



# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 11th April 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |  
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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The AFR Weekend](#)** (page 1) reports the Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler has characterised the National Disability Insurance Scheme as being out of control and contributing to an expansion of the low productivity care economy that increases public debt.
- **[The AFR Weekend](#)** (page 1) reports data reveals that patient numbers for ADHD medications on the PBS increased by 25 per cent last year to nearly 1 million people.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 1) reports the AMA has expressed concern regarding the impact of the Middle East conflict on medical supply chains, meanwhile the TGA has confirmed it is actively monitoring the supply of therapeutic goods and working with healthcare facilities to identify emerging issues.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 4) reports Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler has declined to rule out the introduction of means testing for the NDIS as the agency is facing a projected annual cost exceeding 100 billion dollars within the next decade.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports the AHPRA has added sexual misconduct findings to the public records of more than 100 practitioners following a legislative change, agreed to by all health ministers, which regulates permanently displaying these findings to ensure transparency even after sanctions or suspensions have been served.

- [ABC Online](#) reports the TGA has completed a safety review linking the herb andrographis paniculata to a risk of life-threatening anaphylaxis, concluding that current label warnings are inadequate to mitigate patient danger.
- [The Daily Mail Australia](#) (online) reports the AHPRA is monitoring the legal proceedings of two privately practising midwives who have been charged with manslaughter following the death of a newborn baby after a home birth in Newcastle.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Subsidies and safety nets: Australia's new economic model

AFR Weekend, General News, 11/04/2026, Michael Stutchbury, Page 1

Donald Trump may have pulled back from civilisationally destroying Iran. But disrupted global oil and gas supplies, and higher energy prices, are likely to persist well beyond whenever the war ends.

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### Explosion in scripts for ADHD

AFR Weekend, General News, 11/04/2026, Michael Smith, Page 1

The number of Australians taking ADHD drugs is closing in on 1 million after the taxpayer-funded scripts for medications to treat the condition jumped 25 per cent last year.

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### Means testing for NDIS 'on the table'

Weekend Australian, General News, 11/04/2026, Sarah Ison & Thomas Henry, Page 4

Labor has refused to rule out means testing as part of efforts to rein in the \$50bn-a-year National Disability Insurance Scheme, amid demands for cost efficiency to be enshrined in NDIS legislation and for the government to lay out how it will meet its 5 per cent annual growth target. In the wake of Labor senator Helen Polley calling for an "open conversation" on means testing as part of looming NDIS reform, Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler said it was clear the government would "have to look at a range of different measures" to achieve the hotly debated growth targets that have split both major parties.

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

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### Butler opens door to NDIS means testing

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/04/2026, James Massola, Page 6

Health Minister Mark Butler has refused to rule out introducing means testing for the National Disability Insurance Scheme as pressure grows on Labor to deliver a federal budget with significant reforms to the cost of the system. Butler's comments come as the scheme is expected to cost more than \$50 billion for the first time this financial year and, on the current trajectory, will cost more than \$100 billion annually within the next decade.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### Taking care

The Saturday Age, General News, 11/04/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 31

At her home on a small farm, 40 minutes out of Hobart, Rosie Treasure loves to paint. [...] " This is the task in front of Mark Butler, one of Anthony Albanese's most trusted ministers, who took carriage of the NDIS after last year's election, when he led Labor's successful Medicare campaign.

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

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## Wealthier Aussies could be forced to foot bill of NDIS growth surge

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 11/04/2026, Zac De Silva, Page 5

An overhaul of the way the Government funds disability services could require wealthier Australians to pay more for their care in a bid to save billions of dollars in the Federal Budget. Health Minister Mark Butler says "significant reform" to the National Disability Insurance Scheme is likely needed to reduce the program's growth rate from more than 10 per cent a year to the government's target of between 5 and 6 per cent.

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

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

## Wundowie denied cheap medicines says Hunter

Echo, General News, 10/04/2026, Page 8

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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## 'This is a terrific improvement to access and affordability'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2026, Page 9

From 1 January 2027, women will be able to access government-funded pharmacist-prescribed oral contraceptives and antibiotics for uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs). Federal Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing, Mark Butler, announced that the department was moving forward with the trial, which was originally flagged as part of the government's women's health package in February 2025, at the Australasian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP2026) on Friday 13 March.

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## Beat the rise

Money Magazine, General News, 01/04/2026, Nicola Field, Page 50

How to resist skyrocketing private health premiums. This is going to hurt. [...] Health funds have to go cap-in-hand to the Federal health minister, Mark Butler, to justify higher premiums.

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## Australians skipping, delaying medicines due to price

Canberra Times, Other, 10/04/2026, Kat Wong

Australians are taking expired medication, skipping doses or opting to delay or not fill a prescription as the cost of living eats into their medicine cabinets. [...] The government has reduced the maximum price on prescription medication multiple times since coming to office, with the PBS continually held up as a beacon of health policy by Australia's major political players. Announcing a drug used to treat cerebral palsy was being added to the scheme on Friday, Health Minister Mark Butler again backed in the system.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#).

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## Greens say Australia should step up pressure on Israel over 'disastrous, illegal, immoral war' on Lebanon

The Guardian, Other, 10/04/2026, Tom-Mcilroy

The Greens want the federal government to put direct pressure on Israel to stop its deadly strikes on Lebanon, including cancelling weapons contracts to protest against the "disastrous, illegal, immoral war". [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, dismissed Abbott's intervention.

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## Over 3700 GP clinics now universal bulk-billers, says Butler

Health Services Daily, Other, 10/04/2026, Holly Payne

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing originally predicted it would take another 18 months for more than 3600 GP clinics to sign up for the bulk-billing practice incentive.

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

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## Double-whammy Code breach fine

Pharma In Focus, Other, 10/04/2026

Things are heating up in the local obesity market with two companies falling foul of the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct, and fined a combined \$210,000. [...] In Federal Parliament, Health Minister Mark Butler said the CAR T therapy is moving closer to subsidy with a deal with the states close to being finalised.

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## Government won't rule out NDIS means-testing as it looks to rein in 'out of control' spending, says Health Minister

Sky News Australia, Other, 10/04/2026, Zoe Phillips

Health Minister Mark Butler says the government won't rule out NDIS means-testing as it looks to rein in "out of control" spending. The revelation comes as the federal government works to curb rapid growth in the National Disability Insurance Scheme, which is forecast to cost more than \$50 billion this financial year.

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## Trump hitting Aussie pharmaceuticals with 100% tariffs: what it means for local players

Switzer Daily, Other, 10/04/2026, Felicity Dean

What could these new tariffs mean for pharmaceutical players in Australia? [...] Following the announcement of the new tariffs, Health Minister Mark Butler said Australia's position hasn't changed, promising: this will not impact drug prices for Australian consumers.

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## Fuel crisis threatens NDIS budget

The Wire, Other, 10/04/2026

Australians with a disability are bracing for cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme as the government attempts to curb the growth of the program. [...] Mark Butler, the minister for Disability and the NDIS, says he is aiming to bringing growth of the disability scheme down from 10 percent down to 5 to 6 percent a year.

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## ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 10/04/2026, Stephanie Borys

Panel discussion with The West Australian Chief Political Correspondent Katina Curtis and Australian Associated Press political reporter Zac De Silva. De Silva says the Federal Government is laying the groundwork for NDIS reform in the Federal Budget. He states Health Minister Mark Butler is leaving the door open to broad sweeping changes such as means testing.

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## ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 10/04/2026, Stephanie Borys

Interview with Mehreen Faruqi, Acting Greens Leader. Borys says Labor Senator Helen Polley called for an open conversation on means testing the NDIS and while Health Minister Mark Butler has not endorsed the idea, he is happy his colleagues are putting ideas on the table for debate. Faruqi condemns the proposal by Labor Senator Helen Polley to means-test the NDIS, labelling it a disgraceful attempt to scapegoat disabled people for budget balancing.

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## 2SER FM, The Wire, 10/04/2026

Interview with Women with Disability Australia CEO Sophie Cusworth. Minister for Disability and the NDIS Mark Butler has said ahead of the Federal Budget that he is aiming to bring growth of the NDIS scheme from 10% to 5% to 6% a year. Cusworth says that the signals from the Federal Government around the scheme is concerning. She states that the way disabled people and their access to support is being framed is being covered in the media is disrespectful and inaccurate.

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## FIVEAA, Mornings, 10/04/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler addresses several critical national issues, focusing on the global fuel crisis, the sustainability of the NDIS, and reforms within the aged care sector. He defends the necessity of the NDIS while signalling a tightening of fiscal discipline in the upcoming May budget. He also addresses the ratios in nursing homes, emphasising that the Federal Government has significantly increased staffing requirements.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### 'I didn't know we had a million with walking sticks': Barnaby Joyce rips into Australians using NDIS as a 'get rich quick scheme'

Sky News Australia, Other, 10/04/2026, Conor Breslin

Barnaby Joyce has warned the National Disability Insurance Scheme is being exploited, pointing to a sharp increase in the number of Australians receiving support. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the "NDIS is meant to be a disability support scheme, not a get rich quick scheme" at the time.

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## MINISTER RAE

### ABC Capricornia, Breakfast, 10/04/2026, Jeremy Jones

Interview with National Seniors Australia CEO Chris Grice. Grice details systemic issues following the November 2025 introduction of the Supported Home Program. He warns that a narrow definition of clinical care and a malfunctioning funding algorithm dubbed RoboDebt 2.0 are forcing vulnerable seniors to choose between basic hygiene and financial solvency. He notes 100 parliamentarians have signed a letter to the Aged Care Minister Sam Rae raising the issues.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Headspace Ashfield expands with \$1m funding, supports hundreds of youth

The Australia Today, Other, 10/04/2026, Amit Sarwal

A larger and upgraded headspace centre has opened in Ashfield, aiming to improve access to free mental health care for young people in Sydney's Inner West. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health Emma McBride said the expanded facility would increase access to care and respond to growing demand, noting the service is expected to be upgraded to headspace Plus to support more complex needs.

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## **ABC Riverina, Breakfast, 10/04/2026, Sally Bryant**

Interview with Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride. McBride discusses the Medicare Mental Health Check-in, the first national early intervention service for Australians aged 16 and over. She explains that the service is designed to remove barriers to care by offering free, evidence-based support from psychologists and social workers without requiring a prior GP referral or diagnosis.

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## **ABC Sunshine Coast, Mornings, 10/04/2026, Sarah Howells**

Interview with Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride. McBride discusses the launch of the Medicare Mental Health Check-in, a free national service providing early intervention for Australians aged 16 and over. She explains that the program is designed to remove financial and clinical barriers by allowing people to access psychologists, social workers, and counsellors directly without needing a GP referral.

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## **STAR FM 104.5, 12:00 News, 10/04/2026**

A specialist clinic will be opening within the Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre at Wyoming on Monday. Dobell MP Emma McBride has told Parliament it will provide multidisciplinary care for endometriosis and pelvic pain, as well as support for women living with perimenopause and menopause.

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## **ABC North Queensland, Mornings (Early), 10/04/2026, Susan Graham-Ryan**

Interview with Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride. McBride discusses the launch of the Medicare Mental Health Check-in, a free service providing early intervention for Australians experiencing distress. She explains that the Commonwealth-funded program, delivered in partnership with St Vincent's Health Australia, allows individuals to access up to 150 experienced mental health practitioners without needing a GP referral.

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## **DEPARTMENT**

### **Over 3700 GP clinics now universal bulk-billers, says Butler**

Health Services Daily, Other, 10/04/2026, Holly Payne

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing originally predicted it would take another 18 months for more than 3600 GP clinics to sign up for the bulk-billing practice incentive.

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

## DoHDA should stop PHNs doing this, now

The Medical Republic, Other, 10/04/2026, Jeremy Knibbs

Primary Health Networks consistently using large amounts of government money to try to become tech providers — rather than analysers and commissioners of local health services — wasn't specifically addressed in the BCG review, but it should have been. [...] In essence, BCG identified the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's management framework for PHNs as the main problem – at least to start with – not the people running the PHNs themselves.

Also reported by: [Health Services Daily \(Online\)](#).

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Trust in sector strong among those interacting with it

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 10/04/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Australians are more than twice as likely to trust aged care once they have direct experience of it, Ageing Australia's Ageing in Australia Community Expectations Report 2026 shows. The first-of-its-kind study for Australia gathered responses from over 1,000 Australians aged 18 and over.

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### Navigating the new procurement standards

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 10/04/2026, Jason Cooney

With the commencement of the Aged Care Act 2024 in November 2025, the sector has shifted from a compliance-based framework to a rights-based, outcomes-focused model that is practical and thorough. This is a key driver for the shift in tendering and bidding processes in the aged care sector.

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### 2CC, Canberra Live, 10/04/2026, Leon Delaney

There are fears trust has been eroded in the aged care sector. Ageing Australia has found that people who have had a direct experience are twice as likely to trust care than those in the general community. Spokesperson Tom Symondson says work is needed to change public perception.

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### FIVEAA, Afternoons, 10/04/2026, Stacy Lee

Interview with SA Minister for Health and Wellbeing Blair Boyer. Boyer addresses the persistent issue of ambulance ramping and hospital bed block and acknowledges that significant work remains. He identified the lack of available aged care beds as the primary driver of hospital congestion and committed to fast-tracking a \$250 million no-interest loan scheme to help providers build more capacity.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Neurotech opens first site for phase III autism trial

The Australian, Other, 10/04/2026, Special Report

Neurotech International has initiated the first clinical site for its pivotal phase III Beyond Harmony trial evaluating lead drug candidate NTI164 in paediatric patients with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The first site to be activated in the trial is Monash Children's Hospital, one of Australia's leading paediatric

medical and research facilities, which is now open for patient screening and recruitment following receipt of all required regulatory approvals.

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

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## 4BC, Afternoons, 10/04/2026, Peter Psaltis

Interview with National Disability Services CEO Michael Perusco. Psaltis says that as the Federal Government prepares to unveil a major redesign of the NDIS in the May budget, new data shows that only 1 in 14 disability providers in Queensland are currently registered. Perusco notes the situation is leaving hundreds of thousands of participants without adequate safety oversight. He argues that the current one-size-fits-all pricing model fails to account for complex care needs.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Hospitals warn on shortage of crucial medical supplies

Weekend Australian, General News, 11/04/2026, Elizabeth Pike & Sarah Ison, Page 1

Hospitals are facing mass shortages of essential medical products such as gloves and syringes as the Middle East crisis cripples supply chains and exposes glaring weaknesses in the nation's domestic manufacturing capability. Amid warnings an end to the Iran war will not immediately ease the devastating impact to the economy, business leaders have raised alarm over serious supply chain disruptions hitting the health sector.

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

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### Diabetes funds under-used

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 11/04/2026, Justin Langer, Page 32

Australians newly diagnosed with diabetes are significantly underusing allied health and other Medicare-funded services, sparking calls for more targeted strategies. Only two-thirds of newly diagnosed patients had a management plan with their GP, and less than half (48.5 per cent) claimed at least one allied health service within two years of diagnosis, according to the joint study from the University of Sydney and Australian Catholic University.

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

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### MBPH receives upgrade funds

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 11/04/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 2

Mildura Base Public Hospital will receive \$442,000 in the latest round of funding from the Victorian Government aimed at supporting hospital infrastructure. The Mildura fund is one of 33 projects in the Mental Health and AOD Capital Renewal Fund, which will supply a total of \$20 million in grants to help improve safety for patients and staff.

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### PSA seeks 'targeted support of GP-based pharmacists'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2026, Page 10

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is calling on the federal government to commit close to \$127 million over the next four years to assist general practices in hiring non-dispensing pharmacists. The recommendation was made as part of the PSA's pre-budget submission to the Department of Treasury, with figures matching the ones proposed by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

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## Full scope not fully understood by patients: Barometer

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 10/04/2026, Spili Geftakis

Stronger communication and public awareness campaigns are needed to highlight the range of services that can be accessed through community pharmacy, the authors of the 2025 University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Pharmacy Barometer say.

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## Board sets out service expectations

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 10/04/2026, Spili Geftakis

The Pharmacy Board of Australia has released new Guidelines for pharmacists on the safe provision of pharmacy services including medicines and advice, outline its expectations of the profession.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### 'Set up to fail': Tobacco crisis bombshell

Courier Mail, General News, 11/04/2026, Jack Nivison, Page 18

Border Force officials have linked Australia's sprawling illicit tobacco trade to the cigarette excise, which has driven prices up about \$200 a kilogram since it was introduced in 2018. In a submission to the Australian Parliamentary Inquiry into Illicit Tobacco, the Australian Border Force said excise increases "may impact the size of the illicit tobacco market".

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

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### Quick care 'fixes' can fail women

Weekend Post, General News, 11/04/2026, Emma Cam, Page 14

Getting the contraceptive pill or treatment for a urinary tract infection might seem simple, convenient and easy to access, but in women's healthcare, "simple" is often anything but, according to this week's Big Question edition. Cairns general practitioner Dr Nicole Sleeman, who has a special interest in women's health, explains why recent moves to make women's healthcare quicker and more convenient have raised serious concerns with clinicians and what it could mean for women across Australia.

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### Children's pain and feveris familiarity breeding complacency?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2026, Rebekah Moles, Page 68

With 98% of parents of children under 2 years of age purchasing at least one OTC medicine each year for their child, and paediatric paracetamol being the most commonly used,1 pharmacists play a crucial role in guiding parents on appropriate and effective medicine use. [...] Because these purchases are so frequent, it can be easy to assume that parents are confident using these medicines. However, Australian evidence shows that many parents would benefit from advice to help use children's analgesics correctly

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### Fuelling workers through the night

Convenience World, General News, 01/04/2026, Hailey Settineri, Page 32

Millions of Australians work night shifts. Convenience stores that open through the night can play a key role in helping these essential workers access nutritious meals and snacks.

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# CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

## Reining in tough cancer

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 11/04/2026, Angela Pownall, Page 14

A revolutionary new treatment for an aggressive childhood cancer -- which kills more than half of kids who are diagnosed with it -- will be developed in Perth. Telethon is funding the first year of research into immunotherapy which alters a patient's own T-cells to seek out and destroy neuroblastoma tumours.

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## Elusive illness eating away at our children

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 11/04/2026, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 28

When Frankie Constable turned five last month, there was no birthday cake or party food. [...] Frankie is one of a growing number of Australian children and teens diagnosed with avoidant restrictive food intake disorder.

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## Breast screening in Wentworth

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 11/04/2026, Denika Anderson, Page 9

Breastscreen NSW will bring its mobile screening service to Wentworth this month, offering free services to eligible women. In New South Wales one in seven women is predicted to develop breast cancer in their lifetime, with 75 per cent of women over 50 when diagnosed with breast cancer.

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## Boosting defence against vaccinepreventable diseases

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2026, Leanne Philpott

More than 500,000 Australians live with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and this figure is set to rise to over 843,000 by 2050. COPD is a leading cause of premature death, preventable hospitalisations and long-term disability, especially among older and Indigenous Australians.

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## Gut health: a developing story

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2026, Chris Brooker & Leanne Philpott, Page 40

Around half of all Australians may experience poor gut health, according to the CSIRO, with its research finding at least 50% of adults experience unpleasant gut symptoms such as bloating, gas and constipation. One in seven rate themselves as experiencing distressing symptoms.

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## Modern CKD management

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2026, Debbie Rigby, Page 88

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) impacts about one in seven adults, yet it frequently develops without noticeable symptoms until advanced stages, when the risk of needing dialysis becomes much higher. Recent evidence and new therapeutic options now provide meaningful opportunities to slow progression and improve long-term outcomes, provided CKD is detected early and managed consistently.

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## Tasmanian-led Parkinson's action plan launched as a 'giant step' for patients

The Mercury, Other, 10/04/2026, Duncan Abey

Australia has launched its first national strategy to combat Parkinson's disease after Tasmanian advocates secured \$800,000 in federal funding for the groundbreaking plan. A national strategy to

tackle the world's fastest-growing neurological disease has celebrated its Tasmanian origins during a "watershed" launch in Canberra.

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## **New HCP resources for asthma care**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 10/04/2026

National Asthma Council Australia has released new resources for primary care health professionals that provide summary information on key topics identified in the updated Australian Asthma Handbook, which was published last year. Designed to be used in conjunction with the handbook, the information sheets provide a concise reference for the diagnosis and management of asthma and include primary questions to be considered, quick reference tables and key messages to communicate to patients.

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## **Shocking revelation in sleep apnoea as severity from night to night increase heart and stroke risks by a third**

West Australian, Other, 10/04/2026

People whose sleep apnoea changes significantly from night to night are 30 per cent more likely to have a heart attack, stroke or heart failure, new research has found. The Australian study discovered that it is not just how severe sleep apnoea is that matters, but how much it fluctuates from night to night.

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## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

### **'Lived experience' over expertise –the new CV must-have**

The Australian, Other, 11/04/2026, Janet Albrechtsen

Consider this hypothetical scenario. A senior public servant has been identified as a terrifically skilled candidate for a position working in mental health at the National Mental Health Commission.

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### **ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 10/04/2026, Thomas Oriti**

Interview with Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine President Dr Rod Martin. Martin warns that rural communities face escalating health risks from serial disasters and critical fuel shortages. He explains that in their Federal Budget submission, the College is advocating for robust satellite communication infrastructure and dedicated long-term mental health programs to support clinicians and residents battling the compounded effects of climate change and supply chain instability. He notes the need to ensure resilient, robust telehealth capacity.

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## **IMMUNISATION**

### **Young children offered nasal spray flu vaccination as peak season nears**

Northern Territory News, Other, 10/04/2026, Grace Carter

For the first time North Queensland parents have a needle free option to prevent their children getting the flu, with a nasal spray vaccine available for two to five year olds. Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health service doctor Ngaree Blow said that while children generally handle needles well, she hoped the nasal spray would encourage them to get flu vaccines.

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

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## Rising flu cases prompt urgent vaccination call for children under five

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 10/04/2026, William Stanley

South-west parents are being urged to prioritise getting a flu vaccine for their children aged under five as influenza rates continue to rise. More than 59,000 influenza cases were recorded nationally in children aged under five in 2025, up from about 8,600 in 2016.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Brain health boost for First Nations communities

Shepparton News Online, Other, 10/04/2026, Lua Ikenasio

First Nations communities along the Murray River are taking charge of brain health, thanks to Dementia Australia and Country Hearing Care's inaugural Brain Health Roadshow. Representatives from both organisations visited five towns, including Echuca, to deliver sessions on brain health and related wellbeing issues.

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

No relevant coverage

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Second arrest over home birth death

Weekend Australian, General News, 11/04/2026, Euan Kennedy, Page 7

A second woman has been charged alongside content creator midwife Oyebola "Bibi" Coxon over the death of a baby following an attempted home birth in 2024. A woman hired Ms Coxon, 36, to attend her home near Newcastle in October 2024 and deliver her child.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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### Second midwife charged with manslaughter after failed Newcastle homebirth

A second woman has been charged with manslaughter over the death of a baby after a failed homebirth in Newcastle. Police allege private midwife Jordan Michaela Holland, 28, attended a Wallsend home on October 2, 2024, to assist with a homebirth.

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## Shock new details emerge about second midwife charged with manslaughter after baby boy dies

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 10/04/2026, Maily Rae

Midwife Jordan Holland spoke about the dangers of giving birth in hospital just three months before she was allegedly involved in the death of a newborn baby. The 28-year-old was arrested and charged with manslaughter at Newcastle Police Station about 7am on Friday following an extensive police investigation.

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## Second midwife charged after baby dies in home birth

Newcastle Herald, Other, 10/04/2026, Anna Falkenmire

A second midwife has been charged with manslaughter after the death of a baby during a home birth in Newcastle. Jordan Michaela Holland, 28, appeared in bail court from the cells at Newcastle Police Station on Friday, wearing a beige cardigan.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Public sector pay deals

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/04/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 4

Tasmanian ambulance workers are set to escalate their industrial action as the government finally reaches agreement with thousands of public sector employees on new wage agreements. A ballot of 4000 teachers is being held over the next two weeks with their union recommending they accept the latest pay offer.

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### More doctors for Mudgee

Coalface, General News, 01/04/2026, Page 23

Gulgong Medical Centre reopened last year, and now the Mudgee Medical Centre has reopened its books to new patients after nearly 18 months, a major turning point in the Mid-Western Region's fight to address a critical GP shortage. Doctors 4 Mudgee is a grassroots not-for-profit initiative supported by the three coal mines in the region, Yancoal's Moolarben, Peabody's Wilpinjong mine and Glencore's Ulan operation.

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### Tasmanian public sector pay deal reached but ambulance union rejects offer

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/04/2026, Genevieve Holding

A pay rise for public sector workers has been agreed to between the government and unions after months of negotiations and industrial action. Premier Jeremy Rockliff announced on Friday morning that wage agreements had been made for six different public sector worker groups, including the allied health professionals and public sector union.

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

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## Non-PBS meds hurting hip pockets

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 10/04/2026

The government's landmark Cheaper Medicines policy has been a major success, but many Australians are still missing out on the benefits because they are being prescribed medicines that are not on the PBS, new research from the McKell Institute has revealed. McKell's report Still Out of Pocket found 43% of people surveyed were prescribed medicines not listed on the PBS in the past three years, including those for dermatology or skin conditions (21%), pain management or chronic pain (19%), diabetes and obesity management (16%), mental health medication (10%) and contraceptives (10%).

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Nurse steals to buy ciggies

Herald Sun, General News, 11/04/2026, Craig Dunlop, Page 11

A veteran palliative care nurse stole a dead woman's bank card and used it to purchase more than \$1000 worth of cigarettes. [...] McMahon's employer sacked him shortly after discovering the theft, and reported the case to police and the medical regulator, AHPRA.

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### Sex pest docs exposed

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/04/2026, Justin Langer, Page 18

Sexual misconduct findings will now be listed on the public registers of medical practitioners and cancelled practitioners under landmark Australian reforms. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has published additional information on the register entries of 107 people 86 of which are on the list of cancelled practitioners in the first round of changes this week.

*Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).*

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### It's now easier to see if your health professional has a sexual misconduct finding

The Australian, Other, 10/04/2026, Stephen Lunn

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. [...] Previously a search of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's register would have referred only to a tribunal decision, with a link, but it will now explicitly state the finding involved sexual misconduct.

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### Sexual misconduct findings permanently added to health practitioners' records

ABC Online, Other, 10/04/2026, Paige Cockburn

More than 100 past and current health practitioners have had findings of sexual misconduct added to their public-facing records under reforms to promote transparency. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is reviewing 5,000 professional misconduct findings to identify which of those involved sexual misconduct.

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## Adelaide GP Mark Rogers disqualified for professional misconduct amid 'blatant disregard' for previous orders

ABC Online, Other, 10/04/2026

A doctor with an "unhealthy obsession" for low-level laser therapy that was "almost delusional" has had his registration cancelled after a tribunal found he demonstrated a "blatant disregard" of previous orders imposed on his registration. [...] The allegations include that he failed to provide good patient care, failed to disclose a potential conflict of interest, made false and misleading statements to authorities and engaged in financial and commercial dealings with a patient.

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Safety review links herb in popular cold and flu supplements with life-threatening anaphylaxis

ABC Online, Other, 10/04/2026, Joanna Woodburn

A herb found in popular cold and flu supplements in Australia has officially been linked with life-threatening anaphylaxis. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has completed a safety review of *Andrographis paniculata*, which is used in approximately 84 listed medicines that are marketed to relieve cold and flu symptoms and boost immunity.

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

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### The disgusting 'hair ball' side effect of weight loss drugs like Ozempic that nobody talks about

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 10/04/2026, Sharon Hunt

Dr Karl Kruszelnicki has revealed some of the unexpected side effects of weight loss medications like Ozempic, Wegovy and Mounjaro - including one he describes as the 'equivalent of a hairball in your stomach'. Speaking to ABC Science, Dr Karl explained that one of the stranger impacts is that the medications can 'reduce the rate at which the stomach empties'.

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### Vaping: Ono smoking gun

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2026, Page 35

Vaping devices for smoking cessation continue to divide community and pharmacy alike. Since there is no currently approved product assessed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for safety, quality or effectiveness, many are left feeling unsure if nicotine-vaping products (NVPs) can be safely or effectively used to help quit smoking.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 10/04/2026, Damian Smith

Interview with TGA Chief Medical Advisor Professor Robyn Langham. Smith recalls that back in January, a Perth woman called Kerry Smith a severe allergic reaction to a cold and flu remedy called ArmaForce. Langham notes the remedy contains *Andrographis paniculata*, which has caused side effect called anaphylaxis since 2019. He says that despite mandatory warning labels since 2019, life-threatening allergic reactions have continued, leading the regulator to consider moving the herb to prescription-only or pharmacist-only status by June 2026.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### ALP's legal pot push

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/04/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 1

A controversial move to legalise and tax the use of cannabis will be debated at the Labor Party's state conference later this month. The motion is one of 94 listed for the conference, alongside a push to end old-growth logging and support for pill-testing programs.

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