



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 10th April 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports Senator Helen Polley has proposed an open conversation regarding the introduction of means testing and co-contributions for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. A spokeswoman for Mark Butler stated that the Federal Government remains committed to this growth target while working with states and territories to finalise the Thriving Kids program.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 3) reports nearly one in five Australians are failing to fill prescriptions due to affordability issues, particularly for treatments not covered by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports allegations that two skin cancer experts failed to declare conflicts of interest regarding research funding from Cancer Council Australia. The institute will assess the complaints in accordance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research and the Therapeutic Goods Administration standards to ensure the highest levels of research integrity and transparency are maintained.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 8) reports high levels of support among patients and carers for expanding voluntary assisted dying eligibility to include individuals with dementia, despite significant ethical challenges regarding decision-making capacity.

- [The Australian](#) (page 5) reports the AHPRA has updated its national register to explicitly include permanent findings of sexual misconduct against more than 100 health professionals, though the AMA expressed concerns regarding the mental health impacts of the scheme on practitioners.
- [The Herald Sun](#) (page 4) reports the Victorian Government has expanded its virtual hospital program to include neurology, heart failure, and foetal medicine in an effort to alleviate pressure on emergency departments and improve ambulance response times.

MINISTER BUTLER

Means test NDIS to bring costs down: Labor senator's call

The Australian, General News, 10/04/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 1

A Labor MP has called for an "open conversation" on means testing and co-contributions for Australians on the NDIS, amid warnings from those who helped design the \$50bn program that the government's 5 per cent annual growth target "won't be realised unless there is a fundamentally change to the architecture of the scheme". [...] A spokeswoman for Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler said the government had reined in annual growth of the scheme from 22 per cent under the Coalition to just over 10 per cent.

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From start-up to tackling a weighty issue

Australian Financial Review, General News, 10/04/2026, Page 26

Manny Simons, the managing director of pharmaceuticals behemoth Eli Lilly in Australia and New Zealand, is something of a polymath.

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

Cut with care. Mattea needs the NDIS

Age, General News, 10/04/2026, James Massola, Page 29

Over Easter, my sister Caroline and her daughter Mattea came and stayed for a few nights in Canberra. [...] Also, over Easter, my colleague Natassia Chrysanthos published a series of stories about the NDIS and how in the coming budget, Health Minister Mark Butler will look to cut the scheme's growth rate to about 6 per cent a year.

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

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The big five funds are pushing up premiums: here's why

The Senior - QLD, General News, 01/04/2026, Page 14

Some of the nation's biggest private health insurers could push their premiums up to 25 per cent higher from April 1, as found by independent review by consumer group CHOICE. [...] Earlier in March, Minister for Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, announced a 4.41 per cent increase for average policies, but Mr Blades of CHOICE believes this will not reflect the "true cost" many will face.

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Independent MPs warn NDIS funding cuts risk leaving vulnerable Australians without support

The Times Australia, Other, 09/04/2026, Monique Ryan

Federal Independent MPs have called on the Albanese Government to provide greater transparency and safeguards for Australians living with disability as the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) comes under scrutiny ahead of the 2026–27 Budget. [...] Independent MPs have formally written to federal ministers Mark Butler and Jenny McAllister outlining concerns about potential NDIS funding reductions, the impending rollout of an automated plan-setting tool, and the impact of cuts to the scheme on participants.

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Five steps to ensure urgent care clinics better meet the needs of rural communities

Croakey, Other, 09/04/2026, Melissa Sweet

The final evaluation of the Federal Government's Urgent Care Clinic program is due later this year and eagerly awaited. [...] Most recently, Health Minister Mark Butler announced new Urgent Care Clinics for Cairns and Mackay in Queensland.

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Wundowie denied cheap medicines says Hunter

Echo News, Other, 09/04/2026

Central Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter has slammed the federal Labor government after it rejected approval for the Wundowie Pharmacy to dispense Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines, leaving locals without access to affordable prescriptions. [...] Mr Hunter said he has written directly to federal Health minister Mark Butler demanding the decision be reconsidered and that Wundowie be granted access to PBS-subsidised medicines.

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Sutherland Shire families plead for Dupixent subsidy funding

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, Other, 09/04/2026, Eva Kolimar

A breakthrough drug for severe eczema exists, but it's out of reach for some children whose families are forced to pay \$1600 a month for relief. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has been contacted for comment.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 09/04/2026, Will McDonald

Interview with Australian Skin Cancer Foundation CEO Jay Allen. The foundation is providing free checks directly to the community until Sunday during Adelaide's AFL Gather Round. He discusses the cutting-edge technology they use to detect lesions on the body. He notes that last year, they detected 13 melanomas after performing more than 300 checks, and hopes Federal Health Minister Mark Butler will provide funding for this initiative.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Independent MPs warn NDIS funding cuts risk leaving vulnerable Australians without support

The Times Australia, Other, 09/04/2026, Monique Ryan

Federal Independent MPs have called on the Albanese Government to provide greater transparency and safeguards for Australians living with disability as the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) comes under scrutiny ahead of the 2026–27 Budget. [...] Independent MPs have formally written to federal ministers Mark Butler and Jenny McAllister outlining concerns about potential NDIS funding reductions, the impending rollout of an automated plan-setting tool, and the impact of cuts to the scheme on participants.

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ABC, ABC News, 09/04/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

More questions are being raised about the integrity of the NDIS, with fresh concerns about fraud oversight and whether the system is keeping pace with rapid growth. Shadow NDIS Minister Melissa McIntosh claims that fraudulent claims in the system are widespread and need to be addressed, but NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister insists the government is cracking down on dodgy dealers. New laws passed last week increase penalties, including a five-year jail term for banned providers returning, fines of up to \$15 million, and new powers for audits and claims checks.

MINISTER RAE

Medico peak body raises alarm over aged care assessment tool

Cairns Post, General News, 10/04/2026, Julie Cross, Page 16

A damning investigation into a controversial tool used to determine aged-care funding has found it to be "clinically insufficient" and in danger of under-assessing the needs of vulnerable seniors. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said only 0.5 per cent of the total number of people assessed since November 1 had asked for a review.

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Lauren Broomham

The Weekly Source, Other, 09/04/2026, Lauren Broomham

Aged care has rarely been under this much pressure – and this week, it came from all directions. But the moment that cut through came from outside the sector. The Australian's veteran business commentator Robert Gottliebsen issued a direct warning to Aged Care Minister Sam Rae: fix the system, or risk pushing older Australians into hospitals.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Afternoons, 09/04/2026, Katherine Feeney

Interview with National Seniors Australia CEO Chris Grice. More than 100 federal politicians are petitioning for fixes to the recent aged care reforms that, alongside increasing costs, are putting additional onus on individuals. Grice says many parliamentarians have signed a letter to Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, indicating that things like bathing, showering, dressing, and continence management should be covered under clinical care funding.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 09/04/2026, Kim Millar

Researchers are conducting a trial at Royal Hobart Hospital that may give hope to people who suffer from severe allergies to jack jumpers. The deadly venom from the ant is being used to help desensitise anaphylactic reactions from bites. The trial is backed by nearly \$2 million in federal funding over the next three years. Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White says the Royal Hobart Hospital is the only place in the world where experts are developing the immunotherapy venom for severe allergies to jack jumpers.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

DEPARTMENT

'It's a nightmare': Woman marked dead three times in aged care bungle

Canberra Times, Other, 09/04/2026, Phoebe Loomes

In the months since Valerie Eaton was incorrectly marked as deceased by her aged care provider, a chaotic and complex aged care system has struggled to compute that the 85-year-old is still alive. [...] It was "deeply troubling" that the urgency of her mother's care needs had been "influenced by an AI-driven algorithm", she said in a complaint to Blair Comley, secretary of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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

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Fuel costs put Meals on Wheels delivery model under pressure

Hello Leaders Australia, Other, 09/04/2026, Jakob Neeland

Rising fuel costs are putting pressure on one of Australia's most relied-on community services, with Meals on Wheels Australia warning that delivery models are starting to strain under the weight of global price increases. [...] Recent discussions with the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing have centered on obtaining recognition as an essential service and ensuring priority access to fuel during supply disruptions.

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Liability gap looms in medical costs transparency bill

Oncology Republic, Other, 09/04/2026, Cate Swannell

The federal government's proposed overhaul of medical cost transparency is facing growing scrutiny over whether it adequately protects specialists and other stakeholders from harm if incorrect data is published. [...] Department of Health, Disability and Ageing officials confirmed the legislation did not expand data collection powers, but instead enabled the publication of existing datasets, including MBS billing data and insurer contributions.

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Prevention: everyone's business, no one's responsibility

The Medical Republic, Other, 09/04/2026, Jeremy Knibbs

On 16 and 17 June relevant local and international health industry leaders are gathering in Canberra for a workshop and summit, with the goal of giving you a sense of where you sit in the system in terms of prevention, and perhaps, how you should be planning and, maybe, ducking and weaving. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing says it wants to increase spending on prevention from about 3.1% to 5% of total health spend by 2030.

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Geriatricians' peak body warns IAT risks under-identifying frailty

The Weekly Source, Other, 09/04/2026, Caroline Egan

The Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine (ANZSGM) wants an urgent review of the Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT). [...] The Government has also come under fire for removing human oversight of IAT Support at Home decisions and was questioned heavily during the hearing on why that decision was made. Representatives from the Department said it was a decision of the Government.

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Senate Inquiry highlights Support at Home concerns

The Weekly Source, Other, 09/04/2026, Caroline Egan

The reporting deadline for the Senate Inquiry into the Transition of the CHSP into Support at Home has

been quietly extended by two months. [...] Notably, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has yet to lodge a submission, despite being the only witness at a hastily convened hearing on the last sitting day for more than five weeks.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 09/04/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Respite Care for QBN chair Paul Walshe. A local advocate has warned that a long-awaited respite care centre for Queanbeyan won't open its doors without ongoing funding. Walshe says the four potential providers they identified have told them they would not be submitting a tender without government funding. He states that there is a need now to have a discussion with the NSW and Federal Health Departments to make a sustainable financial model to get the Yvonne Cuschieri House open and running.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Funding hope for aged care

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 10/04/2026, Neil Watkinson, Page 5

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is hopeful of receiving fairer funding for aged-care services in the future after a Federal Government review recommended it be included in a new national priority areas list. The city said it welcomed the release of the Review of the Remoteness Classification System for Aged Care, which used Kalgoorlie-Boulder as a case study and found the current funding model did not adequately reflect the realities of delivering aged care in isolated regional communities.

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'Best kept secret' in an aged care crisis

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/04/2026, Lisa Edser, Page 15

A high number of Australians experience mental health symptoms in residential healthcare, but most aren't receiving any psychological treatment, with one expert blaming the system, saying it was never designed to deliver mental healthcare. [...] "There is, unfortunately, a negative stereotype amongst not just people who are living in nursing homes or aged care facilities, but generally for older people that it's kind of normal to be depressed and sad, he said.

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Pensions, deeming change

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/04/2026, Carla Mascarenhas, Page 22

Millions on the age pension will see a modest boost as part of the federal government's twice-yearly indexation. March 20 saw the income support payment indexed to help keep pace with inflation and wage growth.

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Aged care provider to repay \$11.7m to workers

Aged Care Insite, Other, 09/04/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Southern Cross Care (NSW & ACT) will repay more than \$11.7 million in wages, interest and superannuation to 5500 current and former employees. It has entered into an Enforceable Undertaking with the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) following years of widespread underpayments across its aged care, home care and retirement living services.

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Are robotic pets in dementia care ethical?

Aged Care Insite, Other, 09/04/2026, Stefanie Schultz

As robotic pets and virtual reality headsets become more common in aged care homes, Australian

researchers are warning that the sector is moving faster than the ethical guidance needed to use these tools safely and respectfully. A research team from the University of Queensland is leading a two-phase study to understand how people with dementia, their families and aged care staff perceive the ethical dilemmas surrounding these "simulative technologies" – tools that mimic real-world experiences to support psychosocial wellbeing.

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Pilot program challenges dementia stigma

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 09/04/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Dementia is still misunderstood, but the Living Well program has been helping retirement living residents at Woodbridge better understand it, CEO Paul Thorne tells AAA. Retirement living provider Woodbridge has been piloting on-site dementia consultants and practical support sessions for West Lakes residents living with dementia, and chief executive officer Paul Thorne tells Australian Ageing Agenda the Living Well program has helped transform how people understand and interact with people living with the degenerative disease.

[Read More](#)

COTA Australia calls for action on credit rules

Community Care Review, Other, 09/04/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Council on the Ageing Australia is calling for fairer credit rules for retirees in its 2026-27 Federal Pre-Budget Submission. The peak body is concerned that federal regulations on credit rules may act as a barrier to applying for credit in later life stages.

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Why Australia's 'well-balanced' retirement system is the envy of the world

The Senior, Other, 09/04/2026, Phoebe Loomes

Australia's retirement system is one of the most resilient in the world - as an ageing population puts growing pressure on pension systems across Europe and the United States. "Australia's combination of the age pension plus the mandatory superannuation guarantee is pretty well-balanced, by global standards," Jonathan Shead, head of investments in Australia at State Street Investment Management told The Senior

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Another regional town gets extra aged care beds with Govt Grant

The Weekly Source, Other, 09/04/2026, Caroline Egan

Originally an 18-bed aged care home with an adjoining 18 Independent Living Units, the home, located 85km east of Adelaide, added a 20-bed residential aged care extension including a 10-bed dementia support unit. Federal Member for Barker, South Australia, Tony Pasin, at the opening said: "It was a pleasure today to officially open Aminya Aged Care's Carlet Wing in Mannum.

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2GB, Afternoons, 09/04/2026, Michael McLaren

Experts are warning an urgent review into a guideline used to determine aged care funding is needed. Analysis has found the integrated assessment tool fails to capture the complex realities of ageing.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Means-testing NDIS does not go to root of problem

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

In ordinary circumstances, a system of user pays and means testing for government assistance is a

useful guide for good public policy. There are exceptions, and the National Disability Insurance Scheme is one.

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

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Calls for NDIS inquiry as patients forced to spend up to \$25k on 'reports' for access

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/04/2026, Scott Kovacevic

Two Gympie disability support advocates have spoken out on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, saying changes to crack down on fraud had left some of those the scheme was designed to help suffering instead. It was a serious issue which needed to be fixed before the scheme turned into a disaster, they said.

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

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Aussie is forced into humiliating act every day after his NDIS is suddenly cancelled

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/04/2026, Matt Jones

An Aussie unable to walk has been forced to crawl up the stairs at his house to reach his bedroom after his NDIS funding was cancelled. Jolly Duong was a keen triathlete and had the world at his feet before a cycling accident changed his life forever in 2024.

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Australia's welfare bill could exceed the size of New Zealand's entire economy in just a few years

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/04/2026, Nicholas Comino

Australia is heading toward a welfare blowout so large that Commonwealth social spending could soon rival, or even surpass, the entire economy of New Zealand. Government figures show welfare spending is rising far faster than Treasury predicted, with repeated upward revisions revealing a growing gap between forecasts and reality.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Breakfast, 09/04/2026, Ben Fordham

Interview with Nine's Medical Expert Dr Nick Coatsworth, about the worrying sustainability of the NDIS. Coatsworth points out that if the scheme is not sustainable at \$52b, then everyone currently has a stake in it. He worries that they are also moving Medicare and aged care to have subsidised systems that you still pay for on top.

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PRIMARY CARE

Virtual care puts patients back home to free up hospital beds

Herald Sun, General News, 10/04/2026, Ryan Bourke, Page 4

The Allan government is moving to expand its fledgling virtual hospital program as strain on the public system continues to bite. [...] On Thursday, Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas said the expansion meant even more treatments could now be delivered virtually.

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The hidden cost of waiting for a doctor

Launceston Examiner, General News, 10/04/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 2

Erin hasn't had access to her medication for almost three months, and she said the "ripple effect"

meant the delay affected her, her partner, her work, and her community. [...] Australian Medical Association (AMA) vice-president Meg Creely said part of the issue isn't seeing any doctor on a quick turnaround, but the right doctor.

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Hospital's parking fix

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 10/04/2026, Leighton Smith, Page 6

Years of frustration over parking shortages at Townsville University Hospital are set to ease, with construction of a new staff carpark commencing, paving the way for a 1000-space multistorey facility. [...] Health and Ambulance Services Minister Tim Nicholls said the \$110m investment in parking upgrades formed part of his government's hospital rescue plan to address cost blowouts and get the hospital's expansion back on track.

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First look at landmark \$2 billion Bankstown Hospital as major plans unveiled

Adelaide Now, Other, 10/04/2026, Elliott Stewart

Plans for a landmark \$2 billion transformation of healthcare in Sydney's south-west have been unveiled, with the proposed new Bankstown Hospital now open for public scrutiny. The NSW Government has placed the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the major project on public exhibition, giving the community until May to provide feedback.

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

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POPULATION HEALTH

ABF bemoans lure of illicit tobacco profits

The Australian, General News, 10/04/2026, Noah Yim, Page 7

The Australian Border Force says the Labor government's efforts are failing to stem the growth of the illegal tobacco market and that this has been fuelled by "profitable price differentials" for criminal organisations that come from "avoiding duty". The claim essentially points the finger at the gains to be made due to the high tobacco excise the Albanese government introduced.

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

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Border Force's warning on tobacco war

Age, General News, 10/04/2026, Shane Wright, Page 1

Border Force has warned the fight against illegal tobacco and its links to organised crime will not be won without dealing with the high prices of legal products, despite the agency revealing it is seizing almost 6 million illicit cigarettes a day. In a submission to a parliamentary committee examining the explosion in the illicit market and a collapse in federal tobacco excise collections, Border Force said simply beefing up policing of the illegal trade was not enough to offset "strong consumer demand".

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

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Tobacco war fail

Herald Sun, General News, 10/04/2026, Regan Hodge & Sarah Booth, Page 1

Australian Border Force officials have blamed the federal government's tobacco excise for the explosion in black market warfare. The ABF outlined how the approach to tackling the booming illicit tobacco trade was failing and said organised crime gangs knew some of their stock would be seized so they "absorb losses as a cost of doing business".

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

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Big tick for plant-based diet

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2026, Sarah Pye, Page 16

A major new review of dietary interventions has confirmed traditional plant-heavy diets are the best pathway to good health while some popular, new diets may not be so great for our gut. The study by Deakin University's Food and Mood Centre is the most comprehensive synthesis of controlled trials to date, analysing 80 clinical trials across 13 dietary interventions, including Mediterranean and Western diets as well as ketogenic, gluten-free, and plant and animal-heavy diets.

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Best advice I've ever taken

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/04/2026, Nick Powell, Page 18

John Hay has always been "farm strong." [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reveals that cardiovascular disease (CVD) remains the underlying cause of 45,000 deaths a year—roughly one in every four Australian deaths.

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Early detection of Alzheimer's: New study reveals dreamless sleepers may be at risk

9News, Other, 09/04/2026, Sophia Kearns

An Australian-led study has discovered that forgetting your dreams after you wake up could be an early indicator of Alzheimer's disease. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), estimated 425,000 to over 480,000 Australians are currently living with dementia, with Alzheimer's disease accounting for over 70 per cent of these cases.

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People living in vehicles forced to choose between diesel and food as fuel prices remain high

ABC Online, Other, 09/04/2026, Charlie McLean

Anthony Ashwood is one of thousands of people living in vehicles across the country, and cannot power his fridge, charge his devices or keep warm without fuel. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare said nearly 8,000 people lived in their vehicle last financial year — an annual increase of 17 per cent.

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Wegovy, Mounjaro, Ozempic: Fat jabs and diet signal the end for beer bellies and boozing

West Australian, Other, 09/04/2026, Matt Shrivell

The famous Aussie beer belly may be facing extinction by 2050 as new age weight loss drugs and a downturn in alcohol consumption slowly whittle away our waistslines. [...] Approximately 71–75 per cent of Australian men are overweight or living with obesity in Australia according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 09/04/2026, Adam Steer

The Cancer Council says federal government investment in helping people quit smoking is falling short of best practise. Researchers say while tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in Australia, government spending is well short of levels recommended by the World Health Organisation.

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Should dementia patients be given options for VAD?

The Australian, General News, 10/04/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 8

Making voluntary assisted dying available to those with dementia raises a host of morally, ethically and legally difficult questions including who makes the final call when the person on their deathbed no longer has capacity to do it themselves. The idea has received strong support in the early findings of a new study canvassing the views of those living with the condition and their families, though their opinions on when and how it could be used remain mixed.

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Tassie link to national health launch

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/04/2026, Duncan Abey, Page 18

A national strategy to tackle the world's fastest-growing neurological disease has celebrated its Tasmanian origins during a "watershed" launch in Canberra. The National Parkinson's Action Plan is a government-supported blueprint focused on earlier diagnosis, improved data, workforce capability, and equitable access to care and support.

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Why bowel cancer tests cut off at 74

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/04/2026, Lisa Edser, Page 10

The free government bowel cancer screening tests are often advertised on TV, encouraging people aged from 45 - 74 to participate - but what happens if you're older? The national screening program is not available from age 75, leaving many retirees wondering why they're being left out, but an expert has advised they should discuss options with their GP.

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Doctors reveal why Type 2 diabetes is rising and how to fight it

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/04/2026, Dr Sarah Kleinman

Sometimes it must seem like doctors are obsessed with sugar – we test it all the time through finger pricks blood sugar level tests, blood tests and even urine tests But there is a good reason for this. We worry about your sugars because of the catastrophic effect that having too much or too little sugar might have on your body in the form of a disease called diabetes.

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

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Channel 9, Nine News, 09/04/2026, Brenton Ragless

Free health checks will be available at five sites across AFL Gather Round to identify early risk factors for heart disease and type 2 diabetes. The initiative targets two of the country's most serious conditions. More than 9,000 people took part last year, with a third of them referred to their GP for a check-up.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

No relevant coverage

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IMMUNISATION

Vaccine-fatigued vulnerable to flu

Canberra Times, General News, 10/04/2026, Will Nicholas, Page 16

Slumping vaccination rates have left Australia unprepared for another significant flu season that's being worsened by a new fast-spreading strain. Doctors issued the warning after 2025's record season, during which more than half a million Australians were infected and 1738 killed, outstripping COVID-19 deaths for the first time since the pandemic.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#).

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HPV vax protects men

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/04/2026, Page 19

HPV vaccines could protect men from cancer as well as women, according to new international research. In the Japanese study, vaccinated men were found to have a lower risk of HPV-related cancers including oesophageal, head and neck, anal, and penile cancers than those who had not got the jab.

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

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The super-K flu strain is spreading fast in Australia. Here's why that's 'extremely dangerous'

9News, Other, 09/04/2026, Maddison Leach

There's a horror flu season on the horizon as the new super-K flu strain spreads across Australia, and it may have already claimed several lives. The fast-moving strain first emerged in the US , where it killed dozens of children before leaping to Australian soil.

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Vaccine definition changes

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/04/2026

A legislative amendment to the National Health Act 1953 has broadened the definition of 'vaccine' to include antibody-based immunising agents, such as nirsevimab (Beyfortus, Sanofi) for RSV, paving the way for inclusion on the National Immunisation Program (NIP). Nirsevimab is an immunising monoclonal antibody therapy that contains ready-made antibodies that offer immediate protection against RSV, which is known as passive immunisation.

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SBS, World News Australia, 09/04/2026, Janice Petersen

Slumping vaccination rates are leaving Australians less prepared for another significant flu season that could be worsened by a new fast-spreading strain. There are growing calls for federal funding to help send vaccination nurses into communities to make it easier for people to get their jabs. The Australian College of Nurses is calling on the Federal Government to fund nurses to vaccinate people in community settings. They say nurses deliver more vaccines than any other healthcare professional, but most of that is unfunded work happening inside GP clinics.

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4BC, Afternoons, 09/04/2026, Carla Bignasca

Queenslanders have been urged to get their free flu vaccination. The Queensland branch of the Pharmacy Guild says last year's flu season was one of the worst in recent years, and the state needs to get on top of the vaccinations earlier. The vaccines are available for everybody aged 16 months and older until September 30.

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FIVEAA, Afternoons, 09/04/2026, Stacy Lee

Interview with Star Pharmacy Group chief pharmacist Shannon Hewitt. Hewitt says the new flu vaccine that will come out this year will cover the new super-K strain. She notes that peak flu occurrences

happen around July and August, urging people to get vaccinated around April. She notes that they follow the vaccine dosage for young people approved by the TGA.

Interview continues on: [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Too costly to quit cigs

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 10/04/2026, Duncan Murray, Page 13

Australia's approach to cutting out tobacco is failing those who need it most, with the cost now exceeding the cost of continuing to smoke for low-income people. New research published in Public Health Research and Practice warns Australia falls well behind WHO recommendations in providing free or affordable stop-smoking treatments, despite tobacco remaining the leading preventable cause of death.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Breakthrough drug to fight flu and pneumonia — and it could be delivered with a puff, not a jab

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/04/2026, Sarah Booth

An experimental influenza treatment could offer protection against both severe flu and pneumonia – one of influenza's deadliest complications – new Melbourne research suggests. [...] The findings, from a preclinical study by the Hudson Institute of Medical Research, bring the world a step closer to creating the first therapy to prevent post-flu bacterial pneumonia.

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

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Channel 10, 10 News, 09/04/2026, Kate Freebairn

Melbourne researchers have made a breakthrough in the fight against the flu and its potentially deadly complications. Using a synthetic protein, scientists have found a way to boost the body's immune response and hopefully prevent secondary infections such as bacterial pneumonia. Almost 25,000 influenza cases have been reported so far this year, with 99 people dying from it. Researchers believe that the new treatment will help save lives and are now looking at moving to clinical trials, eventually with the aim of developing an inhaler that can easily be administered at home.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 09/04/2026, Mike Amor & Karina Carvalho

Melbourne researchers say their experimental treatment called LAT9997 could prevent the deadliest complications of influenza. Bacterial pneumonia can develop in the lungs after someone has had the flu, killing hundreds of elderly Australians every year. The team tested the synthetic peptide and found that just two doses drastically limited lung damage in mice with influenza. The next step is clinical trials to confirm whether the treatment is safe and effective.

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3AW, Mornings, 09/04/2026, Tom Elliott

A Melbourne team of researchers has tested a synthetic peptide in a pre-clinical study that brings the world a step closer to creating the first therapy to prevent deadly post-flu bacteria pneumonia. Two

doses of it can dramatically reduce lung damage in mice, and they're obviously hoping to further that to humans.

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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

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Sexual misconduct by medicos now easy to see

The Australian, General News, 10/04/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 5

Sexual misconduct findings against more than 100 health professionals across Australia have for the first time been added to the publicly searchable national register of practitioners. From findings on asking sexually inappropriate questions during a consultation to sexual assault, the information will be left permanently on the practitioner's record kept by the nation's healthcare worker regulator.

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Hospital's staff on edge

Newcastle Herald, General News, 10/04/2026, Damon Cronshaw & Jamieson Murphy, Page 1

Staff at the Calvary Mater Newcastle have called for mould test results to be made public, amid concerns about their own safety and the safety of their patients. These concerns have led a law firm to consider legal action on behalf of Mater staff.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Bitter pill: Aussies skip meds outside PBS

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/04/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 3

The cost-of-living crisis is leading Australians to go without medication, take expired pills or skip doses of non-subsidised tablets, a report has warned. Medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme are mostly capped at \$25 but a new report has revealed almost half of Australians have been prescribed treatments outside the PBS.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 09/04/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Eczema Support Australia founder Melanie Funk. A drug called dupilumab is only available on the PBS for those who have extreme eczema, but children aged 11 and under do not have access to the medication through the scheme. Funk calls on the Federal Government to change the rule, noting that it's going to cost families \$20,000 a year.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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

Adelaide Now, Other, 09/04/2026, Vanda Carson

A 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. [...] He later sent emails to the lawyers acting for the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency stating: "... your intent to destroy me is so obvious, that it requires exposure in the media, just as with Alexi Navalny, Julian Assange and countless others".

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

COVID-19 update: The latest strain

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/04/2026, Carla Mascarenhas, Page 11

A new covid-19 variant is spreading quietly - and we are paying the price, experts say. The dominant strain, NB.1.8.1 - a sub-lineage of Omicron - is now circulating widely across Australia, and is flying under the radar.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Burning issue for experts

Courier Mail, General News, 10/04/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

World-renowned medical research institute QIMR Berghofer is investigating claims that two of its leading skin cancer experts have failed to declare conflicts of interest due to funding relationships with a sunscreen manufacturer. [...] "If Australia's health regulator (the TGA) formally treats Cancer Council Australia as commercially conflicted in the sunscreen space, then the same issue must be examined carefully where researchers funded by that organisation publish or publicly comment on sunscreen safety and efficacy," the complaint outlines.

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

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The Iran war may disrupt access to medicines

Aged Care Insite, Other, 09/04/2026, Jack Janetzki & Lisa Kalisch Ellett

As the conflict in the Middle East disrupts fuel, shipping and food supplies, many are starting to ask if they will be still be able to get their medicines if the war drags on. [...] Since July 2023, Australia has had specific stock-holding requirements for many medicines the government subsidises on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

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Urgent recall issued for expensive sunscreen sold in Australia: Stop using now

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/04/2026, Kylie Stevens

An urgent recall has been issued for three expensive sunscreens over concerns they may not meet their claimed SPF levels. The TGA confirmed Medik8's Physical Sunscreen SPF50+ in 60mL, 60mL Professional and 15mL sizes is being recalled by owner AC Newco.

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TGA sunscreen review and webinar

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/04/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has opened a public consultation looking into improvements to the regulation of sunscreens in Australia, and is inviting stakeholders to provide a response by 23 May 2026. Up for consideration are improved reliability of SPF testing, faster adoption of new test methods, stronger oversight of test labs, enhanced quality assurance and greater consistency in claims - click for details.

[Read More](#)

TGA takes next steps on Andrographis

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/04/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has begun consultation on a proposal to remove Andrographis paniculata (Andrographis) from the list of permitted ingredients in listed medicines, following a concerning number of anaphylaxis cases. Supplements containing Andrographis are intended to provide relief from cold and flu symptoms, and are sold in pharmacies, supermarkets and health stores.

[Read More](#)

ABC, 7:30, 09/04/2026, David Speers

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has negatively impacted the manufacturing and exporting of petrochemicals. Some petrochemicals are used to make plastics, fertilisers, cosmetics, and medicines. Australia imports around 90 per cent of medicines from overseas, but the Therapeutic Goods Administration is not expecting shortages so far.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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