



# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 14th March 2026

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that a collaboration between a dog owner, a chatbot and medical scientists has resulted in the creation of an experimental medicine that offers hope to human cancer patients by using mRNA vaccines in oncology.
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 1) reports that a 31-year-old man was found dead in his room at Geelong's Swanston Centre, with the neighbouring patient allegedly responsible for the killing, highlighting safety concerns around shared bathrooms in the acute ward.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 4) reports that the RACGP has warned plans to expand access to contraceptives could put women's health at risk. Health Minister Mark Butler said "With most states now offering pharmacy-prescribed contraception, it is important we ensure it is consistent across the country," and "Our government now has an obligation to ensure that access is affordable and equitable for women."
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that Ambulance Victoria is set to face defamation action in the Supreme Court following allegations staff leaked false information to bring about the sacking of a senior executive.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that WA Premier Roger Cook has described the use of hospital corridors as spaces to treat elderly patients as "not ideal" but a "normal" part of flexing to meet demand.

- [The West Australian](#) (page 2) reports that the Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved a needle-free nasal spray treatment for anaphylaxis.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### GP body slams 'reckless' pill plan

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/03/2026, Nathan Schmidt, Page 4

[...] On Friday, Mr Butler revealed he has since asked the Department of Health to begin work on implementing the trial, outside of the PBS, that would enable concession card holders aged 18-55 to access pharmacy-prescribed contraceptives and some UTI antibiotics at the concession rate of \$7.70. The trial will run for 12 months and is expected to begin in January 2027.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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### White elephant fears for centre

Canberra Times, General News, 14/03/2026, Megan Doherty, Page 5

A decade ago, Yvonne Cuschieri and her friends sat in the Riverside Plaza shopping centre in Queanbeyan, collecting signatures for a petition calling on governments to build a respite care facility for young people with chronic or terminal illnesses who otherwise ended up in aged care homes. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler also wrote to the board late last year saying there are "currently no grant opportunities available to support respite care facilities for adults aged 16-60".

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### From the archives

Geelong Independent, General News, 13/03/2026, Page 12

The Geelong Independent looks back through the pages of our archives. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler announced on Tuesday, March 11, that the new clinic would provide urgent care for the region.

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### Bulk-billed urgent care clinic launches in Nowra

South Coast Register, General News, 14/03/2026, Glenn Ellard, Page 2

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

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### Crime's corner store

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 14/03/2026, Andrew McKaysmith, Page 1

Organised interstate crime syndicates are strangling North Queensland's retail sector, leaving veteran business owners fearing for their lives and their livelihoods. [...] The veteran retailer warned Health Minister Mark Butler and Treasurer Jim Chalmers of the legal market's impending collapse early in the crisis.

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### 'This is a terrific improvement to access and affordability'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/03/2026

From 1 January 2027, women will be able to access government-funded pharmacist-prescribed oral contraceptives and antibiotics for uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs). Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing, Mark Butler, announced that the Department was moving forward with the trial, which was announced as part of the government's women's...

## Help, I'm trapped in the Black Hole of Blah Blah Blah

Health Services Daily, Other, 13/03/2026, Cate Swannell

A few months ago you couldn't get the states to shut up about hospital funding. [...] The shouty politicians – looking at you, Tim Nicholls – were very happy to yell talking points at Mark Butler, but have no clue about the actual mechanisms at play?

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## Gilead loses court battle against Butler

MedNews, Other, 13/03/2026, Megan Brodie

Federal Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler has successfully defended...

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## Free Govt CBT service bypasses GP for mild mental illness

The Limbic, Other, 13/03/2026, Geir O'Rourke

Australia's first Medicare-funded low-intensity mental health service is now live, offering free digital support and online cognitive behavioural therapy to anyone over 16 without a GP referral. [...] "Medicare Mental Health Check In will help people early before their problems get worse and they need more intensive clinical care," says Health Minister Mark Butler.

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## Federal gov't to fund nationwide pharmacist contraceptives trial

The Medical Republic, Other, 13/03/2026, Holly Payne

Pharmacist-led prescribing has cleared yet another hurdle on its journey to official, mainstream status in the form of federal funding for a national contraceptive and UTI prescribing trial. Speaking at the Australasian Pharmacy Professionals (APP) conference at the Gold Coast on Friday, federal health minister Mark Butler confirmed that scripts written by community pharmacists would be subsidised to the same level as those written by PBS-eligible prescribers from January 2027.

[Read More](#)

## Twomey doubles down on pharmacy going autonomous on prescribing S2-8

The Medical Republic, Other, 13/03/2026, Jeremy Knibbs

In his usual Baptist-preacher-from-the-pulpit style, Pharmacy Guild president Trent Twomey this week made the centrepiece of his opening plenary to the largest annual gathering of pharmacists in the country – the Australian Pharmacy Professional conference on the Gold Coast – the idea that pharmacists should be given the ability to "autonomously" prescribe and sell Schedule 2, 4 and 8 drugs within the foreseeable future. [...] The next day our federal health minister Mark Butler had to pay his respects to the Guild as well by delivering the morning plenary.

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## Medicare Urgent Care Clinic now open in Mackay

WEB The Mackay Minute, Other, 13/03/2026

A new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic has opened in Mackay, offering walk-in treatment for urgent but non-life-threatening conditions. [...] Minister for Health Mark Butler said the new facility will improve access to care in the region. [...] The facility was officially opened by Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride and Assistant Minister for Northern Australia Senator Nita Green.

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## Channel 7, Sunrise, 13/03/2026, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Panel discussion with Health Minister Mark Butler and Deputy Opposition Leader Jane Hume. Butler highlights the importance of increasing public health literacy following the lung cancer diagnosis of Seven Network presenter Mel McLaughlin, a lifelong non-smoker. He encourages Australians with

persistent symptoms or a family history of the disease to consult their doctors for CT scan referrals, noting that the national screening program is currently targeted at high-risk smokers aged over 50.

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## **ABC Goldfields WA, Breakfast, 13/03/2026, Ivo Da Silva**

Panel discussion with local GP Dr Mal Hodsdon and former Shire of Boulder president Doug Daws on the news of the week. Ivo Da Silva notes the Rural Doctors Association of Australia says a boost in the number of placements for student doctors needs to be paired with more supervisors following Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement that the Federal Government will support 50 new medical student placements at universities from 2028. Hodgson suggests that the addition of 50 placements nationwide by 2028 is insufficient and argues for higher quality training standards to ensure regional health care remains viable.

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## **MINISTER MCALLISTER**

### **Canberra father shocked by sudden closure of specialist autism early intervention centre**

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2026, Charlie Gore

It was 4:30pm on a Wednesday when Canberran Ben Paine found out his daughter's combined childcare and specialist autism early intervention centre would not open the next day, or ever again. [...] A spokesperson for NDIS minister Jenny McAllister says the NDIA and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission will continue to ensure participants receive the supports they need.

[Read More](#)

### **ABC, ABC News, 13/03/2026, Greg Jennett**

Dozens of families with autistic children are scrambling to find alternative care following the collapse of charity the AEIOU Foundation. The not-for-profit closed its critical childcare centre in Garon and others in Queensland and South Australia blaming funding shortfalls. A spokesperson for NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the NDIA will continue to ensure participants receive the support they need, but said business decisions are a matter for individual organisations.

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### **Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 13/03/2026, Tom Connell**

Interview with Aruma CEO Martin Laverty. Laverty states that the delay of the Thriving Kids program until October is reasonable because implementation details are not yet finalised and some states, such as Queensland, have not signed on. He warns that the initiative's potential will be wasted if state governments use the annual \$4b in combined funding to cost-shift onto existing programmes rather than introducing new services.

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### **ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 13/03/2026, Steve Austin**

Interview with Envision Disability Service Operations Manager Saskia Smith on the collapse of the AEIOU Foundation. Smith says the State Government and the Federal Government are shifting blame to each other as the sector struggles. Austin reads a statement from Federal Minister NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister, which says New South Wales South Australia Tasmania, Northern Territory and the ACT have so far signed the Thriving Kids Bilateral. Smith does not believe the Thriving Kids program will not give children the best support they need in community support because there is no increased funding.

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## MINISTER RAE

### **Channel 9, Nine News, 13/03/2026, Brenton Ragless**

Opal HealthCare is being accused of having a two-tiered for aged care resident, charging for some services. Federal Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae has asked the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to investigate immediately.

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### **2BS, Live and Local, 13/03/2026, Damian de Montemas**

Interview with Federal Member for Calare Andrew Gee. Gee discusses his meeting with Minister for Aged Care Sam Ray during which he expressed concerns that transitioning Meals on Wheels into the Support at Home program could see meal costs rise from \$12 to \$69. He is confident that Rae understood the issue and he is optimistic about a positive outcome.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### **Free Govt CBT service bypasses GP for mild mental illness**

The Limbic, Other, 13/03/2026, Geir O'Rourke

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### **Medicare Urgent Care Clinic now open in Mackay**

WEB The Mackay Minute, Other, 13/03/2026

A new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic has opened in Mackay, offering walk-in treatment for urgent but non-life-threatening conditions. [...] Minister for Health Mark Butler said the new facility will improve access to care in the region. [...] The facility was officially opened by Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride and Assistant Minister for Northern Australia Senator Nita Green.

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### **ABC Tropical North, Breakfast, 13/03/2026, Rob Kidd**

Interview with Assistant Minister for Mental Health Emma McBride. McBride says Grand Pacific Health has been selected to operate a new Medicare Mental Health Centre in Mackay, which is expected to open mid-year. She explains the walk-in facility will offer free, non-appointment-based clinical and peer support, as part of a national network of 92 centres designed to reduce barriers like cost and wait times for those experiencing mental distress.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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## DEPARTMENT

### GP body slams 'reckless' pill plan

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/03/2026, Nathan Schmidt, Page 4

[...] On Friday, Mr Butler revealed he has since asked the Department of Health to begin work on implementing the trial, outside of the PBS, that would enable concession card holders aged 18-55 to access pharmacy-prescribed contraceptives and some UTI antibiotics at the concession rate of \$7.70. The trial will run for 12 months and is expected to begin in January 2027.

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### How to live longer: Eight daily habits to reduce your heart attack risk

The Australian, Other, 13/03/2026, Penny Timms

Heart disease remains a leading cause of death in Australia, but there are many things we can do every day to lower our risk of developing it – and to prevent a heart attack. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing suggests adults aim for at least 2.5-5 hours of moderate-intensity physical activity per week.

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### Help, I'm trapped in the Black Hole of Blah Blah Blah

Health Services Daily, Other, 13/03/2026, Cate Swannell

A few months ago you couldn't get the states to shut up about hospital funding. [...] The shouty politicians – looking at you, Tim Nicholls – were very happy to yell talking points at Mark Butler, but have no clue about the actual mechanisms at play?

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Reform 'framework is fine, the way it's played out is the problem'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 13/03/2026, Natasha Egan

The ministers announced \$115 million for aged care capital grants and the target areas of Illawarra, Adelaide, the Hunter and Perth. Is that adequate or missing a few zeros?

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### CHSP transition needs more time, clarity

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 13/03/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Care Connect is having a positive reform experience so far, but CEO Lynda Chalmers says a longer lead time and better understanding of the impacts are crucial before CHSP merges with Support at Home. The transition to the new Aged Care Act has gone "really well," Care Connect chief executive officer Lynda Chalmers tells Australian Ageing Agenda.

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### RACGP calls for funding to embed pharmacists

Redirecting \$5 million of the Tasmanian state budget to embed pharmacists in aged care would deliver better outcomes at no extra cost, says RACGP. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners is calling for \$5 million in Tasmanian government funding to be redirected from the proposed pharmacy scope-of-practice expansion pilot to directly embedding pharmacists into aged care facilities.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 13/03/2026, Craig Reucassel

Interview with National Seniors Australia CEO Chris Grice. Grice condemns a new two-tier service model trialled by Opal Healthcare, which charges residents extra for basic amenities like hot breakfasts and free-to-air television. He argues that the Federal Government's Higher Everyday Living Fees, introduced in November 2025, were intended for true luxuries like yoga or streaming services, not for extorting vulnerable residents by removing TV sets from walls or offering inferior food and coffee to those who cannot pay.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### NDIS staggers under a spectrum

Weekend Australian, General News, 14/03/2026, Angela Shanahan, Page 13

Many readers will have been moved by the story of Maddie Lewis and her parents in The Weekend Australian last month. Maddie is profoundly autistic and the lives of her devoted parents revolve around her care.

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

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### Jigsaw pieces don't fit

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/03/2026, Julie Cross and John Rolfe, Page 30

Angry NDIS participants claim they felt like slaves working at a social enterprise that promised to help them find paid work, while billing the taxpayer tens of millions of dollars in "training fees". Jigsaw runs hubs in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and Canberra, digitalising records for banks, private firms and government agencies.

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

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### Grants to get crash victims back on track

Herald Sun, General News, 14/03/2026, Page 15

Grants worth almost \$1m have been awarded by the TAC to health and disability organisations to help Victorians who have been injured in road accidents. The latest TAC data shows about 3909 people were admitted to hospital after a car crash in Victoria in 2025, staying an average of 14 days.

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### 'We make no apology'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 14/03/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 1

Disability services provider TassieCare says it stands by its decision to financially support sports clubs that mirror its own mission. The company over the past year has provided money to the Devonport City Strikers, the Launceston City Football Club, and two cricket clubs on the North-West Coast.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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### Fight for dignity highlights living crisis

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 14/03/2026, Jessica Greenan, Page 5

Living regionally means up to half of a south-west woman's National Disability Insurance Scheme funding disappears before she even receives support. The 65-year-old, who asked not to be named, is blind and lives about 30 minutes west of Colac in a home she has owned for 30 years.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### GP clinic reprieve

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 14/03/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 20

Private hospital provider Ramsay Health Care says its afterhours GP clinic in Joondalup will not be closing, hours after media reported its future was under review. A Joondalup Health Campus spokeswoman confirmed the clinic would remain open, despite earlier telling The West Australian the service was still under review and refusing to answer specific questions about the future of the centre.

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

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### The numbers are in for new health service

Western Advocate, General News, 14/03/2026, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 6

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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### Future of Joondalup Health Campus after hours GP clinic uncertain

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/03/2026, Hamish Hastie

The Australian Medical Association of WA has raised concerns over the future of the after-hours GP clinic at Joondalup Health Campus after its private owner, Ramsay Healthcare, confirmed it was reviewing its future. WA Today understands Ramsay indicated to staff at the clinic that it would be shut down and the hospital's existing emergency department would pick up the slack.

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### Southern Riverina 'left behind and forgotten', inquiry into Murrumbidgee health district split hears

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2026, Nicola Ceccato

An inquiry examining the impacts of a potential Murrumbidgee Local Health District split took place in Griffith this week. The inquiry heard from community members, doctors and medical associations on issues such as poor communication and lack of services and staff.

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### Government moves on contraception pilot

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/03/2026

Female concession cardholders aged 18-55 years will be able to access pharmacist-prescribed oral contraceptives and antibiotics to treat uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs) at Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prices as part of a federal trial next year. Speaking at the Australasian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) this morning,

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## POPULATION HEALTH

## Ozempic boom is changing the way we shop

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 14/03/2026, Carrie Lafrenz and Simon Evans, Page 21

A phalanx of thinner customers is forcing a rethink of what products are going to sell...

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

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## All smoke, no fire from shonky govt

Herald Sun, General News, 14/03/2026, Steve Price, Page 23

This is a tale of tobacco and taxis and government by press release. Melbourne is the illegal cigarette capital of Australia, with organised crime gangs running rampant, torching retail outlets not controlled by their offshore crime bosses and putting ordinary Victorian lives at risk.

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### 'Holy crap, it worked!': the tech guru, his staffy cross, ChatGPT and a cure for cancer

Weekend Australian, General News, 14/03/2026, Natasha Bitá, Page 1

Riddled with cancer, Rosie the rescue dog had only months to live, until her dogged owner collared a chatbot to collaborate with elite medical scientists in the quest for a cure. Now the hi-tech teamwork has unleashed an experimental medicine that offers hope to human patients, by using mRNA vaccines in oncology.

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

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### New scan lights up prostate cancer

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/03/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 20

A world-first trial of Australian men has confirmed a specialised scan can accurately "light up" prostate cancer, saving unnecessary and painful biopsies and stress of over-diagnosis. Prostate cancer is the second-most common cause of death among Aussie men, claiming more than 3900 lives annually.

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

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### Eye disease breakthrough

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/03/2026, Genevieve Holding, Page 24

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.

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### 'Obvious candidate' took her own life before VAD

Canberra Times, General News, 14/03/2026, Tim Piccione, Page 14

A woman who took her own life would have been an "obvious candidate" for the voluntary assisted dying (VAD) scheme that came into effect two-and-a-half years later in the ACT. Coroner Ian Temby repeated the statement several times throughout the ACT Coroner's Court findings he published on Thursday, about the death of the school teacher and small business owner.

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### Wife reveals her final act to end her husband's cancer suffering through

## Voluntary Assisted Dying

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/03/2026

Stephanie Duran met Jeff Dunphy fresh out of a divorce. They fell in love and everything was perfect, until a cruel cancer diagnosis.

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

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## Lack of access to radiation therapy in east metro 'difficult to justify'

Medical Forum, Other, 13/03/2026

The head of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) has taken aim at policy and funding decisions around radiation therapy in Perth's eastern suburbs, which he said have failed to keep pace with the needs of the community. A year after his predecessor called for the state government to "fix the postcode lottery on radiation therapy", AMA (WA) President Dr Kyle Hoath has called for an inquiry into the absence of publicly funded radiation oncology services in the East Metropolitan and Perth Hills areas.

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## PSA for kidneys

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/03/2026

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has voiced its support for Kidney Health Australia's new national plan to address surging rates of kidney disease, released yesterday on World Kidney Day. The evidence-based paper strongly advocates for the expansion of Home Based Medicine Reviews (HMRs) as a critical screening and diagnostic tool to prevent the progression of kidney disease.

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## 3AW, Breakfast, 13/03/2026, Ross Stevenson and Russel Howcroft

Interview with Sciana CEO Candice Smith. Stevenson notes a new Australian white paper reveals that concussion costs the economy \$1b annually, prompting the launch of an AI-powered 15-minute screening test in community pharmacies. Smith explains that the test uses virtual reality and NeuroFlex technology to provide objective data on the cellular damage caused by head injuries, which often remains hidden or misdiagnosed.

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## 6PR, Afternoons, 13/03/2026

Interview with Patient advocate Heather Edmonds on the Melanoma March event. Morrissey notes Australia has some of the highest rates of melanoma in the world. Edmonds says, encourages community participation in the Perth Melanoma March to fund ongoing research into neoadjuvant therapies that activate the immune system before surgery.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Psychiatric patient shared bathroom with his 'killer'

The Saturday Age, General News, 14/03/2026, Grant McArthur and Melissa Cunningham, Page 1

A man killed in his room at a Geelong psychiatric hospital had been sharing a bathroom with the patient alleged to have killed him, separated only by a flimsy non-locking door. Staff working in the Swanston Centre told The Age the 31-year-old Highton man was found dead in his room with his neighbour standing over his body and broken glass nearby about 2am on February 22.

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## Councils call for help with mental health crisis

Victorian councils have called for urgent action to battle mental ill health, warning that loneliness and disconnection is eroding their local communities from the inside out. The Belonging Matters report from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) warns the state's mental health crisis is worsening despite expenditure of \$3.4 billion.

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## **Katherine floods bring back memories of fatal '98 flooding, victims urged to seek mental health help**

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2026

When Member of the Legislative Assembly Jo Hersey stood up for a media interview about the floods in her home town Katherine last weekend, she had tears in her eyes. "We went through the flood in 1998, and in 2006," she said, wiping her eyes.

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## **Out of the blue? How the colour of light could be used to treat mental illness**

The Guardian, Other, 13/03/2026, Linda Geddes

At first glance, the psychiatric ward in Trondheim looks much like any other unit caring for patients in acute mental distress. But as evening falls, filters descend over the windows, and the lights shift to a soft amber glow.

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## **2CC, Breakfast, 13/03/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo**

Interview with Newscorp Papers national education editor Dr Susie O'Brien. O'Brien reports that one in four school children is currently deemed to require extra support, often due to anxiety, ADHD, or autism. She explains that a new video series from News Corp provides expert and parental perspectives on the jumping off point of diagnosis, medication debates, and the difficulties of navigating mainstream classrooms.

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## **IMMUNISATION**

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## **HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES**

No relevant coverage

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## **HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH**

### **Childhood stroke risk**

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/03/2026, Page 4

New Monash University-led research has for the first time in Australia found that children with an infection in the past 60 days had roughly twice the risk of stroke. While rare, childhood stroke is associated with serious adverse health outcomes, including death and long-term disability.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### **Fast-track ear surgery model transforming access to care in the East Pilbara**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/03/2026, Reece Harley

A fast-tracked ear surgery model being trialled in Western Australia's East Pilbara is showing how culturally safe logistics, local health partnerships and targeted corporate backing can remove one of the most persistent barriers facing children in remote communities: access to specialist care. The Healthy Ears on Country Program, a partnership between Ear Science Institute Australia and BHP, is working alongside Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service (PAMS) to deliver a new Surgical Fast Track model designed to simplify the pathway to ear surgery for children living in some of the most remote communities in Australia.

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### **Low-carb good eating program on Ngarrindjeri Country tackling diabetes and metabolic syndrome**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/03/2026, Jarred Cross

Over one in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live with Type 2 diabetes, more than double the percentage of non-Indigenous Australians. An Aboriginal-led pilot nutrition initiative, informed by cultural knowledge alongside research, will provide insights into how this could change.

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### **Corridor care now 'normal'**

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 14/03/2026, Jessica Page, Page 1

Roger Cook has claimed that treating elderly patients in hospital corridors is "not ideal" but a "normal" part of meeting demand. The Premier made the comments after The West revealed 88-year-old Elsie Gribben spent two days in a corridor at St John of God Midland hospital waiting for scan results to diagnose why she was in such pain she couldn't walk.

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

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### **'Normal' drops hospital care model lower**

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Editorials, 14/03/2026, Page 132

Here's a newsflash. From now on waiting on a trolley in a hospital corridor is considered normal.

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

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### **Canavan backs federal funding for hospital**

Border Mail, General News, 14/03/2026, Hana Humboldt, Page 5

The new Nationals leader says he will be "fighting like hell" for the Border's "fair share of federal government funding" when it comes to hospital redevelopment. Senator Matt Canavan, asked whether the federal government should help fund a new Border hospital, said "there is a very strong case for national investment in Albury health".

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

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### **Emergency wait times blow out for those needing care**

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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## Mater bombshell

Newcastle Herald, General News, 14/03/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

Whistleblower Luke Carroll has accused Honeywell of falsifying records, shredding documents and intimidation amid maintenance failures at the Calvary Mater Newcastle hospital. "It was common knowledge," Mr Carroll said. "Honeywell is a technology company, but everything is done by paper.

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

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## Demo row grows

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 14/03/2026, Paul Weston, Page 1

Bulldozers have begun demolishing sections of the \$2.25bn Coomera Hospital already completed under the previous state government. But Health Minister Tim Nicholls says it's a result of Labor's failed masterplan which had to be redeveloped.

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## Family of grandmother left in Midland hospital corridor for 48 hours lash WA health system

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/03/2026, Hamish Hastie

The daughters of an 88-year-old Perth grandmother forced to spend nearly 48 hours in pain in a hospital corridor at St John of God Midland Hospital have slammed the state of WA's hospital system. Elsie McGribben's family took her to the hospital on Tuesday afternoon after she was complaining of leg pain and picked her up on Thursday afternoon without a diagnosis.

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## New leak at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital as bombshell email reveals operating theatres are being closed

West Australian, Other, 13/03/2026, Jessica Page

Doctors are warning that complex elective surgery will be in limbo as the result of a decision to close two theatres at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital "essentially permanently", according to a leaked email. The memo obtained by The West Australian details plans for a reduced surgery roster at the trauma hospital in Nedlands, and claims it is to free up capacity for the winter strategy that was announced by the Cook Government two weeks ago.

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## Sacked site manager-turned-whistleblower condemns mould-ridden hospital

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2026, Ben Clifford and Giselle Wakatama

Former staff have blown the whistle on "dire" conditions at a New South Wales hospital, including mouldy vents, lax controls separating sewage and drinking water, and the use of sanitary pads to soak up rainwater leaking into wards. One whistleblower also claimed key documents were "shredded" to conceal evidence of maintenance issues at Newcastle's Calvary Mater, something that the hospital denied at the first parliamentary inquiry hearing held on Friday.

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## Australian hospitals on alert after Iranian hackers attack medical technology company Stryker

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2026, Danny Tran

Hospitals across the nation are on alert after an Iranian cyber militia with reported links to the Islamic

Republic hacked a US multinational that supplies critical equipment to Australia. Shortly after midnight on Thursday, hackers from the Handala group announced they had attacked Stryker, a Fortune 500 company known for its medical and surgical equipment.

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## **SA Premier Peter Malinauskas apologises for failing to deliver on his promise to 'fix the ramping crisis'**

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2026, Stephanie Richards

South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas says there is "no shirking the fact" his government has failed to deliver on its key election promise to fix the ramping crisis — a failure for which he has apologised. In an interview with ABC's Stateline, Mr Malinauskas also reflected on a "mistake" caused by Health Minister Chris Picton's office sending journalists an email it claimed was from a terminal cancer patient praising the public health system.

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## **'A decade of neglect and cover-ups': health union takes aim at Honeywell over Mater**

Newcastle Herald, Other, 13/03/2026, Damon Cronshaw

Cover-ups, intimidation, bullying and retaliation allegedly occurred over mould and maintenance failures at the Calvary Mater Newcastle. The Health Services Union (HSU) detailed these claims in a submission to the parliamentary inquiry into operational issues at the Mater hospital.

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## **Dad's Mater death: 'We were never told of any kind of mould infestation'**

Newcastle Herald, Other, 13/03/2026, Damon Cronshaw

Bradley North's daughter suspects mould may have been a factor in her dad's death from pneumonia in the Calvary Mater Newcastle. "It's fishy," said Taylor North, of Ashtonfield.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### **Which unis best for GPs**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/03/2026, Page 30

New analysis has revealed which universities are performing best to train GPs for metropolitan, rural, and remote communities. The study, using data from the Royal Australian College of GPs and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, found that the top universities by percentage of cohort who enrolled in GP training in 2025 were James Cook University (52 per cent), the University of Notre Dame Australia Fremantle (50.5 per cent), and the University of Wollongong (45.6 per cent).

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### **Top ambo in lawsuit**

Herald Sun, General News, 14/03/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Ambulance Victoria is set to be dragged through court amid allegations staff leaked false information to orchestrate the sacking of a senior executive. Former clinical operations executive director Danielle North was sacked in the fallout of the illegal Covid gathering scandal. But in Supreme Court defamation

action Ms North has alleged she was made a "scapegoat" as senior leaders grappled to handle the crisis.

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## Honesty the best policy: we have a right to know

Border Mail, General News, 14/03/2026, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

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 that it would be adopting all of its recommendations.

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## Calvary Mater Hospital parliamentary inquiry held in Newcastle hears claims of bullying and intimidation

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/03/2026

Explosive claims have come out of a parliamentary inquiry regarding Newcastle's second largest hospital of bullying, intimidation, falsifying documents and ignoring repeated pleas from staff flagging critical safety and health issues. The investigation into the Calvary Mater Hospital stems from claims of long standing maintenance, operational and management failures, brought to the surface after mould was discovered in the hospital's cancer ward last year and a shocking maggot infestation.

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

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## Report shows Albury Wodonga Health controversy fuelled staff 'distrust'

ABC Online, Other, 13/03/2026, Erin Somerville

An independent review of workplace issues at Albury Wodonga Health has found controversy around the redevelopment of a local hospital is "fuelling dissatisfaction and distrust". A Safer Care Victoria review was ordered last year by Albury Wodonga Health into its emergency and surgical departments over increasing concerns relating to "escalating medical workforce behaviours", their impact on employee wellbeing, and service quality and safety.

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## Growing rates of violence against nurses, midwives and carers: NSW report

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 13/03/2026, Natalie Dragon

Occupational violence towards nurses and midwives has surged in the last six years, according to a report released by the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA). The 'Occupational Violence: has no place in my workplace' report uncovered startling findings, highlighting the prevalence of violence and aggression among nurses, midwives and carers in their workplaces.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Keep meds cheap

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/03/2026

Australians have saved over \$30 million since medicine became cheaper at the start of the year ( ), the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has revealed. The maximum cost of a PBS prescription fell to \$25, marking the second co-payment reduction in the history of the PBS.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Care for deceased man was 'adequate'

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 14/03/2026, Allan Murphy, Page 1

A coroner has exonerated paramedics, hospital staff and the Department for Correctional Services over the care provided to a former Merbein man whose compliance with medication for health ailments was described as "variable". Forty-one-year-old Leslie George Lowery, who changed his name to Nahual Sebastian Lowery in adulthood, died on 24 January 2022 from acute liver failure, contributed to by progressive Castleman's disease.

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Warning for Aussies heading to popular tourist destination amid surge in measles cases

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 13/03/2026

Authorities have sounded the alarm after a new report revealed a surge in measles cases in one Australian state—with the majority of cases linked to overseas travel, particularly to Southeast Asia. 60 cases of the highly contagious disease were reported to NSW Health between the 1 January 2025 and the 7 March 2026, with 32 of those cases linked to travel in Southeast Asia.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Spray passes sniff test

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 14/03/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 2

A needle-free treatment for anaphylaxis is now available in Australia, providing an alternative for those hesitant to administer a needle when someone is suffering a severe allergic reaction. The nasal spray Neffy has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration marking the first alternative anaphylaxis treatment to EpiPens and Anapens in the country in more than three decades.

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

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### Queensland's illegal tobacco trade smashed as police seize \$2.2m cash and 2m cigarettes

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/03/2026, Shayla Bulloch

More than two million cigarettes and \$2 million in cash has been seized by authorities in Queensland in a major illicit tobacco operation, putting a dent in the market. [...] Agencies involved in the operation also included Australian Federal Police, Queensland Police Service, Therapeutic Goods Administration, the Australian Taxation Office, Queensland Health, and other agencies.

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

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## Friend not foe: ASX health imaging firms see opportunity in AI

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/03/2026, Nadine Mcgrath

ASX health imaging firms see AI as an opportunity, not a threat, with growth potential intact Pro Medicus caught up in tech sell-off as investors question impact of AI [...] "In Australia, the TGA regulates anything used for serious disease diagnosis."

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

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Australia may ban infant formula advertising. Here's what the online ads actually say

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 13/03/2026

Recently, the federal government released a consultation paper seeking input on whether it should introduce legislation to prevent or restrict infant formula marketing in Australia. The consultation is open for submissions until April 10.

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## AICIS

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