



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 13th March 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that there is tension between Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan and Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas after Minister Thomas liked a social media post which was critical of two health policies that will expand the prescribing powers of pharmacists and GPs.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 3) reports that scientists at biotech company Marinova and Griffith University have potentially found a cure for gastro using compounds extracted from brown seaweed.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that at least four Opal Healthcare aged care facilities part of the Opal Healthcare group are trialling a new two-tier menu which sees hot breakfasts, homemade cakes and nightly desserts locked behind a new "premium" paywall.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 6) reports that an AMA report has found Queensland has recorded the worst result in a decade for patients waiting in emergency departments for over four hours.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that at least three elderly patients were left in a St John of God Midland hospital corridor without proper treatment and cut off from visitors.

Another cost-of-living blow for millions of Australians as essential monthly bill surges

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/03/2026, Sarah Brookes

[...] More than 15 million Australians hold some form of private health cover. Each year insurers submit price-rise proposals to the federal government, which are reviewed by the Department of Health before being signed off by the Health Minister. Health Minister Mark Butler said this year's increases reflected the rising cost of delivering healthcare, including higher wages and hospital expenses.

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

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Aged care grants: lifesaver or political theatre?

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/03/2026, Lauren Broomham

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler said on 6 February: "We really need to be opening a new aged care facility every three days for the next 20 years." [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae says the grants themselves are not designed to fully fund new homes – instead, they are intended to unlock projects already close to construction.

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Govt tweaks CHSP for ACT but leaves other states wanting

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/03/2026, Caroline Egan

When the new Aged Care Act took effect on 1 November 2025, it stopped older Canberrans from accessing a well established respite centre. [...] Senator Rae's Burrangiri announcement came the same day that Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler revealed the expansion of the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program with \$115 million in new funding for the development of aged care beds in Perth, Adelaide, and NSW's Illawarra and Hunter regions.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

ABC Gippsland, Regional Statewide Mornings, 12/03/2026, Nic Healey

The Federal Government has launched a landmark \$20 million pilot program involving 27 service operators to redefine how therapy is funded under the NDIS. Announced by Minister Jenny McAllister, the 12-month initiative includes top-tier providers like the Cerebral Palsy Alliance, which will share detailed data on workforce costs and participant outcomes.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, 05:30 News, 12/03/2026

Twenty-seven disability service providers will take part in a pilot program service providers will take part in a pilot program to look at whether participants on the National Disability Insurance Scheme are getting value for money. As part of the 12-month program the selected providers will share information on the way they are delivering their therapies, workforce skills and outcomes for participants. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister says it's aimed at making sure NDIS participants are offered value for money while maintaining the viability of disability service providers.

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MINISTER RAE

Aged care grants: lifesaver or political theatre?

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/03/2026, Lauren Broomham

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler said on 6 February: "We really need to be opening a new aged care facility every three days for the next 20 years." [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae says the grants themselves are not designed to fully fund new homes – instead, they are intended to unlock projects already close to construction.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Efforts to eliminate cervical cancer among Indigenous women 12 years behind government target, research shows

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/03/2026, Giovanni Torre

A world-first study - Accelerating cervical cancer elimination in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women: a modelling study - has revealed that without urgent, targeted action, cervical cancer will not be eliminated in Indigenous communities until 2047 - 12 years later than the government's 2035 target. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health, Rebecca White, told National Indigenous Times Australia is "on track" to become one of the first countries in the world to eliminate cervical cancer and the federal government is "determined to see that goal achieved for all communities".

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Specialists unveil national ethical billing framework

Oncology Republic, Other, 12/03/2026, Amanda Sheppard

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.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, Politics Now, 12/03/2026, Tom Connell, Kieran Gilbert, Andrew Clennell and Ashleigh Gillon

Interview with Federal Assistant Health and Aged Care Minister Rebecca White. White says the Federal Government has launched a new egg-freezing calculator that helps women to assess their chances of being able to successfully freeze eggs and of having a baby. She notes that the government is prioritising women's health, which has been overlooked for a long time.

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DEPARTMENT

Don't play funding favourites, Minns tells PM

The Australian, General News, 13/03/2026, Lachlan Leeming, Page 7

Federal infrastructure funding should be distributed on a per capita basis as a matter of "basic fairness", NSW Premier Chris Minns says, if blighted projects such as Victoria's Suburban Rail Loop are being allocated greater assistance. [...] "There's a big health bureaucracy in Canberra, but the federal health department doesn't have any hospitals," he said.

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Another cost-of-living blow for millions of Australians as essential monthly bill surges

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/03/2026, Sarah Brookes

[...] More than 15 million Australians hold some form of private health cover. Each year insurers submit price-rise proposals to the federal government, which are reviewed by the Department of Health before being signed off by the Health Minister. Health Minister Mark Butler said this year's increases reflected the rising cost of delivering healthcare, including higher wages and hospital expenses.

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

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Brisbane welcomes new SDCP unit

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 12/03/2026

Anglicare Southern Queensland is celebrating the opening of its third SDCP unit, which will support up to eight people experiencing severe behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia. [...] It is the 27th unit in the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's Specialist Dementia Care Program.

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Cobar gets a good report from visiting medical students

Cobar Weekly, Other, 12/03/2026

A group of visiting medical and allied health students were given a warm welcome to Cobar at the Cobar Bowling & Golf Club on Friday night. [...] Go Rural is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and administered by RDN.

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Where are all the skin cancer clinicians in Queensland?

Oncology Republic, Other, 12/03/2026, Lincoln Tracy

Experts are calling for increased telehealth usage and upskilling nurses as a way of balancing the "supply and demand" of skin cancer care in the sunshine state. [...] Despite the ever-increasing need for skin cancer clinicians, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has previously predicted that Australia will be 90 full time dermatologists short of where the workforce should be by 2030.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged care behind 'paywall'

Courier Mail, General News, 13/03/2026, Julie Cross, Page 1

An aged care giant is stripping back basic resident rights, axing hot breakfasts, homemade cakes and nightly desserts from its menu and locking them behind a new "premium" paywall. At least four facilities that are part of the Opal Healthcare group the largest residential provider in the country with 145 homes are trialling the new two-tier menu.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Room prices continue to climb

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 12/03/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The number of aged care homes increasing their highest price has risen again, Mirus Australia's March 2026 data snapshot shows. In February, 142 services increased their highest price – up 10.08 per cent from 129 services in January.

[Read More](#)

Independent MP Dr Monique Ryan says Support at Home 'unfit for purpose'

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/03/2026, Caroline Egan

The Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Disability voiced the concerns of her electorate in Kooyong, Victoria, in the House of Representatives on Tuesday. The Government's Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) is "systemically underestimating" older Australians' needs, she told parliament, referring to her previous comments in the House about "robo aged care

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Kids left in limbo

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/03/2026, Daniel Shirkie, Page 1

A pillar of Townsville's disability support network has vanished overnight. On Wednesday afternoon, the AEIOU Foundation entered administration, giving staff and parents just hours notice before shuttering its Kirwan centre.

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

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Leading autism charity AEIOU Foundation suddenly collapses, leaving families, staff in limbo

The Courier Mail, Other, 12/03/2026, Kathleen Skene

One of Australia's leading organisations for young children with autism has suddenly plunged into administration, leaving parents scrambling and more than 200 staff in limbo. The NDIS-funded AEIOU Foundation has been operating for more than 20 years, providing support for kids aged 2-6 to develop essential life skills, independence and confidence.

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

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Parents and disability advocates shocked as specialist service AEIOU closes with no notice

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2026, Hannah Moon

Petula Laporte, whose four-year-old son Callum has a level three autism diagnosis, received an email yesterday informing her that the early intervention care provider AEIOU was going into administration. This was directly followed by a message from management at the centre her son attends in Brisbane's Bald Hills, which told her the centre was now closed.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 12/03/2026, Joe O'Brien

Hundreds of families with autistic children are scrambling to find alternative care following the collapse of AEIOU, the nation's charity in the sector. The not-for-profit foundation has shut its critical childcare centres in Queensland, the ACT, and South Australia, blaming millions of dollars in funding shortfalls and cuts in the NDIS. Parents say the program was life-changing and are hoping Canberra will intervene.

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Channel 9, A Current Affair, 12/03/2026, Allison Langdon

After caring for her special needs son, Nicholas, for 50 years, Avril keeps getting knocked back by the NDIS. Nicholas is living solo in temporary accommodation in Melbourne with 24-hour care, and his mum is in an apartment next door, but the arrangement has come to an end. The NDIS wants Nicholas to move into a shared accommodation with limited care during the day, with Avril saying the NDIS is yet to recognise one of his son's serious conditions, which she fears will lead to neglect. In a statement, NDIA says they are working with Nicholas and his family to resolve his disability housing supports as a matter of priority.

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

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 12/03/2026, Spence Denny

Not-for-profit charity AEIOU has announced to parents that it was going into administration and would be closing its childcare centres in the ACT, Queensland, and South Australia from today. The organisation has blamed millions of dollars in funding shortfalls and cuts in the NDIS for its decision. It says its immediate priority remains the safety and well-being of the children and families in their centres and supporting staff through this challenging period. Some parents say they're shocked by the decision and that the charity made a huge difference in their children's lives.

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PRIMARY CARE

Bitter pill for Allan and minister

Age, General News, 13/03/2026, Henrietta Cook and Kieran Rooney, Page 1

Tension is brewing between Premier Jacinta Allan and Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas over two contentious health policies that will expand the prescribing powers of pharmacists and GPs. The internal friction spilled into the public eye this week when Thomas liked a scathing social media post by Dr Anita Munoz, Victorian chair of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

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

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Highest ever visits to ED after long weekend: minister

Canberra Times, General News, 13/03/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 17

Canberra recorded the highest ever number of combined emergency department and walk-in centre presentations on Tuesday, the health minister said. ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith said there were 442 presentations at walk-in centres - more than the number of people presenting to Canberra Hospital emergency department - during a speech at an Australian College of Nursing summit on Wednesday.

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Candidates talk on radiotherapy

Border Watch, General News, 13/03/2026, Page 10

South Australian election candidates in the Limestone Coast have expressed support for radiotherapy facilities in the region. Recently, candidates for the MacKillop and Mount Gambier electorates met with the memes of the Limestone Coast Radiation Therapy Working Group (LCRTWG) for a closed forum on the topic of radiotherapy services.

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Are Australia's 137 urgent care clinics working?

Aged Care Insite, Other, 12/03/2026, 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.

[Read More](#)

The numbers are in: how in demand Bathurst's new health service has been

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 12/03/2026, Rachel Chamberlain

The Bathurst Medicare Urgent Care Clinic is proving to be a valuable health resource, with significant demand seen in its first months of operation. The clinic, located in Howick Street, opened to the public on December 18, 2025 after a promise from the federal government to boost healthcare services by providing urgent care clinics across the country.

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'Decisions are made in Wagga while our communities pay the price'

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 12/03/2026, Allan Wilson

"I have seen a degradation of services at the hospital and I want to make sure we can get things back up to scratch." Those are the words of former Griffith Base Hospital nurse Carolyn Groat who was one of about 40 who participated in a health district rally on Thursday, March 12.

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POPULATION HEALTH

In poor suburbs, five-year-old runaways are couch surfing, headed for prison

The Australian, General News, 13/03/2026, Paige Taylor, Page 8

Children as young as five have been identified as being on the path to prison in some of the poorest urban areas of Western Australia, where the Indigenous incarceration rate among adults is the highest in the nation and climbing. [...] Testing for middle ear infections and associated hearing loss is standard in the pilot program because according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare these infections are common, difficult for parents and carers to detect, and can cause children to fall behind fast in the first years of primary school.

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

Secret underground bunker in huge tobacco bust

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/03/2026, Charlie Dadds, Page 5

A woman from Britain has been charged in South Australia in the first stage of a nationwide illegal tobacco crackdown that allegedly uncovered millions of dollars in cash and cigarettes. In the first official Australian Border Force operation of its kind, officers throughout Queensland and SA allegedly unearthed three million illicit cigarettes, more than 327kg of loose-leaf tobacco, 22,000 vaping devices and more than \$2.1m cash.

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The common hospital issue you've never heard of

Canberra Times, General News, 13/03/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 16

Alex (not his real name) had no history of mental illness or illicit drug use when he was admitted to a Canberra hospital with "thoughts of grandeur" and severe delusions with "religious connotations". The 39-year-old had felt like "something just wasn't quite right" with his thinking in the days before.

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

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Alarm at child ADHD rates

Herald Sun, Editorials, 13/03/2026, Page 30

Almost 10 per cent of primary-aged boys are now being medicated for ADHD. [...] Nearly one in 10 boys aged five to 11 is now on ADHD medication, with 200,000 boys issued with 1.7 million prescriptions a year, according to figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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'Really debilitating': new research as Hunter dementia cases climb

Newcastle Herald, Other, 12/03/2026, Jessica Belzycki

As dementia cases rise year on year in the Hunter, a Newcastle researcher is hoping to change the lives of people living with a rare, "debilitating" form of the disease. [...] The peak dementia body sourced its data projections from modelling by the National Centre for Monitoring Dementia at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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ADHD drugs have 'life-changing' benefits – but patients warn of terrifying side-effects including panic and paranoia

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/03/2026, Susie O'Brien

Neurodivergent adults and parents are warning of "scary" side-effects linked to popular ADHD and anxiety drugs that make some feel like a "zombie". [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare figures show the most common ADHD prescriptions are for drugs classed as dexamfetamine.

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

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New tobacco laws pass to shut down illicit tobacco shops Cook Government's crackdown underway

West Australian, Other, 12/03/2026, Jessica Page

Retailers caught peddling cheap cigarettes or illegal vapes are being warned they'll soon be shut down, after new tobacco laws passed State Parliament on Thursday. The Opposition is claiming credit for forcing the Cook Government to toughen its laws sooner rather than later, in the wake of a string of shootings and fire-bombings linked to a turf war over the illegal trade.

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The Australian Medical Association's 2026 public hospital report card states that the nation's healthcare facilities are trapped in a cycle of crisis. While there were marginal improvements in some wait times, overall performance remained significantly lower than a decade.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Autism spectrum is broken, says expert who defined it

The Australian, General News, 13/03/2026, Madeleine Spence, Page 7

When Dame Uta Frith began researching autism six decades ago, it was an extremely rare, little-understood condition which psychologists referred to as "childhood psychosis". That was in 1966, and over the following decades she would play a central role in changing how the world sees the disorder.

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The talk is to calm down, but the actions are to pull emergency lever

West Australian, General News, 13/03/2026, Aaron Patrick, Page 8

If Australia doesn't have a fuel crisis, why has Energy Minister Chris Bowen pulled the emergency lever? On Thursday Bowen said petrol standards would be lowered for 60 days to permit higher levels of sulphur, a chemical linked to respiratory illnesses, heart disease, stroke and lung cancer.

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Candidates talk on radiotherapy

Border Watch, General News, 13/03/2026, Page 10

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Expert warns deadly cancer isn't just a smoker's disease after Mel McLaughlin's shock diagnosis

7news.com.au, Other, 12/03/2026, Aimee Edwards

Australians are being urged to rethink what they know about lung cancer after Seven Sport presenter Mel McLaughlin revealed she is recovering from major surgery following a shock diagnosis despite never smoking. The beloved sports journalist told 7NEWS she was diagnosed with lung cancer in December and underwent surgery that removed half her lung.

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Pharmacists push to help move kidney health 'levers'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 12/03/2026, Megan Haggan

On World Kidney Day, the PSA has thrown its support behind Kidney Health Australia as it unveils its mandate for urgent action to change the trajectory of kidney disease in Australia.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 12/03/2026, Peter Mitchell

Seven sports presenter Mel McLaughlin has announced that she is battling lung cancer despite being a lifetime non-smoker. More than 15,000 people were diagnosed with the disease last year, and almost 9,000 of them died. Lung Foundation Australia chair Professor Lucy Morgan says lung cancer is Australia's most deadly cancer, with the national screening program mainly targeting smokers over 50.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 12/03/2026, Max Futcher and Sarah Greenhalgh

Queensland is making pharmacy prescribing permanent. Two trials allowed trained pharmacists to treat everyday health conditions like ear infections, acne, and eczema, and also prescribe birth control. A trial for treating cardiovascular disease and asthma will continue until next year and then be evaluated. More than 135 community pharmacists from Cairns to the Gold Coast are taking part.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 12/03/2026, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

A new device to fix failing hearts is being tested on Australian patients in a world-first trial. It is providing hope when there are no other ways to treat their severe disease. Nine patients around the world have now been fitted with the device, including three from Australia who have made a remarkable recovery.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 12/03/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Lung Foundation Australia chair Professor Lucy Morgan. Morgan says more than 450,000 Australians are living with lung cancer today, urging people not to ignore unexplained symptoms like a persistent or painful cough or blood in the cough. She notes that lung cancer has multiple contributing risks, including smoking and genetics.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Dying for diesel

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/03/2026, Rebecca Morse, Page 1

West Coast farming communities are battling grief and despair after a tragic string of deaths, as the fuel crisis is set to worsen their woes. In an effort to convince the state government to extend the drought relief loans package to his region, Streaky Bay Mayor Travis Barber has spoken out as his community reels from six suicides.

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Making scents of PTSD

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/03/2026, Phoebe Griffiths, Page 9

Could lavender oil be the next breakthrough treatment for Australians living with posttraumatic stress disorder? A new study by Deakin University and Phoenix Australia is investigating whether silexan, a lavender oil medication currently used to treat anxiety and depression, could provide a breakthrough treatment for PTSD sufferers particularly those who haven't responded to existing therapies.

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

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Momentum Mental Health launches program to tackle root causes of youth crime

The Courier Mail, Other, 12/03/2026, Michael Nolan

A mental health service that lost \$680,000 in funding has bounced back with a new mission to break the cycle of youth crime that has trapped too many Toowoomba families. Nine months after a \$680,000 funding cut forced Momentum Mental Health to lay off staff, the centre has pivoted to supporting youth offenders.

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

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IMMUNISATION

Measles warning

Shepparton News, General News, 13/03/2026, Page 4

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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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

'Chaos' amid Sydney hospital IT outage

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/03/2026, Angus Thomson, Page 19

Sick children had surgeries postponed and staff were forced to revert to pen and paper after a major IT outage at Sydney's two paediatric hospitals. The Children's Hospital at Westmead and the Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick declared code yellow emergencies on Wednesday afternoon due to technical issues affecting phone lines and internet connections within the hospital network.

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ED wait times worst in a decade, AMA

Courier Mail, General News, 13/03/2026, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 6

Half of Queenslanders are waiting in emergency departments for more than four hours the worst result in a decade, a new report has found. Patients going through the state's emergency departments are not being discharged or admitted to hospital within the nationally agreed four hour target, a figure that the Australian Medical Association (AMA) says highlights serious challenges with hospital flow and capacity.

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

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Teenager sent home to die

Courier Mail, General News, 13/03/2026, Kelsey Reid, Page 22

An 18-year-old apprentice fitter who went to a Queensland hospital for help with a bad fever and a rash was sent home only to die of meningococcal three days later. Rylan Gold's parents will now have to wait for a coroner's report which they hope will tell them if quicker action by the hospital would have made a difference or not.

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Safety red flag ignored

Courier Mail, General News, 13/03/2026, Patrick Billings, Page 23

Child safety services underestimated the risk posed to a young girl, who would later be killed by her parents and members of an unhinged cult-like group, by allowing her to be discharged from hospital into the family home, a coroner has heard. Counsel Assisting the Coroner Simon Hamlyn-Harris said medical staff offered stiff opposition to Elizabeth Rose Struhs being returned to her Toowoomba home after she nearly died from diabetes complications in 2019 due to the mother's known reluctance to seek medical treatment.

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

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Health gaffe a chance for opposition to attack

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/03/2026, David Penberthy, Page 13

Covering this state election has been like waiting for a cyclone to land. Let's call it Cyclone Pauline. We all know we are in for a wild night.

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48 hours like this

West Australian, General News, 13/03/2026, Jessica Page, Page 1

For 48 painful hours, grandmother Elsie Gribben was one of at least three elderly patients left in this Midland hospital corridor without proper treatment and cut off from visitors. Mrs Gribben's family said the ordeal was simply "inhumane" and their outrage was shared by staff at the public emergency department of St John of God Midland.

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'Inhumane' as a sick grandmother left in corridor

West Australian, General News, 13/03/2026, Jessica Page, Page 4

It's a sight that shouldn't be familiar and Elsie Gribben's family say they were "appalled and disgusted" that she was one of at least three elderly patients left in a hospital corridor in Midland. The 88-year-old is the latest face of a health system that's buckling under growing pressure, even before winter.

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'Cycle of crisis': emergency stress grows

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 13/03/2026, Allannah Sciberras, Page 4

Sick patients are facing record waiting times in public hospital emergency departments, with data showing performance has slumped to its worst level on record. Patients needing immediate care are not being triaged fast enough, with only 50 per cent treated and discharged within four hours, according to the Australian Medical Association's 2026 Public Hospital Report Card.

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

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Tragic death after the 'flu'

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/03/2026, Kelsey Reid, Page 22

Family and friends have paid tribute to a popular 18-year-old apprentice fitter and champion shooter as the coroner investigates his shocking death. Sunshine Coast teen Rylan Gold passed away on March 5 after contracting meningococcal meningitis, which started with flu-like symptoms the Sunday before.

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Queensland emergency departments hit 10-year low, report shows

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 12/03/2026, Courtney Kruk

The percentage of Queenslanders seen within the recommended four-hour timeframe after presenting to emergency has hit a 10-year low, a new report on public hospital performance has found. The Australian Medical Association's 2026 Public Hospital Report Card, released on Thursday, measured the performance of hospitals across each state and territory.

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'Community deserves clarity' on secret report into Albury Wodonga Health

The Border Mail, Other, 12/03/2026, Anthony Bunn

Three Border politicians want the Victorian Health Minister to release recommendations from a report into the workplace culture of Albury Wodonga Health. A review by watchdog Safer Care Victoria resulted in Albury Wodonga Health announcing on Thursday March 12 that it would be adopting all of its recommendations.

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Albury Wodonga Health management facing new crisis after fresh action

The Border Mail, Other, 12/03/2026, Anthony Bunn

The lack of faith from medicos in Albury Wodonga Health has been further underlined with a new vote of no confidence in the management of the Twin Cities hospitals. Members of the Border Medical Association and the Albury Wodonga Health Senior Medical Staff Association met on the evening of Wednesday, March 11.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 12/03/2026, Yvonne Yong

The Australian Medical Association says South Australian patients seeking emergency care and urgent surgery face some of the longest delays in the country. The public hospital report card for 2024-25 found that half of emergency department presentations were completed in four hours or less, a near-worst-in-class performance. Despite more hospital beds, it found that only 44 per cent of urgent ED patients were seen on time, a slight improvement from the year before.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 12/03/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry

Queensland ED performances have fallen to a new low, with data revealing that only half of all patients are being cleared within the recommended time. The Australian Medical Association's public health report card has shown that increasing demand is putting major strains on the system. Only 50 per cent of all Queensland patients were being discharged from the ED or admitted to hospital within the recommended four hours.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 12/03/2026, Kate Freebairn

A new AMA report has revealed that patients in SA hospitals are facing some of the longest delays in the country. The latest public hospital report card has shown that 44 per cent of urgent emergency cases were seen within the 30-minute target last year, well below the national average of 60 per cent, while 59 per cent of urgent elective surgeries were performed within the recommended timeframe. The SA Government admits the findings are concerning but says it's invested more than what was promised at the last election.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 12/03/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with AMA NT President Dr John Zorbas. The latest 2026 Public Hospital Report Card from AMA shows that the NT is in urgent need of additional federal funding to address the health crisis.

Zorbas says they are working closely with the state government and health department to inform them of the issues and possible solutions to the healthcare system. He claims that the NT needs more fair health funding and a more efficient healthcare system.

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

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 12/03/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with AMA ACT president Dr Kerrie Aust. The Australian Medical Association's public hospital report card has revealed that wait times for both emergency department treatment and for elective surgery are worse than a decade ago. Aust says there has been a long-term stretch in the healthcare system across states. She adds that while ACT is worse on surgical wait times compared to other states, there has been an improvement in the four-hour rule in the state, which checks whether or not patients are seen in the ED within four hours of arriving.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 12/03/2026, Leon Delaney

The Australian Medical Association has released its latest Public Hospital Report Card, revealing that waiting times for treatment in emergency departments and planned surgeries are longer than a decade ago. It comes as the ACT Government is conducting a review of the territory's unique nurse-led walk-in centres.

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2CC, Breakfast, 12/03/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

The Australian Medical Association's 2026 public hospital report card states that the nation's healthcare facilities are trapped in a cycle of crisis. While there were marginal improvements in some wait times, overall performance remained significantly lower than a decade.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

ABC News, News Breakfast, 12/03/2026, James Glenday and Emma Rebellato

The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association has issued an urgent call for reform following a new report that reveals occupational violence has reached a "systemic and widespread" crisis level. The 2025 survey of more than 1,300 frontline staff found that 88 per cent had been victims of or witnesses to aggression in the past year, up from 80 per cent six years ago.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 12/03/2026, Hamish Macdonald

Nearly 90 per cent of nurses and midwives say they experienced violence at work last year, according to a New South Wales Nurses and Midwives Association survey of 1,300 nurses conducted over six months in 2025. At least 30 per cent say they experienced physical violence more than 10 times compared to 2 per cent six years ago.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 12/03/2026, Craig Reucassel

Interview with NSW Nurses and Midwives Association General Secretary Michael Whaites. Compere mentions that a report showing that violence against nurses and midwives has surged in the last six years. Whaites points out that some factors are contributing to this. He states that more often than not, this occurs as there are not enough staff on shift and patient expectations have not been met.

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Medical association warns of generational harm to staff

Border Mail, General News, 13/03/2026, Anthony Bunn, Page 2

The Border Medical Association has warned of "generational harm" being done to Albury Wodonga Health staff through the treatment of emergency department doctor David Clancy. The call follows members of the association and the Albury Wodonga Health Senior Medical Staff Association unanimously passing a vote of no confidence in the executive of Albury Wodonga Health.

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Health service makes pledge on reform

Border Mail, General News, 13/03/2026, Anthony Bunn, Page 2

Albury Wodonga Health has committed to improving leadership after a secret report found cultural shortcomings at the troubled hospital service. The communications department of the Twin Cities hospital administrator issued a media release yesterday outlining its response to a workplace culture review undertaken by health industry overseer Safer Care Victoria.

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

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83 nurses to boost hospital

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 13/03/2026, Page 12

Eighty-three new nurses will begin at the Toowoomba Hospital later this month, as part of efforts to boost the regional medical workforce. Part of Darling Downs Health's Early Career Pathway Program, the intake is made up of a diverse group who will deliver care to patients and support clinical teams over the next year.

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More than 100 doctors file no-confidence vote in regional health service executive management

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2026, Erin Somerville

More than 100 doctors on the Victoria–New South Wales border have met to pass a vote of no confidence in Albury Wodonga Health's executive leadership and threatened to push for an independent inquiry into governance concerns. The vote on Wednesday night follows the controversial suspension of the hospital's head of emergency last week, against the backdrop of an unpopular \$558 million redevelopment of the Albury Hospital.

[Read More](#)

No trading dispensing fees for full scope: Twomey

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 12/03/2026

Dispensing fees must not be sacrificed to expand pharmacists' scope of practice, Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president, Professor Trent Twomey says.

[Read More](#)

Chronic illness fears: Mater staff speak out on daily mould exposure

Newcastle Herald, Other, 12/03/2026, Damon Cronshaw

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 on Friday for the parliamentary inquiry into management, maintenance and operational issues at the Mater.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

See, weed can stop gastro in its tracks

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/03/2026, Duncan Evans, Page 3

Scientists have found a potential cure for the dreaded gastro bug - and it lies in seaweed. Aussie biotech company Marinova and Queensland's Griffith University say they may have found a way to stop gastro in its tracks and it doesn't involve drugs or needles.

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

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Overseas travel ramps up measles cases

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/03/2026, Elliot Stewart, Page 10

A surge in measles cases in NSW has been largely driven by overseas travel, with health authorities warning people to check their vaccination status before heading abroad. New data published by NSW Health shows there were 60 measles cases reported across the state between January 1, 2025 and March 7, 2026.

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Residents and travellers urged to protect against mosquito-borne viruses detected in Kimberley

West Australian, Other, 12/03/2026

Kimberley residents are being warned to take extra precautions when it comes to bug bites after the potentially debilitating Ross River and Barmah Forest viruses were detected in mosquitos across multiple locations in the region. The two viruses were detected through the Department of Health surveillance program which act as an early warning system for mosquito-borne virus activity.

[Read More](#)

NSW measles cases surge, linked to Southeast Asia travel and adult infections

NEWS.com.au, Other, 12/03/2026, Andrew Hedgman

A highly contagious disease is making a comeback in Australia, sparking urgent warnings from health authorities. NSW Health has sounded the alarm after a new report revealed a surge in measles cases

in the state, with the majority linked to overseas travel, particularly to Southeast Asia.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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St Basil's Homes for the Aged in Vic fined for COVID-19 breaches

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/03/2026, Caroline Egan

The Victorian Not For Profit aged care provider has been sentenced for failing to provide a safe working environment during a 2020 COVID-19 outbreak. On Wednesday (11 March), Victoria's County Court fined St Basil's Homes for the Aged in Victoria \$150,000 for failing to provide specialised information, instruction, training or supervision about the donning and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE) to five employees between 13 March and 12 July 2020.

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\$150,000 fine for 45 deaths: Families outraged over 'inadequate' aged care penalty

Your Life Choices, Other, 12/03/2026, Don Turrobia

When 45 older residents died from COVID-19 complications at a Melbourne nursing home within a single month, their families hoped justice would reflect the scale of the tragedy. Instead, they're calling a \$150,000 fine a 'joke'.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 12/03/2026, Mark Burrows

NSW Health has confirmed two new measles cases in the state, with one of them acquired locally. In the last three months, 26 cases have been detected, a rate that experts say has been increasing year on year since the pandemic. Health authorities are now linking a surge in measles cases to overseas trips, especially to Southeast Asia.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Cops nab millions of illegal smokes

Courier Mail, General News, 13/03/2026, Shayla Bulloch, Page 5

More than 2 million cigarettes and \$2m in cash has been seized by authorities in Queensland in a major illicit tobacco operation putting a dent in the market. [...] The operation was a joint venture with the Australian Federal Police, Queensland Police Service, Therapeutic Goods Administration, the Australian Taxation Office, Queensland Health, and others.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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Why IV drips are surging in popularity in Australia's wellness space

ABC Online, Other, 12/03/2026, Charmayne Allison

Bek Walter sits in a softly lit clinic in the Gold Coast's north while a bag of fluid slowly drips into her vein through a tube. [...] In 2023, the TGA handed Drip IV Australia a \$160,000 fine for describing the infusions as "miraculous" and making claims about cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

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Can a \$1000 LED face mask really make you look younger?

Australian Financial Review, Other, 12/03/2026, Sam Irvine

In the era of TikTok and "looksmaxing" – a Gen Z term for the process of maximising one's physical

attractiveness – people are increasingly willing to partake in strange rituals for a better complexion.

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'An uncontrolled science experiment.' The truth about the peptides trend.

Mamamia, Other, 12/03/2026, Erin Docherty

Scroll long enough and it stops feeling fringe. It starts feeling strategic. [...] In Australia, legitimate peptide medications go through rigorous clinical trials and Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approval — including synthetic insulins and GLP-1 receptor agonists like semaglutide.

[Read More](#)

New form of Vyvgart for gMG

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 12/03/2026

Global immunology company Argenx has announced that Vyvgart (efgartigimod alfa and hyaluronidase) pre-filled syringe has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for the treatment of adult patients with generalised myasthenia gravis (gMG). Already available as an intravenous infusion, the pre-filled syringe offers the convenience of self administration, or it can be administered by a caregiver or healthcare professional.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

The talk is to calm down, but the actions are to pull emergency lever

West Australian, General News, 13/03/2026, Aaron Patrick, Page 8

If Australia doesn't have a fuel crisis, why has Energy Minister Chris Bowen pulled the emergency lever? On Thursday Bowen said petrol standards would be lowered for 60 days to permit higher levels of sulphur, a chemical linked to respiratory illnesses, heart disease, stroke and lung cancer.

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