



# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 12th March 2026

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports that the AMA's latest Public Hospital Report Card has found seriously ill or injured patients are waiting too long in hospital emergency departments. AMA president Danielle McMullen said "Patients triaged as urgent include people with chest pain, severe breathing difficulties and life-threatening conditions like sepsis, and nearly one third of these patients are still not being seen on time, which is unacceptable".
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 14) reports that NSW health authorities are urging families to ensure their children are vaccinated against measles following the state recording its highest number of cases in a decade.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 4) reports that the Australian Bureau of Statistics' National Health Measures Survey has found 2.5 million Australians are unknowingly living with the early stages of kidney disease.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 10) reports that families of patients who died following a 2020 Covid outbreak at St Basil's Home for the Aged in Victoria have labeled a \$150,000 penalty issued by WorkSafe as a "joke".

## Hospital emergency waits 'worst on record'

The Australian, General News, 12/03/2026, Penny Timms, Page 5

Gravely ill or injured patients are spending far too long in hospital emergency departments, with the number of cases seen within four hours slumping to its worst level on record, the Australian Medical Association has found. [...] Last week, federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced an additional \$115m to boost access to residential aged care in select "hotspots".

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

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## Govt funds 50 new medical placements to tackle GP shortfall

Campus Review, Other, 11/03/2026

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 health care. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said more doctors have joined the health care 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.

[Read More](#)

## Deep cuts needed to ease medical bill shock

Local Ipswich News, Other, 12/03/2026

Private health insurance premiums are set to rise by an average of 4.41 per cent from April, marking the largest increase in almost a decade. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler is reportedly exploring options to regulate fees, although any move could face legal challenges under the Australian Constitution.

[Read More](#)

## 2SM, Afternoons, 11/03/2026, Brent Bultitude

Interview with Grattan Institute health program director Peter Breadon. Breadon says the Federal Government should stop giving funding to doctors who charge extreme and unreasonable fees. He notes that Health Minister Mark Butler has committed to taking action on rising medical bills, recognising that it is harming patients.

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## ABC Goldfields WA, Breakfast, 11/03/2026, Ivo Da Silva

Pre-recorded interview with Rural Doctors Association president Sarah Chalmers. Health Minister Mark Butler has announced the Federal Government will support 50 new medical student placements at universities from 2028. Chalmers says there is a need for more doctors that will supervise these medical students. She notes that there are incentives available to doctors who are training specifically for general practise and rural generalist medicine to assist with their day-to-day work.

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## ABC Great Southern, Breakfast, 11/03/2026, Paul Cook

The Federal Government has launched a new \$5.7 million competitive grant round to fund 50 additional medical university places, specifically designed to funnel more graduates into general practice. Announced by Health Minister Mark Butler, the expansion aims to lift the supply of "homegrown" doctors by 2028, particularly in regional areas where the GP shortage is most acute. However, the Rural Doctors Association says a boost in the number of placements for student doctors needs to be paired with more supervisors.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 11/03/2026, Thomas Oriti

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park urges the Federal Government to increase the funding for hospitals and release more NDIS support packages so people with disabilities will no longer be stranded in

hospitals for weeks or months, following the announcement from Federal Health Minister Mark Butler about additional funding to try to bring online more beds in critical areas. He adds that the NSW Government is trying to address health challenges, but needs more help from the Commonwealth to address the issue of bed block in hospitals.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

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## MINISTER RAE

### **Bed numbers 'falling behind'**

PerthNow Western Suburbs, General News, 12/03/2026, Jessica Page, Page 15

A \$115 million blitz by the Albanese Government to target aged-care 'hot spots', including Perth, has been described as a "drop in the ocean" by providers who can't keep up with demand. [...] Federal Minister Sam Rae was confident there'll be more 'bang' for every taxpayer 'buck' that Perth gets as the program aims to get "shovel-ready" aged care developments that had stalled across the line.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### **Specialists unveil national ethical billing framework**

Allergy and Respiratory Republic, Other, 11/03/2026, Amanda Sheppeard

Australia's Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges has moved to strengthen fee transparency as patient cost concerns rise. [...] The initiative was launched by CPMC chair Associate Professor Kerin Fielding and federal assistant health and aged care minister Rebecca White.

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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## DEPARTMENT

**Record numbers of patients leaving NSW hospital emergency departments without treatment**

Record numbers of patients with severe illnesses and injuries are leaving hospital without treatment, a survey of health data reveals. More than 79,000 patients left NSW emergency departments before completing treatment in the last quarter of 2025, an increase of nearly 11,000 from the same time in 2024, the Bureau of Health Information said.

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

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## Upper Hunter council progresses search for local aged care hostel operator

Inside Local Government, Other, 11/03/2026, Kelly Nealon

Upper Hunter Shire Council is moving ahead with plans to find a suitable aged care provider for a local Council-run 16-bed hostel. [...] In late-2024, the Council approached the Department of Health and Aged Care for additional support in attracting potential providers for the hostel, which at the time was incurring annual losses of more than \$400,000.

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## The elephant in the Cohealth room

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/03/2026, Cate Swannell

Anyone reading the departing CEO's LinkedIn post could be forgiven for thinking everything is beer and skittles. [...] A similar request to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing produced this reply from a spokesperson: "The independent review of Cohealth's general practice and related services is in its final stages.

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## Slow progress as concerns raised around safety at McLean Care

The New England Times, Other, 11/03/2026, RK Crosby

Concerns are being raised about safety and care standards at McLean Care's Inverell facilities as the organisation faces scrutiny over its future ownership and operations. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care says they are currently working with McLean Care through the Market Adjustment Program, which is designed to stabilise struggling providers while new operators are identified.

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## Aged care bed grants raise more questions than answers with national shortage

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/03/2026, Caroline Egan

On Friday (6 March), the Government committed \$115 million in Commonwealth grants to pay for new aged care beds in four regions. [...] The Weekly SOURCE asked the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing how it determined which regions the grants would prioritise, but at the time of publishing had not received a response.

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## Home care push as 3,000 older Australians remain stuck in hospital

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/03/2026, Lauren Broomham

A partnership between provider Prestige In-home Care and Sunshine Coast health charity Wishlist is highlighting the role home care can play in helping hospitals discharge patients sooner. [...] Nearly 350,000 older Australians waiting on home care Figures released during Senate Estimates in February showed 4,812 older Australians died waiting for appropriate home care in 2024-25, according to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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## Free rent not enough as SA regions cry out for GPs

WEB InDaily SA, Other, 11/03/2026

Despite building a new \$1 million clinic and offering medicos free homes in a bid to attract a desperately needed doctor, one SA town is still struggling to get a resident GP. [...] The group was

formed to advance the critical health needs of the people of Northern Eyre Peninsula, and in 2024 was awarded \$1.4 million by the Federal health department to improve healthcare accessibility in rural areas.

[Read More](#)

## **ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 11/03/2026, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller**

Compere mentions that Nuclear Medicines Australia is a new group that's going to be meeting up with the Department of Health today to put the case for the creation of a "Radiopharmaceutical Benefits Scheme", to sit alongside the original PBS.

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## **AGEING AND AGED CARE**

### **\$3.5M sees 11-bed dementia unit come to life**

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/03/2026, Caroline Egan

Not For Profit Boandik Lodge Inc is expected to open the 11-bed dementia unit in Mount Gambier, 400km southeast of Adelaide, at the end of the month. The project has been funded with the assistance of a \$2,870,625 Aged Care Capital Assistance Program (ACCAP) grant from the Commonwealth, awarded in December 2024, with Boandik Lodge Inc tipping in the additional \$700,000.

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### **Aged care demand rising fastest where workforce is thinnest**

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/03/2026, Lauren Broomham

Australia's aged care workforce is expected to fall short in many of the regions where demand for services will grow fastest, new modelling suggests, raising concerns about whether new services can actually be staffed. Analysis from demographic data platform Informed Decisions warns that the biggest planning risk facing the sector is assuming national demand trends will play out evenly across local communities.

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### **Workforce shortages? Aged care operators shock overseas recruiter**

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/03/2026, Caroline Egan

Employing aged care workers from overseas is well-established internationally, yet many Australian aged care operators are cautious about adopting the practice. Sarah Thapa is Founder and Managing Director of The Migration Agency, an Australian agency recruiting RNs and personal care workers (PCWs) primarily from India, but also from the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

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### **Eight beds for \$22M: Helping Hand begins regional aged care rebuild**

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/03/2026, Caroline Egan

South Australian Not For Profit Helping Hand has begun a Government-funded redevelopment of the only aged care facility in the Eyre Peninsula town of Whyalla, about 400km northwest of Adelaide. Helping Hand will redevelop Yeltana and Copperhouse Court Residential Care Homes, adding eight new residential aged care beds in total.

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## **DISABILITY AND CARERS**

## New stats show more South West locals are accessing allied health services, but through high wait times

West Australian, Other, 11/03/2026, Will Corbett

Despite an overwhelming number of South West residents wanting to access NDIS services, the electorate of Forrest has some of the highest wait times in the country according to new data. The latest Kismet Care Index has revealed the South West overall ranks 36th out of 150 electorates nationally when it comes to NDIS coverage, but extraordinary wait times have affected results.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 11/03/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry

Families have been left in shock by the abrupt closure of childcare centres that have provided specialist support to children living with severe autism for more than 20 years. The AEIOU Foundation will be taken over by external administrators effective tomorrow, with staff now left scrambling.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Sky's the limit for care

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 12/03/2026, Nikita McGuire, Page 10

LifeFlight will upgrade its equipment after securing a \$94,300 windfall to purchase sophisticated medical technology for its North Queensland operations. The investment, delivered through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, will allow the aeromedical service to kit out its Townsville-based jet with advanced critical care equipment.

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

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Drug use to get your undivided attention

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/03/2026, Susie O'Brien, Page 18

Almost one boy in every 10 aged five to 11 is now on ADHD medication, with 200,000 boys issued 1.7 million prescriptions a year for drugs such as Ritalin and Vyvanse. [...] Figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show 9 per cent of boys aged 5 to 11, and 8 per cent of boys aged 12 to 17 now take psychostimulants for ADHD This compares with 4 per cent of girls aged 5 to 11, and 5 per cent aged 12 to 17.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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### Is height surgery worth the risk?

The Nightly, General News, 11/03/2026, Isabella Kwai, Page 41

Aaron Trinh was unhappy. His height was something he dwelled on constantly.

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### Program easing kids' anxiety in hospital

The Australian, Other, 11/03/2026, Kate Calacouras

Eleven-year-old Frankie is "perfect" according to her mum Kym Gleeson. She loves stickers and colouring, and her plush toy Blip. But Blip is named well.

## Clinicians gain easier access to Don't Rush to Crush and new obesity medicines guide

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 11/03/2026

Key clinical resources, including an Australian-first guide to support patients living with obesity, are set to become more accessible for Australian healthcare professionals. Australia's leading digital healthcare publisher, Therapeutic Guidelines, and Advanced Pharmacy Australia have partnered to promote the quality use of medicines by increasing access to trusted, evidenced-based clinical resources that support decision-making at the point of care.

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### Millions are living with kidney disease and don't know it

Age, General News, 12/03/2026, Grant McArthur, Page 4

Two and a half million Australians are unknowingly living with the early stages of kidney disease, a situation that threatens to overrun the nation's health system in coming years. The Australian Bureau of Statistics' National Health Measures Survey says one in 20 people aged 18 to 29, and almost half of those over 75, have early signs of chronic kidney disease.

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### Dementia overtakes killer heart disease

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/03/2026, Page 6

Australian public health experts warn dementia has overtaken heart disease as the leading cause of death and say preventing dementia should be a national priority. University of Wollongong and Curtin University scientists say we need a national brain health campaign.

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### Survival secret for some cancer cells

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/03/2026, Page 6

A new study has revealed why some cancers can grow and survive in the body while others cannot. Intense mechanical pressure experienced by early cancer cells as they grow cramped in a restricted space can benefit some cancer cells, rather than impede growth, as might be expected.

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### Cancer deaths over midlife

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/03/2026, Page 7

Women tend to live longer than men and face lower risks of major diseases, but researchers have found an increased risk of female cancer deaths in midlife that bucks this trend. The Australian National University researchers looked at data on more than 200 million deaths from 20 countries, including Australia, to look at gender differences in the causes of death.

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### Lifeblood rolls out life-changing eye drops for severe dry eye disease

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/03/2026, Genevieve Holding

A potentially life-changing treatment will now be provided to those like St Helens woman Gillian Lowth battling severe dry eye and eye surface diseases – with just 100 donors in Tasmania with the right blood type available to assist in the production. Australian Red Cross Lifeblood's new allogenic serum eye drops (AlloSED) treat severe eye surface diseases unresponsive to other therapies.

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

## Doctor issues scary warning for anybody who has had 'peeling skin' after a sunburn: 'No tan is worth this'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/03/2026, Shania O'Brien

Peeling skin after a day in the sun is all too common among those who live in Australia - but a doctor has urged people to remember what it's a sign of. Emergency room doctor Dr Joe Whittington issued his stark warning online after realising many didn't know their peeling skin was a sign of genetic damage, not just 'dryness'.

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## My mind keeps on going blank. How worried should I be?

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 11/03/2026

We've all been there. Whether it's at a crucial moment of an exam, walking into a room for a specific purpose, or making an impromptu speech, your mind goes blank.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Coast not clear on healthy children

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/03/2026, Susie O'Brien, Page 19

Idyllic coastal regions in NSW, Tasmania and Queensland have the highest rates of young people medicated for anxiety, depression and ADHD. One in 10 children under 18 is seeking medical attention for these conditions on the NSW mid-north coast, Launceston and northeast Tasmania, the Hunter Valley, and the Moreton and Wide Bay areas of Queensland federal data show.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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### Prince visiting for key speech

Herald Sun, General News, 12/03/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 5

Prince Harry will speak at a workplace mental health summit during his visit to Melbourne next month, a leading suicide prevention service has revealed. Lifeline Narm announced on Wednesday that Prince Harry will be a keynote speaker at their InterEdge Psychosocial Safety Summi.

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

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### 'Anxious to the point of paranoia'

Courier Mail, General News, 12/03/2026, Page 22

Parents and patients warn of the "zombie" sideeffects of common ADHD medications, but affirm the benefits of the right brands and doses. GP Jess Weber said many parents were worried about the side-effects of medication.

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### 'Exhausting, avoidable' way of operating mental health support is undermining what we are trying to achieve

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/03/2026, Dan Vautin, Page 20

Across the state, community-managed mental health services support thousands of Tasmanians to be and stay well. They help people stay connected to family, work and education.

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## Patient detained under mental health laws waited more than four days in an emergency department for bed

ABC Online, Other, 11/03/2026

Rafiq Ziayee remembers the moment his friend Amamuddin Sadar died in his arms. "I could see the pain and suffering in his eyes, and I was trying to do everything to save him, but I couldn't," he said.

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## NSW employers could soon be fined for workplace bullying or other psychosocial harms under new SafeWork reforms

7news.com.au, Other, 11/03/2026, Demi Huang

Psychological harm at work is drawing greater attention as one Aussie state steps up its workplace mental health enforcement. NSW employers could soon face fines if workers are bullied under a new crackdown on mental health risks in workplaces.

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## IMMUNISATION

### Families urged to vaccinate against measles as cases surge

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/03/2026, Angus Thomson, Page 14

Health authorities are urging families to ensure their children are vaccinated against measles, warning NSW could record its highest number of cases in a decade if local transmission of the highly contagious disease is not contained. Free vaccines are also being promoted for infants travelling overseas before their first immunisation at 12 months, as Australia ramps up efforts to guard against a global surge in measles cases.

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### ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 11/03/2026, Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca

Interview with Mater Director of Infectious Disease Professor Paul Griffin. Over 93,000 flu cases were recorded in Queensland last year, with experts pointing to a decline in vaccine uptake as a major factor in the number of cases. Griffin says the state will see a very significant flu season if the vaccination rate continues to be low. He claims that they are introducing intranasal vaccines for kids to increase the vaccination rates.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### NSW public health system experienced unprecedented demand, BHI report shows

ABC Online, Other, 11/03/2026, Tamsyn Buckle

New South Wales emergency departments and ambulance services have experienced unprecedented demand, surpassing the COVID pandemic, new data shows. The latest Healthcare Quarterly, from October to December 2025, released by the Bureau of Health Information (BHI), paints a picture of a health system which remains under immense pressure with record numbers also recorded in admitted patient episodes.

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### **Email scandal has left widow 'broken' and offended**

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/03/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 11

Health Minister Chris Picton has again contacted grieving widow Bronwen Paterson to apologise for an email scandal and she told him "I'm completely broken." Ms Paterson says she had no intention of attacking anyone politically over partner Stephen King's death.

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

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### **Calls for intervention at health service**

Border Mail, General News, 12/03/2026, Chelsea Wilson, Page 3

A Farrer byelection candidate has called for federal intervention and an independent inquiry into the management of Albury Wodonga Health. Independent candidate Michelle Milthorpe sought an investigation of the Albury hospital workplace after the suspension of senior clinician Dr David Clancy.

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### **Birthing fears**

Burnie Advocate, General News, 12/03/2026, Rodney Woods, Page 1

A mother who has experienced both private and public maternity care said she felt more scared when her third child was born than she did when her first child was born at 24 weeks. Maddison Troughton had obstetrician and gynaecologist (O&G) Dr Kim Dobromilsky deliver her sons Lawson, who was born with spastic quadriplegia cerebral palsy, and Grayson.

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### **They deserve better, says Park**

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 12/03/2026, Kate McIlwain, Page 2

Patients are arriving sicker, spending more time in the ED and staying in ward beds longer, after a period of "significant and sustained demand" on the Illawarra's health system. Added to that, the number of aged care patients "stranded" in Wollongong Hospital has doubled in a year - and increased by 30 per cent across the district.

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

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### **NSW public health system experienced unprecedented demand, BHI report shows**

ABC Online, Other, 11/03/2026, Tamsyn Buckle

New South Wales emergency departments and ambulance services have experienced unprecedented demand, surpassing the COVID pandemic, new data shows. The latest Healthcare Quarterly, from October to December 2025, released by the Bureau of Health Information (BHI), paints a picture of a health system which remains under immense pressure with record numbers also recorded in admitted patient episodes.

## Emergency waiting times blow out for those needing life-saving care

Daily Liberal, Other, 11/03/2026, Orlander Ruming

Emergency wait times have surged at Dubbo Hospital, leaving more than two-thirds of life-threatening cases waiting too long for treatment. According to the latest Bureau of Health Information data, fewer than half - 48.9 per cent - of the patients who presented to Dubbo emergency department between October and December 2025 were treated on time.

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## ABC, ABC News, 11/03/2026, Nakari Thorpe

The NSW hospitals are under immense pressure, with new data revealing a record number of emergency admissions. At Westmead Hospital, more than two-thirds of all patients are not treated within the recommended time. The NSW Government has blamed bed block for the backlog in the state hospitals.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 11/03/2026, Mark Burrows

New figures have revealed that the number of patients waiting to access aged care or NDIS support in New South Wales after completing their treatment has jumped dramatically in the last three years, doubling at Westmead Hospital and tripling at Liverpool. A task force has been established to investigate the bed block. On a positive note, the number of patients spending longer than recommended in emergency departments or waiting for surgery is lower compared with 2022 figures.

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## Channel 10, 10 News, 11/03/2026, Sandra Sully

A new report from the Bureau of Health Information has shown the NSW hospital system remains under immense pressure. Between October and December last year, ambulance services received almost 400,000 calls for help and attended over 300,000 incidents. However, the NSW Government claims that the data does not paint an accurate picture. A new task force comprising health secretaries from around Australia has been set up to tackle the bed block issue in the short and long term, but the Opposition is not convinced about this move.

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## 2GB, Drive, 11/03/2026, Clinton Maynard

Interview with NSWNMA president O'Bray Smith. A new report has shown that a third of patients in state hospitals do not start their treatment on time. Smith says all staff in NSW hospitals are under significant strain, noting that many of their members are burnt out and struggling. She notes that there is a need to increase the number of hospital staff and bed capacity.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 11/03/2026, Craig Reucassel

The NSW emergency departments and ambulances have recorded their highest number of call-outs and presentations since record-keeping began. It comes as the Bureau of Health Information reported that ambulances received over 400,000 calls from October to December 2025, which is up by 7 per cent from 2025. Australian Medical Association NSW President Dr Kathryn Austin says the data is reflective of a long-term strain on the hospital system.

Also reported by: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### **Mater staff speak out on fears of chronic illness**

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/03/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 2

Staff at the Calvary Mater Newcastle fear chronic illness from exposure to mould, while feeling deep distress over patient deaths at the hospital. A staff member spoke to the Newcastle Herald ahead of a hearing in Newcastle tomorrow for the parliamentary inquiry into management, maintenance and operational issues at the Mater.

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### **Australian Medical Association speaks out after top doctor suspended from Albury Wodonga Health**

ABC Online, Other, 11/03/2026, Philippe Perez

The peak body for Victorian doctors has spoken out after two senior doctors and a top nurse were suspended at Albury Wodonga Health (AWH). There has been escalating staff anger and unrest at the regional hospital this week after its director of Emergency and Critical Care Services, Dr David Clancy, was escorted from the building on Wednesday.

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### **'We'll be strongly advocating for things like removal of caps'**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/03/2026

PSA's new president flags changes to the profession, with priorities including the negotiation of the pharmacy programs agreement, the new Code of Ethics and the College transition AJP podcast host Carlene McMaugh sits down for a chat with Pharmaceutical Society of Australia national president Mark Naunton...

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### **'A revised Code for the profession, by the profession'**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/03/2026, Megan Haggan

The PSA has opened public consultation on its draft revised Code of Ethics for Pharmacists, following an eight-month best-practice development process. The Code of Ethics is the fundamental resource that articulates the values of the pharmacy profession and the expected ethical standards of pharmacists, says the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

[Read More](#)

### **Code of ethics consultation open**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/03/2026

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has opened public consultation on its draft revised Code of Ethics for Pharmacists, and is encouraging all pharmacists to contribute to the consultation. Underpinning the professional practice of all Australian pharmacists, the Code of Ethics articulates the values of the pharmacy profession and expected ethical standards.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### **Erick Omondi Kiaye: Aged care worker faces shocking allegations of indecently dealing with dementia patient**

West Australian, Other, 11/03/2026, Justin Bianchini

A Perth aged care worker allegedly found with his trousers down and on top of a vulnerable dementia patient told his colleague he "just wanted some affection" when he was sprung. Erick Omondi Kiaye was allegedly caught by a nurse inside a 66-year-old resident's bedroom at Brightwater Madeley after 4am on February 16.

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

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### **Calls for independent inquiry into hospital after senior doctor suspended**

The Border Mail, Other, 11/03/2026, Chelsea Wilson

A Farrer byelection candidate has called for federal intervention and an independent inquiry into the management of Albury Wodonga Health. Independent candidate Michelle Milthorpe sought an investigation of the Albury hospital workplace after the suspension of senior clinician Dr David Clancy.

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### **Families devastated by nursing home's \$150,000 fine after 50 deaths during COVID No Headline**

Age, General News, 12/03/2026, Melissa Cunningham, Page 14

Families of the 50 residents who died in a Melbourne nursing home during Australia's deadliest coronavirus outbreak have been left outraged and heartbroken after the home was fined \$150,000 by the Victorian County Court. Workplace watchdog WorkSafe charged St Basil's Homes for the Aged in Victoria with failing to provide information, instruction and training necessary to enable employees to work in a way that was safe and without risks to health in 2022, after 45 residents died from COVID-related complications within a month of the first outbreak in 2020.

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### **\$150k a fine joke: families**

Herald Sun, General News, 12/03/2026, Liam Beatty, Page 10

The families of people who died after a Covid outbreak at an aged-care home have slammed a \$150,000 penalty as a "joke", calling for better accountability. St Basil's Home for the Aged in Victoria was convicted and handed the fine in the County Court on Tuesday after pleading guilty to a charge of failing to maintain a safe working environment.

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

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### **Fears Australia could see another record flu season as 'Super-K' spreads**

9News, Other, 11/03/2026, Lara Pearce

A fast-moving strain of influenza that has led to the deaths of dozens of children in the United States is evading the protective effects of past vaccines and community immunity, a new study has confirmed. The new and highly mutated strain of influenza A (H3N2), dubbed 'Super-K', was first detected in the USA in June last year and led to a summer surge of influenza in Australia.

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## Fine for nursing home after residents died during COVID

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/03/2026

A nursing home where almost half of its residents died after contracting COVID-19 during the height of the pandemic has been convicted and fined over five years after the tragedy. St Basil's Home for the Aged was sentenced in the Victorian County Court on Wednesday over one of the deadliest nursing home outbreaks in 2020.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#)

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## Urgent warning issued as measles cases climb

Shepparton News Online, Other, 11/03/2026

The Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit is urging residents to check their measles vaccination status following a significant rise in cases across Victoria and Australia. Measles cases have increased dramatically over the past two years, with 57 cases reported in Australia in 2024, rising to 181 in 2025.

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# THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

## Biocurious: For Bioxyne chief Sam Watson, pot stock success is more than a funky label

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/03/2026, Tim Boreham

Medical cannabis leader Bioxyne predicts the local market will hit \$1 billion – but suppliers need to shed the 'rasta' labelling. [...] Sure enough, a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) crackdown means self-respecting doctors no longer will have to prescribe 'donkey breath' or THC-infused 'peanut butter balls' for chronic pain.

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

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## Women with Asherman's Syndrome call for tighter control of outdated practices

ABC Online, Other, 11/03/2026, Mary Lloyd

Lily Johnstone and her husband live in a two-bedroom home in Melbourne with a pair of French bulldogs. [...] Officials from the TGA were recently questioned in Senate Estimates about whether the classification of sharp curettes was appropriate.

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## Wegovy users have five times greater risk of sudden sight loss than Ozempic users, study finds

The Guardian, Other, 11/03/2026, Anna Bawden

Patients taking Wegovy have nearly five times the risk of sudden sight loss of those on Ozempic, a large-scale study has found. Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist (GLP-1 RA) medicines such as semaglutide (sold as Wegovy, Ozempic and Rybelsus) and tirzepatide (sold as Mounjaro) help reduce blood sugar levels, slow digestion and reduce appetite, and have been linked to reduced risks of heart attack, fewer drug overdoses and other health benefits.

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## Safety warning over fake weight loss drugs

Medical Forum, Other, 11/03/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a safety advisory relating to fake weight loss drugs being imported into the country. The products falsely claim to contain glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists or GLP-1 analogues, posing potential risks to health.

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## ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 11/03/2026, Bob Murphy and Richelle Hunt

The Therapeutic Goods Administration is facing mounting pressure to reclassify and tighten monitoring of medical devices used in dilation and curettage (D&C). Advocates argue that the current Class I/IIa "low-risk" status for cervical dilators and uterine curettes creates a "regulatory blind spot" that obscures the true rate of surgical complications during miscarriage management and abortions. A spokesperson for the TGA said late last year it asked all suppliers to ensure their instructions for use include a warning about Asherman's syndrome.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### VIC pushes for mandatory Health Star Rating on packaged food

Food & Beverage, General News, 01/03/2026, Page 7

Minister for health Mary-Anne Thomas has announced a proposal to mandate the display of the Health Star Rating system on all packaged food products. Led by the Victorian and South Australian governments, the proposal will be discussed at the National Food Ministers' Meeting.

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### Family Select frozen mango, strawberry and lychee sorbet recalled from Western Australia's Spudshed stores

7news.com.au, Other, 11/03/2026, Savannah Meacham

The popular summer treat is being taken off shelves due to an undeclared allergen. A popular summer treat is being recalled after the sorbet was found to contain an undeclared allergen. Family Select's frozen sorbet including the mango, strawberry and lychee flavours has been recalled by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.

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

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