



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 10th March 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Herald Sun \(page 7\)](#) reports that applications for 50 new government-funded medical placements will open for tertiary educators today. Health Minister Mark Butler said that doctor registrations had increased by 30 per cent last financial year compared to 2021-22.
- The [ABC \(online\)](#) reports that a spending cap for the Medical Research Future Fund introduced in 2022 has prevented up to \$1 billion in medical research funding from being dispersed to researchers. Health Minister Mark Butler has not confirmed whether the spending cap would be removed.
- The [West Australian \(page 3\)](#) reports that upper gastrointestinal cancer caused up to 9300 Australian deaths in 2024, becoming the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Australia.
- The [Daily Telegraph \(page 5\)](#) reports that a JCU-led review of 153 studies has linked high digital media use to a higher risk of substance abuse and self-harm.
- [The Australian \(page 7\)](#) reports that CDC director-general Zoe Wainer has said that the organisation has identified transparency in medical evidence as a key component in rebuilding trust in public health advice.
- The [Adelaide Advertiser \(page 9\)](#) reports that the Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised against using black salve, touted as a skin cancer treatment, warning that it can cause

serious disfigurement.

- The [Courier Mail \(page 14\)](#) reports that the University of Queensland has developed a six-question test for diagnosing endometriosis, which could fast-track specialist referrals.
- The [Daily Telegraph \(page 19\)](#) reports that patients have alleged concerns about a mould infestation at the Blacktown Hospital respiratory ward were ignored by hospital staff for weeks.

MINISTER BUTLER

Fed govt commits to more doctors

Herald Sun, General News, 10/03/2026, Nathan Schmidt, Page 7

Australian universities will be able to apply for a share of 50 new government-funded medical placements, as Labor backs in its pledge to expand access to primary health care. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said more doctors had joined the healthcare system over the past two years than in at any point in the past decade, with doctor registrations jumping more than 30 per cent in 2024-25 compared to 2021-22.

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

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Data, trust must improve before next pandemic

Australian Financial Review, General News, 10/03/2026, Michael Smith, Page 8

The doctor in charge of a new agency set up to prepare for the next pandemic says Australia needs to improve the way health data is shared between the Commonwealth and states and rebuild public trust in government authorities eroded during COVID-19.

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

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

Australia sitting on over \$1 billion of unused medical research funding as scientists abandon the field

ABC Online, Other, 09/03/2026

Between broken sleep and midnight feeds for her newborn twins, Rehan Villani did not give up on her potentially life-saving cancer research. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler's office did not answer questions about removing the cap or the MRFF's allocations in the next budget.

[Read More](#)

News bites

Money Magazine, General News, 01/03/2026, Page 14

Australian prescription medicines are now cheaper, with the PBS general co-payment cut from \$31.60 to \$25 for all Medicare cardholders, the lowest price since 2004. Concession cardholders keep the \$7.70 cap until 2030. An adult filling two prescriptions monthly saves \$158 a year, with national savings topping \$200 million, according to Health Minister Mark Butler.

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\$115m released to unlock stalled aged care beds in four hotspots

Aged Care Insite, Other, 09/03/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The Albanese government has announced a \$115 million investment to rapidly expand residential aged care beds in four high-need regions, aiming to ease delayed discharges from hospitals and improve access to care for older Australians. [...] Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler said the government is prioritising the increased supply of beds and capacity for the country's aged care systems.

[Read More](#)

Peak welcomes \$115m as a first step

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 09/03/2026, Natasha Egan and Katarina Lloyd Jones

Ageing Australia chief executive officer Tom Symondson has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement of \$115 million through the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program to tackle the bed shortage crisis, but stressed it was not enough to solve the issues. [...] Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler said increasing bed capacity was a big challenge, and the reason for "investing so strongly to increase supply as quickly as possible."

[Read More](#)

Mark Butler steps in to block eye injection funding change after patient warnings

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 10/03/2026

Health Minister Mark Butler has again stepped in to override the direction emerging from a federal advisory committee, abandoning a planned reclassification of intravitreal eye injections after warnings the change could harm patients financially and disrupt access to essential treatment.

[Read More](#)

2EC, 08:30 News, 09/03/2026

Far South Coast diabetic Pete Holland says subsidising continuous glucose monitors for Type-2 sufferers will reduce the \$1.3b in cost. It comes as Holland started a campaign calling on Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to "level the playing field" with the devices heavily discounted for those with Type-1.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

The pub test facing NDIS providers

Launceston Examiner, General News, 10/03/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 6

Hidden luxuries? Are some profiteering off the most vulnerable? [...] Questions to Labor were referred to NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister and the National Disability Insurance Agency.

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MINISTER RAE

The elderly get a hospital pass as pollies do nothing

Courier Mail, General News, 10/03/2026, Mike O'Connor, Page 19

The problem with getting old is that people who aren't old think it will never happen to them. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae returned fire, saying the allocation of funding had been made after the government took "a methodical approach to identifying these hotspots".

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

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

'Not one grey lump': Council of Elders warns on aged care wait lists

The Senior, Other, 09/03/2026, Phoebe Loomes

As many Australians struggle with sweeping aged care reforms - including confusing price increases and major blow outs in wait times for support - the head of the Council of Elders says the government must genuinely listen to the people affected. [...] The group provides regular advice to the Department of Health and Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae, who also attends some of the council's meetings.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

New dedicated headspace opens to support First Nations young people across Magandjin/Brisbane and Moreton Bay

National Indigenous Times, Other, 09/03/2026, Giovanni Torre

First Nations young people across Magandjin/Brisbane and Moreton Bay can now access free, culturally safe mental health support and care at the new Staying Deadly headspace in Deception Bay. [...] The centre was officially opened Monday by federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride MP, and federal Member for Petrie, Emma Comer MP.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

This simple driver's licence trick could save 400 more Australian lives each year

Your Life Choices, Other, 09/03/2026

Most people barely notice this. It sits there among the usual paperwork and routine details that come with renewing a licence. [...] Victoria is also considering similar changes, while Federal Health Minister Rebecca White has called on all states to follow suit.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

New CDC's first challenge: rebuild public trust

The Australian, General News, 10/03/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

The director-general of Australia's first Centre for Disease Control, which will be at the crux of managing future pandemics, has vowed to prioritise transparent medical evidence and proactive engagement with vaccine sceptics. [...] "We are independent of the (federal health department) and the legislation also sets out a series of functions that ensures that independence. That is different in terms of how we responded to Covid-19."

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

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ANAO launches audit into UCC funding

Health Services Daily, Other, 09/03/2026

We won't know for a year, but at last some questions are going to be asked about whether the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has established the UCCs appropriately. We won't know for a year, but at last some questions are going to be asked about whether the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has established the UCCs appropriately.

First Nations communities lead the way in Closing the Gap - Children's Ground says independent review confirms their approach works

National Indigenous Times, Other, 09/03/2026, Giovanni Torre

An independent federal government evaluation has confirmed Children's Ground is delivering measurable outcomes that support the objectives of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the organisation says. [...] An independent evaluation commissioned by the federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and undertaken by Allen and Clarke provides a comprehensive assessment of the Children's Ground Approach across Central Australia and Darwin.

[Read More](#)

Gap-only payment scheme a \$3.9m burden, says RACGP

The Medical Republic, Other, 09/03/2026, Holly Payne

The college has taken specific issue with the government's proposed 90-day delay on reimbursing doctors for eligible gap-only services. While the RACGP is in favour of ending the cheque-based Pay Doctor via Claimant scheme, it is not necessarily on board with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's replacement plan.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

In-home care among rapidly growing jobs

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 10/03/2026, Jacinta Round, Page 30

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. A study by business consultancy company Honcho found that business registrations in the transport, warehousing and delivery sector including postal and courier services were up nearly 270 per cent from 2015-2015, closely followed by in-home health care and social assistance at 205 per cent over the same period.

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Housing crisis forcing older women into aged care to avoid homelessness

The Mercury, Other, 09/03/2026, Olivia Shying

Lynda Brideau never expected to be on the cusp of homelessness. The 64-year-old mother of four had steady long-term work as a disability worker and owned a house with her partner in Bendigo. But the breakdown of that marriage and poor health sent her into a downward spiral.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#)

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Funding fix restores access to cottage respite

Aged Care Insite, Other, 09/03/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The Australian government will amend national aged care funding rules to ensure older people in the ACT can continue accessing cottage respite, following sustained community pressure and months of uncertainty for families. The change will create a clear funding pathway under the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), allowing eligible providers to apply for grants to deliver Commonwealth-subsidised cottage respite.

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New funding for dementia workforce, research

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 09/03/2026, 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.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 09/03/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Geoff Rowe, Spokesperson for the Older Persons Advocacy Network, about issues with My Aged Care's new integrated assessment tool. Rowe explains that the IAT combines human assessment with an algorithm to determine support needs and urgency, but it often miscalculates priority, reducing hours for some long-term clients and under-prioritising urgent cases. He warns that the slow appeal process and rigid algorithm could leave vulnerable older Australians without timely support.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 09/03/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Maria Davison, CEO of Melville Cares and Chair of Palliative Care WA, about aged care pressures in WA. Davison says WA faces a shortfall of 2800 residential aged care beds by 2030, making early intervention and in-home support critical for most older Australians. She notes interim government funding of 60% of care packages helps some, but the majority of recipients still do not get enough support for their assessed needs.

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

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

No barriers here

Launceston Examiner, General News, 10/03/2026, Saree Salter, Page 1

Soon after being employed in the disability sector, Kael Barfoot was diagnosed with bipolar and ADHD, but it didn't hinder his ability to work. Instead, it was his superpower. Mr Barfoot said his lived experience with neurological conditions helped him connect with other neurodivergent individuals.

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Two Aussies unleash about shocking NDIS fraud that they claim is ripping off taxpayers

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/03/2026, Nicholas Comino

Two anti-corruption campaigners claim they were ripped off by an NDIS provider, fuelling concerns about widespread roting of the multi-billion-dollar government assistance package. Social media commentator Drew Pavlou and YouTube investigator Pete Zogoulas say they identified a Sydney cleaning company that billed taxpayers \$236 for what they claim was just 24 minutes of work, despite invoicing it as a two-hour job.

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PRIMARY CARE

Govt to fund 50 doctors

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 10/03/2026, Page 3

Australian universities will be able to apply for a share of 50 new government-funded medical placements, as Labor doubles-down on its pledge to expand access to primary healthcare.

Applications will open to tertiary educators from Tuesday for state-funded placements after 100 new primary healthcare-focused places commenced across 10 universities earlier this year.

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Health threat

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 10/03/2026, Page 14

We often speak of "youth crime" in Townsville as a political football or an abstract statistic. But the heartbreaking story of one of our local GP clinics detailing their eighth break-in, in a single year, is the brutal reality behind the data. Kirwan GP Clinic contacted the Townsville Bulletin at its wit's end after vital vaccines were stolen from their premises.

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PSA seeks 'targeted support of GP-based pharmacists'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/03/2026

Government urged to double funding under the Work Incentive Payment (WIP) program to support pharmacists working in general practice The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is calling on the federal government to commit close to \$127 million over the next four years to assist general practices in hiring non-dispensing pharmacists.

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POPULATION HEALTH

New test to help younger women

Courier Mail, General News, 10/03/2026, Rachel Riley, Page 14

A simple new five-minute test could slash years off the time it takes most young women to be diagnosed with endometriosis. University of Queensland researchers have developed a six question test to identify patients at risk of endometriosis and fast track specialist referrals for further investigation.

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

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'Doesn't the pill cause infertility?'

Canberra Times, General News, 10/03/2026, Lucy Arundell, Page 11

Social media misinformation is increasingly misleading Canberra's young people about their health as educators are asked about fertility issues with the pill and the purpose of hymens. Health educator Jo Duncan-Nagy spends her week working in schools across the ACT and NSW, talking to students about periods, anatomy and pelvic pain.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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Your shout

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 10/03/2026, Joseph Najjar, Page 1

Despite a freeze on the beer tax until 2027, local venues have warned the cost of beers could still go up. [...] A report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare supports the argument by Mr Lagana that beer consumption is on the decline, particularly among the younger generation.

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The five-minute test that could fast-track diagnosis for thousands of women

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 10/03/2026, Courtney Kruk

A five-minute test developed by Queensland researchers could transform the time it takes to diagnose

and treat endometriosis, potentially reducing years spent in chronic pain and improving fertility outcomes for thousands of women. Endometriosis is a condition where tissue, similar to the inner lining of the uterus, grows in other parts of the body, causing episodes of severe, often crippling pain.

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Marita knows why Victoria is one of the best places in the world to have a cardiac arrest

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 10/03/2026, Grant McArthur

Marita Hook was in what turned out to be the right place at a very wrong time. Sitting in a Cheltenham pub surrounded by friends, the 61-year-old was mid-sentence as she talked about her recent trip to Crete when her heart suddenly stopped, and she slumped unconscious in front of her horrified audience.

[Read More](#)

Australian crime syndicates using fake tobacco packaging to flood legal market

ABC Online, Other, 09/03/2026, Danny Tran

Australian crime syndicates are using fake plain packaging — mass produced out of Chinese factories — to legitimise illicit tobacco and flood the legal market. The ABC has uncovered evidence of Chinese manufacturers spruiking the bogus packaging on mega online marketplaces like Alibaba, where it is sold for as little as \$0.05 and can be fully customised to mimic legitimate products.

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COPD management in pharmacy

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2026, Tracey Cheung, Page 53

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a progressive, incurable lung condition involving narrowing of the airways, which makes breathing difficult. [...] Hospitalisation preventable A 2025 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report has found COPD to be a largely preventable condition.

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A 'good death' has a price – and a new study shows not everyone in palliative care can afford it

Aged Care Insite, Other, 09/03/2026, Henrietta Byrne, Alex Broom and Katherine Kenny

You would hope for your dying days to be full of calm and care. But our research with people who are dying shows this is far from the reality for many people. Instead, financial stress plays a huge and increasing role in who can afford a “good death”.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 09/03/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Becky Freeman, Professor at the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney, about the new NSW Health anti-tobacco campaign “Mutations.” Freeman explains that threat-based graphic ads effectively encourage quit attempts, increase searches for quit resources, and drive calls to quit lines. She notes the campaign targets adults and middle-aged smokers, while acknowledging vaping has become more popular among teenagers in recent years.

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

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Our biggest killer cancer

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/03/2026, Page 10

Australia has a new leading cause of cancer-related deaths. Upper gastrointestinal (upper GI) cancers

now cause more deaths (18 per cent) in Australia than any other group of cancers.

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A fat chance of cancer

Herald Sun, General News, 10/03/2026, Page 14

Being overweight and obese are linked to higher rates of cancer. A team involving University of Kansas Medical Centre researchers in the US say that because obesity and being overweight come with excess fat tissue, which stores energy, this extra energy appears to stimulate cancer development.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Doc who will end Annie's agony

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/03/2026, Kate Uren, Page 10

A young woman facing a heartbreaking choice has been supported by a 'wonderful' doctor who will be by her side to the end. Annaliese Holland and Dr Chloe Furst have won the admiration of our readers for their love and courage. When Annaliese Holland lives the final moments of her short, 26-year life, her "incredible" doctor and "beautiful human" Chloe Furst will be by her side.

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Mammogram for heart risk

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/03/2026, Page 5

Mammograms could be used to predict women's risk of heart disease at the same time as screening for breast cancer. Emory University researchers in the US trained a computer model to analyse the blood vessels in mammogram images and see how much calcium had built up inside them.

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

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Australia's deadliest cancer a quiet killer

West Australian, General News, 10/03/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 3

Upper gastrointestinal cancer is now the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Australia, with limited awareness, lack of targeted treatment options, and late diagnoses driving the grim statistics. Upper GI cancer can affect the pancreas, liver, stomach, oesophagus, gall bladder and bile ducts.

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

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Mum's last wish upon MND diagnosis

Daily Advertiser, General News, 10/03/2026, Taylor Dodge, Page 2

At just 43, Tumut mother Kath Harms should have years ahead of her to spend with her nine-year-old daughter Brindie and adoring husband Ron. If it was up to her, she would have plenty of time to visit her family in the Philippines after 16 years apart and to see her little girl graduate from school and one day walk down the aisle to marry the man of her dreams.

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The ball's in your court

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 10/03/2026, Ruby Kraner-Tucci, Page 10

It's a subject many men don't like to discuss, but testicular cancer is very treatable if caught early. Ricky Smith experienced no symptoms when routine fertility scans found five tumours in his left testicle. The 41-year-old Victorian personal trainer was focused on starting a family with his wife, but they struggled to fall pregnant naturally.

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Australia's deadliest cancer has changed — and most people aren't aware

SBS, Other, 09/03/2026, Gabrielle Katanasho

New analysis shows a fast-growing group of cancers has quietly surpassed lung cancer as Australia's biggest killer. Upper gastrointestinal (GI) cancers have overtaken lung cancer to become the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Australia for the first time, according to new analysis of national mortality data.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 09/03/2026, Jennifer Keyte

Doctors from the Pancare Foundation urge increased research funding and a public education campaign on gastrointestinal cancers, now Australia's leading cause of cancer deaths. One in five Australians faces this prognosis as diagnoses rise and some cancers show the country's lowest survival rates.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 09/03/2026, Max Futcher and Katrina Blowers

Upper gastrointestinal cancers, including pancreatic, liver, and stomach cancers, have overtaken lung cancer as Australia's deadliest cancers for the first time in two decades. These cancers now cause nearly one in five cancer-related deaths, with low survival rates linked to vague symptoms such as unexplained weight loss and fatigue.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Social media 'damages children'

The Australian, General News, 10/03/2026, Natasha Bitá, Page 10

Aggression and depression are afflicting children who spend greater amounts of time gaming and scrolling through social media, a new study shows. A review of 153 global research projects involving nearly 20,000 children aged from two to 18, conducted over two decades, links gaming to aggression and "conduct problems".

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

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Social media's bad side effects

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/03/2026, Rachel Riley, Page 5

Kids who spend hours glued to social media are significantly more likely to suffer depression, substance abuse, and poor academic performance as they grow up, a damning international review has found. The review, led by James Cook University senior research fellow Dr Sam Teague, analysed 153 studies following children and adolescents aged between 2 and 19 years some for up to 20 years.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Kids' anxiety skyrockets

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/03/2026, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 11

Over a million young Australians have been diagnosed with anxiety disorders, and teachers have taken aim at "gentle parenting" and anxious mums and dads driving the "unsustainable" surge. In a snap survey of more than 100 classroom teachers, school principals and mental health professionals, almost half cited "parenting styles" or "parental anxiety" as a dominant driver of skyrocketing rates of student anxiety.

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Stop worrying to stop worrying

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 10/03/2026, Page 22

As if we didn't have enough to worry about, it turns out our youth have been hit with an epidemic of

anxiety. And, sorry parents, but experts say you might be to blame. Speaking at the Student Anxiety summit, leading psychologist Patrick McGorry said that as many as one million young Australians suffer from anxiety.

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New \$90m mental health hub with a 'safe haven'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/03/2026, Alison Foletta, Page 5

Lived experience will sit at the heart of the north's new \$90m mental health precinct, which features a recovery college and specialised support services. On Monday, the Health Minister Bridget Archer, along with Adult Mental Health Services North/North-West director Jarrod Bannon, announced the next stage for the Northern Mental Health Precinct.

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Childhood trauma can be overcome

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/03/2026, Page 11

Childhood trauma does not inevitably lead to poor outcomes in adulthood, and that many people who experience adversity still thrive for decades afterwards. The 12-year UNSW Sydney study followed 1668 Australian adults to investigate how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) shape mental wellbeing across adult life.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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Education worker fights for mental health care

Launceston Examiner, General News, 10/03/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 6

A tasmanian education worker, left with post-traumatic stress after a confrontation with a man in a drug-induced psychosis, will have to take her fight for medical treatment to the Magistrates Court. The Department of Education, Children and Young People initially accepted the woman's compensation claim for workplace trauma after the incident with the agitated man in 2022.

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Pounding the pavement for men's mental health

Shepparton News, General News, 10/03/2026, Ashley Darling, Page 10

Registrations are open for Walk for a Bloke, an event that will bring together men in Shepparton for a day out in the sun to build connections and raise money in support of men's mental health. On Saturday, March 21, Walk for a Bloke will meet at 6.30am by Victoria Park Lake to complete a 25km circuit of Shepparton and Kialla.

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EMDR mental health therapy helped Katie heal, but her court case was discontinued

ABC Online, Other, 09/03/2026, Emily Baker

It took years for Katie Bird to fully comprehend what happened to her as a teen, but just "weeks to months" for therapy to help her process her trauma. The junior doctor had gone to a psychologist for support to deal with intrusive memories and flashbacks linked to alleged sexual abuse in her adolescence.

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Adelaide woman's crippling 'anxiety' was actually something else

Adelaide Now, Other, 09/03/2026, Bek Day

Megan Hayward was 38 when she started to suffer from "excruciating" symptoms she put down to anxiety. The truth would soon come out. Ladies, it's time to Fire Up! Menopause will affect more than 50% of the Australian population but women are still getting shafted. news.com.au says enough is enough.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#)

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IMMUNISATION

Smash and jab

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 10/03/2026, Josh Mercer, Page 1

A Kirwan medical practice is reeling after heartless thieves "cleaned out" more than 800 doses of vital vaccines in a targeted midnight raid. The brazen theft is the eighth break-in for the Kirwan GP Clinic in just 12 months, leaving staff devastated. Clinic manager Cynthia Hawkings said this latest hit targeting expensive patient medications was the most disturbing yet.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Puberty blockers secrecy 'a scandal'

The Australian, General News, 10/03/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 7

Former Liberal health ministers have blasted the refusal of six out of eight states and territories to release any data on the number of children prescribed puberty blockers to treat gender dysphoria, describing the situation as "inexplicable" and in need of immediate review. The Australian on Monday revealed the high degree of secrecy being pursued by most states and territories in releasing the data, which prompted backlash from experts who warned the lack of information would not be countenanced for "any other medical condition".

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

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Roche shares dip as oral breast cancer drug fails trial

West Australian, Other, 09/03/2026, Ludwig Burger

Shares in Roche have dropped more than five per cent as the Swiss drug maker failed to show its promising drug candidate giredestrant against a common form of breast cancer can help newly diagnosed patients. A phase III trial did not provide reliable evidence that the drug's use in combination with Pfizer's Ibrance as a first treatment slows disease progression when compared with a standard hormonal therapy plus Ibrance, Roche said in a statement on Monday.

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

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Recreational drugs can more than double risk of stroke, study suggests

The Guardian, Other, 09/03/2026, Ian Sample

Recreational drugs can more than double the risk of stroke, with some of the most concerning impacts seen among younger people, a major review suggests. Scientists analysed medical data from more than 100 million people and found that the risk of stroke was 122% higher for amphetamine users and 96% higher for cocaine users compared with those who did not take the drugs.

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Territorian appointed as one of three 'experienced' new board Outback Stores directors

Northern Territory News, Other, 09/03/2026, Lottie Hood

The Albanese Government has appointed three new directors to Outback Stores, including Torres Strait Islander, Brian Wyborn, to improve food access in remote communities. Read more. A proud Torres Strait Islander, who is committed to improving outcomes for First Nations people across the Northern Territory, has been appointed as a director to the board of Outback Stores.

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

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Test case against WA Housing Authority over neglect and rent hikes reveals 'shocking' conditions in remote housing

National Indigenous Times, Other, 09/03/2026, Giovanni Torre

The Council of Aboriginal Services WA and Shelter WA have expressed disappointment at the details revealed by a case involving an Indigenous tenant in Western Australia, which highlighted allegations of housing neglect in the Pilbara, saying issues of substandard public housing in remote communities are "widespread and need urgent attention". The legal challenge was brought against the WA Housing Authority by Joanne Jacobs, a First Nations public housing tenant living in the remote community of Wakathuni.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Territory-wide Mornings, 09/03/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Nathan Rosas, CEO of Wurli-Wurlinjang Aboriginal Health Service, about post-flood health support in Katherine. Rosas explains the organisation is setting up mobile pop-up clinics at Katherine High School and their main clinic on Third Street, while coordinating with Katherine West and Sunrise Health Services. He notes that community collaboration with Katherine Hospital ensures comprehensive care as the waters recede.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Mould warnings 'ignored'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/03/2026, Madeleine Bower, Page 19

Concerns over a mould outbreak in a respiratory ward at a Western Sydney hospital were ignored for weeks, patients say. One patient reported seeing mould at the Blacktown Hospital respiratory ward to hospital staff in January but was told it was only "water damage".

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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'Tens of millions' in fines for hospital operator

Newcastle Herald, General News, 10/03/2026, Jamieson Murphy, Page 4

The private operator of a Hunter hospital plagued by deadly mould, maggots and leaks has been fined "tens of millions of dollars" by the state government, leaked documents reveal. The state government has repeatedly refused to reveal the total cost of fines levied at NovaCare for breaching its obligations under the Calvary Mater Newcastle public-private partnership (PPP).

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SA Premier blames 'absolute mistake' as Health Minister caught up in cancer widow email blunder

The Premier has refused calls for investigation and further consequences for Health Minister Chris Picton after it was revealed he was responsible for attempting to discredit a grieving widow who claimed the health system had failed her husband. Athelstone mother Bronwen Paterson says her husband Stephen King was denied palliative care and was ramped in an ambulance for an hour at the Royal Adelaide Hospital shortly before he died of stomach cancer.

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

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Regional patient 'effectively ramped' for almost three days waiting for care

ABC Online, Other, 09/03/2026

When Riverland farmer Mick Evans had a suspected heart attack last year, he was stranded at a regional hospital for almost three days. A request to airlift him to Adelaide was continually cancelled, with no available beds at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 09/03/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

SA Premier Peter Malinauskas faces backlash after the government mistakenly released an email from the wrong Stephen King while responding to claims about ambulance ramping before his death from stomach cancer. Health Minister Chris Picton acknowledges the error and issues an unqualified apology after failing to properly check the details.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

No health professional is an island

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2026, Taje Zelka, Page 62

In 1624, metaphysical poet John Donne wrote that 'No man is an island'. Today, his words lead us to contemplate our practice as healthcare providers.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Unpacking the data on Australian women's experience at work and home

The Mandarin, Other, 09/03/2026, Melissa Coade

Things are generally improving for women living in Australia on the work and home front. But incremental gains risk slipping as 6 in 10 Australians believe we are close to or have already achieved equality.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Former Hindley St pharmacist Hartley Davis disqualified for five years after convicted of drug trafficking

Adelaide Now, Other, 09/03/2026, Lucy Rutherford

An “experienced” pharmacist turned drug trafficker has been banned after an undercover sting exposed his illegal side hustle. The South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal disqualified Hartley Davis from applying for registration as a health practitioner for five years.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Toxic chemicals found in legal vapes

The Australian, General News, 10/03/2026, Mohammad Alfares, Page 10

Tightly regulated pharmacy vapes contain banned chemicals and toxic lung irritants, laboratory testing has revealed. [...] The testing, commissioned and funded by the tobacco industry and conducted by Broughton Life Sciences, examined products listed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration as compliant with the new rules, which were designed to draw a clear line between tightly controlled “medical” vapes and the black market.

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

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Alert on corrosive 'cancer' paste

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/03/2026, Tamara Mcdonald, Page 9

Medical experts are warning that a dangerous and corrosive substance being spruiked online to treat skin cancer can cause serious disfigurement and delayed diagnosis. [...] A Therapeutic Goods Administration spokesman said it strongly advised consumers not to buy or use black salve.

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

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What Australia's prescribing trends mean for pharmacies

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2026, Page 24

Since legalisation in 2016, medicinal cannabis has become an increasingly established second-line treatment option in Australia, accessed primarily through the TGA's Special Access Scheme (SAS) and Authorised Prescriber (AP) pathways. As prescribing continues to evolve, understanding how medicinal

cannabis is being used in practice provides valuable insight into the types of patient presentations, counselling considerations, and clinical responsibilities pharmacies are managing day to day.

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What's the issue with vitamin B6?

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2026, Margaret Mielczarek, Page 46

Vitamin B6 has long been a staple on pharmacy shelves, promoted for cognitive function, energy support, PMS relief, and a lot more. But recent TGA recommendations have put this supplement under the spotlight, prompting important questions about safe dosing, neuropathy risk, and the role of pharmacists in guiding appropriate use.

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How can regulation be improved?

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/03/2026, Samantha Crawford, Page 74

Since the federal government legalised access to medicinal cannabis in Australia in 2016, the industry has grown rapidly. Medicinal cannabis products are regulated by the TGA, but are the current standards adequate, or is improvement needed?

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New heart failure drug approved

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/03/2026

Heart failure patients have another therapy option, with today's announcement that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved Kerendia (finerenone, Bayer) for the treatment of adults with symptomatic heart failure and left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) 40%. The oral, once-daily, non-steroidal mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist (MRA) is also approved for cardiovascular and renal risk reduction in patients with chronic kidney disease associated with type 2 diabetes.

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GPs slam pharmacist Pill initiation

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/03/2026

The Royal Australian College of GPs has accused the Victorian Government of putting women at risk by allowing pharmacists to prescribe hormonal contraceptives (RACGP Victoria chair Dr Anita Munoz said that in overriding repeated warnings from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the announcement prioritises political expediency and industry lobbying over evidence-based public health.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 09/03/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing therapy, known as EMDR, is gaining popularity as a treatment for PTSD and trauma. However, some experts question its effectiveness and warn that it may complicate legal proceedings. Advocates say cases like Dr Katie Bird's highlight broader issues around access to therapy while navigating the justice system.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Victorian dairy industry opposes merger of food safety regulators

The peak representative body for Victoria's dairy farmers, the Australian Dairy Industry Council, has expressed concerns with the Victorian Government's proposed merger of key food safety regulatory bodies. The reforms are rumoured to be tabled in parliament this month, combining the long-standing Dairy Food Safety Victoria and other regulatory bodies, into a single multi-industry regulator; Food Safety Victoria.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 09/03/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Julian Cox, Associate Professor in Food Microbiology at UNSW, about the safety of reusable water bottles. Cox recommends stainless steel as the best material because it resists microbial attachment and is food-grade, while plastics can harbour more bugs and potentially microplastics. He stresses cleaning bottles daily to prevent biofilms and mould growth, noting that even harmless bacteria can allow opportunistic pathogens to thrive if bottles aren't properly sanitised.

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