transparency and informed financial consent to help patients understand the financial implications of their care and available alternatives.
- [The Guardian](#) (online) reports a retreat operator was arrested in NSW for manslaughter after a client died from consuming the plant-based psychedelic ayahuasca and frog-based poison kambo 2021. The TGA classifies kambo as Schedule 10 poison. *Also reported by: [The Sydney Morning Herald](#)*

## MINISTER BUTLER

### McIntosh goes off script on NDIS targets

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 06/03/2026, Sarah Ison Senior, Page 7

The Coalition's new NDIS and social services spokeswoman, Melissa McIntosh, has issued a stunning warning to Labor over targets seeking to slash the national disability scheme's annual growth, blasting the government for "failing to consider the human element" in so quickly reining in costs and declaring "you can't make cuts just for cuts sake". [...] "The intervention by Ms McIntosh comes as Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler continues seeking agreement from all states and territories over the Thriving Kids program, aimed at redirecting mildly and moderately autistic children off the NDIS.

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

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

### \$100m for aged care bed hotspots

The Australian, General News, 06/03/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 8

Anthony Albanese will pump \$100m into areas with the worst shortages of residential aged care beds, following Labor state ministers warning they would continue antagonising the commonwealth over aged care and NDIS participants taking up vital hospital beds and exasperating the public health crisis. [...] Health Disability and Ageing Minister Mark Butler said Labor recognised the country faced a "big challenge" with adequately increasing bed capacity in health and aged care.

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

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

### Liberal MP needs spending lesson

The Australian, Editorials, 06/03/2026, Page 10

Containing annual growth in the cost of the National Disability Insurance Scheme to 8 per cent a year from July, with further moderation as the scheme matures, is the Albanese government's best effort so far to address the nation's ballooning deficit and debts. [...] The work has occupied Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme Minister Mark Butler since the 2025 election, with negotiations to shift some responsibilities -including mild autism cases- to the states.

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

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

### Care not there if it's out of hours

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 06/03/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 11

Not a single one of South Australia's federally funded Medicare urgent care clinics (UCCs) is opening

the extended hours promised by Labor in the last election campaign and they occasionally have waiting times longer than hospital emergency departments. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler noted in SA the government has delivered eight clinics, with one to go in Whyalla.

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

## Building blitz for elderly patients

Courier Mail, General News, 06/03/2026, Julie Cross, Page 20

The government is splashing \$115m on a "rapid" aged care bed building blitz to ease the logjam of elderly patients stranded in hospitals with nowhere to go. [...] Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing, Mark Butler MP said he recognised increasing bed capacity in the health and aged care systems was a "big challenge".

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

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

## Life-saving cancer drugs made more affordable

The Extra (Albany), General News, 06/03/2026, John Flint, Page 10

More than 5000 Australian cancer sufferers can now get cheap access to lifesaving immunotherapy drugs that previously cost some patients more than \$100,000 per course of treatment. [...] "This will mean Australian patients can get the treatment they need faster and at an affordable price," Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler said.

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

## Specialist fees set to be public

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2026, Page 7

Specialists may soon have to make their fees public after legislation to require disclosure was introduced to Federal Parliament. [...] According to Health Minister Mark Butler that number has since risen to 88 individual doctors.

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

## New facilities at Joondalup Health Campus

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2026, Page 7

A suite of new private facilities has officially been opened at Joondalup Health Campus. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was in Perth to attend the opening of the \$166 million upgrades alongside Premier Roger Cook on February 18.

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

## New hotline: 24/7 nurse advice now just a phone call away

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/03/2026, Page 26

Australians can now access reliable health advice 24 hours a day with the launch of 1800MEDICARE, a free telephone service connecting registered nurses with patients in need. [...] "With 1800MEDICARE, the Albanese Government is making it easier for Australians to access healthcare when and where they need it," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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

## Geraldton Medicare Urgent Care Clinic opens its doors to locals for urgent, non-life threatening conditions

West Australian, Other, 05/03/2026, Imogen Wilson

Mid West residents needing urgent care for non-life threatening conditions, injuries and illnesses will now be able to walk into Geraldton's newly opened Urgent Care Clinic. [...] Mark Butler, Federal Minister for Health and Aging, Disability and NDIS, said Geraldton's urgent care clinic would join the network of 13 Medicare urgent care clinics across WA.

[Read More](#)

## Provider found for new bulk-billed Darwin urgent care clinic

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Other, 05/03/2026, Declan Brennan

A new fully bulk-billed Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) will open in Darwin after it was confirmed a provider had been selected through a competitive tender process led by Northern Territory Health. [...] Minister for Health, Mark Butler, said the clinic will "take pressure off the local hospitals, including the Royal Darwin Hospital, and will fill an important gap in services across extended hours and over the weekend".

[Read More](#)

## Take the pressure down: bulk-billed urgent care clinic launches in Nowra

South Coast Register, Other, 05/03/2026, Glenn Ellard

Nowra's new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic is open and looking after patients needing urgent but non-life-threatening medical care. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Nowra clinic was one of 36 across NSW.

[Read More](#)

## Push to make 'simple change' to detail on Aussie driver's licence

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 05/03/2026

State governments are being urged to reconsider a key feature on driver's licence applications. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler also called on the states to consider allowing residents to register as organ donors on their driving licence applications.

[Read More](#)

## Medicare proposal sparks fears over access to sight-saving treatment

Your Life Choices, Other, 05/03/2026, Abegail Abrugar

For many older Australians, keeping their sight depends on a simple but regular medical procedure. [...] Health minister Mark Butler has acknowledged the significance of the treatment and maintains that Australians should not face higher costs for care traditionally provided in a hospital.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 05/03/2026, Max Fatcher & Katrina Blowers

Australia's specialist doctors are being warned to stop overcharging patients. A new national framework has been drawn up, demanding clear, up-front costs as pressure grows over rising out-of-pocket expenses. Health Minister Mark Butler has warned that if costs keep climbing, the government could step in to regulate specialist fees.

[Play Now](#)

## Seven Townsville, Seven Local News, 05/03/2026, Joanne Desmond and Nathan Spurling

Thyroid cancer patient Clinton James and his mother have travelled to Canberra to urge the Federal Government to add a medication called selpercatinib to the PBS. The drug has been on the PBS, but only for lung cancer patients. The PBS is expected to consider the drugs listing later this month, while Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the government is working to give Australians faster access to medicines at a cost they can afford.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER RAE

### 'No worse off' promise fails

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/03/2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 25

Ron Keyhoe has always been comfortable with numbers, but when he describes trying to get an answer about discrepancies in his aged care funding, he becomes emotional. [...] The Albanese government had "already built in a range of measures to ensure providers keep prices reasonable and are watching closely as older Australians transition into the new Support at Home system," a spokesperson for Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae said.

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

### She helped design the aged care reforms. Now she is living their failures

HelloCare, Other, 05/03/2026, Jakob Neeland

Lynda Henderson, an experienced aged care consultant and advocate, helped shape key elements of Australia's recent aged care reforms, yet now, as a recipient of in-home care herself, she is facing the harsh realities of the very system she worked to improve. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae has addressed these issues in public forums, including Senate estimates and parliamentary question time, emphasising that the IAT "does not replace assessor input" and relies on clinicians documenting advice first.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt, Mornings, 05/03/2026, Glenn Barndon

Interview with Federal Assistant Regional Health Minister Emma McBride. Midwest residents from today have access to additional health care options with the opening of an urgent care clinic in Geraldton. McBride says an urgent care clinic provides urgent care closer to home for people for free and notes that people can walk in without a booked appointment. She states that the clinic is designed for urgent but not life-threatening cases, noting that this will be the 14th urgent care clinic in WA.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### Specialists unveil national ethical billing framework

The Medical Republic, Other, 05/03/2026, Amanda Sheppard

As concern grows about affordability and access to specialist care, Australia's specialist medical colleges have unveiled a national framework aimed at strengthening ethical billing and protecting patients from hidden or unclear medical costs. [...] The initiative was launched by CPMC chair Associate Professor Kerin Fielding and federal assistant health and aged care minister Rebecca White.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### **Snail mail only option for consumers querying aged care assessments**

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/03/2026, Caroline Egan

Consumers wishing to have their aged care assessment outcomes reviewed must write an old-fashioned letter to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. The My Aged Care website directs consumers not satisfied with the outcome of their assessment to write to The Secretary of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (see main image).

[Read More](#)

### **K-Life breaks ground on staff housing**

Warwick Today, Other, 05/03/2026

A new staff accommodation project in Killarney aims to ease workforce pressures and help secure the future of aged care services across the Southern Downs. [...] Funded through the federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's aged care capital assistance program, the development will include one one-bedroom unit, three two-bedroom units and two three-bedroom units for local aged care staff.

[Read More](#)

### **The Health Wrap: waging war, melting snow, addressing inequities – and a robot called ElliQ**

Croakey, Other, 05/03/2026, Melissa Sweet

With most global headlines focused on the escalating war in the Middle East, this column continues its mammoth task of carefully documenting the latest health news from Trump's America. [...] Health Services Daily was quick to note that the second interim report of the Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (UCCs) was first published on the Department of Health, Disability and Aged Care website at around midday on 20 February and wrote an article on its findings.

[Read More](#)

### **March MBS changes explained**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 05/03/2026

New MBS items are now available for GPs to give in-person clinical support to a patient during a video consultation with a non-GP specialist or consultant physician. [...] An MBS factsheet issued by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) explains the MBS items and provides several examples of scenarios where they could be used.

[Read More](#)

### **Telehealth gets 'national standards'. Just don't ask who's enforcing them**

The Medical Republic, Other, 05/03/2026, Caitlin Wright

So-called 'national' standards remain more aspiration than regulation. But it's a good start, say the developers. [...] When asked about its endorsement of the telehealth standards, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing told HSD that the standards were developed independently of government as a sector-led initiative.

[Read More](#)

### **4LM 666, 06:30 News, 05/03/2026**

A fact-finding visit to Longreach by National Rural Health Commissioner Professor Jenny May has revealed how the Central West Hospital and Health Service developed a self-sustaining workforce for its hospitals, health centres, and five GP practises. All their doctors work as part of a single medical pool to best use their general practise and medical specialty skills across five Central West towns and are paid as senior medical officers. As senior medical officers, they have the capacity to host, teach, and supervise the next generation of Queensland doctors, including rural generalists and early-stage medical students from across Australia. Executive Director of Medical Services, Dr David Walker, says

it's a medical practise model increasingly attractive to senior and junior doctors that could be effective across rural Australia.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Plans for 42-bed care home

Cairns Post, General News, 06/03/2026, Tom Volling, Page 1

One of Australia's largest charities is planning to resurrect aged care on a Westcourt block that has sat empty since nursing homes were demolished in 2011. UnitingCare Queensland has lodged a proposal with Cairns Regional Council that aims to transform an 8023sq m site at 72-84 Tills Street into a 42-bed Pinangba Hollingsworth Elders Village.

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

### Federal funding boost for state's hospitals

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2026, Page 9

State, territory and the federal governments have agreed on public hospital funding deals after two years of negotiations. West Australian public hospitals will see an additional \$2.4 billion in funding from the Commonwealth across the next five years.

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

### Ita's warning for retirees

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/03/2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 18

Former chair of the ABC and media boss Ita Buttrose has warned Australia's ageing population to prepare for the unexpected as they move towards their older years. Ahead of the launch of her new memoir, *Unapologetically Ita*, the former editor-in-chief of a major Sydney paper told the UNSW Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing that many people over the age of 65 had no financial plans, and many expected their lives would not be changed by ageing.

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

### She helped design Australia's aged care assessment tool – but now Lynda Henderson is too scared to use it

The Guardian, Other, 06/03/2026, Melissa Davey

One of the people involved in the development of the federal government's controversial aged care assistance tool says she's now too scared to use it, saying she never wanted needs to be determined by algorithm. As fellow advocates warned people's care and funding needs were being underestimated, Lynda Henderson – who sat on the expert advisory group to develop the Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) – said the assessment questions were aimed to assist those making clinical judgments.

[Read More](#)

### Three pressure points revealed as Senate probes Aged Care Rules

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/03/2026, Caroline Egan

Almost 50 submissions to the Senate's review of the Aged Care Rules have now been published – and three issues keep surfacing. Support at Home consumer contributions are too high – and in some cases should not be charged at all.

[Read More](#)

### Only 15 days to consult on law reforms for VIC retirement village operators

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/03/2026, Ian Horswill

Consumer Affairs Victoria has given retirement village operators 15 days to consult on wide-ranging

reforms of the state's Retirement Villages Act. The Minister for Consumer Affairs Nick Staikos, who has shown his disdain for Daniel Gannon, Executive Director of sector peak body the Retirement Living Council, yesterday published 'advance copies' of important documentation amounting to 200 pages.

[Read More](#)

## **Anglicare Sydney CEO on the Infinite Care acquisition**

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/03/2026, Caroline Egan

Anglicare CEO Simon Miller says the transformative acquisition of Infinite Care shows the faith-based organisation is evolving to meet contemporary needs. The Weekly SOURCE published a Breaking News newsletter on Monday stating the Not For Profit had acquired the private operator.

[Read More](#)

## **NSW Coroner makes findings on aged care choking deaths**

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/03/2026, Caroline Egan

The NSW Coroner has examined the deaths of two aged care residents who died by choking within nine months of each other at the same aged care home. Dimosthenis Gesios and Maureen McGreevy were both residents at the Acacia Centre aged care facility, in Marrickville, 7km southwest of the Sydney CBD, when they died.

[Read More](#)

## **St Basil's pleads guilty to failing to provide a safe working environment**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 05/03/2026

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.

[Read More](#)

## **Anglicare Sydney expands with Infinite Care deal**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 05/03/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Anglicare Sydney will acquire Infinite Care in a move that will create one of Australia's largest Christian for-purpose residential aged care providers, bringing together 42 homes and around 7,000 staff across four states. Both organisations confirmed on Monday that they had penned the agreement, with completion expected around May 2026.

[Read More](#)

## **GP continuity saves lives, reduces ED visits: study**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 05/03/2026, Stefanie Schultz

A recent study has found that older Australians entering residential aged care have better health outcomes when they continue seeing their regular GP, including fewer hospital visits and lower premature mortality. The national study, led by the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute's (SAHMRI) Registry of Senior Australians (ROSA) Research Group, analysed the health outcomes of more than 330,000 residents across 3,000 aged care facilities.

[Read More](#)

## **SaH providers overwhelmed by admin**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 05/03/2026, Natasha Egan

Increased administrative workload under Support at Home is disrupting operations and raising questions over whether there is too much transparency. Unclear guidance, too much red tape and assessment bottlenecks are among Support at Home implementation failures placing unsustainable pressure on service providers and putting client care at risk, according to a report from Community Industry Group published by a Senate inquiry this week.

[Read More](#)

## **Could misinformation affect your next licence renewal? Authorities**

## warn of 'false reports'

Your Life Choices, Other, 05/03/2026, Abegail Abrugar

If you've recently heard whispers about new, sweeping restrictions for Australian drivers over 65—think bans on night driving, limits on how far you can travel from home, or even curfews—you're not alone. These alarming claims have been making the rounds online, causing confusion and concern among older Australians.

[Read More](#)

## FIVEAA, Mornings, 05/03/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Helping Hand Aged Care CEO Chris Stewart. Stewart says they have been awarded by the Federal Government with a \$22 million grant to add more beds to the Whyalla aged care community. He notes that the construction begins today, creating more outdoor and common spaces for elderly people to socialise and improve their overall wellbeing.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### KKR weighs up options for \$1b Synergis disability housing bet

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 06/03/2026, Page 18

Kkr is preparing to review options for its disability housing investment Synergis, an early mover in the government-backed sector and believed to be worth as much as \$1 billion.

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

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

### Diagnostic inflation's \$10b NDIS hit

Australian Financial Review, General News, 06/03/2026, Steven Schwartz, Page 32

As recently reported in The Australian Financial Review, autism costs the National Disability Insurance Scheme more than \$10 billion annually.

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

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

### Heartbreak as NDIS slams the door shut

Launceston Examiner, General News, 06/03/2026, Sean Ford, Page 12

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](#)

### NDIS algorithm designed to put scheme back on track at 'critical risk'

Crikey, Other, 05/03/2026, Rick Morton

A complete overhaul of how National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funding plans are developed, by relinquishing human involvement to an algorithmic "budget model engine", is a mess, with staff officially warning managers the beginning of the new regime in July is now "at critical risk". Documents seen by Crikey show that senior staff within the technology services division of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) have warned superiors in charge of the rollout of so-called New Framework Planning (NFP) that the policy design is in chaos and has led to every element of the reform being "off track".

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## Energy retailer rules overhaul

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/03/2026, Jessica Wang, Page 7

The energy regulator will seek to tighten rules to ensure people using life support equipment are protected from outages and allow doctors to flag vulnerable patients with retailers. The Australian Energy Market Commission's new draft determination rules released on Thursday will allow doctors and specialists to share information to ensure patients are prioritised and protected during outages, and call on retailers to conduct annual check ups on customers who require life support equipment.

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

## A Chief GP for WA?

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2026, Aleisha Orr, Page 20

The Western Australian branch of the RACGP has called on the state government to appoint a Chief GP Advisor in an effort to improve primary and secondary care collaboration and reduce pressure on hospitals, but how exactly would this work? Last year in the midst of what the AMA (WA) described as a crisis in WA hospitals, the RACGP put forward a proposal for the state government to implement a number of changes to break down healthcare silos, improve patient outcomes, and reduce hospital admissions.

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

## AI will see you now

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2026, Aleisha Orr, Page 24

Two recent developments within health-related AI have seen some medical professionals expressing concern about how much authority the technology should be given; these have covered prescription writing and online health advice. An investigation by The Guardian highlighted the potential dangers posed by AI generated health advice.

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

## 'Life and death': Fears over worrying new health trend

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/03/2026, Naomi Kaplan

Gone are the days of 'Dr Google', as a scary new trend sees a rising number of Aussies turning to AI for medical advice. Doctors are warning the shift is "deeply concerning" as many have been relying on technology to "reassure" themselves over symptoms that should be assessed by medical professionals.

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

[Read More](#)

## Medical colleges make joint call for ethical billing

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 05/03/2026

The 16 Australian medical colleges have joined forces with a shared national framework setting out standards for ethical billing, fee transparency and informed financial consent. The Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC), which includes the RACGP, launched the new framework at Parliament House on Thursday.

[Read More](#)

## 'Undervalued and underfunded': A comparison of global primary care

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 05/03/2026

Governments must rethink how they fund primary care in Australia and around the world, as health systems become more reliant on GPs to meet rising complex health needs, research suggests. It's not just about the dollar value, but how that money is distributed to bolster sustainable primary care, according to the authors.

[Read More](#)

## RACGP seeks pharmacist funding

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 05/03/2026

Doctors call for close to \$127 million in dedicated funding for general practice-based pharmacists The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners is calling on the federal government to deliver "targeted support for pharmacists" in general practice, as part of its pre-Budget submission.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Unions demand 10 days' paid leave to manage health issues linked to reproduction

The Australian, General News, 06/03/2026, Ewin Hannan, Page 7

The ACTU has reactivated its push for the Albanese government to legislate 10 days of paid reproductive health leave a year for all workers, saying millions of people are currently forced to use up sick leave or go unpaid to manage serious health conditions. Days after seeking an extra week of annual leave for workers, the ACTU will tell the National Employment Standards inquiry that workers, regardless of gender, should gain access to 10 days of paid leave annually to manage any health issue linked to reproduction, including prostate cancer screening, vasectomy recovery, IVF and fertility treatment, miscarriage, menstrual pain, menopause and conditions such as endometriosis.

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

### Vaping rules in loo of privacy

Herald Sun, General News, 06/03/2026, Rebecca Borg, Page 25

Extraordinary measures to stamp out vaping have sparked "toiletgate" at two Victorian schools, fuelling calls for urgent fixes and a review of facilities. A tradie mishap and maintenance works triggered an outcry from students at St Bernard's College and Nagle College, who claim their schools' efforts to vape-proof toilets violated their privacy and safety.

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

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

### Time to pedal helmets

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/03/2026, Oscar Moodley, Page 1

Free coffee, discounted helmets and lifesaving advice are all on offer in Hobart this weekend as Kidsafe Tasmania launches a fresh push to stop preventable head injuries in children. The safety body will kickstart its "Helmet Up. Helmet On." crusade at 9am on Saturday at Pedal Bite Coffee and Bike Shop in New Town, aiming to educate kids on helmet safety and prevent injury to children in our community.

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

### Channel 9, Nine News, 05/03/2026, Brenton Ragless

SA Premier Peter Malinauskas has promised to fund a public health campaign to raise awareness of endometriosis and its symptoms, which campaigners say is key for early intervention. If re-elected, the state government will also spend \$10 million to establish five clinics across SA delivering free services.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### Regeneration next

The Australian, Wish, 06/03/2026, Eugenie Kelly, Page 82

It's a rare kind of overseas trip that doesn't end up on social media. But when travel is driven by medical assistance rather than leisure, discretion usually prevails. Unless you're Kim Kardashian.

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

## Easing gut disease burden

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 06/03/2026, Eileen Kenny, Page 14

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis (types of inflammatory bowel disease, or IBD) are incurable, life-limiting gastrointestinal disorders, with peak onset between ages 15 and 29. Symptoms can be unpredictable and debilitating, involving abdominal pain, bloody diarrhoea, frequent bowel movements (up to 30 a day), fatigue and anaemia.

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

## The fatty liver epidemic: Why millions of Australians are at risk

Australian Financial Review, Other, 05/03/2026, Euan Black

When Beverley Ryan was diagnosed with early-stage liver cirrhosis, she could not believe it. She had no symptoms and was sent for a scan only after a routine blood test showed her liver enzymes were abnormal.

[Read More](#)

## Hopes for lower melanoma risk as study finds number of moles on children's bodies halved in 25 years

ABC Online, Other, 05/03/2026, Emma Pollard & Janelle Miles

The number of moles on children's bodies has almost halved over 25 years, with predictions of a significant reduction in their melanoma risk as they age, a long-running Australian study has found. Scientists at QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute tracked mole development in twins turning 12 or 13 each year between 1992 and 2016, as well as in their siblings.

[Read More](#)

## Outback Queensland boy Hugh Proud's stroke at age seven highlights hidden risk for children

ABC Online, Other, 05/03/2026

On a warm February day in 2022, Year 2 student Hugh Proud was playing with friends during recess at his tiny school in Eromanga in outback Queensland. While running around, he stumbled. His right leg felt strange, his mind became foggy, and he began vomiting.

[Read More](#)

## The cheap 'cancer test' sitting on Australian supermarket and bathroom shelves right now: 'This could save your life'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 05/03/2026, Sharon Hunt

A simple, cheap and widely available chemist item may have been overlooked for its potential as a DIY home test for cancer detection, according to a medical doctor.

[Read More](#)

## 'Significant': how a wonder drug shrank Sue's tumours and saved her life Sue Rishman survived stage four cancer through immunotherapy

Newcastle Herald, Other, 05/03/2026, Damon Cronshaw

Sue Rishman attributes surviving stage-four cancer to a wonder drug that shrank and stabilised tumours in her body. Kidney cancer had spread to her lungs and heart, but the immunotherapy drug nivolumab saved her life.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 05/03/2026, Manny Tsigas

A large Australian study has found the average number of moles on children's bodies has halved over a 25-year period, greatly reducing the risk of melanoma. Researchers say the Slip, Slop, Slap

campaign helped shift behaviour. The published study says the reduced mole count should lead to a four-fold drop in lifetime melanoma risk for those born after 2000, compared with 1980s babies.

[Play Now](#)

### **Channel 10, 10 News, 05/03/2026, Sharyn Ghidella**

A 25-year-long Queensland study has found children today are developing far fewer moles, a change researchers say could significantly reduce future melanoma risk. Researchers at QIMR Berghofer tracked mole development in children up to the age of 15 and found that those who used sunscreen early in life regularly had almost a 50 per cent reduced risk.

[Play Now](#)

### **Channel 7, Seven News, 05/03/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings**

Researchers have just wrapped a 25-year study into melanoma, finding young Australians are at a significantly lower risk of getting skin cancer than their parents and grandparents. Researchers at QIMR have studied almost 4,000 Queensland children over 25 years and found that the average number of moles has been slashed by about half, thanks to a sun safety campaign in the 1980s.

[Play Now](#)

### **Channel 9, A Current Affair, 05/03/2026, Allison Langdon**

There is now growing pressure on the Federal Government to fund the life-changing devices experts say prevent dangerous complications for people living with Type 2 diabetes. The continuous glucose monitors (CGM) are small devices worn on the arm that track blood sugar in real time. The device is subsidised for people with Type 1 diabetes, but not for most people living with Type 2.

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

[Play Now](#)

### **Channel 9, Nine News, 05/03/2026, Alicia Loxley & Tom Steinfort**

Melbourne researchers have developed a tool to detect the risk of breast cancer using an AI algorithm. Researchers say the tool doesn't take over the role of a radiologist but assists them in improving the accuracy and efficiency of breast screening. The technology has expanded to generate risk scores predicting a patient's likelihood of developing breast cancer within the next four years.

[Play Now](#)

### **Channel 9, Nine News, 05/03/2026, Mark Burrows**

An Australian study has revealed that sun-smart children are now four times less likely to develop skin cancer, thanks to the Slip, Slop, Slap campaign in 1981. The QIMR Berghofer study tracking mole development in children under 12 between 1992 and 2016 has found that kids today are developing 50 per cent fewer moles.

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

[Play Now](#)

### **6PR, Afternoons, 05/03/2026, Tod Johnston**

A new study has revealed that children are less likely to develop skin cancer now than back in the 1990s. Queensland researchers have found the number of moles on children in a sample group went down by almost half over the study's 24-year span.

[Play Now](#)

### **ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 05/03/2026, Loretta Ryan & Craig Zonca**

A new Australian study has found the average number of moles on children's skin has halved over 25 years, which coincided with successful sun safety campaigns. A long-running study involving almost 4,000 12-year-old twins and their siblings found the average mole count fell dramatically between 1992

and 2016. Professor Nick Martin from QIMR Berghofer says the number of moles a person has is the most important risk factor for melanoma.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### **Raising boys isn't as scary as you might be fearing**

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/03/2026, Kimberly Gillan, Page 15

From an increasing preference for having daughters over sons to the influence of the manosphere's toxic algorithms, you could be excused for thinking parenting boys has never been more fraught. But experts say if we can prioritise open communication and quality time, we can continue to delight in our sons' company as they grow up.

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

### **Study support on offer at headspace**

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 06/03/2026, Karli Farrell, Page 8

Work and Study Month is a March initiative by headspace Mildura to highlight the importance of sound mental health and wellbeing with employment and education. The launch, which coincides with the 10th anniversary of headspace Work and Study services, highlights new information from the National Youth Mental Health Survey, which shows that the cost of living, job uncertainty, and pressures with study were the main concerns for young Australians.

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

[Back to Top](#)

---

## IMMUNISATION

### **Warning over measles**

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 06/03/2026, Ben Loughran, Page 1

A healthcare expert is warning the central Victorian community is below the vaccination level needed to "reliably prevent" a potential outbreak of measles in the region. Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit clinical unit head Dr Simon Crouch said it was vital the community take advantage of a free measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccination being rolled out in order to boost the community's safety, particularly in light of a recent outbreak of the disease.

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

### **Your 2026 guide to free vaccines: what's covered and what costs \$300 March 5 2026 - 12:00am March 5 2026 - 12:00am**

The Senior, Other, 05/03/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Navigating the Australian healthcare system shouldn't require a medical degree, yet staying on top of which jobs are free and which will cost you a few hundred dollars has become increasingly complex. The Senior has compiled a list of the main vaccines you need to know about as you age.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

---

## GLP-1 drugs like Ozempic may lower the risk of addiction: new study

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 05/03/2026

A class of medications best known for treating diabetes and obesity may also reduce the risk of addiction – and help people who already have one, a new study shows. Semaglutide (also known as Ozempic), liraglutide and tirzepatide (Wegovy) belong to a class of drugs called GLP-1 (glucagon-like peptide-1) receptor agonists.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 05/03/2026, Max Futcher and Katrina Blowers

New research suggests so-called "baby-brain" may actually be the brain preparing for motherhood. The largest study of its kind found pregnancy temporarily reduces grey matter in the brain by about 5 per cent, but scientists say the change isn't harmful. In fact, it may help improve bonding and care for newborns. Researchers say it's evidence that the brain adapts and rewires itself during pregnancy.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### New AMSANT leader

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/03/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 6

The former chief executive of the Territory's largest Aboriginal community-controlled health organisation has officially stepped into a new role heading the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT. After 26 years with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC), Donna Ah Chee has joined the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT (AMSANT) as its new chief executive.

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

### Trailblazing leader of First Nations peak bodies Pat Turner retires

ABC Online, Other, 05/03/2026, Kirstie Wellauer

Pat Turner AM has announced her retirement from First Nations peak organisations after decades of leadership and advocacy for her people. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has paid tribute to Ms Turner's extensive career and dedication to the "wellbeing and self-determination of First Nations people and communities".

[Read More](#)

### A legacy that leaves a lasting national impact: federal government pays tribute to retiring Pat Turner

National Indigenous Times, Other, 05/03/2026, Dechlan Brennan

The federal government has paid tribute to Pat Turner after she announced she will step down as CEO of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO). The Arrernte and Gurdanji woman, who has led NACCHO since 2016 and will also stand down as the elected leader of the Coalition of Peaks, was recognised by the Albanese government for her "outstanding leadership," noting she had "dedicated her life to the wellbeing and self-determination of First Nations people and communities".

[Read More](#)

### Partnering with First Nations communities to give babies the best start

National Indigenous Times, Other, 05/03/2026, Dr Kiarna Brown & Dr Cath Chamberlain

Each year on National Close the Gap Day - 19 March - we are reminded that rates of preterm birth experienced by Aboriginal mothers is currently double that of our non-Aboriginal population. Every week a baby remains safely in the womb makes a difference.

[Read More](#)

## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### **\$115m aged care bed blitz**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/03/2026, Page 7

The Federal Government is splashing \$115 million on a "rapid" aged care bed building blitz to ease the logjam of elderly patients stranded in hospitals with nowhere to go. Adelaide, Perth and the NSW regions of the Illawarra and Hunter are the four areas to be targeted, with the aim of new beds being built and available within two years.

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

### **Secret payout over IVF blunders**

Herald Sun, General News, 06/03/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 9

Monash IVF has made secret settlements thought to be worth millions of dollars to the families involved in its two shocking embryo bungles. As revealed by the Herald Sun last April, a woman unwittingly gave birth to a stranger's baby after a horror mix-up by Monash IVF's Queensland clinic that saw her implanted with another couple's embryo.

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

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

### **Building starts on Wesley**

Courier Mail, General News, 06/03/2026, Page 64

Construction has started on a \$250m medical services building at the Wesley Hospital. The 10-storey building, to be linked to the existing hospital campus by a covered pedestrian footbridge, will provide a dedicated Day Surgery Centre with six new operating theatres, upgraded and expanded radiation oncology facilities, cutting-edge imaging services and suites for clinicians.

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

### **Parents fight for return of vital clinic**

Ballarat Courier, General News, 06/03/2026, Michelle Smith, Page 1

Logan Kerr already knows he's a "little bit different" from his big brother and sister. The 20-month-old has Hirschsprung disease, a congenital condition where the nerves in the large intestine fail to develop which leads to bowel blockage.

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

### **Heavy rains blamed for hospital's pigeon, mould problems**

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 06/03/2026, Nadine Morton, Page 4

Severe weather and heavy rain have been blamed for a string of health and safety issues including mould and pigeons living inside Wollongong Hospital. Wollongong, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven and Milton Ulladulla hospitals were among numerous facilities to have "maintenance" issues including fungus, maggots, beetles and pigeons that have affected patient care and caused two deaths.

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

### **Violent incidents increase**

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 06/03/2026, Tom Plevey, Page 1

The Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) has not said whether it would increase security measures at Tamworth hospital or the new Banksia Mental Health Unit, despite an increase in violent incidents towards staff. An email to Hunter New England Health management from a top-level Tamworth hospital administrator seen by the Leader states that Code Black incidents have increased.

*Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).*

## Upgrades to outback health centre

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 06/03/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 9

Pooncarie has seen ambulance callouts drop to an average of once a month following renovations to the town's Hospital Reserve Outpatients Clinic. The upgraded site next to the ambulance station was officially opened in December last year, transforming a previously neglected area into a clinic that can also house visiting health specialists.

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

## Cross-border collaboration? Two state health secretaries hear hospital woes

The Border Mail, Other, 05/03/2026, Chelsea Wilson

Advocacy groups have shared their concerns about Border health services with the NSW and Victorian health secretaries. The online meeting allowed representatives from five health organisations 15 minutes each to talk to NSW Health Secretary Susan Pearce and her Victorian counterpart Jenny Atta on Thursday, March 5.

[Read More](#)

## Tale of two health ministers as new hospital inquiry greeted with scepticism

The Border Mail, Other, 05/03/2026, Anthony Bunn

Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas has been accused of preferring secrecy to openness, after declining to say if she shared her NSW counterpart's concerns about the culture at Albury Wodonga Health. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park told a budget estimates hearing on Monday, March 2, he was concerned about the hospital service's management and its relations with staff and had instructed his departmental secretary to canvass improvements.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Tasmanian nurses say lower wages, understaffing a barrier to returning home

ABC Online, Other, 05/03/2026, Clancy Balen

Teagan Nalder grew up in Tasmania, completed her education there, and even landed her first graduate job in the state. But it's been six years since Ms Nalder worked in the state.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

---

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Medico 'was walked out'

Border Mail, General News, 06/03/2026, Chelsea Wilson, Page 1

A senior medico was seen being escorted out through his own workplace. Director of emergency and intensive care services Dr David Clancy was seen walking out through the intensive care unit with Albury hospital executives on Wednesday.

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

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

### LGH staff at breaking point, union says

Launceston Examiner, General News, 06/03/2026, Annika Rhoades, Page 2

Launceston General Hospital ED staff said they have reached breaking point after 41 patients were admitted into the emergency department during one night, despite having only 33 clinical spaces. Some patients spent more than 40 hours in the emergency department, with 17 patients in the waiting room, three in an airlock, and some patients being ramped and offloaded into corridors.

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

## Older workers miss out on super boost

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/03/2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 16

Australians who choose to keep working later in life face unfair tax conditions as people over 75 are blocked from topping up their superannuation accounts, according to a Queensland nurse. "This is not fair," Maree Yates, a semi-retired mental health nurse who works part-time for Queensland Health told The Senior.

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

## DTA secures \$22m to strengthen workforce

Community Care Review, Other, 05/03/2026, Natasha Egan

Dementia Training Australia has received a 9.5 per cent increase in Commonwealth funding for the next financial year, providing it with over \$22 million to go toward building a dementia-capable workforce. It includes \$9.3 million for programs that support dementia care and workforce development in Indigenous communities.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

# TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

## New drug hub is just what doctor ordered

Cairns Post, General News, 06/03/2026, Rosalee Chapman, Page 4

A huge medication stockpile that will supply more than 120 chemist outlets throughout the Far North with critical pharmaceuticals has opened in Cairns. The centre holds eight weeks worth of medications, as well as health, beauty and wellness products to ensure supply if there is a cyclone and the Bruce Highway gets cut.

*Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).*

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

## Nurse prescribing a step closer but RACGP remains cautious

Medical Forum, Other, 05/03/2026

The RACGP wa is concerned that allowing registered nurses to prescribe medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) may affect patient outcomes. A Senate Committee has recommended the passage of the Health Legislation Amendment (Prescribing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Bill 2025, which would allow designated registered nurses to prescribe medicines as of July.

[Read More](#)

## 'Historic' expansion of immunotherapy cancer drugs on PBS

Medical Forum, Other, 05/03/2026

As of March 1, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing for nivolumab (sold as Opdivo) and ipilimumab (sold as Yervoy) has been expanded to cover a wider variety of cancers. It is expected the change will save more than 5000 patients thousands in medical costs. Without the subsidy – which caps the medication for each prescription at \$25 – some patients could pay more than \$100,000 per course of treatment.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## Bulk billing up

Medical Forum, General News, 01/03/2026, Page 6

Eighty-eight GP clinics in WA have moved from being a mixed billing practice to fully bulk billing since federal government incentives began in November. The federal Department of Health released figures showing the number of fully bulk billing clinics in each state prior to the Bulk Billing Incentive Program beginning and up to January 31, 2026.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### A Melbourne endometriosis surgeon is under investigation. We spoke to one of his patients.

Mamamia, Other, 05/03/2026, Claire Murphy

When Jo Barry sat down to watch the ABC Four Corners report on her former surgeon, Dr Simon Gordon, she didn't realise that it would hit as hard as it did. "It was really confronting," she said of the experience.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## AUSTRALIAN CDC

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Eli Lilly confirms oral GLP-1 weightloss drug in review

Australian Financial Review, General News, 06/03/2026, Sam Irvine, Page 6

Weight-loss patients may soon have access to more GLP-1 treatments as Eli Lilly confirmed the local regulator was evaluating its new oral obesity drug, orforglipron.

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

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

### With a global shortage of menopause hormone patches, here's what to do instead

The Australian, Other, 05/03/2026, Dr Magdalena Simonis

Women who can't get the menopause hormone therapy they need after years of shortages are cutting patches in half, leaving them on for longer to extend their supply, scouring multiple pharmacies or trialling substitute products that may not work as well because they don't have a choice. [...] Australia's drug regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, is warning that shortages of MHT medicines will persist until next year.

[Read More](#)

### 'Shaman' charged after frog toxin, ayahuasca death at wellness retreat

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 05/03/2026, Jack Gramenz

Jarrad Antonovich spent the final hours of his life groaning in agony before collapsing at a "wellness"

retreat after ingesting exotic frog toxin and ayahuasca, while the man leading the retreat allegedly delayed treatment. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration banned the use of kambo in Australia on October 1, 2021 – about two weeks before Antonovich's death – on the grounds it posed a danger to human health.

[Read More](#)

## Psychedelics death leads to charge for retreat operator

Canberra Times, Other, 05/03/2026, Tom Wark

A retreat operator has been charged with manslaughter more than four years after a ceremonial ritual involving two obscure drugs left one man dead. [...] It is classified as a Schedule 10 poison by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the highest level of classification, meaning it is completely banned from use.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## NSW wellness guru charged over man's death during ayahuasca and frog toxin ceremony

The Guardian, Other, 05/03/2026

A man has been charged with manslaughter more than four years after his spiritual retreat client died following consuming psychedelics and a frog toxin. [...] It is classified as a Schedule 10 poison by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the highest level of classification, meaning it is banned from use.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News, 05/03/2026, Kate Freebairn

Sticky patches claiming to have weight loss properties similar to Ozempic have been labelled a scam by doctors. Experts are raising concerns over the lack of proof that the ingredients in these patches actually work. The Therapeutic Goods Administration has now issued a safety advisory on counterfeit waste loss products, claiming TGA laboratory testing of several imported unregistered products has confirmed that the products contain no GLP-1 or any GLP-1 analogues despite being labelled as such.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Nang Use 'on the rise', says Barwon Health

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 06/03/2026, Zoe De Koning, Page 1

What Geelong teens think is harmless fun is landing them in hospital with paralysis and permanent spinal cord damage, with local healthcare providers sounding the alarm on the escalating health crisis caused by "nangs". Barwon Health warned recreational use of nitrous oxide was "on the rise" among young adults across the region, with some hospitals reporting an increase in severe poisoning presentations.

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

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

### Channel 10, 10 News, 05/03/2026, Sandra Sully

There are now more than a million cannabis prescriptions in New South Wales, but under current laws, users are being forced to choose between medicine and driving. Premier Chris Minns is considering changing medicinal cannabis road laws, but road safety advocates are ringing the alarm bells. Independent MP Alex Greenwich says medicinal cannabis has greatly assisted with his anxiety and insomnia, but his use of the medicine now prohibited him from driving.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 05/03/2026, Mark Burrows

Drivers who test positive for medicinal cannabis could soon be free to get behind the wheel. The NSW Cabinet is considering major changes to road safety rules in relation to the medicine, with Premier Chris Minns pointing to a high uptake of cannabis prescriptions to justify a shake-up of roadside testing protocols. The state government's Drug Summit recently recommended a medical defence for drivers, pointing to Tasmania, where valid prescription holders who test positive but appear unimpaired are free to go.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 05/03/2026, Thomas Oriti

New South Wales Premier Chris Minns says the state government is actively looking at changing laws that prevent medicinal cannabis patients from legally driving when unimpaired. Late last year, the government did not support the Drug Summit's recommendation to bring in a medical defence, saying more consideration was needed pending advice from a working group.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

### Food recall: Supermarket shelves stripped after Bajaria Global coconut product contaminated with hepatitis A

West Australian, Other, 05/03/2026, Peta Rasdien

Supermarket shelves are being stripped and an urgent recall has been issued after a frozen food product was found to be contaminated with Hepatitis A. [...] "Food products contaminated with Hepatitis A virus may cause illness if consumed," a statement by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand reads.

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

[Read More](#)

### Aldi Australia urgently pulls popular \$3.50 item from shelves due to 'foreign matter' discovery

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 05/03/2026, Cindy Tran

Aldi Australia has announced an urgent recall of three of its popular lunchbox items after 'foreign matter' was detected. The supermarket has pulled three flavours of Hillcrest Bubble Bars - Choc Rainbow, Birthday Cake and Choc Chip - from its shelves nationwide due to a food safety hazard.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

### Laramba residents' court battle with NT government over uranium levels in drinking water hits roadblock

ABC Online, Other, 05/03/2026

An almost 10-year fight by residents of a remote Northern Territory community to sue the government over claims of unsafe drinking water and poor housing conditions has hit another roadblock. Five residents from the remote Central Australian community of Laramba — 200 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs — are suing the Chief Executive Officer (Housing) (CEOH) for failing to provide a safe supply of drinking water over a 13-year period between 2010 and 2023.

[Read More](#)

### Australian regulator delays ban on plumbing parts containing lead by

## two years

ABC Online, Other, 05/03/2026, Charlotte Wilkes

Plumbing products containing lead will remain legal to install in Australia until 2028, after the national building authority extended a phase-out deadline by two years. The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB), which sets national construction standards, said the delay was necessary due to "insufficient" availability of lead-free certified products.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

