



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 8th April 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 12) reports that Labor MPs Michelle Ananda-Rajah and Mike Freeland, both doctors, have backed urgent reforms to the NDIS to ensure the scheme's sustainability, while a group of independent MPs have written to Health Minister Mark Butler and NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister calling for a slower approach to reform.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 2) reports that an investigation into the Gold Coast's Child Youth Mental Health Services has highlighted concerns regarding unsafe wards and the use of force on vulnerable patients.
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 7) reports that NSW is the latest state to offer free needle-less flu vaccines for children aged two, three and four following a record number of flu cases for 2025, with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park calling the vaccine a "real win".
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports that construction work has started on the new \$21m Launceston Airport base for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Assistant Health and Aged Care Minister Rebecca White said "This investment will strengthen the Royal Flying Doctor Service's work, so more Tasmanians can get the care they need, no matter where they live".
- **[The Northern Territory News](#)** (page 1) reports that St John Ambulance NT entered its second ever 'Code White' with six critical patients left waiting for care across the Easter long weekend.

- [The Northern Territory News](#) (page 7) reports that the NT government is pushing ahead with a new pharmacy trial enabling pharmacists to treat and diagnose up to 19 additional conditions including contraceptive pills, acne and chronic heart disease management.
- [The Australian Financial Review](#) (page 1) reports that Kismet chief technology officer Mat Ellis says around 30 per cent of the 200,000 monthly NDIS invoices cannot be processed automatically due to illegible handwriting and formatting.
- [ABC Online](#) reports that Mary Wansey, a paraplegic woman from Canberra, has been stuck in a hospital for 19 months due to a shortage of aged care beds as her family struggles to find a suitable facility willing to accept her.

MINISTER BUTLER

Crossbenchers warn against NDIS cuts

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/04/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 12

Crossbench MPs will push back against Labor's attempts to rein in spending on the NDIS in next month's budget, warning that premature efforts to curb the \$50 billion scheme's growth will just move costs onto other areas such as health and aged care. As NDIS participants cautioned against focusing on costs at the expense of the scheme's many benefits, several independents, led by Monique Ryan, were yesterday writing to the scheme's ministers, Mark Butler and Jenny McAllister, with their fears that the government was prioritising budget savings over vulnerable people.

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

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Provider warns on NDIS rorts

Australian Financial Review, General News, 08/04/2026, Michael Smith, Page 1

National Disability Insurance Scheme providers are submitting barely legible handwritten invoices for payments of tens of thousands of dollars under a system that experts say needs to be digitised to stamp out fraud and rorting. One of the scheme's larges...

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Proposed NDIS fix just relocates the problem

Australian Financial Review, Letters, 08/04/2026, Page 27

The proposal to redirect children with developmental delay or autism out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and into school-based supports through Thriving Kids reflects a broader misunderstanding of where the real problem lies...

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CSL, Mayne Pharma expect to dodge new US pharma tariffs

West Australian, Other, 07/04/2026, Derek Rose

Australian blood products and vaccine giant CSL doesn't expect to be impacted by new US pharmaceutical tariffs, and neither does two smaller ASX-listed drug companies. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said Australia would not back down on the scheme.

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

[Read More](#)

'PBS is not up for negotiation'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/04/2026, Andrew Gray

Medicines listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) will not become more expensive for patients, Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing, Mark Butler, says, as the US announces 100%...

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There were plenty of smiles and a sprinkling of Easter magic at Gosford Hospital on Easter Sunday as the NSW National Servicemen's Association and Affiliates—known as the Nashos made their annual visit.

Grapevinenewsonline.com, Other, 07/04/2026

The Medicare Mental Health Check In website launched on 1 January 2026 providing information and resources about the service. [...]. Minister for Health Mark Butler said "The start of guided therapy delivered by Medicare Mental Health Check In is a major milestone in reform of mental health services in Australia.

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Court backs AstraZeneca in diabetes patent dispute

Health Industry Hub, Other, 07/04/2026

The Federal Court has granted AstraZeneca an interlocutory injunction restraining Pharmacor from launching generic versions of the diabetes medicine Forxiga. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has levelled a sharp accusation at US pharmaceutical companies, claiming they are attempting to "unpick"...

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"Targeted supports" launched for former patients of Simon Gordon

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 07/04/2026

In response to "serious concerns" raised by women about the care they received from a former gynaecologist, Simon Gordon, it has been announced that the Australian and Victorian Governments are working together "to provide targeted supports for affected patients to access appropriate care and services". [...] Australia's Minister for Health Mark Butler said: "Since these allegations came to light, I have met with some of the impacted women and we have heard their calls for help to access care and support.

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After 1192 days, is funding in sight?

Pharma In Focus, Other, 07/04/2026

A drawn-out HTA negotiation process that has already lasted 1192 working days is coming to an end, with the Federal Government teasing that another CAR T-cell therapy will soon be subsidised. Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine's multiple myeloma therapy Carvykti is closing in on reimbursement with Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler revealing during question time that the Department and the States are close to reaching an agreement.

[Read More](#)

Why your household could be hit by a bill hike trifecta this month

Your Life Choices, Other, 07/04/2026

Millions of Australian households will be hit with a trifecta of price hikes this month, with increases to health insurance premiums, energy bills and mortgage repayments taking effect from today. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said insurers were sent back to the drawing board "multiple" times before the hike was approved, reflecting the rising cost of healthcare.

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Sky News Live, Sharri, 07/04/2026, Caroline Marcus

Pre-recorded interview with Sharon Stoliar, Public Officer for the Australian Zionist Healthcare Alliance, about complaints against Dr Jennifer Martinez and concerns over medical regulation. Stoliar explains that she filed a complaint over alleged offensive social media posts, arguing they raise patient safety concerns and reflect unacceptable conduct. She criticises regulators for failing to properly investigate and questions oversight, claiming Health Minister Mark Butler cannot be confident the system reflects community standards.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Crossbenchers warn against NDIS cuts

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/04/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 12

Crossbench MPs will push back against Labor's attempts to rein in spending on the NDIS in next month's budget, warning that premature efforts to curb the \$50 billion scheme's growth will just move costs onto other areas such as health and aged care. As NDIS participants cautioned against focusing on costs at the expense of the scheme's many benefits, several independents, led by Monique Ryan, were yesterday writing to the scheme's ministers, Mark Butler and Jenny McAllister, with their fears that the government was prioritising budget savings over vulnerable people.

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

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MINISTER RAE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

\$21m RFDS flying start

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/04/2026, David Killick, Page 1

Construction has begun on a new \$21m base for the Royal Flying Doctor Service at Launceston Airport, marking a major upgrade to aeromedical services across Tasmania. [...] Federal Assistant Health and Aged Care Minister Rebecca White said the RFDS played a critical role in connecting rural communities with essential care.

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Channel 9, Nine News Late, 06/04/2026, Michael Genovese

Food allergy rates in Australia have doubled in just two decades. Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White has announced an additional \$14.6m in government funding for allergy research, with a significant focus on childhood allergies and improving clinical care for the eight million Australians living with allergic diseases.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

PBS changes for antihypertensives

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 07/04/2026, Page 1

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has advised that PBS restrictions have been changed to allow fixed dose combinations (FDCs) for dual therapy antihypertensives to be used as a first-line treatment for hypertension in line with international clinical guidelines. On 01 Apr, 30-day prescription items for antihypertensive dual therapy FDCs were changed to Unrestricted Benefit listings, while 60-day prescription items were changed to Restricted Benefit listings in stable patients - learn more here.

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4BC, Drive, 07/04/2026, Cate Campbell

Campbell reports that the Albanese government plans to require specialist clinics to publish a single average fee on the Medical Costs Finder website to improve transparency, but warns this could lead to higher patient charges. She cites data from the Department of Health showing very low participation so far.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 07/04/2026, Ross Solly

Interview with Dr Danielle McMullen, President of the Australian Medical Association, about concerns over the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. McMullen says the idea of improving cost transparency has merit, but the current system and proposed website need clearer, more accurate, and more detailed information, even if it draws on data from the Department of Health.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Canberra paraplegic woman stranded in hospital for 19 months due to aged care bed block

ABC Online, Other, 07/04/2026

Mary Wansey has spent 19 bleak months stranded in a Canberra hospital room while she waits for a place in aged care. "We've fallen into a black hole," she said.

Also reported by: [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

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Help define 'acceptable choice' for aged care mealtimes

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/04/2026, Natasha Egan

Researchers are seeking stakeholder input on a study that aims to shape the meaning of acceptable choice in what, when, where, how, and with whom aged care residents eat and drink. University of Canberra researchers are seeking professionals involved in delivering, managing, or evaluating mealtimes in residential aged care plus family members of aged care residents for a project developing practical guidance around choice.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 07/04/2026, Greg Jennett

Eighty-four-year-old paraplegic Mary Wansey has been stuck in a Canberra hospital for 19 months while waiting for an aged care placement, highlighting Australia's bedblock crisis. She cannot access NDIS support due to her age, leaving her dependent on a system that struggles to accommodate high-needs patients. About 70 people in the ACT face similar delays, prompting calls for urgent national action as the ageing population increases demand.

ABC Western Queensland, Breakfast, 07/04/2026, Danny Kennedy

Interview with Leisa Fraser, Head of Workforce Capacity at Western Queensland Primary Health Network, about expanding telehealth geriatric care in rural communities. Fraser says the partnership with Geriatric Care delivers specialist virtual consultations, clinician training, and earlier intervention to improve access to aged care services. She highlights funding for programs that guide people through My Aged Care, including Care Finder support for those struggling to navigate the system.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

School novel on autism removed after complaints

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/04/2026, Christopher Harris, Page 8

Oliver likes the sound of flushing toilets, garbage trucks and eating yoghurt. His dislikes include the smell of Vegemite, which can trigger a screaming meltdown that lasts for hours.

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

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Don't lay blame on NDIS kids

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/04/2026, Katrina Norris, Page 12

Recent commentary on the NDIS reflects valid concerns about the scheme's sustainability. But the way the conversation is unfolding in relation to autism, children and clinicians is also concerning.

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

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Cut eligibility to get NDIS back on track, Labor MPs tell PM

Canberra Times, General News, 08/04/2026, Zac De Silva, Page 7

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's own MPs are urging him to redesign Australia's main disability support program to ensure those in the greatest need get the help they need and the scheme is brought onto a more even financial keel. The government says "extensive" work is being done to rein in the spiralling cost of the National Disability Insurance Scheme ahead of the budget in May.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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Aaron Vanderaa banned from providing NDIS services for three years

Cairns Post, Other, 07/04/2026, Jorina Maureschat and Chloe Grimshaw

An NDIS music therapy provider who previously faced claims of offering his services without formal qualifications has received a ban nearly two years later. The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission issued a three-year banning order to Aaron VanderAa effective from March 18, 2026 until March 18, 2029.

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3AW, Mornings, 07/04/2026, Tom Elliott

Interview with Melissa McIntosh, Shadow Minister for the NDIS discussing NDIS growth rates, scheme sustainability and costs. [...] We do have to bring down costs, absolutely. And the Coalition, I think we would be willing to work with the government because it is too important not to. We supported on the NDIS tightening it up just last week. So it is something we would consider. But we need to look at where those cuts would come from.

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PRIMARY CARE

New pharmacy trial

Northern Territory News, General News, 08/04/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 7

For those who have waited weeks for a GP appointment or struggled to fit in a routine session during the working day, a new pharmacy trial in the NT might be the answer. Plans for a new model in which pharmacists will be able to treat and diagnose a possible 19 conditions that usually require a GP appointment is under way.

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NT GPs welcome consultation

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/04/2026

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has welcomed the Northern Territory Government's decision to take a measured, consultative approach to potential changes in pharmacists' scope of practice, acknowledging their vital role in the Territory's stretched health system. RACGP Northern Territory chair Dr Sam Heard said the establishment of an expert advisory group signals a constructive, evidence-based way forward that recognises the expertise of both pharmacists and GPs.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Girl's quad bike death outcry

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/04/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 17

Pediatric surgeon Dr Michael Ee has blasted rules surrounding quad bikes and e-scooters after a child's death, in an emotional social media post revealing the toll such deaths take on hospital staff as well as devastated families. It follows the death of a 7-year-old girl after an accident on Good Friday when the quad bike she was a passenger in rolled on a Yattalunga farm in the Barossa Valley. She died on Sunday in the Women's and Children's Hospital.

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

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How 'devilish hold' of nangs nearly killed me

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/04/2026, Julie Cross, Page 15

Aggressive marketing and super-sized canisters are fuelling a lucrative black-market drug industry that turned a 60-second high into a two-year nightmare for Sydney man Sam Bramman. That quick hit from a supposedly "harmless" party drug triggered a terrifying descent into a secret addiction for Mr Bramman, which ended in a psychiatric ward 1000km from his home.

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

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Does illegal tobacco need more police involvement?

Canberra Times, General News, 08/04/2026, Bageshri Savyasachi and Lucy Arundell, Page 3

The Barr government is failing to address a "booming black market" for cigarettes and expanding police powers could help, the ACT Opposition has said. It comes after The Canberra Times reported the government had not done any field operations or cancelled or suspended any tobacco licences despite the illegal trade's visibility.

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The health conversation all Australians should have

Too many Australians are only learning about their fertility when they are already trying for or having trouble conceiving a baby, with experts calling for the topic to be reframed as a responsibility that is shared between men and women. Health literacy is a major theme of this year's World Health Day, marked on Tuesday, and experts say fertility literacy should be better prioritised by governments and health professionals.

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

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ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 07/04/2026, Mark Gibson

Interview with Professor Kirsten Perrett, Director of the National Allergy Centre of Excellence, discussing millions in federal funding being allocated to address Australia's allergy crisis.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Hope in childhood dementia

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/04/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 14

An Australian breakthrough into the cause of childhood dementia has opened new hope for a heartbreaking condition affecting an estimated 1400 children in Australia. The South Australian study uncovered a fundamental mechanism underlying Sanfilippo syndrome, revealing how rogue synaptic circuits emerge in the brain tissue of children with this devastating disease.

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

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Space flight to fight cancer

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/04/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 11

Adelaide University researchers plan to send living cancer cells into space later this year to see how cancer develops and survives under extreme conditions. The cells will be aboard a suborbital rocket also carrying experiments from other researchers in a mission lasting about 12 minutes launched from Sweden through an agreement with the Swedish Space Corporation.

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Diabetes service to go Statewide in \$4m expansion after positive South West pilot program

West Australian, Other, 07/04/2026, Will Corbett

The South West has promoted a \$4 million State Government healthcare expansion after a regional pilot program produced positive results. Diabetes Connect aims to improve GP access to specialist doctors like endocrinologists when managing patients with diabetes.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 07/04/2026, Leon Compton

Interview with Dr Praveen Ravindran, Consultant Colorectal & Robotic Surgeon with Australian Robotic Colorectal Surgery, about causes and symptoms of bowel obstruction. Ravindran says previous abdominal surgery causes most cases through scar tissue, while other causes include hernias and tumours. He adds that many cases resolve without surgery after monitoring and CT scans, but rising bowel cancer rates make early medical attention essential.

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Report finds big gaps in youth mental care

Courier Mail, General News, 08/04/2026, Ann Wason Moore, Page 2

An investigation into the Gold Coast's Child and Youth Mental Health Service has exposed serious concerns about the use of force on vulnerable patients and unsafe wards. It found families were excluded from care with patients describing a "prison" environment with "security officers, locked metal doors" and punishment for needing help.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Red tape delays mental health care for rural Aussies

West Australian, Other, 07/04/2026

Rural Australians are delaying mental health care or going to emergency departments in crisis after changes to Medicare inadvertently created barriers to treatment. The changes, which came into effect in November 2025, require patients to see a GP at least once a year to access mental health care via telehealth.

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

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ABC Radio Darwin , Territory-wide Mornings, 07/04/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Geoff Radford, CEO of the NT Mental Health Coalition, about gaps in mental health services in the NT. Radford says demand remains high while services focus heavily on acute care in urban centres like Darwin and Alice Springs, leaving rural areas with limited access. He highlights a major gap for over 8000 people with severe mental illness who cannot access the NDIS and calls for more early intervention and community-based support.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).

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IMMUNISATION

No more needles: new flu protection

Canberra Times, General News, 08/04/2026, Kat Wong, Page 7

Hundreds of thousands of young children will be able to receive a painless, needle-free flu vaccination for free as governments attempt to curb falling vaccine rates. NSW has become the latest state to offer a nasal spray flu vaccine to children for free, following Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

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

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Fears about 'Super K' flu

Northern Territory News, General News, 08/04/2026, Page 8

Health Doctors are warning Australians to brace for a deadly flu season this year, with low vaccination rates and the early spread of the 'Super K' strain to blame. Vaccination rates have plummeted in Australia since the Covid pandemic, with only one in three adults immunised last year and more concerningly, only one in four children.

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Super K adds to worry of a bad flu season

West Australian, General News, 08/04/2026, Page 5

Doctors are warning Australians to brace for a deadly flu season this year, with low vaccination rates

and the early spread of the Super K strain to blame. Vaccination rates have plummeted in Australia since the COVID pandemic, with only one in three adults immunised last year.

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Victorian parents urged to vaccinate their children before winter, as doctors warn of 'Super K strain'

Sky News Australia, Other, 07/04/2026, Preston Potts

Victorian parents have been urged to vaccinate their children ahead of the flu season this winter, as doctors warn of a "Super K strain" that is costing lives. Victorian Chief Health Officer Dr Caroline McElnay has warned it is critical for children under the age of five to receive a vaccination, as this age group is more likely to experience severe flu symptoms that may require hospital treatment.

[Read More](#)

Children to get free flu vaccine via nasal spray in NSW with minister spruiking 'needle-free alternative'

The Guardian, Other, 07/04/2026

Hundreds of thousands of children will be able to access a painless, needle-free flu vaccination for free as governments attempt to curb falling vaccine rates. New South Wales has become the latest state to offer a nasal spray flu vaccine to children for free, following Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

Also reported by: [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#)

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Channel 7, Seven News, 07/04/2026, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

Doctors warn of a tough flu season as the highly contagious Super K strain spreads early, with more than 100 deaths reported so far this year. To combat this, NSW rolls out free nasal spray vaccines for children aged two to four, using a weakened live virus to build immunity against the same strains as the standard flu shot.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 07/04/2026, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park. Compere says the NSW Government is rolling out free nasal spray flu vaccines for kids aged between two and four, in a push to protect young people against the flu in the coming winter. Park points out that they are hoping to see a rise in vaccination rates among kids, as seen in the UK, where there has been a leap.

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Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 07/04/2026, Mark Burrows

Interview with Dr Rebekah Hoffman, Chair of the RAGCP NSW&ACT, about rising influenza cases and prevention efforts. Hoffman says low vaccination rates, along with new and more severe strains like Super K, drive higher hospitalisations and deaths. She highlights the rollout of nasal spray vaccines for young children as a promising way to boost uptake and reduce the impact of future flu seasons.

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Channel 9, Today , 07/04/2026, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Toddlers in NSW are now eligible for a free, needle-free flu vaccination this winter. A \$4.4m program is being rolled out for children aged two, three, and four, providing protection against influenza via a simple nasal spray.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 07/04/2026, Sandra Sully

More than 130,000 children can now access free nasal spray flu vaccines across NSW to boost vaccination uptake among young and vulnerable groups. The rollout of over 133,000 vials to GPs and

pharmacies aims to combat a surge in influenza cases, including a record 186,000 cases last year.

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SBS, World News Australia, 07/04/2026, Richelle Harrison Plesse

NSW will offer free intranasal flu vaccines for children aged two to four, following similar rollouts in Qld, SA and WA to combat the flu season. Health authorities hope the needle-free option will boost vaccination rates among young children after recent declines.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 07/04/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Dr Rebecca Hoffman, of the NSW and ACT Royal Australian College of GPs, discussing the rollout of nasal spray flu vaccines for young children.

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2GB, Afternoons, 07/04/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with Dr Rebekah Hoffman, Chair of the RAGCP NSW & ACT, about the rollout of nasal spray flu vaccines for young children. Hoffman says the needle-free AstraZeneca vaccine marks a major step forward, with strong safety evidence from decades of use in the Northern Hemisphere and new adaptation for Southern Hemisphere flu strains. She hopes its convenience boosts annual vaccination rates and expands to more age groups in the future.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 07/04/2026, Lucy Breden

Interview with Joe O'Malley, Tas Branch President of The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, about timing and access to flu vaccinations. O'Malley says April marks the ideal window to get a flu shot because protection lasts about six months and pharmacies and GPs now stock vaccines, keeping people covered through winter. He adds that vaccines remain widely accessible at low or no cost for many groups and can reduce illness, hospitalisations, and productivity loss.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).

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ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 07/04/2026, Hamish Macdonald

Interview with Dr Michael Bonnings, Federal Chair of Public Health at the AMA, discussing the rollout of nasal spray flu vaccines for young children.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Make research funds transparent

The Australian, Editorials, 08/04/2026, Page 10

The call by Australia's best minds, including three Nobel laureates, for the Albanese government to repair research funding or risk the nation's future with a brain drain and loss of future industries warrants serious action. Part of the answer is maximising return on available funds, including more than \$1bn spent annually by the Australian Research Council.

Grant expectations: an activist history of dollars and division

The Australian, General News, 08/04/2026, Page 11

If you hate the government any Western government will do and rail screeching against it, there is money to be made. Simply complete the form conveniently made available on the Australian Research Council website, sit back and wait for the money to arrive.

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Metformin: Scientists say drug prescribed to millions worldwide can mirror exercise without doing it

7News.com.au, Other, 07/04/2026, Matt Shrivell

Scientists believe a common drug, already prescribed to millions around the world, could also provide the benefits of exercise sessions without actually exercising. A new study from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine's Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Centre in the US discovered that the drug, metformin, likely mirrors the biological effects of exercise for people who are unable to do intense workouts.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 07/04/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Dr Sandra Vale, CEO of the National Allergy Council, about federal funding for allergy research and support. Vale explains that the \$14.6m will support education, training, and research through the National Allergy Council and the National Allergy Centre of Excellence to improve care and accelerate new treatments. She says allergic disease remains a major public health issue because many Australians live daily with conditions like hay fever and food allergies.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Pressure overload

Northern Territory News, General News, 08/04/2026, Thomas McLean, Page 1

Six critical patients were left waiting for help across the Easter long weekend with at least one patient in a life-threatening condition languishing 90 minutes for an ambulance to arrive. A surge in demand pushed St John Ambulance NT to breaking point, with the service entering only its second ever 'Code White' in its 50-year history.

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Royal could use adjacent government-owned land for redevelopment to reduce disruption, improve safety

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/04/2026, David O'Byrne, Page 16

There's an old joke about a tourist lost in the west of Ireland asking a local farmer for directions to Dublin. He replies: "Well, if I were you, I wouldn't be starting from here". This joke seems to fit well when talking about the future of the Royal Hobart Hospital.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 07/04/2026, Adam Steer

The head of the NT Health says nurses at Royal Darwin Hospital will receive personal duress alarms after reporting assaults and safety concerns in the emergency department. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation says rising violence and slow security responses create unsafe conditions, prompting the push for stronger protection measures.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Top doctor fired after 62 allegations from junior nurses

NEWS.com.au, Other, 07/04/2026, Sarah Keoghan

A head Sydney doctor was fired after more than 60 allegations of bullying and harassment were made against him by multiple junior nurses, a commission has heard. Last year, Dr Avinash Suryawanshi was fired as the Director of the Diabetes Unit at Concord Hospital after external lawyers were brought in to investigate a series of allegations against him.

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

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SCC (NSW & ACT) pays \$11m in underpaid wages

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 07/04/2026

After self-reporting over \$11.7 million in underpaid staff wages to the Fair Work Ombudsman in November 2023, Southern Cross Care (NSW & ACT) has signed an Enforceable Undertaking. The Enforceable Undertaking will see the not-for-profit provider rectify the underpayments, including interest and superannuation, to the 5,500 impacted staff.

[Read More](#)

Calls for financial relief for nurses and midwives amid fuel crisis

Nursing Review, Other, 07/04/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Unions are calling for higher fuel reimbursements and for businesses to allow workers to stay at home where possible as service stations around the country are still running dry. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) is calling for immediate financial relief for nurses, midwives and aged care workers who may be struggling with cost-of-living pressures, exacerbated by the ongoing fuel crisis.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 07/04/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Heidi Crisp, NT Branch Secretary of the Nursing and Midwifery Federation, discussing staff safety issues at the Royal Darwin Hospital Emergency Department.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 07/04/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Steve Edgington, NT Minister for Health, discussing staff safety issues at the Royal Darwin Hospital Emergency Department.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 07/04/2026, Adam Steer

The head of the Northern Territory's Department says nurses at Royal Darwin Hospital's Emergency Department will be provided with personal duress alarms after they raised concerns they were being attacked. The Australian Nursing Federation says nurses are now being subjected to a dangerous level of violence and hospital security guards are often too slow to respond to duress alarms being pressed.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 07/04/2026, Adam Steer

Interview with Dr Chris Hosking, CEO of NT Health, about safety concerns and violence in NT hospital emergency departments. Hosking says staff face frequent aggression linked to alcohol, drugs, and mental health pressures, but hospitals rely on de-escalation and existing security rather than giving guards powers to physically intervene. He stresses that patients must treat healthcare workers with respect and that hospitals involve police when situations escalate beyond control.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Pharma firms set to dodge new US tariffs

West Australian, Business News, 08/04/2026, Page 20

Pharmaceutical companies don't expect to be affected by new sector tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump. [...] The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, which forces pharmaceutical manufacturers to negotiate prices directly with the Federal Government, has long been in the sights of America's drug giants.

Also reported by: [The Nightly](#)

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

I uploaded my health records to AI. TMI?

The Australian, Business News, 08/04/2026, Nicole Nguyen, Page 21

As the lab technician prepared my vials, I told him "I'm going to upload my blood work to AI!" His response?

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Nurses key to Medicare success in rural Australia

Nursing Review, Other, 07/04/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The Senate inquiry into rural, regional and remote Medicare access has been warned that the current system is failing people outside major cities, with advocates urging the federal government to overhaul funding, telehealth rules and workforce supports before inequities worsen.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Qld radiographer who pursued woman, hoped judge would be 'murdered' struck from profession

The Courier Mail, Other, 07/04/2026, Vanda Carson

Queensland radiographer has had his registration cancelled and been reprimanded after he aggressively pursued a much younger female patient, believing her heavy makeup showed she was interested in him. James Willis, who worked in Tamborine Mountain, was also found to have sent demeaning insulting and threatening communications to staff of the medical watchdog who were investigating his misconduct.

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

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Optometrist stripped of registration after child abuse material convictions

Newcastle Herald, Other, 07/04/2026

An optometrist has had his registration cancelled and been barred from providing any health services for five years after he was jailed for possessing "abhorrent" child abuse material at New Lambton. Vinh Tri Daniel Cao, who qualified as an optometrist in 2018, was convicted in 2024 of possessing thousands of videos and images of child abuse on multiple devices, including a phone, laptop and a storage device.

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AHPRA's review of sexual misconduct cases ongoing as publication date approaches

Medical Forum, Other, 07/04/2026

With days to go until the deadline for AHPRA to permanently publish sexual misconduct findings, the regulator is still working its way through thousands of cases to determine which fit the criteria. A high-level review of professional misconduct cases involving health professionals has been examining tribunal decisions from the past 16 years.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Long Covid hit to women

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/04/2026, Page 9

Women have been found more likely to experience long Covid, according to public health researchers in New Zealand who have revealed the ongoing impact of the pandemic six years on. About one in seven women (14.9 per cent) reported symptoms of long Covid, compared to one in 12 (8.5 per cent) of men, according to the latest New Zealand Health Survey.

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Social media posts educating public about illicit drugs being removed by Meta, Australian health experts say

ABC Online, Other, 07/04/2026, Niki Burnside

Public health workers are warning lives could be at risk due to social media sites automatically censoring educational posts about illicit drugs circulating in the community. The Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) said social media companies had taken down a string of "critical alerts", preventing them from reaching the people who needed to see them.

Also reported by: [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Inadvertent GLP-1 RA use during pregnancy not linked to preterm birth

risk, study suggests

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/04/2026, Ciara Seccombe

Preterm birth risk is not higher for women without diabetes who were taking GLP-1 receptor agonists around the time of conception, researchers say. Few studies have looked at pregnancies and GLP-1 receptor agonists (RAs), which are currently TGA category D: drugs that potentially cause fetal malformations or irreversible damage.

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