



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 4th April 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 7) reports US President Donald Trump has imposed a 100 per cent tariff imposed on Australia's branded medicines. Despite industry calls to reform the PBS in response to these trade pressures, Minister Mark Butler stated that the Federal Government will not negotiate on the design of the scheme.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 13) reports the Federal Government is monitoring a decline in childhood vaccination rates across all key milestones, with the AIHW noting that full coverage for two-year-olds fell below 90 per cent last year. Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler attributed the trend to vaccine fatigue and online misinformation.
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 4) reports a communication failure at Canberra Hospital led to a patient with measles remaining in a general waiting area for 20 minutes despite advance notification from a walk-in centre. This incident, occurring amid concerns over falling childhood vaccination rates, has prompted a review by the territory's health service into how protocols for infectious disease alerts are managed when emergency departments are facing competing operational priorities.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports the digital divide is disproportionately impacting older Australians, with those aged over 75 largely excluded from essential online services. Peak advocacy bodies have noted that mandatory digital interactions with My Aged Care and the PBS can create significant barrier for those with limited digital literacy or access.

- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 20) reports IVF clinics are reporting a significant shortage of Caucasian sperm donors after state health authorities clarified a global donor limit. This regulatory clarification has impacted major providers leading fertility specialists to warn that local compliant donor supplies are being exhausted and limiting heritage-matching options for patients.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 9) reports research from Monash University indicates that victims of intimate partner violence are five times more likely to suffer serious mental health conditions, often due to misdiagnosed traumatic brain injuries.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 5) reports the AMA has cautioned that over the counter medications are not harmless following a critical incident where an Adelaide man suffered cardiac arrest after exceeding the maximum dosage of the drug Nurofen.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 12) reports a weekend strain on South Australian emergency departments, where the Royal Adelaide Hospital reported patients waiting over 24 hours for beds during the Easter long weekend.

MINISTER BUTLER

'Reform PBS' call after US tariff hit

Weekend Australian, General News, 04/04/2026, James Dowling, Page 7

Australia's pharmaceutical industry has demanded the Albanese government push through reforms of its Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme after the US slapped a 100 per cent branded medicine tariff on Australia, its highest rate under a new block of global import penalties. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said he was "confident" it would receive a carve-out under the policy.

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

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Farrell vows to fight Trump's drug tariffs

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/04/2026, James Massola & Michael Koziol, Page 5

Trade Minister Don Farrell has vowed to fight the 100 per cent tariffs slapped on Australian-made pharmaceuticals by the Trump administration, as Health Minister Mark Butler promised to protect the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from attacks by US lawmakers. In an interview with the Herald, Farrell said he would meet US trade tsar Jamieson Greer at the OECD in Paris in June and make the case to remove US tariffs on pharmaceuticals, as well as on other exports to the US, in line with the free trade deal between the countries.

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

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Trump's bitter tariffs pill

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/04/2026, Ellen Ransley, Page 4

The federal government is scrambling for details after Donald Trump announced a fresh round of tariffs that threatens nearly \$2bn in exports. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler lambasted the announcement as "deeply disappointing and deeply concerning" and "not the act of the friend".

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

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Vaccine rates in alarming decline

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/04/2026, Clareese Packer & Blair Jackson, Page 13

Vaccination rates continue to fall among children at all key milestones, with the number of fully vaccinated 12-montholds slipping by about 4 per cent from 2020 to 2025. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the trend was worldwide, pointing to online misinformation and the lingering effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

Housing lifeline for vets

Herald Sun, General News, 04/04/2026, Nathan Mawby, Page 29

Victoria's Vietnam veterans are set for a housing lifeline after the approval of hundreds of new retirement homes prioritised for their use. [...] It comes after federal Health Minister Mark Butler revealed Australia needed to open a new aged-care facility every three days for the next 20 years to generate enough aged-care beds for its rising older population in a radio interview last month.

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A bitter pill for exports

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/04/2026, Blair Jackson & Paul Starick, Page 11

Donald Trump slapping a 100 per cent tariff on Australian-made pharmaceuticals "is not the act of a friend", says Health Minister Mark Butler, warning small manufacturers will be hit but vowing medicine prices will be unaffected. The US President on Friday imposed the tariff on patented medicine imports, threatening Australian exports worth almost \$2bn.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Australia backs cheaper medicines

Canberra Times, General News, 04/04/2026, Tess Ikonomou, Page 10

Australia is sending the "clearest possible message" it won't succumb to pressure from big drug companies or the Trump administration over delivering cheaper medicines. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said Australia will not back down on the scheme.

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Australia stands firm in PBS tariff spat

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 04/04/2026, Page 24

Australia is standing firm on its commitment to cheaper medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme after US President Donald Trump slapped a global 100 per cent tariff on pharmaceuticals overnight. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said there was "no way" the Federal Government would be negotiating any "fundamental elements" of the PBS, which allows Australians access to more affordable medicines.

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A research funding drought means Australia is repeating history

The Australian, Other, 03/04/2026, Shane Huntington

In the early 1990s, while completing my honours degree in physics at the University of Melbourne, I was given a chance to discuss my work on 3RRR, Australia's largest public radio station. [...] Last month we called on patient advocacy groups to support us in a letter to Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler calling for the immediate release of MRFF funding.

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Health Minister Mark Butler says Australia won't be bullied into unwinding PBS after latest Trump tariff

West Australian, Other, 03/04/2026, Hannah Cross

Australia is standing firm on its commitment to cheaper medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme after US President Donald Trump slapped a global 100 per cent tariff on pharmaceuticals overnight. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said there was "no way" the Federal Government would be negotiating any "fundamental elements" of the PBS, which allows Australians access to more affordable medicines.

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

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Australia says it won't raise drug prices after Trump's 100% tariff on

pharmaceuticals imported into US

The Guardian, Other, 03/04/2026, Tom Mcilroy & Benita Kolovos

Australia will not cave in to pressure from pharmaceutical giants and the Trump Administration by removing consumer price protections on common medications, the health minister, Mark Butler says. President Donald Trump imposed a new 100% tariff on branded pharmaceuticals imported into the US overnight Australian time, trying to force manufacturers to agree to drug pricing deals or commit to making their products domestically.

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What Trump's 100 per cent pharmaceutical tariff means for Australia

SBS, Other, 03/04/2026, Miles Proust

United States President Donald Trump has slapped a 100 per cent tariff on some pharmaceutical drugs made outside the US, with Australian-made products facing the highest levy despite carve-outs for other countries. [...] On Friday, Health Minister Mark Butler told Sunrise that the prices of drugs on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) would not be affected by the new tariff, though it would create uncertainty for exporters.

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Health minister rules out changes to PBS as US imposes 100 per cent tariff on some pharmaceuticals

Sky News Australia, Other, 03/04/2026, Bianca Mulheron

Australians will not pay more for medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme despite new US tariffs on foreign-made pharmaceuticals, Health Minister Mark Butler says. Australians will not pay more for medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme after the United States imposed a 100 per cent tariff on some foreign-made pharmaceuticals.

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Australia's largest pharmaceutical exporter expected to dodge Trump's new tariffs

MSN Australia, Other, 03/04/2026, Adam Vidler

Donald Trump has followed through on his threat to hit pharmaceuticals entering the US with tariffs, and Australia has been slapped with the highest charge, but Australia's largest manufacturer is expected to dodge the costs. [...] Meanwhile, Health Minister Mark Butler criticised the move, urging the US to reverse the tariffs.

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'No impact': Vow to protect PBS from Trump

MSN Australia, Other, 03/04/2026, Blair Jackson

Australia will not be strong-armed to pay more for medicines because of tariffs and higher prices in the US, Health Minister Mark Butler says. Overnight US President Donald Trump ordered a 100 per cent tariff on pharmaceuticals manufactured outside the United States, a move that could have a big impact on Australia.

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

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ABC News, ABC News at Easter, 03/04/2026, Melissa Mackay & Joe O'Brien

The Trump Administration will impose 100% tariffs on branded pharmaceuticals imported into the US. It'll come into effect unless manufacturers agree to government drug pricing deals or commit to making their products domestically. The move is intended to push drug makers to onshore production and cut prescription drug prices in America. Health Minister Mark Butler says they are going to work through the details of the latest announcement and work with companies that might be impacted in Australia, which have a tradition of exporting pharmaceuticals to America.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 03/04/2026, Natalie Barr & Matt Shirvington

US President Donald Trump has pushed ahead with his tariff threats, imposing a 100% tax on some imported pharmaceuticals. Trump is insisting that if drug companies move their business to the US, he'll reduce that 100% tariff to 20%. Health Minister Mark Butler says the announcement won't impact the price of drugs under the PBS.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 03/04/2026, Natalie Barr & Matt Shirvington

Interview with Mark Butler, Health Minister, and Angus Taylor, Opposition Leader, on US President Donald Trump officially slapping a 100% tariff on pharmaceuticals, one of Australia's top exports to the US, valued at \$1.6b. Butler says their immediate concern is Australia's great exporters that have been sending products to the US for 20 years under a free trade agreement with no tariffs. Taylor says it will be important now for the Government to work, seek and assert itself to get exemptions for Australian exporters and to ensure that it doesn't have any impact on the price of drugs and the cost of drugs in Australia.

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Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 03/04/2026, Brett Mcleod

US President Donald Trump is following through on his threat to hit branded pharmaceuticals entering the US with a tariff, and Australia's been slapped with the highest charge of 100%. Health Minister Mark Butler is reassuring that it won't have an impact on pharmaceutical prices for customers in Australia.

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2SM, 10:00 News, 03/04/2026

US President Donald Trump has imposed a new 100% tariff on branded pharmaceuticals imported into the United States. Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler says the Federal Government is not negotiating when it comes to removing price protections on common medicines.

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3AW, 10:00 News, 03/04/2026

Health Minister Mark Butler says Australia will study a new 100% pharmaceutical tariff from the Trump Administration very carefully. Australia is not among the nations with trade deals that will receive a better deal under the new levy. Butler says Australia's biggest exporter, CSL, will likely avoid the worst of the effects.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Care for women, closer to home

Daily Advertiser, General News, 04/04/2026, Newsroom, Page 7

Wagga's new endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic was opened on Monday, ready to give women access to specialised care locally. [...] Assistant Minister for Women Rebecca White said the clinic will help address longstanding gaps in access to specialised care for women, particularly in regional communities.

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Patients of disgraced gynaecologist to get free health reviews

WA Today, Other, 04/04/2026, Henrietta Cook

Hundreds of former patients of disgraced gynaecologist Simon Gordon will receive free medical reviews with specialists as part of a \$9.45 million 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 on Thursday to unveil the support measures, which are aimed at addressing some of the ongoing trauma and pain experienced by Gordon's former patients.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Worrying vaccine trend as rates fall further

Courier Mail, General News, 04/04/2026, Clareese Packer & Blair Jackson, Page 3

Vaccination rates continue to fall among children at all key milestones, with the number of fully vaccinated 12-montholds slipping by about 4 per cent from 2020 to 2025. [...] Rates for full coverage among one and two-year-olds have tended to fluctuate around the low 90 per cent mark dating back to the early 2000s, according to historical data from the Australian government's Health Department, demonstrating a constant struggle to get rates up to herd immunity levels of 95 per cent.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Access denied

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, 04/04/2026, Stephanie Wood, Page 1

"So," my mother says, with steely intent. "I need your help." [...] The bombardment comes from all sides, from the ATO and My Aged Care and Centrelink, from insurers, medical institutions and banks (would you like your statements emailed to you and have you downloaded the app?).

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

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\$1000 to shower: care slug for aged

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/04/2026, Julie Cross, Page 9

Older Australians are being charged more than \$1000 to have daily assisted showers over the Easter weekend. [...] While any kind of call-out on a public holiday engages an extra cost, the new aged care reforms on November 1 have seen the price of basic necessities such as personal care and meals rise exponentially, whittling away people's funding alarmingly fast.

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

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ACT aged care employees caught up in \$11.7m worth of underpayments

Canberra Times, General News, 04/04/2026, Tim Piccione, Page 16

Aged care workers in the territory are among thousands of staff affected by millions of dollars in underpayments. On Thursday, April 2, the Fair Work Ombudsman revealed that Southern Cross Care would rectify more than \$11.7 million worth of underpayments to 5500 staff.

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Preventative health and dementia: the vital role of GPs

Medical Forum, General News, 01/04/2026, Professor Blossom Stephan, Page 26

Dementia is now the leading cause of death in Australia. It is not a normal part of ageing, there is currently no cure, and it has profound impacts on the individual, those closest to them, their healthcare providers and communities. There are an estimated 446,500 Australians currently living with dementia, including more than 43,400 people in WA.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

No relevant coverage

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PRIMARY CARE

Pain pill ordeal stops heart

Herald Sun, General News, 04/04/2026, Lucy Rutherford, Page 5

An Adelaide man who took 30 Nurofen tablets within two days for an extreme toothache has revealed how his heart stopped for several minutes during emergency surgery. Simon Yeaman, 61, has spent the past 11 days at the Royal Adelaide Hospital after surviving the terrifying ordeal.

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

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Patients endure 24-hour delays

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/04/2026, Sam Lowe, Page 12

Patients at the Royal Adelaide Hospital have been forced to wait more than 24 hours for a bed as emergency departments across the state struggle to meet long weekend demands. Five people spent their Good Friday morning having waited more than a day for a room at the RAH, while more than 60 people were waiting for a bed in hospitals across Adelaide as of 5.30pm.

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

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Motherhood slipping away

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/04/2026, Ashleigh Gleeson, Page 20

A woman trying to have a baby solo says her IVF clinic suddenly told her they had no caucasian sperm donors to match her heritage, as providers struggle with a major nationwide shortage of this ethnicity. Ellen, 44, is now facing the prospect of not being able to become a mum, with her fertility specialist warning that sperm donor services in NSW had effectively been "shut down" statewide.

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

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From closed doors to a brand new practice

Burnie Advocate, General News, 04/04/2026, Sarah Fittock, Page 1

From closed doors to a full house, East Devonport's My Clinic Plus East has fully transformed. "We promised the people of Devonport that we'll have six doctors," director Dr Mirza Baig said.

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Local paramedics donate lifesaving tool

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 04/04/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 2

Local paramedics are helping Red Cliffs reach the gold standard as a Heart Safe community with a new tool donated to the Mildura Gymnastics Centre. Ambulance Victoria paramedics donated a new automated external defibrillator to the centre on Wednesday afternoon, one of several accessible throughout the town.

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Clancy situation intolerable, says boss

Border Mail, General News, 04/04/2026, Anthony Bunn, Page 7

Albury Wodonga Health's new interim chief executive is moving to speed up the process surrounding suspended emergency department leader David Clancy, saying the situation was "intolerable". Andrew Way told The Border Mail he wanted a more rapid resolution to Dr Clancy's situation.

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Chemist pill trial Concern

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 04/04/2026, Molly Frew, Page 16

A women's health trial approved by the federal government has been slammed by peak medical bodies who say the government is ignoring expert advice and prioritising political donations over safety. [...] The Australian Medical Association has criticised the move, along with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

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

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Cost of extra minutes with a GP 'not acceptable'

Medical Forum, General News, 01/04/2026, Page 7

The RACGP, along with groups including Palliative Care Australia, Parkinson's Australia, Sexual and Reproductive Health Australia and Dementia Australia, delivered an open letter to Parliament House in Canberra last month. "Currently, the per minute value of patient Medicare rebates decreases the more time a patient spends with their specialist GP. That means, for many people, the sicker you are, the more you pay out of pocket," the letter stated.

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States urged to go beyond Albanese's gambling reforms

Canberra Times, Other, 04/04/2026, Ben McKay

A "watered down and weak" package of federal government gambling reforms puts the onus on states to do more to prevent community harm, advocates say. [...] Beyond that measure, there is disappointment from a broad coalition of anti-gambling advocates - including the Australian Medical

Association, various NGOs, the Greens, independents David Pocock and Kate Chaney, along with Ms Webb - to the changes.

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

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 03/04/2026, Jaynie Seal

US President Donald Trump will go ahead with tariffs on some pharmaceutical imports. Levies of up to 100% will be imposed on patented drugs manufactured outside the US. The figure will drop to 20% for companies that promise to move their operations to the United States. Climate and Energy Minister Chris Bowen is adamant Australia will not change its health system for anyone, not even Trump.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Head injury fear for female DV victims

Weekend Australian, General News, 04/04/2026, Samina Rakhshani, Page 9

Domestic abusers are inflicting traumatic brain injuries on women that are often left ignored or misdiagnosed, research shows, and half of all victims are left with depression, anxiety or PTSD symptoms. [...] Intimate partner violence affects a third of women worldwide, and slightly lower in Australia, affecting 23 per cent of all women according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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

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Am I invisible?

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 04/04/2026, Andrew Hornery , Page 18

It's an idyllic looking scene: a quaint farmhouse surrounded by custard apple trees and towering eucalypts, nestled in the lush green valleys of Byron Bay's hinterland. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, between 70 and 90 per cent of us will experience at least one episode of severe back pain.

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

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Booze message doesn't age well

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 04/04/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 9

Modern advertising to reduce alcohol consumption is missing the mark with older adults, a new survey has revealed. Monash University researchers conducted in-depth interviews with 45 participants aged 54-74, asking how they felt about pre-existing alcohol harm-reduction campaigns.

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Grounded in good sense

Geelong Advertiser, GT, 04/04/2026, Page 20

Who hasn't had that sinking feeling when, at the height of a downpour, rain starts finding its way inside under the eaves and down windows because gutters and downpipes choked with leaves have been unable to cope? [...] According to Australian Institute of Health And Welfare data, there were 6167 falls on and from ladders across Australia in 202324 Tackling gutter-height pruning and trimming from the ground needs specialised equipment.

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The new new Dr Google when patients turn to AI

Medical Forum, General News, 01/04/2026, Alex Jenkins, Page 18

Many GPs will be long used to patients arriving not only with a list of symptoms they've searched

online, but also a firm belief they've already found the answer to their health concern. What's changed in recent years is the online 'answer' now arrives in a calm, polished paragraph that sounds like it was written by a clinician.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

'I love my rugby league, but what's it doing to my brain?'

Weekend Australian, General News, 04/04/2026, Jessica Halloran, Page 9

It was about two years ago that Solomon Platt, 20, started to wonder if the game he loved was hurting his brain. He's been playing rugby league from the age of six, remembers getting up from tackles slightly dazed from the age of 11 but, two years ago, two hits left him unconscious for a good few minutes.

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The common breast cancer myth that might put Australian women at risk

The Saturday Age, General News, 04/04/2026, Lauren Ironmonger, Page 20

Every day, about 58 Australians will be diagnosed with breast cancer. But despite it being the most common cancer among women, some myths are hard to shake. New consumer research from the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) suggests many still associate breast size with risk.

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Blood type B raises risk

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/04/2026, Page 13

Having blood type B (positive or negative) could raise your risk of type 2 diabetes by up to 28 per cent, research shows. Researchers from China Medical University published a review in the journal BMC Medicine indicating blood type can play a role alongside the more recognised risk factors of weight, ethnicity, genetics and diet.

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

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When it's not carpal tunnel syndrome

Medical Forum, General News, 01/04/2026, Dr Sheldon Moniz, Page 32

Upper limb compressive neuropathies are a frequent cause of pain, paraesthesia and weakness. Although carpal tunnel syndrome is the most recognised condition, a spectrum of central, proximal, and distal nerve compressions can present with overlapping clinical features.

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Walking the no-fuss path to better health and human connection

The Australian, Other, 03/04/2026, Stephen Lunn

"I've been given two legs, why not use them?" Grietje Ross laughs. [...] Add those who have an app-based Personal Walking Plan through the Heart Foundation's Walking Initiative and the numbers reach more than 400,000.

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Mineral Resources funding pledge offers Pilbara ear health program a three-year lifeline

West Australian, Other, 03/04/2026, Laura Newell

A hearing program benefiting remote WA communities has been given a three-year lifeline. Mineral Resources has announced they will extend their \$600,000 partnership with Ear Science Institute

Australia, bolstering support for the Healthy Hearing Outback program, which delivers on-country assessments and consultations to diagnose and treat ear disease and hearing loss.

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

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2GB, Breakfast, 03/04/2026, Ben Fordham

Interview with Rachel, voluntary assisted dying practitioner. More Australians are choosing to end their own life when they're terminally ill through voluntary assisted dying. Since it became legal in 2019, more than 7,000 people across Australia have chosen to end their lives with the assistance of doctors, and in the last 12 months, 3,300 people took the option to end their own lives. Rachel says it's a rewarding role to help people in their final days to grant them the wish to die on their terms with dignity.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Health, or the roof overhead

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/04/2026, Kaylee Cranley, Page 29

Rising cost of living pressures are forcing many Australians to choose between keeping their homes or their wellbeing, according to new research, and it's keeping a roof over their heads that's taking priority. New money.com.au data reveals almost one in two Aussies (44 per cent) have delayed medical care in the past five years due to mortgage costs.

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

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Practical considerations when deprescribing antidepressants

Medical Forum, General News, 01/04/2026, A Prof Davinder Hans, Page 24

Antidepressants remain among the most commonly prescribed medications. While long-term use often occurs in the context of complex mental health issues and physical and social comorbidities, there is considerable potential for structured re-evaluation and timely discontinuation when medications are no longer needed.

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IMMUNISATION

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Hospital failed to isolate measles case

Canberra Times, General News, 04/04/2026, Lucy Arundell, Page 4

Communication failures in the ACT health system's infectious disease alert system left a patient with measles sitting in an emergency department for more than 20 minutes, despite prior warning. Protocols meant to help identify and isolate people likely sick with highly infectious diseases were not followed by at least one staff member at The Canberra Hospital, with several opportunities to isolate the patient missed.

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

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Questions over delay

Newcastle Herald, General News, 04/04/2026, Damon Cronshaw & Jamieson Murphy, Page 1

The Minns government has been accused of withholding important documents from a parliamentary inquiry that reveal severe fungal infections and deaths at the Calvary Mater Newcastle. [...] The internal documents refer to four deaths in 15 months among people who tested positive for mould contaminating the hospital.

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Lachlan Jackwitz dies after two-hour wait for blood following horror fall at home

The Courier Mail, Other, 04/04/2026, Iwan Jones

A Lockyer Valley man has died after waiting two hours for emergency blood supplies to arrive at Gatton Hospital, prompting his family to demand rural hospitals stock life-saving blood. [...] Mrs Jackwitz said the family was feeling let down by the system and believes that a hospital in a rural area should have an adequate supply of blood suitable for emergency use.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Meet the pharmacist rewriting the script for women in leadership

Australasian Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2026, Miranda Cook, Page 54

Iraqi-born pharmacist Sara Murdock has turned a childhood shaped by conflict into a career of service. Now the award-winning Melbourne clinician is driving a national push to help more women step into pharmacy leadership.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Trump slaps 100pc tariffs on Australian drugs - with exceptions

Australian Financial Review, Other, 03/04/2026, Jessica Gardner

Australian drugmakers that do not build new factories in America and dramatically cut their prices for US consumers will be hit with 100 per cent tariffs, putting pressure on the Albanese government to do a trade deal to protect smaller firms.

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Trump threatens 100% tariff on US drug makers that don't strike deals to lower prices

The Guardian, Other, 03/04/2026, Lauren Aratani

Donald Trump is threatening 100% tariffs on pharmaceutical companies that have not struck deals to lower US drug prices. The new tariff will only apply to branded drugs and their active ingredients.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

GP Osama Moussa banned for two years after propositioning 'highly vulnerable' patient for sex and visiting her at home

Adelaide Now, Other, 03/04/2026, Lucy Rutherford

A GP has been banned for a "catastrophic failure" after he started visiting a vulnerable patient at her home and propositioning her for sex. In a judgment published online, the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal disqualified Osama Moussa, 49, from applying to be re-registered as a health practitioner for two years.

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

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Health alert as Cicada Covid variant spreads worldwide

The Courier Mail, Other, 03/04/2026, Alexandra Feiam

Aussies 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 (CDC) spokesman confirmed.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 03/04/2026, Brenton Ragless

A new strain of COVID is now circulating here in Australia after a surge in cases throughout the US and Europe. NSW is leading the country in the number of covid cases, followed by Queensland and Victoria.

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Global roaming: When shortages become the norm

Australasian Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2026, Sarah C Porter, Page 58

Medicine shortages have become a defining challenge for community pharmacies across the globe, disrupting patient care, reshaping workflows, straining resources, and testing the resilience of health systems. [...] In Australia, a 2024 survey commissioned by the Therapeutic Goods Administration found most patients (88.1 percent) reported finding out about shortages from a pharmacist.

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Taking a precision approach to treat MND/ALS

Medical Forum, General News, 01/04/2026, Dr Frances Theunissen & Dr Dev Nathan, Page 36

The rapidly evolving field of precision medicine and how it is reshaping the understanding and treatment of motor neurone disease (MND) was explored in a recent review led by WA researchers in collaboration with Kings College London. [...] Although these classifications are still commonly used, with the emergence of gene targeted treatment for ALS (Tofersen for SOD1-ALS; under TGA review and not on PBS), we anticipate that genetic testing will become a standard practice for all ALS patients and knowledge of genetic variant status will increasingly influence treatment decisions.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Alcohol and other drugs care 'very fragmented'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 03/04/2026, Megan Haggan

A pharmacist expert in addiction medicine has addressed a parliamentary hearing into alcohol and drug harms, saying pharmacists are needed to fill crucial gaps. Professor Suzanne Nielsen FANZCAP (AddMed, Research), is an National Health and Medical Research Council leadership fellow and the deputy director of the Monash Addiction Research Centre in Melbourne.

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