



# TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 6th April 2026

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports Senator Michelle Ananda-Rajah has suggested that revenue from tax changes in the upcoming federal budget should be accompanied by cuts to the NDIS, stating that the current goal held by Mark Butler to slow the annual growth is insufficient.
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (online) reports the ten federal electorates with the highest levels of NDIS provider compliance issues are primarily located in western Sydney and north-west Melbourne. A spokesperson for Jenny McAllister stated that the Federal Government has passed new laws to enhance the powers of the NDIA and the commission to issue banning orders and criminalise the provision of unregistered supports to protect the integrity of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- **[The Star Weekly](#)** (online) reports Dan Repacholi will co-chair a new national Prostate Cancer Expert Advisory Group to strengthen cancer care and address inequities in access and early detection for the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia.
- **[Indigenous News Australia](#)** (online) reports the Federal Government has announced 785,000 dollars in grants through the Australia Organ and Tissue Authority to fund community awareness projects aimed at increasing donor registrations, particularly among First Nations audiences. Rebecca White stated that these grants will support local events and national campaigns to encourage the 14 per cent of Australians who are currently unaware of how to sign up to register and discuss their donation decisions with their families.

- [The Age](#) (page 5) reports the Supreme Court of Victoria has awarded 275,000 dollars in damages to a patient for assault and negligence after Bendigo Health staff coerced her into a non-consensual vaginal examination during labour.
- [The Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 3) reports the AHPRA and the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal has cancelled the registration of general practitioner William Reading Moore following findings of professional misconduct, including the dissemination of misinformation regarding COVID-19 vaccines and masks.
- [The Australian](#) (page 8) reports the TGA has issued an urgent recall for three Medik8 physical sunscreen products, following a proposal to introduce new regulations that would simplify testing and label requirements.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Amending the tax Bill: reform rejig

The Australian, General News, 06/04/2026, Greg Brown, Page 1

Former Labor leader Bill Shorten says he would vow to deploy all proceeds from negative gearing and capital gains crackdowns into income tax cuts if he had a do-over of the 2019 election campaign, as Anthony Albanese faces internal pressure to ensure his reform agenda at the May budget does not amount to a "cash grab". [...] She said Health Minister Mark Butler's aim to slow the growth of the NDIS to 5 to 6 per cent a year was not enough, and the program needed to be reduced from its existing size.

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

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### 'Worrying' decline in child vaccination rates

The Australian, General News, 06/04/2026, Clareese Packer & Blair Jackson, Page 8

Vaccination rates are continuing to fall among children at all key milestone ages, with the number of fully vaccinated 12-month-olds slipping by about 4 per cent from 2020 to 2025. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is concerned rates among young children are continuing to decline, but says the trend is worldwide, pointing to online misinformation and the lingering effects of the pandemic.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#)

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### Labor to slow NDIS growth

Age, General News, 06/04/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 1

Labor will make slowing growth in the \$50 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme a centrepiece of its budget savings as the war in the Middle East continues to heap pressure on households and the government's bottom line. [...] Their argument will help bolster Health Minister Mark Butler's case as he mulls structural overhauls of NDIS eligibility or how the scheme funds services in his efforts to significantly curtail the scheme's growth trajectory within the next few years.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#)

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### Trump Demands Australia Dismantle System That Makes Medicine Affordable for People Who Already Can't Afford Food

Indigenous News Australia, Other, 06/04/2026, Dean Foley

US President Donald Trump has imposed a 100 per cent tariff on foreign-made pharmaceuticals in what the American pharmaceutical lobby hopes will eventually dismantle Australia's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme – the program that stops a box of blood pressure tablets from costing \$400. [...] "There is no way we're negotiating about those fundamental elements of the PBS" Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### Labor heartlands home to biggest NDIS fraud risks

Australian Financial Review, Other, 05/04/2026, Paul Karp

The 10 worst electorates for National Disability Insurance Scheme provider compliance issues are all traditionally Labor-held outer suburban seats in western Sydney and north-west Melbourne.

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## MINISTER RAE

### Older Australians face losing their homes under 'unconscionable' care contracts

Herald Sun, Other, 05/04/2026, Julie Cross

Older Australians needing help at home are being pressured to sign contracts that grant providers a legal claim over their property 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 does not feel right.

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

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### DonateLife grants to fund First Nations outreach in bid to lift donor registrations

Indigenous News Australia, Other, 06/04/2026, Dean Foley

New federal funding aimed at lifting Australia's organ and tissue donor registrations will include dedicated outreach to First Nations audiences, with community awareness projects to be delivered through Richmond Football Club and a national radio campaign involving 13 First Nations stations. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Rebecca White announced \$785,000 in grants for 13 DonateLife community partners under the Organ and Tissue Authority's Community Awareness Grants program.

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

### New advisory group for prostate cancer

Star Weekly, Other, 05/04/2026

The federal government has established a national Prostate Cancer Expert Advisory Group. [...]

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## DEPARTMENT

### 'Worrying' decline in child vaccination rates

The Australian, General News, 06/04/2026, Clareese Packer & Blair Jackson, Page 8

Vaccination rates are continuing to fall among children at all key milestone ages, with the number of fully vaccinated 12-month-olds slipping by about 4 per cent from 2020 to 2025. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is concerned rates among young children are continuing to decline, but says the trend is worldwide, pointing to online misinformation and the lingering effects of the pandemic.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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### Crackdown on marketing of baby formula

The Australian, Business News, 06/04/2026, Danielle Long, Page 21

Infant formula marketing is facing strict new regulatory controls as the government prepares legislation restricting how the public can access information about feeding options for babies. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is in the last weeks of a public consultation that will inform the final scope of its legislation on the marketing of infant formula.

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

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### Elderly urged to sign away homes for care

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/04/2026, Julie Cross, Page 10

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. [...] When approached for comment, 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.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Riverina workers among the underpaid

Border Mail, General News, 06/04/2026, Xavier Mardling, Page 4

Aged care and home care workers across the Riverina are set to receive significant back pay after Southern Cross Care (NSW & ACT) admitted to more than \$11.7 million in underpayments. The not-for-profit provider, which operates major residential facilities in Lavington, Corowa, Leeton, and Deniliquin, entered into an enforceable undertaking with the Fair Work Ombudsman after a self-audit revealed systemic payroll failures spanning seven years.

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### 2GB, Weekends, 05/04/2026, Jason Morrison

Morrison reports that 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. A 65-year-old woman, who suffered strokes, noted that the contract also requested a third-party guarantor. She and her husband featured in the launch of the Care Repair campaign a week ago, which is shining a light

on how the new aged care reforms are making older people's lives worse. More than 100 federal politicians have signed a letter calling on the Federal Government to fix the system.

Also reported by: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#)

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

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## PRIMARY CARE

### The children waiting years for a 15-minute procedure

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 05/04/2026, Angus Thomson

Demand on the NSW surgical system 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 acutely felt by children in regional areas – where hospitals are struggling to recruit specialists – and Indigenous children, who experience some of the highest rates of chronic ear disease in the world

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Pressure on fostering

Courier Mail, General News, 06/04/2026, Remy Varga, Page 13

Jesse Bell-Myers says the foster care system saved his life. [...] About 45,000 children are currently living in out of home care while there are 8000 foster carer households with a placement, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### Life size: Common breast cancer myth that's putting women at risk

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/04/2026, Lauren Ironmonger, Page 15

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.

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### Doctors overlooking an 'invisible disease'

Herald Sun, General News, 06/04/2026, Harvey Constable, Page 11

A leading doctor says he is "ashamed and horrified" that thousands of young Victorian women battling a common and debilitating condition are being dismissed and "gaslit" by his colleagues. [...] Tens of thousands of Australians, mostly women aged 15 to 25, are believed to have Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS), which causes chronic headaches, rapid breathing, dizziness, fainting, tremors, blurred vision and even balance issues.

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

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## 'A second chance': How do organ donations work?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 05/04/2026, Madeleine Heffernan

Every year, hundreds of Australians receive a lifesaving organ donation. What's it like to gift a kidney or have a change of heart, literally?

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## 'Life-changing' eczema drug for children caught in \$16,000-a-year PBS limbo

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/04/2026, Harrison Finlay

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. Families are 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.

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

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## Young father faces terminal bowel cancer diagnosis a year after beating disease

Northern Territory News, Other, 05/04/2026, Phoebe Griffiths

A year after beating bowel cancer, Hayden Kelly received the diagnosis every survivor dreads – the disease had returned and this time, the father-of-three was told it was terminal. [...] In July 2024, the age eligibility for the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) was lowered to allow people aged 45 to 49 to request a free bowel screening test kit in the mail.

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

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## Thousands of Aussies at risk of 'worst, most devastating strokes' due to common condition that goes undetected

9News, Other, 05/04/2026, Maddison Leach

A growing number of Australians could be living with a dangerous heart condition that can cause "the worst, most devastating strokes" – and they have no clue.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### System may be making us sicker

Canberra Times, General News, 06/04/2026, Steven Schwartz, Page 16

Australia has a mental health crisis, but not the one we think. Despite decades of soaring expenditure, our national mental health has not improved.

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

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### Boys and men talk suicide prevention

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 06/04/2026, Page 3

Our people 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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## IMMUNISATION

### Major change to flu jab

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/04/2026, Page 3

For the first time, some Aussies can opt for a nasal spray vaccination instead of an injection against influenza. Australia is experiencing a surge in influenza cases driven by the highly contagious Super-K strain.

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### Tasmanian children miss out on free flu spray as government says no to subsidy for now

Northern Territory News, Other, 05/04/2026, Sue Bailey

The Tasmanian government will not subsidise a nasal spray vaccine for influenza being offered free for the first time to some children interstate. Doctors are urging the government to provide the FluMist vaccine - which is sprayed up each nostril – for free in a bid to improve vaccination rates, especially for younger at risk children.

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

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Ramping rates fail to meet LNP targets

Cairns Post, General News, 06/04/2026, Samuel Davis, Page 3

Health Minister Tim Nicholls has conceded ramping numbers at Cairns Hospital are "still too high", with more than 100 bed blockers delaying patients from receiving further treatment within the emergency

department. In January, 36.2 per cent of patients waited more than 30 minutes to be transferred off a stretcher at the Far North hospital, according to data published on Queensland Health's website.

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## 2GB, Weekends, 05/04/2026, Jason Morrison

Morrison reports that demand on the New South Wales surgical system is forcing 1 in 10 patients to wait more than a year for a 15-minute procedure for glue ear, leaving children in regional areas at risk of learning delays and hearing loss. He adds that national hospital data shows patients in New South Wales are waiting twice as long as patients in other states.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### 'Issues' with \$1.1m deal

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/04/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 1

A \$1.1 million private midwifery contract remains stalled two months after NT Health said it was resolving issues with the lead midwife. [...] 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.

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### Landmark payout for vaginal exam in labour

Age, General News, 06/04/2026, Wendy Tuohy, Page 5

Doctors have been advised not to panic, and consent advocates say maternity care will improve, after a landmark court payout for assault to a family violence survivor pressured into having a vaginal examination. Dentistry academic Larissa Gawthrop was awarded \$275,000 in damages for assault, battery and negligence in the Supreme Court of Victoria on March 27 against Bendigo Health, where she gave birth in 2020.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#)

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### 'He threatened to rape me and slit my throat': Union calls for probe into violence towards RDH staff

Northern Territory News, Other, 05/04/2026, Lottie Hood

Staff within Royal Darwin Hospital's emergency department are regularly facing violence and threats with "inadequate" security creating "extreme concerns" that workers might be stabbed at work or at risk of suicide, say the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation. The union has called for an immediate investigation by NT WorkSafe into the department within the Darwin hospital where incidents of abuse and violence have become "routine".

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

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### GP ban over Covid vax rant

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 06/04/2026, Page 3

A GP has been banned after claiming Covid-19 vaccines were "experimental DNA manipulators" as well as allegedly accusing a mental health patient of "abusing the system". [...] The tribunal said AHPRA received a notification in 2020 that a patient discontinued her mental health medications after allegedly receiving advice from Mr Moore that they were not helpful and that her condition was related to a "spiritual attack".

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

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Sunscreens subject of urgent recall

The Australian, General News, 06/04/2026, Georgia Palgan, Page 8

Three sunscreens are being urgently recalled over concerns they may not meet their advertised sun protection factor. Medik8's Physical Sunscreen SPF50+ 60mL, 60mL Professional, and 15mL are all being recalled by owner AC Newco, the Therapeutic Goods Administration said.

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

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