



# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 3rd April 2026

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 3) reports the government has requested advice from the Department of Health regarding the reinstatement of clinical overrides for the IAT algorithm following reports of aged care funding rejections and downgrades, a process that Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae stated the government will continue to monitor and refine.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 5) reports Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White and Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas announced a \$9.45 million funding package to provide free specialist medical reviews and care navigators for former patients of gynaecologist Simon Gordon.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 3) reports the RACGP has urged the public to receive vaccinations as national influenza cases reach 25,000 for the year.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 10) reports the WHO is monitoring the "Cicada" strain of Covid, which has been detected in Australian wastewater and continues to spread internationally.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 22) reports health providers are monitoring the TGA for potential approval of the oral weight-loss medication orforglipron following its recent authorisation by the USFDA.

## **Pain persists for private patients**

The Nightly, General News, 01/04/2026, Stephen Johnson, Page 20

April Fool's Day is no joke when it comes to private health insurance and electricity bills. [...] This follows a decision from Health Minister Mark Butler made on February 17, nine days before the US air strikes on Iran pushed up fuel prices, where he argued a bigger average increase in premiums was justified to reflect "increasing wage bills and securing the viability of private hospitals".

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## **New bulk-billing clinics for Canberra**

Canberra Weekly, General News, 02/04/2026, Nicholas Fuller, Page 40

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.

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## **Premium pain**

Choice, General News, 01/04/2026, Jane Bardell & Pru Engel, Page 37

As the cost of living continues to bite, Australians face another increase to the price of health insurance, with the largest average hike in premiums we've seen since 2017. Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler announced the 4.41% average premium rise from 1 April, saying it reflects the rising costs of providing medical and hospital services, which increased 5% last financial year.

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## **The Australian Plus benefits Spray-on skin pioneer Fiona Wood joins call for urgent medical research funding boost**

The Australian, Other, 02/04/2026, Stephen Lunn

Spray-on skin pioneer Fiona Wood has joined a growing chorus of scientists and medical experts demanding the Albanese government urgently repair research funding in Australia, or risk a generation of our best ideas and people heading offshore. [...] The letter, sent to Mr Butler, Disability and NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae last Sunday, had signatures from 63 senior members of the medical and research community including three Nobel Laureates – Peter Doherty, Brian Schmidt and Barry Marshall – and since then another 98 have added their name.

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## **COVID vaccine injury victims speak out about slow claims process and threats over complaints made to Services Australia**

ABC Online, Other, 02/04/2026, Tom Hartley

The paperwork is overwhelming, stacked across Sandra Byron's kitchen table — hundreds of pages of medical reports, legal letters, and correspondence with the federal government. [...] The policy was written and sits within the federal health portfolio — but Minister Mark Butler didn't respond to questions — and his office directed questions to Services Australia.

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## **Tasmanian govt consults about Thriving Kids**

Education Review, Other, 02/04/2026, Erin Morley

The Tasmanian government has opened a consultation process to hear from the community about how the Thriving Kids program should be implemented. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler is overseeing the scheme.

[Read More](#)

## **Medical misogyny and endometriosis: Beyond the Simon Gordon**

## scandal

Independent Australia, Other, 02/04/2026, Michelle Pini

A recent Four Corners exposé featured a prominent Melbourne surgeon whose alleged sickening surgical procedures left a trail of women with their insides butchered and lives shattered. [...] Long hailed as a leading endometriosis specialist, gynaecologist Dr Simon Gordon 's horrific deeds are so harrowing they prompted Health Minister Mark Butler to state about the allegations: "They're some of the most distressing testimonies I've ever seen in my many years in the health portfolio."

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## Australians for Mental Health welcomes new free mental health therapy for Aussies

OUTinPerth, Other, 02/04/2026

Advocacy group Australians for Mental Health has hailed a new initiative unveiled by the Federal Government, which will provide free access to mental health therapy for all Australians over the age of 16. [...] Speaking about the new initiative Health Minister Mark Butler said it was a major reform.

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## Don't blow all the obesity cash on GLP-1s

The Medical Republic, Other, 02/04/2026, Holly Payne

The health minister has indicated that GLP-1 RAs will eventually join the PBS, so can we expect commensurate funding for lifestyle interventions? [...] It comes just days after health minister Mark Butler confirmed that he saw access to GLP-1s as "reshaping" Australia's approach to chronic disease into the future.

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## Governments call on general practice for pelvic pain help

The Medical Republic, Other, 02/04/2026, Holly Payne

GPs will be playing a central role in re-establishing trust between Victorian women and healthcare services following revelations about a former gynaecologist who potentially mistreated dozens of women with pelvic pain. [...] Even though Dr Gordon was not a GP, health minister Mark Butler specifically invoked general practice in his funding announcement.

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## Does the NSW Government understand the need for aged care?

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/04/2026, Ian Horswill

Tom Symondson, ceo of the peak body Ageing Australia, said he is aware of at least 11 Not For Profit providers that have been hit by three-percentage-point crown land rent hikes. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said in February the nation needs to open a new aged care facility every three days for the next 20 years, just to keep pace with the first wave of Baby Boomers turning 80.

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## ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 02/04/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Private Health Australia CEO Dr Rachel David. Compere mentions that Health Minister Mark Butler said this year's premium rise reflects increasing health worker wage bills and the viability of private hospitals. David says they are not seeing a decrease in private insurance membership, arguing that the sector is still growing.

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## ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 02/04/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with AMA NT president Dr John Zorbas. Zorbas raises concerns about private insurance companies buying GP practises in bulk, noting that private companies often do that to make money and not to make Australia a better place. He mentions that Health Minister Mark Butler said a week ago that some doctors have no interest in moving into the Medicare space.

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## ABC Great Southern, Regional Statewide Mornings, 02/04/2026, Peter Barr

Interview with Australians for Mental Health executive director Chris Gambian. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced a new free mental health support service for all Australians called the Medicare Mental Health Check-in program. Gambian says the government deserves to be congratulated on this initiative, noting that having free access to mental health support services is a good step forward.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### The Australian Plus benefits Spray-on skin pioneer Fiona Wood joins call for urgent medical research funding boost

The Australian, Other, 02/04/2026, Stephen Lunn

Spray-on skin pioneer Fiona Wood has joined a growing chorus of scientists and medical experts demanding the Albanese government urgently repair research funding in Australia, or risk a generation of our best ideas and people heading offshore. [...] The letter, sent to Mr Butler, Disability and NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae last Sunday, had signatures from 63 senior members of the medical and research community including three Nobel Laureates – Peter Doherty, Brian Schmidt and Barry Marshall – and since then another 98 have added their name.

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## MINISTER RAE

### Troubled aged care assessor faces axe

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/04/2026, Julie Cross, Page 3

A controversial algorithm which critics feared might spark "Robodebt 2.0" could be axed after the Albanese government requested the tool, which was used to assess home support funding for aged-care residents, be reviewed. [...] On Wednesday, following questions from Opposition aged care spokeswoman Anne Ruston, a senate inquiry into the new Support at Home program heard that the government had asked the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing for advice about "what it might take for clinical override to be reinstated".

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### Government pressured to fix aged care algorithm suspected of under-assessing funding for elderly

Adelaide Now, Other, 02/04/2026, Julie Cross

The government is under pressure to fix a controversial algorithm – dubbed by some as aged care's 'robodebt 2.0' – has requested a review. [...] Following tenacious questioning by Shadow Minister for Aged Care Anne Ruston, a senate inquiry into the new Support at Home program heard on Wednesday that the government had asked the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing for advice about "what it might take for clinical override to be reinstated".

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members of the medical and research community including three Nobel Laureates – Peter Doherty, Brian Schmidt and Barry Marshall – and since then another 98 have added their name.

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## **Breakdown on Integrated Assessment Tool reviews revealed**

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/04/2026, Caroline Egan

Last night's public hearing for the Senate Inquiry into Support at Home was hastily convened for the last sitting day before the Easter holiday and unexpectedly brought forward by one hour. [...] Pugh conceded the Department [of Health] had modelled reinstating manual override of the IAT, among other modelling it has done for the Government.

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## **2BS, Live and Local, 02/04/2026, Damian de Montemas**

Interview The Great Western Highway closure, you called for support packages for businesses that have been affected. I've asked the Prime Minister about this two weeks in a row.

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## **ABC Riverina, Breakfast, 02/04/2026, Sally Bryant**

Compere mentions that the 7:30 ABC report has raised some concerns about the use of AI tools, with Aged Care Minister Sam Rae defending the use of said AI tools. He adds that 20,000 assessments were used to build an integrated assessment tool.

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## **ABC Riverina, Breakfast, 02/04/2026, Sally Bryant**

News in November which determines a person's eligibility for in-home care but it can't be overridden by human assessors. Gwenda Darling was diagnosed with younger onset dementia in 2012 at the age of 59 and says she's lost services due to the new tool. [...] Aged care minister Sam Rae said the department will continue to monitor the operation of the algorithm and refine it regularly.

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## **ABC Riverina, 06:30 News, 02/04/2026**

News Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the department will continue to monitor the operation of the algorithm and refine it regularly.

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## **hit104.7 Canberra, Rod & Gabi, 02/04/2026, Rod Cuddihy & Gabi Elgood**

News Amplify cbr News. light rail is 68.20 with all public transport travel free for the rest of the month once you've hit that cap you do need to use the same same payment method each time though to make it count the prime minister's address to the nation has copped some backlash some have joked it could have been an email but minister for Aged Care Sam Ray on 9 says the PM was aiming to be as direct as possible with Aussies.

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## **MIX 104.9, 360, 02/04/2026, Katie Woolf**

News The four crew members will spend the next 10 days in space circling the moon. The Prime Minister's address to the nation has copped some backlash.

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## **2GB, 12:00 News, 02/04/2026**

News Labor mp Sam Ray says it's important to keep the country moving during difficult times. Australians want to see a sensible government doing sensible things.

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### 3AW, 12:00 News, 02/04/2026

Businesses will be offered \$1b in interest-free loans to address the fuel crisis. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will announce the measure at the National Press Club, with fuel, freight, and fertiliser companies eligible within two weeks. Labor MP Sam Rae says it is vital to keep the country moving, while Opposition MP Tim Wilson is open to the plan pending details.

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### 6PR, 09:00 News, 02/04/2026

News Labor mp Sam Ray says it's important keep the country moving during difficult times. Australians want to see a sensible government doing sensible things.

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### GOLD 1323, 11:00 News, 02/04/2026

Interview The four crew members will spend the next 10 days in space circling the moon. The Prime Minister's address to the nation has copped some backlash.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### Push for mandatory food star ratings

Choice, General News, 01/04/2026, Jarni Blakkarly, Page 8

The federal government will push for mandatory Health Star Ratings on all food products across Australia, after a voluntary scheme fell well short of uptake targets. In 2020, ministers agreed to consider mandatory labelling if the voluntary scheme failed to reach 70% of products by 2025. [...] "Requiring all packaged food products to display a Health Star Rating is a sensible next step that will enhance consumer choice," Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White says.

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### Disgraced doctor's patients' free reviews

Age, General News, 03/04/2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 5

Hundreds of former patients of disgraced gynaecologist Simon Gordon will receive free medical reviews with specialists in a \$9.45million funding package from the Victorian and federal governments. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White joined Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas yesterday to unveil the measures, which are aimed at addressing some of the ongoing trauma and pain experienced by Gordon's former patients.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#)

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### Channel 7, Seven News, 02/04/2026, Peter Mitchell

Around 1,000 Victorian women are now considering legal action against Melbourne gynaecologist Simon Gordon over claims of malpractice. The Victorian and Federal Governments have joined forces to try to stop it from ever happening again. Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White says the funding will provide free care and guidance to patients of Gordon.

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## Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 02/04/2026, Brett Mcleod

The Victorian and Federal Governments are teaming up to offer free assistance to women patients treated by gynaecologist Simon Gordon. The former surgeon is being investigated for allegedly performing unnecessary operations for endometriosis. Federal Health Assistant Minister Rebecca White says the work that they have been doing is about making sure no more women have to suffer the way that they did under Gordon. The \$9.5 million package will help affected women seek care and establish new guidelines for surgery.

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## ABC Radio Melbourne, 09:00 News, 02/04/2026

The Victorian and Federal Governments have announced a combined \$9 million healthcare package to provide urgent clinical and psychological support for former patients of a Melbourne gynaecologist under investigation. Assistant Minister Rebecca White confirmed the \$7 million federal boost will complement the state's initial \$2 million commitment, ensuring that hundreds of affected women have access to specialised surgical reviews, trauma counselling, and long-term diagnostic care.

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

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

### 6PR, 13:00 News, 02/04/2026

The Federal Government is establishing a national Prostate Cancer Expert Advisory Group. Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi will co-chair the group with Associate Professor Chris Milross. Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia and the second leading cause of cancer death among Australian men.

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## DEPARTMENT

### Troubled aged care assessor faces axe

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/04/2026, Julie Cross, Page 3

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### Government pressured to fix aged care algorithm suspected of under-assessing funding for elderly

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/04/2026, Julie Cross

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

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## Senate hearing shows rise in IAT review requests

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 02/04/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has received 834 requests for internal review of Integrated Assessment Tool allocations in the five months since 1 November 2025 when the Support at Home program commenced and the IAT algorithm was introduced. Half of those reviews have been requested in the last two months.

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## Changes for antihypertensive dual therapy fixed dose combinations

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/04/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Changes to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) restrictions have been made to allow fixed dose combinations (FDCs) for dual therapy antihypertensives to be used as a first-line treatment. In an update posted on the PBS website, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, noted that the reform was...

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## Telehealth could help as fuel crisis bites: Naunton

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/04/2026, Megan Haggan

One pharmacy group is in urgent talks with the Health Department in the wake of the fuel crisis, hoping that more flexibility can help. Following prime minister Anthony Albanese's 2 April 2026 address to the nation, in which he outlined the steps the government is taking to conserve fuel, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia says...

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## 'Letting the algorithm rip': no legal basis for lack of human override of aged care funding tool, inquiry hears

The Guardian, Other, 03/04/2026, Melissa Davey

There appears to be no legal barrier for a human to override a controversial algorithm that determines financial support for elderly Australians, a Senate inquiry has heard, despite government assessors being banned from doing so. [...] On Wednesday night, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing staff confirmed that the government has asked for advice about how to reinstate the override function, during a hearing into Support at Home.

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The Weekly Source, Other, 02/04/2026, Caroline Egan

Last night's public hearing for the Senate Inquiry into Support at Home was hastily convened for the last sitting day before the Easter holiday and unexpectedly brought forward by one hour. [...] Pugh conceded the Department [of Health] had modelled reinstating manual override of the IAT, among other modelling it has done for the Government.

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## ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 02/04/2026, Dijana Damjanovic

Interview with Meals on Wheels Australia chair Paul Sadler. Sadler says their charity operations have been impacted by the ongoing fuel crisis. He notes that they have already spoken to the Federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to seek additional funding.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Skills boost for aged care chefs

Residents at aged care homes in the Limestone Coast are eating better than ever, thanks to a program run through TAFE SA. Workers in aged care kitchens across the state, including Mount Gambier/ Berrin, have expanded their skills and gained new qualifications through a bespoke program run in partnership by TAFE SA and the Maggie Beer Foundation.

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## **Aged care home to pay \$11.7 million after 5,500 staff underpaid**

9News, Other, 02/04/2026, Emily McPherson

In one of the largest wage remediation cases to hit the Australian aged care sector, Southern Cross Care (NSW & ACT) has entered into a formal court-enforceable agreement to pay back more than \$11.7 million to thousands of its workers. The not-for-profit provider, which operates 54 communities and residential homes across NSW and the ACT, self-reported the massive blunder to the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) after a single employee's query about overtime triggered an internal audit in 2023.

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

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## **Australia wasting talent of migrants on an 'industrial scale', former Treasury secretary says**

ABC Online, Other, 02/04/2026, Gareth Hutchens

Australia is wasting human talent on an "industrial scale" by failing to recognise the skills and qualifications of highly-trained permanent migrants, experts say. [...] She said we have invited doctors, nurses, aged care workers, tradespeople, engineers and speech pathologists, among many other skilled professionals, to live in Australia as permanent migrants; But hundreds of thousands of them were not working in the jobs for which they are qualified because of slow, unfair and expensive processes to simply recognise their skills, she said.

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## **Older people at risk as fuel crisis deepens**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 02/04/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Australia's escalating fuel crisis is placing older people at growing risk, with aged care providers warning that soaring prices, empty petrol stations and potential rationing could disrupt essential care for hundreds of thousands of older Australians. Despite federal assurances that Australia remains "fuel secure", the number of service stations running dry continues to climb, and aged care leaders say the crisis is already hitting the workforce that older people rely on every day.

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## **Politicians slam Labor's 'botched' aged care overhaul**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 02/04/2026, NCA NewsWire

A group of senators and MPs of all political colours are demanding urgent government action to fix aged care reforms amid widespread reports they are failing older Australians. They are warning that "people are dying" on Labor's watch as they wait for desperately needed services, while peak bodies have complained about the reforms since they were introduced in November last year.

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## **Aged care has \$40 billion. Are we using it properly?**

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/04/2026, Lauren Broomham

When former Deputy Chief Medical Officer Nick Coatsworth spoke this week about his family's struggle to keep his mother out of hospital, it cut through. [...] His conclusion was direct: aged care needs more funding, and some of it should come from elsewhere in the system, including the NDIS.

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## **All eNRMC vendors conform to new standards: "a huge relief"**

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/04/2026, Caroline Egan

All 10 electronic National Residential Medication Chart (eNRMC) software vendors operating under the

eNRM Transitional Arrangement have now been deemed conformant. The milestone marks the end of the grace period for software vendors operating under temporary transitional arrangements, allowing aged care operators to use systems without full electronic prescribing capability.

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## Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 02/04/2026, Jaynie Seal

Aged care providers are welcoming the cut to the fuel excise, but say more targeted support is needed to ensure the viability of the sector. Groups fear that without further funding to support at-home care, the elderly and the vulnerable will become more reliant on hospitals.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### New program helps people and puppies

INTHEBLACK, General News, 01/04/2026, Oguzhan Dincsoy, Page 45

An Australian-first program is taking enrolments from NDIS participants to join its March intake, giving them social connection and skill-building as well as socialisation for puppies in training to become assistance dogs. The Connections Program is a partnership co-created by Assistance Dogs Australia and Happy Paws Happy Hearts.

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### Australian schools are getting \$5bn a year in disability funding – search the list and get expert tips on accessing support for your child

The Courier Mail, Other, 02/04/2026, Susie O'Brien, Darcy Fitzgerald & Lauren Novak

Up to one in three Australian students now receives disability assistance in schools, with payments of up to \$45,000 per student for those with the most severe needs. [...] The NCCD funds come in addition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Mental health unit created in wake of hospital violence

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/04/2026, Kat Wong

Frontline hospital workers will be able to take better care of patients experiencing intense distress or aggression as a hospital introduces a new unit to curb violence against staff. Workers at Westmead Hospital in Sydney's west have been subject to a significant increase in aggression from patients, including one high-profile incident where multiple security guards and a nurse were injured when a 39-year-old patient allegedly slashed at staff.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

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### Punt on gambling reforms fails to hit support jackpot

Canberra Times, Other, 02/04/2026, Zac de Silva

Celebrities and sportspeople will no longer be allowed to promote gambling on TV, radio or online as part of a reform package Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced on Thursday. [...] Australian Medical Association vice president Julian Rait said partial bans didn't work and the reforms failed to provide the comprehensive protections needed to reduce online gambling harm.

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

## More SA general practices charging extra administration fees to cover payroll tax

ABC Online, Other, 02/04/2026, Malcolm Sutton

An increasing number of private general practices in South Australia are introducing new "administration fees" to cover rising operating costs, blaming payroll tax changes for the additional cost to patients. The levy is typically \$5 to \$10 and is billed as a separate transaction to consult fees in mixed billing or private billing practices.

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## Outback GPs warn delays in patient data across services put lives at risk

ABC Online, Other, 02/04/2026, Tim Little

An outback doctor says GPs are being forced to wait more than a month in some cases for critical patient information, putting lives at risk. Although patient histories and medication notes are now digital, most medical information is managed by each region's hospital and health service and often hidden to other doctors.

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## On the gambling reform announcements, is it a case of taking out the trash?

Croakey, Other, 02/04/2026, Melissa Sweet

Following years of concerted advocacy by community and health groups and leaders as well as some MPs, the Prime Minister today announced reforms to gambling advertising during his address to the National Press Club. [...] The Australian Medical Association (AMA) responded to the Prime Minister's announcement, saying the reforms "fail to provide the comprehensive protections needed to reduce online gambling-related harm, particularly among children and young people".

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## Territorians expect government to act on scope: Guild

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/04/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

With a quarter of Territorians having to wait more than three weeks to see a GP, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia says extending the profession's scope of practice will improve access to primary care.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### VAD laws working, but barriers persist

Aged Care Insite, Other, 02/04/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Australia's voluntary assisted dying (VAD) laws are delivering on their promise to relieve suffering and give terminally ill people greater control at the end of life, but significant structural and workforce barriers continue to limit equitable access, according to new national data and emerging research. [...] VAD now accounts for around two to three per cent of all deaths nationally, including five per cent of cancer deaths and one in three motor neurone disease (MND) deaths.

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## Vaping linked to cancer in Australian study

Medical Forum, Other, 02/04/2026

Vaping has been linked to causing certain types of cancer, according to a review of research undertaken in Australia. The UNSW Sydney-led study found that nicotine-based vapes, or e-cigarettes, are likely to cause cancers of the lung and oral cavity.

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## Women share their struggle with adenomyosis, the hidden 'sister condition' to endometriosis

The Australian, Other, 02/04/2026, Ana Eksouzian-Cavadas

Adenomyosis is almost as common as its sister condition endometriosis, leaving women in chronic pain and struggling to fall pregnant. Yet awareness is still limited.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Dads, grandfathers, uncles and mentors take the lead in suicide prevention

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 02/04/2026

For the first time in the region, Lifeline New England North West will hold seven free suicide prevention training sessions, just for boys (16+) and their dads, grandfathers, mentors or mate of choice. Funded by the Primary Health Network, the courses will bring young men, their fathers, grandfathers, coaches or mentors together to talk about suicide in a masculine and stigma-free environment.

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### PSA launches guide for people with autism

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/04/2026

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has marked World Autism Awareness Day today with a new guide designed to help autistic people better understand how their pharmacist can support their medicine and health needs. The guide - Your medicines, your pharmacist - was supported by a grant from the South Australian Government Office for Autism and developed in partnership with Autism SA, expert pharmacists, and working group members with lived experience of autism, to ensure the guide is optimised for the autistic community.

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### ABC, ABC News, 02/04/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

Highly distressed or aggressive emergency patients at Westmead Hospital will be treated in a separate unit under a plan unveiled by the NSW Government. The site has been chosen for the new six-bed facility, with construction due to begin later this year. The state government says it's part of a wider push to improve mental health services in Western Sydney, after two men who absconded from Cumberland Hospital allegedly led to the deaths of three people.

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## IMMUNISATION

### Vaccine plea as flu bug mutates

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 03/04/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 3

As another horror flu season looms authorities are pleading with the public to get vaccinated, noting the death toll has outstripped the Covid toll each month from last August to January. They are reminding

anxious parents that needle-free vaccinations are now available for children in South Australia.

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

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## Disease outbreak prompts call to ensure kids are jabbed

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/04/2026

A rare outbreak of a nasty respiratory infection can be linked to a dip in vaccination rates, a disease expert warns. Parents are being urged to ensure their children's vaccination status is up to date following an outbreak in the Northern Territory of diphtheria, a serious respiratory bacterial infection.

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## WA introduces world-first RSV initiative

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/04/2026

The Western Australian Government will introduce additional protection against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) for infants this winter, thanks to an expansion of the state-funded RSV immunisation program. Effective immediately, all babies born between 01 Oct 2025 and 31 Mar 2026 are eligible to receive nirsevimab (Beyfortus) at no cost ahead of winter - regardless of whether their mother received the RSV vaccine while pregnant.

[Read More](#)

## Vax coverage decline continues

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/04/2026

New data from the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) has shown continued decrease in childhood vaccination coverage and declining uptake of human papillomavirus (HPV) and meningococcal vaccination in adolescents. In 2025, fully vaccinated coverage in children fell from 2020 levels to 90.5% at 12 months, 88.4% at 24 months and 92.5% at 60 months of age.

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## ABC, 7:30, 02/04/2026, David Speers

Almost 69 million vaccine doses were administered nationally during the COVID-19 pandemic, and there were 23,080 reports of 'serious' adverse events following immunisation. To support the rollout, the Federal Government set up the COVID-19 Vaccine Claims Scheme, covering a narrow list of recognised vaccine-related conditions, including blood clots, heart inflammation, and chronic nerve conditions. Today, hundreds of people are still stuck in the system, raising concerns about the slow claims process and threats over complaints made to Services Australia.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Insurers wield the scalpel

Herald Sun, General News, 03/04/2026, Brett Heffernan, Page 21

When health insurance companies justify their forays into clinical services based on cost savings, be alarmed. The only people who should decide what care patients receive, and where, are you and your doctor.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Channel 10, 10 News, 02/04/2026, Jennifer Keyte

A world-first study by Australian scientists has prompted a rethink about one of the most common drug allergies. The research has found that as many as 95 per cent of people who are told they are allergic to penicillin are probably not. The results are considered a game-changer in the hospital setting, where patients can be at greater risk of developing a drug-resistant infection.

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 02/04/2026, Peter Mitchell**

A major new trial could help detect Alzheimer's disease sooner, giving hope to hundreds of thousands of Australians. Researchers will combine online memory tests and blood testing to catch the disease years before symptoms become severe. Dementia is now the leading cause of death and disability for Australians over the age of 65 and is responsible for 60 per cent of aged care admissions.

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## **FIRST NATIONS HEALTH**

### **Earbus transforming Indigenous children's health and schooling**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 02/04/2026, Giovanni Torre

Health, education, social and emotional wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal children in Western Australia are being transformed by the Earbus Program, with rates of hearing loss nearly halving to 5.6 per cent across participating communities. [...] On average, Aboriginal children suffer from middle ear disease for 32 months of the first five years of life, compared to three months for non-Indigenous children.

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## **PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM**

### **ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 02/04/2026, Yvonne Yong**

The ANMF is calling on the NT Government to start a WorkSafe investigation into the level of assaults on staff in Darwin's public hospital emergency department. The union says nurses at the Royal Darwin Hospital are having to endure daily violent attacks by patients and the hospital's government-contracted private security firm doesn't have the resources or powers needed to stop it.

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### **Channel 10, 10 News, 02/04/2026, Jennifer Keyte**

Patients affected by former gynaecologist Simon Gordon are being offered Commonwealth support. The Federal Government has pledged more than \$7 million to fund individualised care and services for women who were treated by Gordon. It comes after the Melbourne surgeon was accused of performing unnecessary endometriosis surgery on more than 100 women.

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### **ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 02/04/2026, Adam Steer**

The Australian Nursing Federation is calling on the Northern Territory Government to start a WorkSafe investigation into assaults on staff at Darwin's public hospital emergency department. The federation says nurses at the Royal Darwin Hospital are enduring violent attacks in the department, and government-contracted private security guards don't have the resources or powers needed. The NT Health Department and Minister have not yet replied to the ABC's questions.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### **Health workers will bear 'disproportionate share' of fuel crisis: union**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/04/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Health and aged care professionals unable to work are set to be hit the hardest by the ongoing fuel crisis, the Health Services Union (HSU) warns. The union has called on governments and employers to provide immediate and targeted support to its members.

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### **Regional pharmacy school enrolments surge**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 02/04/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Pharmacy's evolution is helping to attract school leavers to the profession, according to the head of one regional pharmacy school. Moves to expand pharmacists' scope or practice, combined with greater recognition of the role the profession plays in providing healthcare, are fueling demand for places in pharmacy programs.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### **Royal Perth Hospital nephrologist Omar Azzam suspended following alleged antisemitic and racist online attacks**

West Australian, Other, 02/04/2026, Caitlin Vinci

A senior specialist at Royal Perth Hospital had stringent work and social media use conditions imposed following explosive claims he spearheaded a covert online network that targeted fellow medical professionals with antisemitic and racially abusive attacks. The Medical Board of Australia has hauled nephrologist Dr Omar Azzam before a professional standards tribunal to face allegations of serious misconduct. While the legal process unfolds, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has imposed conditions on him.

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

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## New Covid strain alert

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/04/2026, Page 10

Australians have been warned of a new strain of Covid that is spreading across the US and Europe. [...] The strain was first detected in Australia in wastewater surveillance in November 2025, an Australian Centre for Disease Control spokesman confirmed.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## NSW Health issues urgent warning as Ross River virus detected ahead of Easter holidays

The Australian, Other, 02/04/2026, Georgia Palgan

NSW's peak healthy body has issued an urgent warning for Sydneysiders to protect themselves against a "concerning" mosquito-borne virus after it was detected ahead of the Easter holidays. The Easter long weekend ahead, school holidays and a recent increase in Ross River virus in Sydney has health experts warning people to be extra wary of this buzzkill: mosquitoes.

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

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Big interest in weight loss pill as it waits for approval

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 03/04/2026, Elias Visontay, Page 22

Australian tech health providers say they are eager to sell an oral pill version of an Ozempic-style weight loss drug if it is approved for local use, after US authorities approved a new formulation overnight. Local health firms Mosh, My Weight Loss Clinic and Eucalyptus – whose brands include Pilot and Juniper – all said they were now keenly awaiting Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to follow in the steps of its US counterpart, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which on Wednesday approved pharma company Eli Lilly's new weight-loss pill.

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

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### Medik8 Physical sunscreen recall

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 02/04/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has announced that AC Newco is recalling all unexpired batches of Medik8 Physical Sunscreen SPF50 60ml, 60ml Professional and 15ml, due to the product being unlikely to meet its labelled SPF rating.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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## FOOD STANDARDS

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## AICIS

### **Researchers uncover little-known factor linked to kidney damage: 'Can compromise overall cell health'**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 02/04/2026, Tina Deines

A study has found that the tiniest microplastics can severely compromise kidney health and function. What's happening?

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