



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 9th March 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that at least 2,387 children were prescribed puberty blockers for gender dysphoria between 2014 and 2025, yet six of eight states and territories have refused to release specific data to the public or the Therapeutic Goods Administration. Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler has ordered a review into the treatment.
- **[The Guardian](#)** reports the Therapeutic Goods Administration suspended the LeadCare II blood testing system in 2020 due to risks of false negative results, yet New South Wales Health continues to use the device in Broken Hill-- where high lead levels are a result of mining contamination-- under a special arrangement to maintain high screening rates.
- **[7News.com.au](#)** reports health departments in several states have confirmed that medical scans are being sent to radiologists in the UK, Ireland, and South Africa to address critical workforce shortages and high after-hours demand.
- **[The Medical Journal of Australia](#)** reports an independent evaluation of the first 87 Urgent Care clinics reveals they have facilitated over 2.5 million presentations since 2023, with 95 per cent of surveyed patients rating their care as good or very good.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (online) reports Monash University and the Sisterhood Foundation reveal that only 3.3 per cent of the \$3.5 billion in national research funding for 2023-24 was allocated

to women's health, with conditions such as depression and chronic kidney disease receiving the least support.

- **The Courier Mail** (page 9) reports that over 44,000 Australian women are projected to be diagnosed with uterine cancer in the next decade, a crisis that could be mitigated if the Federal Government funds molecular profiling and targeted therapies.

MINISTER BUTLER

States defiant on puberty blocker data

The Australian, General News, 09/03/2026, Rachel Baxendale, Page 7

Six of Australia's eight states and territories have refused to release any data on the number of children prescribed puberty blockers to treat gender dysphoria, maintaining a veil of secrecy that prevents proper oversight of the highly controversial treatment. [...] The Australian contacted the offices of every and territory health minister and/or health department, and federal Health Minister Mark Butler, asking them to confirm the number of children in their jurisdiction who have been prescribed puberty blockers to treat gender dysphoria.

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

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Secrecy on puberty blocks wrong

The Australian, Editorials, 09/03/2026, Page 10

From the number of Australians taking statins (about two million) to the prevalence of breast cancer (about 56 new cases every day), data about most medical treatments in Australia is readily available, especially if funded through Medicare. [...] As Baxendale reports, The Australian recently contacted the offices of every state and territory health minister or department and federal Health Minister Mark Butler, asking them to confirm the number of children in their jurisdiction who had been prescribed puberty blockers to treat gender dysphoria.

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

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How a kidney stone saved this Melbourne woman's life

Age, General News, 09/03/2026, Broede Carmody, Page 6

Few would say they're thankful for having a kidney stone. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said that since coming to government, Labor had made a record investment in cancer nurses and made it easier for patients to access immunotherapy.

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

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Assistive tech rental scheme trials new access model in WA

Pulse+IT, Other, 09/03/2026

People with disability in Western Australia will gain access to refurbished and rental assistive technology under a \$5 million national pilot program backed by the Australian government. [...] NDIS Minister and Senator Jenny McAllister said the initiative aims to improve access to affordable assistive technology.

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MINISTER RAE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Taylor running out of time

The Australian, Business News, 09/03/2026, Robert Gottliebsen, Page 17

Andrew Hastie has become the first among the Liberal and ALP ranks to confess that two fundamental mistakes made by both parties triggered the rapid rise in support for One Nation. [...] Abolishing the Therapeutic Goods Administration and rolling its essential functions into the Department of Health.

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The dangerous handover: fixing transitions of care for older Australians

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 09/03/2026, Simon Grof

With strengthened standards now in place, organisations have the mandate and the tools to treat transitions of care as a core unit of safety in aged care. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has set clear expectations and timeframes for the transition to electronic medication platforms.

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Billion-dollar suicide strategy failing, audit finds

WEB InQueensland, Other, 08/03/2026, Abe Maddison

Government spending of almost \$1 billion on suicide prevention is failing to achieve its objectives and the outcomes are not being monitored. The Australian National Audit Office has released findings critical of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's development and monitoring of suicide prevention measures.

Also reported by: [WEB InDaily SA \(Online\)](#).

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Health and aged care cyber security chief retires amid growing digital risks

Hello Leaders Australia, Other, 08/03/2026, Jakob Neeland

The Department of Health and Aged Care's chief information security officer (CISO), David Lang, has

retired, ending a more than 30-year career in the Australian public service at a time when cyber security risks across the health and aged care sectors are rapidly increasing. [...] The department confirmed Lang's retirement and has begun recruiting for a permanent replacement.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Brain waste: why the 'master regulator' might be the key to Alzheimer's

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 09/03/2026, Kai-Hsiang Chuang

New research suggests that a specific group of brain cells acts as a master regulator for the brain's waste clearance system, offering a potential new target for treating dementia. For decades, Alzheimer's disease research has focused on the "trash" itself — the toxic amyloid plaques and tau tangles that clutter the brain.

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2GB, Weekends, 08/03/2026, Jason Morrison

Interview with Spinal Life Australia CEO Mark Townend. Industry advocates have raised concerns that the new Support at Home program funded by the Federal Government is not designed to deal with elderly people's complex disabilities and often falls short of what they actually need. Townend says this is ageism and a discrimination against elderly people with disabilities, noting that as soon as they hit 65, they will automatically be excluded from the NDIS.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

NDIS ordered to pay up in court battle

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 09/03/2026, Nick Wilson, Page 3

Three years after he was denied funding for a mobility scooter, Lee Eastham remains limited in his travel options despite winning a lengthy court battle against the national disability insurer. [...] He has received funding from the National Disability Insurance Scheme since 2021, when he was given access on the basis of those impairments.

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Home delivery and care services record rapid growth over the past decade

Adelaide Now, Other, 08/03/2026, Jacinta Round

Door-to-door delivery services and in-home care have emerged as Australia's most rapidly expanding industries, recording growth of more than 200 per cent in the last decade, according to new data. [...] Now, she travels to care for a steady rotation of six clients, including people living with disabilities and the elderly.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

SA election promises ramped down as ambulance crisis proves hard to

solve

ABC Online, Other, 08/03/2026, Kathryn Bermingham

A 15,000-seat riverbank arena. A hydrogen plant to lower power prices. And a life-saving promise to fix the ambulance ramping crisis. The 2022 state election was fought on visionary plans put forward for the future of South Australia. [...] Liberal leader Ashton Hurn (centre) with MPs and candidates pointing out that patients have spent more than 100,000 hours ramped in ambulances since the 2022 state election.

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Australia now has 137 urgent care clinics. Are they working?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 09/03/2026, Grant Russell

Since 2023, 137 Urgent Care Clinics have opened across Australia, in all states and territories. They're usually located within or partnered with a general practice, an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation or a community health centre.

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POPULATION HEALTH

The new menopause playbook: What you need to know about peri and beyond, direct from leading experts

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/03/2026, Alex Davies

Once shrouded in silence, this global health conversation has gone seriously mainstream. From sleep to stress, we asked doctors for the straight-talking strategies every woman needs.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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International Women's Day: Major study reveals biggest issues impacting Australian women and girls

West Australian, Other, 08/03/2026, Rhianna Mitchell

Health and social issues impacting Australian women and girls are being overlooked, underfunded and misunderstood, according to a major new study. Described as the most comprehensive investigation into the issues impacting Australian females, the report detailed "silent" issues including endometriosis, menopause, depression, violence and cardio vascular disease.

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Menopause isn't easy, but for women living in Pilbara heat becomes 'stress multiplier'

ABC Online, Other, 08/03/2026, Kimberley Putland, Mietta Adams & Alistair Bates

Bree Maher lives in one of Australia's hottest towns, so when she started experiencing perimenopause, she did not know what to believe. [...] Ms Maher is calling for greater menopause education in regional and remote areas this International Women's Day.

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The menopause symptoms we're not talking about – and why you shouldn't ignore them

NEWS.com.au, Other, 08/03/2026, Brooke Lewis

A national initiative is working to transform how Australians understand menopause and make it easier for women to speak up about symptoms – even when it's uncomfortable to do so. Priceline Pharmacy chief pharmacist Mel Gannon cites vaginal and urinary symptoms as examples of menopause symptoms we're not talking about enough, leading to distress that too often goes unaddressed.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 08/03/2026, Melissa Mackay & Johanna Nicholson

Interview with Monash University senior research fellow Sara Holton. A new study has found that women's health is often overlooked, underfunded, and misunderstood. Holton says they found disproportionate focus on reproductive health, overlooking some issues that women in the study have been concerned about, including gender-based violence, mental health conditions, and other conditions that affect women, like endometriosis.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

The fatty liver epidemic: Why many are at risk

Australian Financial Review, General News, 09/03/2026, Euan Black, Page 28

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.

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Uterine cancer warning

Courier Mail, General News, 09/03/2026, Vishaak Gangasandra, Page 9

More than 44,000 Australian women are expected to be diagnosed with uterine cancer in the next decade, but more than half of those cases could be avoided if the federal government intervenes. The peak medical body for gynaecological cancer also believes up to \$4.1bn in taxpayer dollars could be saved by preventing more cases of uterine cancer.

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

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No, it's not in Emily's head

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 09/03/2026, Zoe De Koning, Page 11

Emily Carnibella was told she needed to have a child at the age of 20. [...] This Endometriosis Awareness Month, the Geelongbased mental health practitioner is encouraging women to "break the stigma" associated with the chronic disease.

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Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 08/03/2026, Georgie Tunny

A breakthrough study by Australian researchers has revealed how breast cancer cells thrive when squeezed as they initially develop in tight spaces, causing them to grow faster and more aggressively. It's hoped the findings may help limit tumour growth and identify patients at a higher risk of developing more aggressive breast cancers.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

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IMMUNISATION

Goulburn Valley residents urged to check vaccinations as measles cases rise

Shepparton News Online, Other, 08/03/2026

Health officials are urging Goulburn Valley residents to check their vaccination records amid rising measles cases across Victoria. The Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit said recent cases had been identified among people who had not travelled overseas or visited known exposure sites — a sign the virus was spreading within the community.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Health secretaries told of hospital woes

Border Mail, General News, 09/03/2026, Chelsea Wilson, Page 9

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.

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Mould deaths revealed

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/03/2026, Damon Cronshaw & Jamieson Murphy, Page 1

At least three deaths have occurred at Calvary Mater Newcastle from severe fungal infections, but Hunter New England Health denied they were acquired in the hospital. However, independent experts say it is practically impossible to establish whether invasive aspergillosis was acquired in a hospital or the community, while leaked emails also show the hospital was unsure where the infection had been acquired.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Australian hospitals sending medical scans overseas amid critical staff shortages

7news.com.au, Other, 08/03/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Questions are being raised about who is reading patient medical scans in Australian hospitals, as radiology departments face critical staff shortages and rising demand. A 7NEWS investigation has revealed some hospitals are sending scans overseas for reports, often to the UK where radiologists are working during the day while Australians sleep.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Tasmanian pharmacists begin prescribing contraception in major healthcare access reform

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/03/2026, Molly Appleton

Expanding pharmacist-prescribed contraception is safe and breaks down barriers to access, says Terry White Lindsfarne pharmacist Lucy Rowell. [...] On Friday The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) expressed disappointment that the Victorian government had overridden warnings from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) by allowing pharmacists to prescribe the contraceptive pill.

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

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NSW Health continues to use machine known to produce inaccurate

results to test child blood lead levels

The Guardian, Other, 09/03/2026, Natasha May

Ella's* 16-month-old daughter returned a blood lead level of 3.5 micrograms of lead per decilitre (3.5µg/dL) when she was tested last week. [...] Australia's medicines regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, suspended and then removed the LeadCare II blood testing system from the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods in 2020, after sending a warning letter to state and territory chief health officers in April 2018 that said: "LeadCare II system has an error of +/- 6 ug/dL.

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