



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 12th April 2026

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[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Examiner](#)** (page 3) reports construction has commenced on a new 21 million dollar Royal Flying Doctor Service facility at Western Junction, funded by a 15 million dollar investment from the Federal Government and 6 million dollars from the Tasmanian Government. Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White stated the project will future-proof aero-medical retrieval and primary healthcare services, ensuring that rural and remote communities receive the right care at the right time.
- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)** (page 5) reports data from February indicates that 63.6 per cent of urgent neurosurgery patients were not seen within the medically recommended timeframe, with the statewide specialist waitlist growing to 346,751 people, even as regional workforce challenges continue.
- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)** (page 9) reports Queensland nurses unions are lobbying the Federal Government to address pressure on frontline health workers who are paying high hospital parking fees exceeding \$2600 annually, even while on extended leaves, causing staff to decline shifts.
- **[The Sunday Telegraph](#)** (page 5) reports a clinical trial has determined that a medication currently used for Cushing's syndrome increases the survival rate of women with aggressive ovarian cancer by 35 per cent when combined with standard care.

- [7News.com.au](https://www.7news.com.au) reports counterfeit versions of retatrutide, an investigational weight loss medication that remains unapproved for human use globally, have emerged for sale online.

MINISTER BUTLER

NDIS overhaul is 'deeply unsettling'

Sunday Examiner, General News, 12/04/2026, Page 7

Exactly how the government will curb its spending for the rapidly growing National Disability Insurance Scheme remains up for debate as the health minister concedes "significant reform" is needed. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler refused to rule out introducing means testing as pressure grows to rein in the "out of control" spending.

Also reported by: [7News.com.au](https://www.7news.com.au) (Online).

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Nearly 1m Australians on ADHD drugs as script explosion alarms doctors

Australian Financial Review, Other, 11/04/2026, Michael Smith

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.

[Read More](#)

Subsidies, safety nets and stagnation: Australia's new economic model

Australian Financial Review, Other, 11/04/2026, Michael Stutchbury

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.

Also reported by: [The Centre for Independent Studies \(CIS\)](https://www.theindependent.com.au) (Online).

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Some Australians forced to choose 'between food and medicine', new survey finds

SBS, Other, 11/04/2026

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. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Friday announced a drug used to treat cerebral palsy was also being added to the scheme.

[Read More](#)

Crossbenchers ramp up pressure on Albanese government over potential NDIS cuts

The Point Australia, Other, 11/04/2026, Tegan George

Crossbenchers are ramping up pressure on the Albanese Government to come clean on planned changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), amid revelations Labor quietly established a "razor gang" to rein in costs. [...] According to the Guardian, an NDIS Sustainability Taskforce was established in January following a meeting between Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Health Minister Mark Butler and state premiers.

[Read More](#)

4ZZZ, Brisbane Line (Tuesday and Saturday), 11/04/2026, Elly, Liv, & Mack

Pre-recorded interview with Women With Disabilities Australia CEO Sophie Cusworth about concerns over proposed changes to the NDIS, following comments from NDIS Minister Mark Butler about reducing the scheme's growth to around 5-6%. Cusworth shared her fears that funding cuts could

reduce access to essential supports and criticised harmful public narratives that blame people with disabilities, warning that these are causing distress and undermining a rights-based approach to care.

[Play Now](#)

NOVA 100.3, 08:00 News (Weekend), 11/04/2026

The Federal Government has refused to rule out means testing for the \$50 billion NDIS as it faces pressure to curb rising costs. NDIS Minister Mark Butler says a range of options are being considered to meet a 5% growth target. The debate comes ahead of the May budget, with the government under pressure to outline its reform plan.

[Play Now](#)

The Update, Podcast, 10/04/2026

Health Minister Mark Butler has refused to rule out means testing for the NDIS as the Federal Government seeks to curb its annual growth to between 5% and 6%. He says a range of options remain under consideration to ensure the long-term sustainability of the scheme while supporting people with disability and their families.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

A \$21m project will help Tasmanians get the 'right care'

Sunday Examiner, General News, 12/04/2026, Joe Colbrook & Lauren Richardson, Page 3

A \$21 million project has begun, with the goal of "ensuring the "right care at the right time, at the right place". [...] Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White said the investment would strengthen the RFDS work, so more Tasmanians could receive care regardless of where they live.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

When we asked about aged care changes, your complaints flooded in

The Senior, Other, 11/04/2026, Phoebe Loomes

A program designed to let Australians keep their independence at home is frustratingly complicated, plagued by delays and failing to provide basic levels of care, according to dozens of carers, concerned family members and patients who responded to The Seniors call for feedback. [...] "The unfortunate thing about the changes in aged care is that it all falls on me the carer," Ms Parker told The Senior.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Project offers hope to help kids thrive

Sun Herald, Editorials, 12/04/2026, Page 26

As the Herald reported last week, slowing the growth of the \$50 million NDIS will be key to the federal government's savings when it delivers its budget next month. A major policy already in train to assist with this is the \$4 billion Thriving Kids program for children with low to moderate needs, such as level one and two autism, the first stage of which will begin in October, three months after originally promised.

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PRIMARY CARE

Bottleneck for detox beds is leaving addicts desperate

Sunday Age, General News, 12/04/2026, Marta Pascual Juanola, Page 12

For weeks, Kate* kept her bags packed, convinced the phone call that would change her life would come any minute. The mother of two was in the throes of a methamphetamine and GHB addiction that had consumed most aspects of her life, but was feeling hopeful.

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Specialist wait crisis

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 12/04/2026, Taylah Fellows, Page 5

Two-thirds of patients waiting for urgent neurosurgery and urology specialist appointments are waiting longer than medically recommended, as Queensland's outpatient waitlist continues to grow. Latest health data shows a mammoth backlog of 42,923 Queenslanders waiting for orthopaedic appointments followed by 38,391 patients waiting on ear, nose and throat specialists and 34,882 waiting to see an ophthalmologist.

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

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POPULATION HEALTH

Top End doctor launches women's health clinic to provide continuity of care from period to menopause

Northern Territory News, Other, 11/04/2026, Lottie Hood

As a mum and a doctor in women's health, Dr Sarah Mills is well aware how much "normalised" pain can lie behind a woman's smile. Whether it is immobilising period cramps, heavy bleeding or undiagnosed perimenopausal symptoms, these are just some of the health issues generations have been told come with being a woman.

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

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The Big Question: Dr Sleeman on medical misogyny, systemic bias, and why 'quick' healthcare could harm women

Northern Territory News, Other, 11/04/2026, Emma Cam

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. Dr Sleeman said part of the problem came down to what experts labeled medical misogyny— a systemic bias women can face within healthcare.

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

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Menopause's worst secret out of the bottle

Sun Herald, General News, 12/04/2026, Lauren Ironmonger, Page 11

Janine Duncan had, by her own admission, always been a heavy drinker. "I'm part of Generation X and was brought up with a certain alcohol culture, the 'we can drink as much as men' type thinking," says the 52-year-old. [...] A 2025 Macquarie University survey of women over 40 in Sydney found many respondents were self-medicating menopausal anxiety symptoms with alcohol.

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

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Old drug delays cancer

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 12/04/2026, Page 5

A pill already used to treat a rare disease could prolong the lives of women with aggressive ovarian cancer, a pivotal trial has found. The drug, relacorilant, was found to be far more effective than existing treatments, extending the lives of patients by 35 per cent.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Iron out fatigue in bowel disease

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 12/04/2026, Ruby Kraner Tucci, Page 27

Tens of thousands of people living with inflammatory bowel disease could be undiagnosed as iron deficient. Only one third of people with IBD who receive routine care are tested for iron deficiency, according to a study published by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

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

Diabetes care is underused

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/04/2026, Page 27

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, says the joint study from the University of Sydney and Australian Catholic University. Researchers say targeted strategies are needed to improve "initiation of care" planning by GPs, and encourage broader access to government-funded services.

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HPV vaccine may help men

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 12/04/2026, Page 27

Human papillomavirus (hpv) vaccines could protect men from cancer as well as women, says new Japanese research. 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.

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Feeling heard is the key to treatment

Sunday Examiner, General News, 12/04/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 3

Hannah Moore knows firsthand that surgery isn't always the "fix" patients hope for when it comes to endometriosis. "It has helped reduce some of my symptoms, particularly pain in the short term, but it hasn't been a complete or permanent fix," the registered nurse and health advocate said.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

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IMMUNISATION

It's time to roll up our sleeves on vaccinations

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 12/04/2026, Madonna King, Page 62

Should we consider fining parents who refuse to vaccinate their children? It might sound preposterous, but children (and adults) are dying because of a downturn in vaccination rates.

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

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Deadly winter viruses warning

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 12/04/2026, Elise Kaine, Page 4

After a slightly more severe 2025 that had about 100 people die with Covid-19, flu or RSV in Tasmania, health professionals are urging Tasmanians to prepare for the winter season by getting vaccinated to reduce preventable deaths. Pharmacist David Peachey said pharmacies were a great place to get your vaccines, but there were other options, including a general practitioner or a community clinic run by nurses.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Telethon-funded Perth research to arm the body's own cells to fight the deadliest childhood cancer

West Australian, Other, 11/04/2026

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 a ground-breaking immunotherapy that alters a patient's own T-cells to seek out and destroy neuroblastoma tumours.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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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

Doctors know how to fix broken hospitals but no one will listen

Sunday Age, General News, 12/04/2026, Neil Mitchell, Page 29

There are few certainties in life, but this is one: what unfolds in Victoria's hospital system this week will read like an Oscar-winning script from a medical horror film. It always does. The sharp end, the area that exposes the entire hospital dysfunction, is the emergency department where people admitted because of threat to "life or limb" are being wheeled into a medical version of a chaotic street market.

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Nurses cannot afford to work

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 12/04/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 9

Nurses are turning down shifts because they can't afford the cost of going to work, with many struggling to pay the thousands of dollars needed to secure safe hospital parking as well as crippling

fuel costs. And healthcare workers are out of pocket for high parking fees even while on extended annual leave or sick leave.

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

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Students paid for mental health

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 12/04/2026, Amelia Swan, Page 6

Students doing unpaid placements at mental health services will be eligible to apply for weekly support payments. The government announced on Saturday their "Pathways to Practice" incentive grant program will offer up to \$575 a week to support nursing, social work, occupation therapy and psychology students doing their compulsory clinical placements.

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Ambulance workers 'singled out' as they intensify pay dispute with government

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/04/2026, Sue Bailey

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 offer.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Non-PBS prices see Aussies skip scripts, doses: report

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/04/2026, Kate Cowling

Almost a quarter of surveyed Australians aren't filling scripts for unlisted medicines, a new report shows. It also sheds light on the unsubsidised categories they are spending most on.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Health workers' sex misdeeds on record

Sun Herald, General News, 12/04/2026, Kate Aubusson, Page 3

More than 100 current and former healthcare practitioners have had their sexual misconduct findings permanently added to their records on the national regulator's searchable public register. Twenty-one of the practitioners with sexual misconduct findings against them are still practising, and 86 had cancelled registrations, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency reported on Friday.

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

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Sex-pest medics on the record

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 12/04/2026, David Hannant, Page 12

Sexual misconduct findings against more than 100 medical professionals have been laid bare following a major change in the law. A reform of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law introduces big changes to the way sexual misconduct findings against doctors and health practitioners are made public.

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

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Opioid addict doctor banned

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Edition Changes, 12/04/2026, Lucy Rutherford, Page 3

A Renmark doctor has been banned after he forged prescriptions, in the names of his colleagues, to feed his opioid addiction. In a judgment published online, the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal disqualified Aidan Thomas Herbert, 43, from applying for registration as a health practitioner for three years.

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

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Sexual misconduct findings now permanent fixture on public record of health professionals

West Australian, Other, 11/04/2026, Hannah Cross

Sexual misconduct findings will now be permanent fixtures on the public register of health practitioners under landmark changes rolled out by the medical watchdog. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has added information about existing findings to the publicly visible registrations of more than 100 practitioners.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Fake 'miracle' weight loss drug Retatrutide flooding online market as experts warn of dangers

7News.com.au, Other, 11/04/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

A new weight loss drug generating huge attention online is still experimental and cannot legally be sold anywhere in the world. Despite that, counterfeit versions are already being sold online, raising serious safety concerns among doctors and regulators.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Tasmanian Labor to debate controversial plan to legalise and tax

cannabis at state conference

The Mercury, Other, 11/04/2026, Sue Bailey

A controversial plan to legalise – and tax – the use of cannabis in Tasmania will be debated at the Labor Party's state conference this month. It will also vote on whether to support a ban on native forest logging in the state.

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

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How to live longer: Is alcohol the 'single worst thing' for your health?

The Australian, Other, 11/04/2026, Penny Timms

When Chris Davis stumbled across the longevity movement, he quickly grew intrigued and decided to – modestly – go down the rabbit hole and focus more on his own health and wellbeing. One of the first things he did was give up alcohol for three months.

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