



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 29th March 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sunday Telegraph](#) (page 8) reports that the Federal Government have announced that the treatment range of a crucial immunotherapy drug, available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, will be expanded, resulting in 10,000 patients gaining access to PBS-subsidised cancer medication.
- The [Sunday Telegraph](#) (page 19) reports that Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, has advised aged care participants who believe they have been subjected to excessive fees to report the matter to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. Mr Rae highlighted the Federal Government's commitment to monitoring the equitability of recently enacted aged care reforms. *Also reported by:* [Sunday Telegraph](#)
- [ABC Online](#) (online) reports that NDIS Minister Mark Butler has stated that the structure of the Thriving Kids program will be finalised once all state and territory jurisdictions sign formal agreements with the Commonwealth. Mr Butler noted that the Thriving Kids initiative for children with mild to moderate developmental delays and autism had been recommended by a range of industry experts.
- The [Sun Herald](#) (page 1) reports that the CSIRO has published a study documenting the impact of concussion concerns on youth sport participation levels, with one in three children prevented from participating due to parental concern regarding concussions. *Also reported by:* [Sunday Mail Adelaide](#)

- [ABC Online](#) (online) reports that Public Health Association of Australia chief executive, Terry Slevin, has expressed concern that the national vaccination rate for measles is slipping below the established target level of 95 per cent, with the Department of Health issuing guidance that maintaining herd immunity requires a vaccination rate of between 92 and 94 per cent.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (online) reports that the Queensland Government have announced individuals will soon be able to register as an organ donor by ticking a box during the driver's licence application process.
- [ABC Online](#) (online) reports that Therapeutic Goods Administration head, Professor Tony Lawler, has stated that the TGA would continue enforcing regulatory action against deficient sunscreen products while the agency conducts a wide-ranging review of national sunscreen standards.
- The [Sunday Telegraph](#) (page 9) reports that data released by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research has displayed that the annual number of assaults occurring in New South Wales hospitals has increased by 373 over the past decade, leading to calls from the Health Services Union for increased hospital security.
- The [Sunday Mail Adelaide](#) (page 19) reports that researchers at Adelaide University's Robinson Research Institute are conducting a pioneering study aimed at improving detection and treatment methodology for individuals with endometriosis.
- The [Sunday Herald Sun](#) (page 20) reports that a spokesperson for the Therapeutic Goods Administration has stated that the organisation actively monitor a range of social media platforms to ensure that products advertised online, including promotions by wellness influencers, comply with established regulatory standards.

MINISTER BUTLER

Cheaper cancer drugs on PBS

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 29/03/2026, Charles Chadwick, Page 8

Australians suffering from advanced and high-risk cancers will pay thousands of dollars less for their treatment after the Albanese government expanded the listing of a leading immunotherapy drug on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the expanded listing meant patients could get the treatment they needed faster and at an affordable price.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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Queensland to bring back organ donor registration on driver's licences

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/03/2026, Taylah Fellows

Queensland will reinstate the ability to register as an organ donor with a simple tick of the box during driver's licence applications and renewals. [...] Earlier this month, the Queensland government confirmed it would examine reinstating the scheme, with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler calling on states and territories to adopt organ donation registration on driver's licences.

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

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Coomera Special School teacher, Sharon Lee Henningsen fought stage 3 tumour

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/03/2026, Ann Wason Moore

For decades, Sharon Lee Henningsen has educated the children of the Gold Coast. [...] "When I inquired to (Federal Health Minister) Mark Butler's office about PBS coverage for uterine cancer, I received a letter from his medical team saying it comes down to making considerations about what they can fund and what they can't, but this seems a pretty clear cut clinical case."

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

[\(Online\)](#).

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Months out from Thriving Kids, workforce questions remain unanswered

ABC Online, Other, 28/03/2026, Nas Campanella & Evan Young

The workforce expected to deliver the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) alternative has warned it will fail without the right staff and called for urgent transparency on how the program will work. [...] Federal NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler did not respond to specific questions about what modelling had been done to ensure settings had capacity to take on Thriving Kids, the upskilling initiatives workers would have access to, how private sector workers could be utilised, or whether additional workers from overseas would be needed.

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New bulk-billing clinics for Canberra

canberradaily.com.au, Other, 28/03/2026

Three new bulk-billing GP Clinics will be built in the ACT this year, while the Interchange Health Co-op at the Tuggeranong Family Medical Centre has a new lease on life, as part of a \$24.3 million federal investment in health care. [...] Health minister Mark Butler MP said: "Canberra has had issues with GP availability for a long time. Having three new GP clinics will help make medical care cheaper and more accessible for many Canberrans."

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ABC News, ABC News - 17:00 (Weekend), 28/03/2026, Melissa Mackay

A community hub in outer Melbourne, run by Our Place, offers one-stop health and education services for families, including playgroups, therapy, and GP access. The government's Thriving Kids program will expand this model for children under nine with mild to moderate developmental delay or autism, but teachers and allied health professionals warn that workforce shortages and administrative burdens could limit its effectiveness. NDIS Minister Mark Butler says the program combines existing and new services to better support families despite these challenges.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

The great aged care shakedown

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 29/03/2026, Julie Cross, Page 19

Older Australians are being slugged almost \$120 for a pack of seven fruit smoothies - which retails for less than \$20 - in the latest aged care cash grab. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said anyone who believed their fees were "in any way excessive or impossible to justify" should report to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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DEPARTMENT

Measles on the rise across NSW, concern community infections spreading undetected

ABC Online, Other, 28/03/2026, Miriah Davis

A serious outbreak of measles in Asia has fuelled a surge in cases in NSW — but what concerns health authorities most are signs the highly infectious disease is spreading undetected in the community. [...] To achieve herd immunity, vaccine coverage is required for 92–94 per cent of the population, according to the Department of Health.

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Construction underway for aged care residential staff accommodation project

Gilgandra Weekly, Other, 28/03/2026

Gilgandra Shire Council has announced the tender for the Aged Care Residential Staff Accommodation Project has been awarded to Haft Constructions Pty Ltd of Dubbo and that construction is underway. [...] The original project estimate of \$4.917 million was funded on a 50/50 basis between the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and Gilgandra Shire Council.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

'Reforms' hit elderly hard

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 29/03/2026, Julie Cross, Page 18

Michael Stanley looks forward to his one and only shower of the week. It's now a luxury, as it is for many older Australians, following the government's aged care reforms, which saw a huge spike in the cost of services.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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The wonderful carers of our ageing loved ones deserve better

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 29/03/2026, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 62

As heartbreaking as it is, we simply can't always script for those we love the end-of-life journey they'd choose - or deserve. No one wants to see a loved one in care - or needing help with the basics of daily life - but it's an all too common and confronting reality that we don't talk about nearly enough.

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We are failing the elderly

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 29/03/2026, Page 62

It's clear the federal government's so-called aged care "reforms" have not worked and the level of care for some of our most vulnerable Australians has gone backwards. Today, a special Sunday Mail investigation reveals the shocking stories of older Australians who have endured horrific suffering and sacrifice since new home care rules and fees were introduced on November 1.

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Our vulnerable elderly deserve care repair

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Editorials, 29/03/2026, Page 65

Today's expos on aged-care help at home should provoke emotions - heartbreak, sorrow and anger. Our vulnerable elderly are not just being ripped off by providers at a time of life that they need security and certainty, they are being left hungry and unwashed.

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Albo's 'reform' not ageing well

Sunday Herald Sun, Editorials, 29/03/2026, Page 66

Older Australians deserve to live in comfort and with dignity. With some 16 per cent of the population of retirement age or older - including more than 3.5 million people aged over 70 - aged care support is a fundamental expectation.

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Stealing off seniors

Sunday Telegraph, Editorials, 29/03/2026, Page 79

Elderly Australians have put in a lifetime paying taxes, supporting children, contributing to society and building up our country. They rightly expect to finally relax, sit back and enjoy the fruits of their labours.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

The future at Ishan's fingertips

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 29/03/2026, Brooke Grebert-Craig, Page 13

As an aspiring engineer, Ishan believes he has the coolest hand going around. [...] Funded by the NDIS, the robotic hand can cost about \$100,000.

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Howard was left a quadriplegic after an accident in Japan. Then came another cruel twist

9News, Other, 28/03/2026, Emily McPherson

Howard Williams was a fit and active 65-year-old when he and his wife Lorraine set off on what was supposed to be a relaxing holiday cruise in Japan. [...] Because the accident happened just 16 days after his 65th birthday, it meant Howard isn't eligible for help under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), leaving the couple missing out on extra \$220,000 a year needed to meet his basic support needs.

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Desperate mum invoked Ryan's Rule for daughter but was left 'stuck in

bureaucracy'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/03/2026, Scott Kovacevic

When lawyer Kim Turvey's 22-year-old daughter Georgia started suffering seizures at their Gympie home one night, she expected the city's hospital was the best place to help. [...] On the advice of her daughter's NDIS manager and a friend Ms Turvey invoked Ryan's Rule about 1pm Thursday.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Services Australia urges patients to check if they are owed some of \$272 million from Medicare

ABC Online, Other, 28/03/2026, Evelyn Manfield

Nearly 1 million Australians have not received their share of \$272 million in unclaimed Medicare rebates because they have not registered their bank details. The money is owed to people who have visited the doctor but not claimed their rebates, with more than a quarter of the affected people aged between 18 and 24.

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Could you be owed cash? Government agency urges Aussie to check if they are eligible for \$272million in unclaimed rebates

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 28/03/2026, Zak Wheeler

Aussies have been urged to check to see if they are one of the million people who are owed hundreds or thousands each in unclaimed Medicare rebates. Approximately \$272million is owed to those who went to see the doctor but never received their rebate due to incorrectly registered bank details on the MyGov website.

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'Leaving him was meant to save me. Instead, it nearly destroyed me.'

Mamamia, Other, 28/03/2026

Through boundaries, honesty and self-compassion, I rebuilt myself — one small act of courage at a time. [...] A GP visit can cost more than \$180, with less than half rebated.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Concussion fears keep children from sport

Sun Herald, General News, 29/03/2026, Angus Thomson & Frances Howe, Page 1

One in three children have been prevented from playing a contact sport because of a parent's concerns about concussion, as uncertainty around the long-term effects of traumatic brain injuries risks depriving a generation of the benefits of physical activity. [...] Sport injuries account for more than half of all hospitalised concussions in children aged between 10 and 15, an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare analysis found.

Also reported by: [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Concussion curbs sport

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 29/03/2026, Page 18

Many Australian parents aren't confident they can identify and manage concussion in their child and

are stopping them from playing contact sport as a result. Murdoch Children's Research Institute and University of Melbourne researchers found it was common for parents to prevent their kids participating in certain sports and activities out of fear of concussion.

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Activity key to long life

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 29/03/2026, Page 18

Women who consistently meet physical activity guidelines throughout middle age may halve their risk of dying before their mid 70s. A study by Sydney University and National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre researchers, involving more than 11,000 women, found that the rate of death for those who consistently did at least 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity a week was about 5.3 per cent, compared with 10.4 per cent for those who missed the exercise goal.

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A little bit of health

Sunday Times, General News, 29/03/2026, Page 25

Eleven minutes more sleep a night, 4.5 more minutes of exercise and an extra quarter-cup of vegetables a day could prevent a heart attack or stroke. The changes combined are linked to a 10 per cent lower risk of heart attacks, heart failure and stroke, George Institute for Global Health scientists say, following an eight-year analysis of 53,000 adults.

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Fringe benefits of festival on the edge

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 29/03/2026, Peter Goers, Page 63

During the Fringe I met a little girl and her mum. [...] The black market is now 75 per cent of the total Australian tobacco market.

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Quit Tasmania warns rising vaping use threatens 30 years of smoking decline

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/03/2026, Bridget Clarke

After 30 years of driving down smoking rates, Quit Tasmania has warned rising vaping use and illicit tobacco products risk undermining progress. Representatives from Quit Tasmania, part of the Cancer Council, gathered at Parliament House on Thursday to commemorate 30 years since the campaign's launch.

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

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Dementia is Australia's top killer — yet most still miss the early signs

ABC Online, Other, 28/03/2026, Xiaoning Mo

When Sanna Sartawy's mother was diagnosed with dementia, she and her siblings were shocked. [...] Nearly 1.1 million people could have dementia by 2065 without significant public health interventions, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Life-saving drive

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 29/03/2026, Taylah Fellows, Page 9

Queensland will reinstate the ability to register as an organ donor with a simple tick of the box during driver licence applications and renewals. In a major win for The Sunday Mail's Count Me In campaign,

the Sunshine State is the first place in the country to confirm it will re-link the renewal process with one of the most effective prompts for donation sign-up.

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Simple fix to ease suffering

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Edition Changes, 29/03/2026, Kate Kyriacou, Page 16

Media identity and advocate Andrew Denton says a cruel legal technicality preventing terminally ill Australians accessing voluntary assisted dying could be "fixed tomorrow" but for the inaction of the federal government. A section of the Commonwealth Criminal Code making it illegal to counsel or instruct on suicide electronically inadvertently prevents doctors using Telehealth to talk to their patients about VAD.

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

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Older, sicker, but help reduced

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 29/03/2026, Margaret Garvan, Page 18

For decades, I was the one taking care of others as a catering manager in a hospital, a responsible job I held well into my 60s. I've always paid my taxes and never once been on benefits.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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A simple tick that can mean so much

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 29/03/2026, Page 62

The Crisafulli government must be applauded for leading by example and becoming the first state in the country to reinstate an organ donor "tick the box" on driver's licence applications. Minister for Customer Services and Open Data, Steve Minnikin, has confirmed the move, which comes after The Courier Mail and The Sunday Mail's Count Me In campaign highlighted the dire state of the country's organ donor system.

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Parents' superhero act the only hope for Sydney sisters with ultra-rare gene defect

7News.com.au, Other, 28/03/2026, Hayley Taylor

At least a handful of times a year, unpredictable seizures overcome two young Sydney sisters and cut off their airways. [...] PGAP1-CDG falls into the "ultra-rare" disorder category, so pharmaceutical companies are generally not interested in developing a treatment and governments do not typically fund them.

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After watching her mum die in agony, Angie wants to change the law

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 28/03/2026, Courtney Kruk

Slow, painful and inhumane. [...] Under current legislation, people living with dementia across all Australian jurisdictions are excluded from accessing VAD, for two main reasons: the condition affects decision-making capacity, and the time frame that people have to live is varied. Some people live for decades after diagnosis, others, like Lister, a few years.

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'I just sobbed': The long road to an endometriosis diagnosis — and the gap leaving women waiting for years

7News.com.au, Other, 28/03/2026, Aimee Edwards

It starts with pain ... the kind that stops you in your tracks. [...] Data from the Australian Endometriosis Foundation shows young people aged 18 to 35 are waiting an average of seven years from the onset of symptoms to diagnosis, stretching closer to 10 for First Nations women.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Prenatal anxiety reveals weight of expectation

Sun Herald, General News, 29/03/2026, Shona Hendley, Page 20

Lambrina Gimian, 38, always wanted to be a mother. But after meeting her now-husband and deciding to plan for a family, instead of excitement, she felt something else: anxiety.

Also reported by: [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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In a world of trauma from war to petty microaggressions how are we to cope?

Sun Herald, General News, 29/03/2026, Lauren Ironmonger, Page 26

Everywhere you turn these days, one thing seems inescapable: trauma. Trauma in the very real sense, with ongoing wars, terror attacks, natural disasters, genocide and police violence; and in the hyperbolic way, with the word becoming shorthand in our therapy-speak world for enduring life's most minor inconveniences.

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Allira was a fierce advocate for 'body positivity', then the movement soured

Sunday Age, General News, 29/03/2026, Page 26

It's difficult to argue with the tenets of the body positivity movement. Self-love, improved representation, dismantling weight bias - these are things most people can get behind. For Allira Potter, an Adelaide-based content creator, being part of the plus-size community used to drive her social media presence.

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'They gave me a week of ketamine'

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 29/03/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 1

As she faces more surgery next month, Tasmanian senator Jacqui Lambie has told of the "unbearable" back pain she has suffered in the past eight months which saw her admitted to hospital. [...] Senator Lambie remains vehemently committed to getting the government to implement the 122 recommendations from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and highlighting shortcomings in aged care.

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\$20m boost for mental health

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 29/03/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 6

Dozens of health services are set to upgrade their mental health and addiction facilities after receiving funds to cover critical renovations. Thirty-two organisations, ranging from major metropolitan hospitals to regional community services, will share \$20m in state government grants to cover the cost of updating ageing, sometimes unsafe infrastructure.

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Lucille's having a ball in quest for friendship

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 29/03/2026, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 28

When you are almost 40 and new to town, with no partner or kids, it can feel a bit lonely, especially when life's circumstances mean you've lost touch with old friends. [...] Australian Psychological Society's chief executive Zena Burgess says friendships can enhance a person's emotional, cognitive, and overall well-being by providing things such as emotional support and companionship, which boost self-esteem and confidence and can help reduce stress.

Weight loss drug disorder dramas

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 29/03/2026, Danielle Gusmaroli, Page 28

Vulnerable people developing or reigniting eating disorders after using weight-loss drugs has experts so worried a peak health body is urging clearer guidelines so professionals like personal trainers can spot warning signs. About 500,000 Australians are taking weight loss drugs such as Ozempic every month, with almost half accessing them privately for up to \$600 per month, new data shows.

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

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Young Australians are unhappier than ever. They know who to blame

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 28/03/2026, Bronte Gossling

Something as simple as a message from a friend could do it. [...] Australia's fall to 15th place in the global wellbeing rankings, down four spots from last year, was largely attributed to heavy use of algorithmic social media apps, such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

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Sleep and early life adversity among key factors that influence adolescent mental health

West Australian, Other, 28/03/2026, Claire Sadler

Young people who struggle to get to sleep on a regular basis are six times more likely to experience high depression as they grow older, a landmark study has found. The new Future Proofing research tracked more than 6000 students across Australian to probe what triggers mental health disorders during high school years.

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

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IMMUNISATION

10 years after the hepatitis C cure, Australia launches national telehealth service to finish elimination

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 28/03/2026

Ten years after the Federal Government made world-leading hepatitis C medicines available to all Australians through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), more than 110,000 people have been treated, and almost 100,000 have been cured. In marking this major milestone in the fight against hepatitis C, Hepatitis Australia is launching a new national telehealth service for people at risk of hepatitis C as part of HepLink, the national hepatitis information and linkage service.

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Australian flu deaths surge as expert warns of highly-contagious Super-K flu strain first detected in US

The Courier Mail, Other, 28/03/2026, Euan Kennedy

More than 60 influenza-related deaths have been recorded in just one month as Australia braces for another severe flu season, which experts say [...] could be supercharged by the Super-K variant. [...] "This is largely due to the Super-K variant, which is easily transmitted, and also due to low vaccination rates," Professor Griffin said.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Health insurance hack could trim premium by \$650

Sun Herald, Business News, 29/03/2026, Nicole Pedersen-McKinnon, Page 35

On Wednesday, along with just about every other cost in your life, private health premiums go up. The average increase - at 4.41 per cent - is the biggest in almost 10 years.

Also reported by: [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Premium rises hit health of finances

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 29/03/2026, Andrew Hedgman, Page 13

Australians are facing another blow to household budgets, with private health insurance premiums set to increase at the fastest pace in almost a decade. From April 1, premiums will jump by an industry average of 4.41 per cent, applying further pressure to cost-of-living strains.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Times \(Perth\)](#).

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Cancer clues bubble away in bloodstream

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 29/03/2026, Page 8

Small, bubble-like particles released by cells into the bloodstream may help us detect early-stage cancers thanks to the proteins they contain. Researchers including scientists from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre compared the proteins in these particles from healthy cells and cancer cells and found a pattern of four proteins linked to cancer.

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Bid to identify endo earlier

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 29/03/2026, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 19

Adelaide researchers are pioneering a nation-leading study to detect endometriosis earlier in young women and reduce the risk of "horrible infertility". Led by a team at Adelaide University's Robinson Research Institute, it involves tracking adolescent participants for five years, and monitoring treatment options - from physiotherapy to surgery - and outcomes.

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

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BMI system often misclassifies people as overweight or obese, research finds

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 28/03/2026, Marti Stelling

More than one in three adults may be misclassified by BMI – the standard test used by doctors to decide if people are a healthy weight – leaving millions with the wrong picture of their health. The score is calculated using a simple formula based on height and weight – but new research suggests it may be far less reliable than many assume.

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Incidental lung cancer screening findings

Australian Doctor, Other, 28/03/2026, Renee Manser & Asha Bonney

Almost a fifth of lung cancer screening participants are expected to have at least one potentially clinically significant additional finding, based on Australian trial data. Lung cancer is not only the leading cause of cancer-related death globally and in Australia, it is the leading cause of death overall in Australians aged 65-74.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

The boy WCH failed

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 29/03/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 1

When Khloey Djawas brought her little boy to Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital from Darwin, she was hoping he would be cured after doctors discovered a golf ball-sized brain tumour. But one surgery, 10 days after their arrival, left Malekai Croxton, 11, with an acquired brain injury that has prompted Ms Djawas to take legal action against the hospital she trusted to save her son.

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Ryan's Rule prompts treatment change in half of all cases, new data reveals

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/03/2026, Carlie Walker & Scott Kovacevic

More than half of the 3404 calls for Ryan's Rule to be invoked in Queensland hospitals resulted in a change to planned care, new data reveals. But while the Queensland Health statistics show a 51 per cent change-to-treatment rate in 2025, red flags continue to be raised about gaps in the patient safety process, highlighted by two recent cases – the death of 27-year-old who languished for weeks in Gladstone Hospital before being transferred to Brisbane and the bureaucracy battle experienced by a Gympie mum whose daughter suffered seizures for days without a clear treatment plan.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#)

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Winter commanders appointed and extra teams set up to try steer hospitals through flu season

West Australian, Other, 28/03/2026, Oliver Lane

The Cook Government will bring on five senior health officials to head their departments' winter response and hire extra dedicated teams to streamline discharges and bed turnarounds as the health system braces for winter. The winter commanders will hold the positions from April to September, set to oversee their respective health providers.

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

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St John Ambulance NT reaches 'critical failure point' during 'extraordinary event' in Darwin

ABC Online, Other, 28/03/2026, Jack Hislop

Darwin's ambulance service reached a "critical failure point" overnight as 61 Triple Zero (000) calls were abandoned and 29 life-threatening or urgent emergencies were left outstanding for periods up to five hours. [...] Delays offloading patients exceeded 60 minutes at Royal Darwin Hospital and one ambulance crew operated for almost 10 hours without a break, Ms Trewin said.

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Katherine residents call for hospital relocation after flood evacuations

ABC Online, Other, 28/03/2026, Matthew Garrick

During a tumultuous month of flooding in the Northern Territory town of Katherine, its hospital was evacuated twice, and patients were shifted hundreds of kilometres to Darwin. Dozens of the hospital's

high-risk patients and pregnant women from its maternity ward were shifted out during the emergencies.

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Lawyers say 100 families join hospital mould death lawsuit

Newcastle Herald, Other, 28/03/2026, Jamieson Murphy

The lawyers behind a class action into the mould-related deaths at the Calvary Mater hospital have extended the scope of their investigation to four years, due to the sheer number of people reaching out with what they say are almost identical stories. The decision was made to consider deaths dating back to 2022, with up to 100 families losing loved ones amid concerns about the air-conditioning vents pumping pneumonia-inducing Aspergillus spores into the cancer ward.

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'They've actually listened': major change announced after two-year-old's hospital death

Daily Liberal, Other, 28/03/2026, Riley Krause

Annah White feels like the death of her two-year-old daughter was "not for nothing" following a major change to the state's health system. [...] However, they were sent home due to long wait times and an inquest into the toddler's death heard she was not assessed until five hours after first being triaged.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

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Ambulance service in major city reaches 'critical failure point' as nearly half of Triple Zero calls abandoned

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 28/03/2026, Zak Wheeler

Hundreds of emergency calls were left waiting for hours without a response after a major city's capabilities reached a 'critical failure point'. Residents of Darwin in need of urgent help were left waiting for up to five hours while others were totally ignored between midnight and 7am on Saturday.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Healthcare's unhealthy

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 29/03/2026, Suzan Giuliani, Page 9

Healthcare workers and security guards in NSW are being punched, bitten and violently attacked, with many afraid to go to work as new police data reveals a surge in assaults. The Sunday Telegraph can reveal that assaults on hospital premises, which include attacks on healthcare workers, have surged, with 373 more incidents in the past year compared to a decade ago.

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Trailblazer in top job

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 28/03/2026, Tegan Guthrie, Page 1

A former Goldfields doctor who led the response to the region's 2016 meningococcal outbreak has been announced as the first woman to be appointed WA's chief health officer. Dr Clare Huppertz has stepped up after serving as deputy CHO since 2021, taking over from former CHO Dr Andy Robertson, who retired last month after holding the position for seven years.

PSA's annual celebration calls on Australians to thank their pharmacist

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 26/03/2026

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is calling for Australians to recognise, celebrate, and thank their pharmacists this Thank Your Pharmacist Day. With the theme "wherever medicines are", this Thank Your Pharmacist Day, we celebrate the 41,000 Australian pharmacists working across various practice settings to support the health and well-being of our communities.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

APC welcomes National Scheme's new five-year strategy

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 26/03/2026

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has welcomed and committed to supporting the delivery of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (Ahpra) new five-year strategy, describing it as a strong and timely framework to support public protection, cultural safety and a sustainable health workforce. APC CEO Ms Bronwyn Clark says the strategy provides clear direction for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme at a time of significant change across the Australian health system.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Health warning issued after highly infectious disease detected on the Gold Coast

9News, Other, 28/03/2026, Eleanor Wilson

A health warning has been issued for the Gold Coast after two confirmed cases of the highly-infectious measles. Gold Coast Health raised the alarm today after two individuals unknowingly contracted the viral infection overseas.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Gummy mummies under fire

Health experts are warning parents to be cautious about the growing promotion of children's supplement gummies on social media, with influencers increasingly sharing paid posts about the products. [...] A spokesperson for the Therapeutic Goods Administration said influencers were required to comply with the laws under the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 and the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code.

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

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TGA head defends handling of Australia's sunscreen scandal over SPF test results

ABC Online, Other, 28/03/2026, Rachel Carbonell & Paige Cockburn

Head of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Professor Tony Lawler has defended its handling of Australia's sunscreen scandal, saying the regulator had not "been sitting on our hands". In his first interview since the sunscreen controversy erupted last year, Professor Lawler said he hoped the proposed shake-up of sunscreen regulations announced this week would help to restore Australians' confidence in sunscreens and the regulator.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC News - 16:00 (Weekend), 28/03/2026, Melissa Mackay

The TGA is defending its handling of the sunscreen scandal nearly 10 months after testing by CHOICE led to the recall of popular brands. TGA head Tony Lawler says investigations are ongoing and the regulator is consulting the public on reforms, including replacing SPF numbers with low-to-high ratings to rebuild trust. Consumer advocates warn that changes could cause confusion and stress that ensuring sunscreens work effectively is the priority.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Alice Springs, Saturday Mornings, 28/03/2026

The TGA has defended its handling of Australia's sunscreen scandal, proposing major regulatory changes 10 months after CHOICE testing found that some products failed to meet SPF claims. TGA head Tony Lawler says the agency has taken action, including recalls, while balancing the need for prompt and proportionate responses.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

It's the elephant in the jockeys' room. Is it time WADA banned Ozempic?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 28/03/2026, Darren Kane

Earlier this week, the question of whether NRL players are cutting corners with weight-loss jabs was asked. [...] The potential health risks to athletes using semaglutide, without genuine medical need through obesity, are sufficient in isolation to satisfy the second criterion of the WADA Code.

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The rise of Looksmaxxing: 'Creating shame and secrecy among young men'

9News, Other, 28/03/2026, Joseph Sahyoun

At face value, a trend encouraging young men to take care of their physical appearance and maximise their self-worth appears harmless - even positive - but the fast-growing looksmaxxing trend has a very dark side, experts warn. [...] Health Content Manager at Healthy Male, Associate Professor Tim Moss, told nine.com.au he first discovered the term looksmaxxing while researching body image disorders in males and said steroids carry major health risks.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Growing pains as blueberry industry expands rapidly and appetites increase

ABC Online, Other, 28/03/2026, Kath Sullivan

Australians are eating and growing more blueberries than ever, but questions are being asked about how production of the fruit is being regulated. [...] It found one or more pesticides detected in 95 samples but none exceeded the maximum residue limit set in the food standards code or were banned for use in Australia.

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