



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 5th April 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Territorian](#)** (page 1) reports the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation has called for an urgent investigation by NT WorkSafe into the emergency department at Royal Darwin Hospital following reports of routine violence, death threats, and inadequate security response times for staff.
- **[The Sunday Herald Sun](#)** (page 8) reports older Australians are reportedly being pressured by aged care providers to sign contracts containing clauses that allow for caveats on their properties and require third-party guarantors as security for unpaid debts. Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae has advised individuals to report concerns to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, while the federal Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing confirmed that third-party guarantors are not a requirement under existing aged care legislation.
- **[The Sunday Telegraph](#)** (page 7) reports Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has encouraged states and territories to follow Queensland's lead by reinstating organ donor registration on driver's licence applications to increase participation in the national register. Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White noted that such simple prompts make registration more accessible and encourage families to discuss their wishes with the Australia Organ and Tissue Authority to help save lives.
- **[The Sunday Tasmanian](#)** (page 3) reports the RACGP has urged the Tasmanian government to subsidise the FluMist nasal spray vaccine to address declining immunisation rates and reduce

pressure on hospitals, noting that only 29.6 per cent of Tasmanian children under five were vaccinated against influenza in the previous peak period. The federal Department of Health with TGA approval currently provides free injectable vaccines for this age group under the National Immunisation Program, while the state government awaits further data from other jurisdictions before considering future subsidies for the needle-free alternative.

- **The Sun Herald** (page 1) reports wait times for grommet surgery in NSW have reached a point where ten per cent of patients wait over a year for the procedure, a delay the AIHW notes is significantly longer than in other Australian states, with potential disproportionate impacts for Indigenous children and those in regional areas.
- **Coffs Coast News of the Area** (page 9) reports Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride recently visited Headspace Coffs Harbour to inspect refurbishments funded by the Federal Government to improve the delivery of youth mental health services.

MINISTER BUTLER

Tick for push to drive up donors

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 05/04/2026, Kristy Symonds & Ellen Ransley, Page 7

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has urged states and territories to follow Queensland's lead and commit to reinstating the ability to register as an organ donor with a tick of the box during the driver's licence process. The Sunshine State last week became the first place in the country to confirm it would bring back the simple system, which allows people to register while applying for or renewing their licence.

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

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Bitter pill for exports

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 04/04/2026, Blair Jackson, Page 22

Donald Trump has ordered a 100 per cent tariff on pharmaceuticals manufactured outside the US, a move that could have a big impact on Australia. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said subsidised Australian prices under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme which Mr Trump has been critical of would not rise.

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Australia backs cheaper medicines in face of US levies

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 04/04/2026, Tess Ikonomou, Page 12

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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Nation deserves clear, hard truths on energy future

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 04/04/2026

Speaking to the National Press Club on Thursday following his televised national address the previous evening, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese portrayed himself as a voice of calm in a maelstrom of misinformation. [...] "I think Australians understand that this is all happening because of a war we're not a party to," was how Health Minister Mark Butler put it .

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

[Read More](#)

'We think it should be zero': Farrell vows to fight Trump administration

over drug tariffs

WA Today, Other, 04/04/2026, James Massola & Michael Koziol

Trade Minister Don Farrell has vowed to fight the 100 per cent tariffs slapped on 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 this masthead, 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.

[Read More](#)

Trump imposes 100 per cent tariff on Australian drugs – but with caveats

WA Today, Other, 04/04/2026, Michael Koziol

The Trump administration is imposing a 100 per cent tariff on imports of patented drugs, with Australian-made pharmaceuticals subject to the highest possible rate despite carve-outs for other countries [...] Appearing on Channel Seven's Sunrise on Friday morning, Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was "pretty confident" CSL would be exempted, but had serious concerns for other exporters.

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Ageing Victorian Vietnam veterans get \$320m housing lifeline

NEWS.com.au, Other, 04/04/2026, Nathan Mawby

Victoria's ageing and financially struggling 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 needs 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 on Adelaide's FIVEAA radio station last month.

[Read More](#)

Federal funding boost for Royal Children's Hospital as Good Friday Appeal marks 95 years

The Australia Today, Other, 04/04/2026, Amit Sarwal

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has announced a \$2 million federal funding boost for Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital, as the annual Good Friday Appeal marks its 95th year. The funding, revealed on Friday in a joint statement with Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles and Health Minister Mark Butler, is aimed at improving access to specialised paediatric care across Victoria and expanding national health information services for children and young people.

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ABC Radio Sydney, 05:00 News, 04/04/2026

Federal and state leaders have reacted to new pharmaceutical export tariffs announced by US president Donald Trump, with Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan raising concerns about impacts on medicine supply and local jobs. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting the PBS, insisting that it is not up for negotiation. Pharmaceuticals remain a major Australian export to the US, valued at around \$1.9 billion last year.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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Sign away your home

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 05/04/2026, Julie Cross, Page 8

Older Australians needing help at home are being pressured to sign contracts that grant providers a legal claim over their properties if they accrue unpaid aged care debts. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said older people should always report their concerns to the commission if something did not feel right.

Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Ministerial visit highlights headspace services

Coffs Coast News of the Area, General News, 03/04/2026, Andrea Ferrari, Page 9

Headspace Coffs Harbour (hCH) recently welcomed a visit from Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride, along with Healthy North Coast's CEO Monika Wheeler, and Director of Integrated Community Wellbeing Aimee McNeill. The visit focused on the headspace Demand Management and Enhancement Program, which has recently supported the refurbishment of the waiting area so that it is more welcoming, calming and youth-friendly.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Tick for push to drive up donors

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 05/04/2026, Kristy Symonds & Ellen Ransley, Page 7

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has urged states and territories to follow Queensland's lead and commit to reinstating the ability to register as an organ donor with a tick of the box during the driver's licence process. The Sunshine State last week became the first place in the country to confirm it would bring back the simple system, which allows people to register while applying for or renewing their licence.

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

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Cardiac services a beat closer

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 05/04/2026, Elise Kaine, Page 6

Enhanced and consolidated cardiac care services are one step closer for Launceston as the government invites tenders for the Northern Heart Centre. [...] Health and Aged Care Assistant Minister Rebecca White said heart disease remained one of the biggest health challenges facing Tasmanians.

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'Dramatic turnaround': Launceston's cardiac care set for \$120M fix

Tasmanian Examiner, Other, 04/04/2026, Lauren Richardson

Launceston houses one of the busiest public, rural specialty procedure rooms in the country, and it's set to get a major upgrade. [...] Federal assistant health minister Rebecca White said the Australian Government committed \$120 million for the establishment of the centre.

[Read More](#)

Tenders open for \$120 million heart centre at Launceston General Hospital

WEB Pulse Tasmania, Other, 04/04/2026

A \$120 million cardiac centre with 24 inpatient beds, two catheterisation laboratories and new diagnostic equipment is set for northern Tasmania after tenders opened on Saturday. [...] "The Albanese Labor government's \$120 million investment will make a real difference to how Tasmanians access cardiac care, supporting earlier diagnosis and more timely treatment," assistant federal health and aged care minister Rebecca White said.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

'Merciless' care contract clause

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 05/04/2026, Julie Cross, Page 23

Older Australians needing help at home are being pressured to sign contracts that grant providers a legal claim over their properties if they accrue unpaid aged care debts. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said third-party guarantors were not included in the aged care legislation, but could not give a definitive answer to questions about caveats on property.

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

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Guide to saving life from overdose

Bega District News, General News, 04/04/2026, Jimmy Parker, Page 6

What looks like a standard OxyContin tablet could be a "counterfeit" cocktail containing nitazenes that are up to 500 times more potent than heroin. [...] According to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, three people die every day from opioid-related use, more than 110,000 Australians are currently struggling with opioid dependence, and 64 per cent of drug-induced deaths in 2018 involved opioids.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Downsizing doesn't mean downing your garden tools

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 05/04/2026, Michael Keelan, Page 50

There is unquestionably a shortage of housing, particularly so-called affordable housing, across Australia as the homes crisis continues. [...] On one hand, the federal government, through My Aged Care, and other excellent agencies are actively supporting older Australians to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

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How to future-proof your brain from dementia, from a neuroscientist

The Australian, Other, 04/04/2026, Kate Spicer

"The motor components of juggling are fairly simple," says Professor Tommy Wood, while steering apples through the air, "once you get the hang of it." [...] Dementia is the UK's (and Australia's) leading cause of death according to data from the Office for National Statistics.

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Aged care outrage as vulnerable people forced to go without showers over Easter

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

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

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UWA alliance to advance Alzheimer's diagnosis and prevention to be headed up by leading Perth scientist

West Australian, Other, 04/04/2026, Belinda Hickman

Perth scientists' efforts to develop an Australian-first blood test to diagnose Alzheimer's within the next two to three years have been given a boost through a \$6 million partnership based at the University of WA. The blood test would work by measuring brain protein molecules in the blood, which can reflect changes in the brain linked to dementia.

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2GB, Weekends, 04/04/2026, Luke Grant

Grant discusses the aged care system, criticising soaring costs for basic services like personal care over the Easter period, with some elderly people reportedly charged over \$1,000 a day. He argues that recent reforms are rapidly depleting funding and forcing older Australians to forgo essentials such as showers and meals, highlighting cases of families struggling to afford care. He condemns the situation as a systemic failure, accusing the government of offering empty responses while neglecting dignity in aged care.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

2GB, Weekends, 04/04/2026, Luke Grant

Interview with former Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr. Nick Coatsworth about the sustainability of the NDIS. Coatsworth argues that the scheme's \$52 billion cost is outpacing Medicare and aged care, highlighting inequities for over-65s and warning of widespread rorting and price gouging. He calls for stronger enforcement and rebalancing funding priorities to ensure that health, aged care, and disability systems function fairly and effectively.

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PRIMARY CARE

Years-long wait for 15-minute procedure

Sun Herald, General News, 05/04/2026, Angus Thomson, Page 1

Demand for surgery in NSW is forcing one in 10 patients to wait more than a year for a 15-minute ear procedure, leaving children at risk of learning delays and long-term hearing loss. The problem is most

acute for children in regional areas where hospitals are struggling to recruit specialists and Indigenous children, whose rates of chronic ear disease are among the highest in the world.

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Paying through the nose

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Edition Changes, 05/04/2026, Rachel Riley, Page 13

The percentage of Queenslanders accessing specialist appointments within clinically recommended times in the public system is the lowest it has been in more than six years. One Queensland man who can "barely breathe" through his nose has been waiting more than 800 days for an ear, nose and throat (ENT) appointment.

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

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Patients need more support

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Editorials, 05/04/2026, Page 78

Sometimes, when the Sunday Mail or The Courier Mail launch a campaign to get action on behalf of our readers, it takes months or even years of persistent advocacy to get results. [...] "With rising fuel costs and fuel shortages, AMA Queensland is concerned people will delay seeking medical care," Queensland president Nick Yim says.

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States to back up gambling reforms

Sunday Times, General News, 05/04/2026, Ben McKay, Page 21

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. [...] 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.

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Pharmacists to prescribe the pill

Medical Forum, General News, 01/04/2026, Page 4

Doctors are warning of a risk to women's health amid a "dangerous" decision by the federal government to allow pharmacists to prescribe the oral contraceptive pill. From January 2027 a pilot program will allow concession holders to access contraceptives and treatments for uncomplicated UTIs prescribed by qualified pharmacists, without a doctor's prescription.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Black market smoked: war hits underworld

Sunday Age, General News, 05/04/2026, Chris Vedelago, Page 6

Black market cigarette prices have soared up to 50 per cent as the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a series of major seizures and worsening violence in the nationwide tobacco war squeezes local supplies and leads to price gouging. Illicit tobacco shops across Melbourne are jacking up prices on illicit brands such as Manchester and Double Happiness as the market faces shortages for the first time in years.

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Victorians skip vital medical care amid soaring housing cost stress

NEWS.com.au, Other, 04/04/2026, Alesha Capone

A massive number of Victorians are compromising on medical treatment due to mortgage and rental pressures. As a new report reveals nearly one in two Australians have delayed or put off medical care

in the past five years due to home loan and rental costs, a major charity is experiencing an “unprecedented” rise in people seeking health care-related support in Melbourne as housing, cost-of-living and fuel prices skyrocket.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Terminal distance

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 05/04/2026, Isabella Pesch, Page 34

Welcome to Mackay, where cancer rates are up to 185 per cent above the national average and patients fighting for their lives want to know why. [...] The Australian Cancer Atlas 2.0, led by Cancer Council Queensland (CCQ) and Queensland University of Technology, reveals that the diagnosis rate for all cancers in the Mackay CBD is 100 per cent above the national average.

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

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'Throwing little survivors back into the abyss'

Sunday Times, General News, 05/04/2026, Angela Pownall, Page 20

Pressure is mounting on the WA Government to open a dedicated Statewide clinic to help the growing number of adults who have survived childhood cancer. [...] Cancer Council WA Supportive Care director Melanie Marsh said those who had suffered when younger had very distinct health needs because of the intensity of treatments received during critical development years, and she threw her support behind the concept.

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One hit wonder for lung cancer surgery hit

Medical Forum, General News, 01/04/2026, Page 5

An Australian-first surgery carried out in Perth has enabled a patient with suspected lung cancer to have biopsies taken, cancer confirmed and then removed all in one operation, under one anaesthetic. The ground-breaking procedure was carried out at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital earlier this year.

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Men urged to ejaculate 21 times a month to cut prostate cancer risk

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/04/2026, Emma Glassman-Hughes

FCancer, a non-profit focused on cancer prevention and early detection, has declared its mission to “beat cancer off, literally” - imploring men to ejaculate more for their health. [...] According to Cancer Australia, 1 in 5 men are at risk of being diagnosed by the time they reach 85.

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

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Strokes may be avoided by targeting 'silent' condition

Canberra Times, Other, 04/04/2026, Kat Wong

Maryanne Bawden thought she had the flu when her husband insisted she go to the hospital. But when her scans came back, doctors said she was lucky she wasn't paralysed.

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

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The top myths about cancer: We separate fact from fiction

7News.com.au, Other, 04/04/2026, Smita Kunvarji

Not everything you hear about cancer is true. Some myths are harmless, others can hold you back from prevention. [...] But according to Bowel Cancer Australia the reality is early-onset bowel cancer is on the rise and you should never be told "you're too young to have bowel cancer".

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

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IMMUNISATION

Nasal vaccine on the nose

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 05/04/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 3

The Tasmanian government will not subsidise a nasal spray vaccine for influenza being offered free for the first time to some children interstate. [...] "The government will review the results of the subsidised FluMist trial in other states and review the learnings and outcomes of these programs to inform planning for the 2027 influenza vaccination campaign," a Health Department spokeswoman said.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 04/04/2026, Fauziah Ibrahim & Johanna Nicholson

Australia has introduced the needle-free FluMist nasal spray vaccine for children aged 2 to 17, with health authorities hoping it will boost low influenza vaccination rates. The vaccine, already used overseas, is free for eligible children in several states and available privately nationwide, with doctors saying it is safe and effective. Officials say the easier option could be a game changer, particularly for younger children at higher risk of complications.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Cover you can't afford to skip

Sun Herald, Business News, 05/04/2026, Victoria Devine, Page 26

As private health insurance premiums increased this month at an average of 4.41 per cent, many households are probably wondering whether the additional expense can be justified right now. In Australia, we spend on average \$1500 to \$2000 a head, or collectively about \$120 billion, on insurance every year.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Kids' cancer defences

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 05/04/2026, Page 16

Researchers have created a detailed map of a deadly childhood cancer, showing it uses "shields" and "bodyguards" to protect itself, paving the way for new treatments. University of Queensland

researchers used cutting-edge technology to map the biology of neuroblastoma a cancer that typically develops in children under the age of five finding a hidden "shield" the tumours use as protection.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

NT Health says \$1.1m private midwifery contract still under review due to unresolved 'issues'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/04/2026, Lottie Hood

A \$1.1 million private midwifery contract in Darwin remains in the lurch two months after NT Health said issues were being "worked through" after the midwife running the business was barred from working unsupervised. [...] But serious concerns were raised months later when it was discovered that Ms Marks was being investigated by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia who then imposed a series of conditions on her registration.

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

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Frontline fear

Sunday Territorian, General News, 05/04/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 1

Staff within Royal Darwin Hospital's emergency department are regularly facing violence and threats with "inadequate" security, creating "extreme concerns" that workers might be seriously harmed, say the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation. Now, the union has called for an immediate NT WorkSafe probe into the department where incidents of abuse and violence have become "routine".

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Channel 9, Nine News (Saturday), 04/04/2026

A new deal under the PBS has drastically cut the price of Fedratinib, a drug for myelofibrosis, from \$64,000 a year to \$300. The drug helps patients manage symptoms including severe bone pain, night sweats, and an enlarged spleen. SA Health & Medical Research Institute's professor David Ross said the lower cost now gives patients more choice and makes long-term treatment affordable.

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Jawdropping reason why this top child psychiatrist could be CANCELLED

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/04/2026, Candace Sutton

A prominent child psychiatrist faces losing her medical licence after speaking out against 'gender-affirming care' at a major children's hospital. The Queensland Health Ombudsman has referred a complaint against Dr Jillian Spencer to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) which could deregister her or severely restrict her ability to practise.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

COVID-19 strain is starting to spike

Sunday Times, General News, 05/04/2026, Page 24

Health experts have warned that a new strain of COVID-19 is spreading across the US and Europe, and is beginning to spike here in Australia. But experts say there are no signs the variant BA.3.2, otherwise known as Cicada, poses a bigger health threat than other variations.

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New COVID strain circulating in Australia as it spreads across the globe

9News, Other, 04/04/2026

A new strain of COVID-19 is spreading across the US, Europe and is now spiking here in Australia. But experts say there are no signs the variant BA.3.2, otherwise known as "Cicada", poses a bigger health threat than other variations.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Major change to flu jab for kids

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 05/04/2026, Abisha Sapkota, Page 23

For the first time, some Aussies can opt for a nasal spray vaccination instead of an injection against influenza. [...] Australia's medicine regulators, the Therapeutic Goods Administration have approved FluMist with the conditional age range.

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

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Kids crying out for relief

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 05/04/2026, Harrison Finlay, Page 23

A prescription medication for a debilitating skin condition that is listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for adults and children aged 12 and over, is yet to be made available for younger kids, with families having to weigh up waiting until their child reaches the age of 12 or pay more than \$16,000 a year to help ease their pain. [...] The medication has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for treating severe atopic dermatitis (eczema) in children aged 6 months to 11 years, and is listed on the PBS for children who suffer from severe and uncontrolled asthma.

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

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FluMist nasal spray vaccine is available for use in Australia, but only some children will get it for free

ABC Online, Other, 04/04/2026, Emma Pollard

Children in Australia can now have a nasal spray vaccine for the flu rather than an injection. ABC News: Mark Leonardi Australia's 2026 peak flu season will be unlike any other. [...] Australia's medicines regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, has approved FluMist for people aged from 24 months old to less than 18 years of age.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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