



# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 14th April 2026

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 8) reports the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, will deliver a keynote speech to outline Federal Government plans to reduce the annual growth rate of the National Disability Insurance Scheme including strengthening the NDIA payment system and enhancing provider registration.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 8) reports the Federal Government and Pfizer have failed to reach a pricing agreement for the subsidisation of the breast cancer drug Tucatinib on the PBS, while the Department of Health confirmed that the sponsor has withdrawn from negotiations.
- **[The Northern Territory News](#)** (page 6) reports the Northern Territory has launched the Aboriginal Enrolled Nurse Training program to expand the local healthcare workforce through funded tuition and mentored work placements.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 3) reports the Federal Government and state authorities are investing 3.2 million dollars to roll out the Spotfire respiratory testing system at selected hospitals to provide rapid diagnoses for 15 illnesses including influenza and COVID-19.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 14) reports Australian researchers are investigating a paradox where elite endurance athletes are up to seven times more likely to develop atrial fibrillation despite the condition being primarily linked to lifestyle factors like physical inactivity.

- [The West Australian](#) (page 9) reports the WA government has announced an additional 1.5 billion dollars for the health system, including 500 million dollars to address cost blowouts across major hospital projects such as the Peel Health Campus. Premier Roger Cook stated the funding increase for the Building Hospitals Fund is necessary to manage rising construction costs and ensure the delivery of more than 900 new hospital beds over the next four years.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### No means test leaves NDIS short on fiscal medicine

Australian Financial Review, Editorials, 14/04/2026, Page 30

The National Disability Insurance Scheme was initially forecast by the Productivity Commission to cost \$14 billion a year when fully operational. That was back in 2011.

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### Coalition backs crackdown on NDIS growth

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/04/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos & James Massola, Page 8

Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler will use a keynote speech next week to reveal Labor's plans for slowing down growth in the \$50 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme, as the Coalition lends its support to cracking down on unregistered providers. The opposition's assistant NDIS spokesman, Henry Pike, said he favoured a better payment system and a stronger provider registration regime.

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

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### Spoils of Iran war to deliver a budget boost

Central Western Daily, General News, 14/04/2026, Jacob Shteyman & Grace Crivellaro, Page 7

The Iran war is set to deliver a \$36 billion windfall for Treasurer Jim Chalmers, but increased spending on cost-of-living measures could derail efforts to get the budget back in black. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has not ruled out introducing means-testing to help rein in one of the biggest strains on the budget: the NDIS.

Also reported by: [Thenightly.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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### Three winning bidders of GP bulk-billing contract

Australian Doctor, General News, 17/04/2026, Rachel Carter, Page 12

Two well-known gp chains and a local practice have won a share of the Federal Government's \$10.5 million contract to deliver three new bulk-billing GP clinics in the ACT. [...] Ochre Health, Next Practice and Macquarie General Practice have been announced as the successful providers by federal Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler.

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

### To truly know your patients, visit them in their homes

Australian Doctor, General News, 17/04/2026, Max Kamien, Page 16

I graduated in 1960. House calls were part of every GP's day. [...] I can readily imagine federal Health Minister Mark Butler and his predecessors laughing at that conclusion.

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### Prime Minister Anthony Albanese flags NDIS overhaul and scrapping investor tax breaks in budget sneak peek

9News, Other, 13/04/2026

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has flagged major structural changes to the estimated \$55 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the scrapping of key investor tax breaks in the May Federal Budget. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler last year claimed that one out of every 10 six-year-olds

are on the NDIS in Australia while announcing plans to scale back young people with mild autism on the scheme.

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## Half of GP practices now universally bulk-billing, Mark Butler says

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/04/2026, Ciara Seccombe

The Federal Government is two years ahead of schedule with its target number for fully bulk-billing GP practices, says Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler. Mr Butler says 3700 GP practices have signed up for universal bulk-billing, exceeding the government's forecast of 3600 by 2028/29 and up 2100 since bulk-billing incentives for non-concessional patients were tripled in November.

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## Rural clinics more likely to switch to universal bulk billing

The Medical Republic, Other, 13/04/2026, Holly Payne

A new analysis of self-reported bulk-billing data appears to show that rural and regional GP practices are taking up the government's bulk-billing PIP at a higher rate than their metro counterparts, but key questions remain unanswered. [...] As confirmed by federal health minister Mark Butler on Friday, the total number of clinics registered on the program has grown by at least 450 since the end of December 2025.

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## 2SER FM, The Wire, 13/04/2026, Roderick Chambers

Interview with Sophie Cusworth, CEO of Women with Disability Australia, about concerns over proposed NDIS funding changes and public discourse. Disability Minister Mark Butler says no options are ruled in or out as authorities consider a range of measures to meet National Cabinet targets. Cusworth warns that potential reductions in support risk leaving disabled people without adequate alternative services and says current media and political narratives are causing distress and reinforcing harmful stereotypes.

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## ABC Mildura - Swan Hill, 06:30 News, 13/04/2026

A report from the online GP directory Cleanbill indicates that a higher percentage of regional clinics are adopting a full bulk-billing model compared to those in metropolitan areas. However, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has disputed the findings, stating that the Cleanbill data is not a reliable analysis of the current healthcare landscape.

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## Bumma Bippera Media, National Talk Black, 13/04/2026, Trendy Trev

Interview with Kelli Owen, National Community Engagement Coordinator for the National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce, about improving kidney transplant access for Indigenous Australians. Owen says many Indigenous patients remain on dialysis without access to transplant lists and calls for urgent implementation of a 2024 national organ donation strategy. She urges Health Minister Mark Butler to fund and act on the proposed community-led governance model, warning delays continue to cost lives.

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## 3AW, Mornings, 13/04/2026, Tom Elliott

Interview with Prof Ian Hickie, Co-Director of Health and Policy at the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Centre, about ADHD diagnosis rates and treatment trends in Australia. Hickie says about 3–5% of people likely have ADHD, and higher diagnosis numbers reflect better access to assessment rather than overdiagnosis alone. He references Health Minister Mark Butler and supports tighter NDIS rules that target severe impairment.

Interview continues on: [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#).

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### **3AW, Mornings, 13/04/2026, Tom Elliott**

Interview with Mary Aldred, Liberal MP for Monash and Co-chair of the Illegal Tobacco Taskforce, about Australia's tobacco policy reforms. Aldred argues soaring tobacco taxes push smokers into the black market, fuelling organised crime, safety risks, and even rising smoking rates. She criticises Health Minister Mark Butler for focusing on smoking reduction while ignoring enforcement gaps, urging a coordinated government approach to tackle both health and crime impacts.

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### **ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 13/04/2026, Chris Mitchell**

Interview with Megan Spindler-Smith, Acting CEO of People with Disability Australia, about NDIS overhaul concerns. Spindler-Smith says NDIS funding cuts shift costs into hospitals, families, emergency systems and education, while reducing support for inclusion and increasing long-term system pressure. She urges Health Minister Mark Butler and the government to strengthen the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission and deliver genuine consultation on planning reforms.

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## **MINISTER MCALLISTER**

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## **ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE**

### **New petition pushes for national endometriosis leave**

Farrago Magazine, Other, 13/04/2026, Taylah Xuereb

A recent petition calling for national statutory menstrual leave for people with endometriosis & adenomyosis has received approximately 22,000 signatures within its first week of being open.[...] Farrago reached out to Minister for Women, MP Katy Gallagher, and Assistant Minister for Women, MP Rebecca White but received no response.

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## **SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI**

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### **Profits, but also lives, on the line**

The Australian, General News, 14/04/2026, Penny Timms, Page 8

Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer has abandoned negotiations to have a breakthrough cancer drug listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, sparking fears it could be a result of US-driven pressure about the nation's medicines policies. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing confirmed Pfizer had walked away from the talks.

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### **A GP guide to preventing congenital CMV**

Australian Doctor, General News, 17/04/2026, Dr Natalia Rode, Page 36

Cytomegalovirus is a common herpesvirus that typically causes no symptoms or complications in healthy, immunocompetent individuals. [...] However, the federal Health Department and RANZCOG recommend targeted screening with CMV-specific IgG serology at the first antenatal visit for high-risk women (mothers of young children or those who work in childcare).

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### **Drug firms will have to pay higher charges to fund our medicines watchdog, with one very worrying result - and no surprise who is going to end up footing the bill**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/04/2026, Muiris Ó Cearbhaill

Drug manufacturers have been hit with higher charges to help fund our medicines watchdog – and the cost is expected to be passed on to consumers. [...] A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said the HPRA carries out a range of activities to ensure the quality, safety, and efficacy of medicines used here and does so without State funding.

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### **ABC Radio Canberra, Afternoons, 13/04/2026, Adrienne Francis**

Panel discussion with disability-led media creator Eliza Hull and disability discrimination lawyer Sam Drummond about Australia's disability inclusion strategy. Hull highlights low public awareness of the National Disability Strategy despite extensive consultation and explains the podcast partnership with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing through the Accessibility Fund to promote a better understanding of inclusion.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### **NPs to issue death certificates**

Australian Doctor, General News, 17/04/2026, Carmel Sparke, Page 4

Legislation passed in February allows nurse practitioners to issue cause-of-death certificates as long as they have provided care to the patient. The changes especially impact nurse practitioners who work in palliative care, hospices and aged care settings.

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### **No aged care place, but can't go home: How Lynette became homeless in hospital**

Canberra Times, Other, 13/04/2026, Kate McIlwain

Lynette Bishop was admitted to hospital more than two months ago and, despite recovering from the infection that sent her there within a couple of weeks, is unable to leave. [...] A critical aged care bed

shortage means that older people who cannot safely return home are stuck there in wards designed for acute and not long term care.

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

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## 'Akin to neglect': Inspector-General slams Illawarra's long wait times for aged care

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 13/04/2026, Kate McIlwain

Leaving an elderly Berkeley woman with dementia while she waits for a place in aged care is "akin to neglect" according to the Inspector-General of Aged Care.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Albanese flags move on controversial Australian housing tax

The Australian, Other, 13/04/2026, Nathan Schmidt

Anthony Albanese has given the strongest indication yet Labor could seek to scrap a major investor tax break, as One Nation sets its sights on housing inequality. [...] Mr Albanese also hinted at a potential overhaul of the NDIS scheme.

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

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### If we are going to cut the NDIS for wealthy disabled people, isn't it time to do the unthinkable to Medicare?

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/04/2026, Peter Van Onselen

There is a familiar pattern in Australian politics that tends to repeat itself regardless of which party is in office: what gets condemned in opposition becomes quietly adopted in government. Few issues illustrate that dynamic more clearly right now than Labor's evolving position on the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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### Katie Jones, Bec Thomas MLC win fight to change support worker policy in Tasmanian hospitals

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/04/2026, Rob Inglis

Katie Jones was gobsmacked when she learned her disability support workers were not allowed to care for her during a hospital stay, prompting the wheelchair user to team up with a politician friend and doggedly advocate for change. Ms Jones, who lives with quadriplegia, was staying at the Royal Hobart Hospital in November 2024 when staff told her the support workers, funded through the Motor Accidents Insurance Board (MAIB), weren't permitted to deliver care to inpatients due to "insurance reasons".

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### NDIS headlines are turning autistic people into the new dole bludgers

Crikey, Other, 13/04/2026, Clem Bastow

The media loves to remind us that autistic people are the largest cohort of NDIS participants. [...] And yet, disabled people are in danger of becoming the Australian media's new "dole bludgers", with the NDIS framed as an out-of-control money sink causing personal injury to Honest Australian Taxpayers.

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### ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 13/04/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Dr Martin Laverty, CEO of Aruma, about proposed federal budget reforms to the NDIS.

Lavery argues the scheme grows beyond its original intent due to expanded eligibility and inconsistent state services. He calls for tighter rules, universal provider registration, and pricing reform to protect participants with the most significant disabilities.

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## Channel 9, Today Early News, 13/04/2026, Jayne Azzopardi

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has declared that a major NDIS overhaul is essential to maintain public support and ensure the scheme's longevity. While the government is seeking to moderate costs, it has officially ruled out means-testing for NDIS participants.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#).

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 13/04/2026, James Findlay

Interview with Brent Phillips, Chief Services Officer at Deaf Connect, about Auslan Day and the rise of Australian Sign Language learning. Phillips explains Auslan as a distinct national language of the Australian Deaf community that enables communication, connection and cultural identity across work, education and everyday life in Australia. He describes how even basic signing creates inclusion, recognition and easier everyday interactions for deaf Australians.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Flu fighters get a new tool

West Australian, General News, 14/04/2026, Oliver Lane, Page 3

Rapid bedside tests for common respiratory illnesses such as the flu and COVID will be rolled out at new hospitals, in an effort to free-up bed capacity ahead of the expected winter surge. [...] The Government announced a \$140 million winter strategy which was widely welcomed by doctor's groups including the Australian Medical Association, but its forecast effectiveness has been questioned by the Opposition after last winter's flu season.

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### Patients stuck on list

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 14/04/2026, Daniel Shirkie, Page 11

The state government is under increased pressure to deliver for the Townsville Hospital and Health Service, with latest figures showing patients waiting for specialist appointments have continued to climb. The opposition has slammed the government for the most recent data, released on Friday, saying it shows that the health system is going backwards under the LNP, opposition health spokesman Mark Bailey said.

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### AI scribe concerns

Australian Doctor, General News, 17/04/2026, Carmel Sparke, Page 1

The patient consent process for AI scribes is patchy and frequently inadequate, with some GP practices relying solely on waiting room signs, a patient group says. The speed and scale of GPs' embrace of the technology have been remarkable, with one survey suggesting that 40% of GPs use AI scribes a testament to how they have changed the working lives of doctors.

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### Ban on card payment surcharges could force practices to hike fees

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/04/2026, Jamie Thannoo

A ban on card payment surcharges that starts on 1 October could force GP practices to raise fees to compensate, the peak body for practice managers has warned. The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA)

made the decision last month to go ahead with the ban following a push by the Federal Government, which had argued that the surcharges made little sense when 75% of transactions were card based.

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## ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 13/04/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Dr Emma Kennedy, Associate Professor in Medical Education and Training at Flinders University, about AI use in NT GP clinics. Kennedy explains AI tools like Heidi operate within secure clinical systems and support documentation tasks, but adoption across Australian general practice remains limited at around one-fifth of GPs, while concerns about patient consent and data privacy stay central. She highlights that GPs face a heavy administrative workload within short consultations.

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## 2CC, Canberra Live, 13/04/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Dr Michael Wright, President of the RACGP, about Clean Bill report findings on bulk billing improvements. Wright explains that higher government incentives introduced in November increase bulk billing rates, especially in rural and remote areas where funding boosts make general practices more viable despite smaller GP workforces. He highlights that investment in Medicare rebates improves patient access and affordability.

*Interview continues on: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).*

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Smoking gun for policy failure

The Nightly, General News, 13/04/2026, Stephen Johnson, Page 15

One in three residents of poorer outer suburbs and regional areas are daily smokers despite a doubling of tobacco taxes in less than a decade that has been blamed for a booming black market in cigarettes. [...] Australian Medical Association president Danielle McMullen said reducing tobacco excise would fail to stop the black market trade, arguing the taxes weren't designed to raise revenue.

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

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### 'It's survival': Advocate slams locking of Gold Coast toilets as a human rights issue

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/04/2026, Ann Wason Moore

A former business owner's shocking discovery about locked public toilets has exposed an uncomfortable truth about why homeless camps cluster around Gold Coast beaches. [...] Indeed, the sad fact is that about 40 per cent of people seeking specialist homelessness services in 2024-25 have experienced family and domestic violence, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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

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### What your dreams could be telling you about your Alzheimer's risk

SBS, Other, 13/04/2026, Zoe Brock

Frequent nightmares, or the inability to recall your dreams at all, could be early signs of Alzheimer's disease. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), estimates between 400,000 and nearly 500,000 Australians are currently living with dementia, with Alzheimer's disease accounting for over 70 per cent of these cases.

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## 2GB, Mornings, 13/04/2026, Luke Grant

Interview with Richard Colbeck, Liberal Senator for Tas and Co-chair of the Illicit Tobacco Taskforce, about Australia's escalating black market cigarette trade. Colbeck argues the current excise settings drive a multi-billion-dollar illegal market linked to organised crime, firebombings and violence, while law enforcement alone cannot contain it. He cites modelling that suggests reductions of around 30–50% could narrow the price gap and help return consumers to the legal market.

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## ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 13/04/2026, Damian Smith

Interview with Dr Bastien Lechat, sleep expert at Flinders University, about his study on sleep apnea and cardiovascular risk. Lechat explains that sleep apnea affects about one in five people in mild to moderate forms and describes new research across 3000 participants showing that fluctuating severity between nights links to around a 30% higher risk of major events like stroke and heart attack.

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### GSK embraces risk in bold new bid for growth

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 14/04/2026, Ashleigh Furlong, Page 18

GSK is planning five simultaneous latestage trials for a cancer drug it hopes will be a blockbuster, as new chief executive Luke Miels tries to revitalise a company not known for its risk-taking.

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### Ultra-fit face extra heart risk, study finds

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

Ultra-fit people are up to seven times more likely to develop the heart rhythm disorder atrial fibrillation, startling new research has shown. Australian researchers are now working with elite endurance athletes to find out why.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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### Obesity's gender links

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/04/2026, Page 4

Obesity can cause significantly different health risks in men and women, with experts calling for more tailored treatment options. Women with obesity seem more likely to develop systemic inflammation and high cholesterol, which can lead to heart disease and type 2 diabetes, according to research to be presented at the European Congress on Obesity next month.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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### A century without 'endo' progress. Women deserve better

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/04/2026, Rebecca Wall, Page 21

When I was first diagnosed with endometriosis in 2002, my response was: "endo what?" [...] In the 25 years I've battled endo, treatment for the disease has not changed.

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

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### Cheap weight loss drugs could be mixed blessing for marriages

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 14/04/2026, Nick Bonyhady, Page 24

In four odd years, everything will change for Australians on Ozempic. The weight loss wonder drug will go from costing about \$300 a month for private patients, depending on the dosage, to a small fraction of that.

## Paediatric leukaemia

Australian Doctor, General News, 17/04/2026, Michael Osborn, Page 21

Leukaemia is the most common malignancy in children, accounting for one-third of all cases of paediatric cancer. A diagnosis of leukaemia is a life-altering event for both the child and their family, warranting a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to care.

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## Diabetes & gout

Diabetic Living, General News, 01/06/2026, Page 90

Gout has a reputation as an old-fashioned condition, often linked with rich food and red wine. Diabetes, meanwhile, is one of Australia's most common chronic health conditions. At first glance, the two don't seem connected, but research shows they often travel together.

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## Diabetes & hearing loss

Diabetic Living, General News, 01/06/2026, Page 100

When we think about diabetes complications, hearing loss rarely tops the list. We're far more familiar with the impact diabetes can have on the eyes, feet, heart or kidneys. But growing evidence suggests our ears may also be affected and the changes can be subtle enough to miss.

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## Why heart disease rates are spiking in Australians under 40

4BC, Other, 13/04/2026, Carla Bignasca

From "doom scrolling" in bed to answering emails at midnight, Professor Jason Kovacic reveals how our high-pressure digital habits are physically damaging our arteries and causing a spike in heart disease among 30-somethings. Discover the "heart-brain axis" and the simple lifestyle shift that could save your life before stress takes its ultimate toll.

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## HPV vaccine protects men from cancer

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/04/2026

The 9-valent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine - which protects people against diseases caused by nine different types of HPV - could help protect men against cancer, according international research published in JAMA Oncology. While only offered to females in some countries, in Australia the 9vHPV vaccine (Gardasil 9) is free for all people aged nine to 25 years under the NIP.

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## Feeling heard is the key to treatment for endometriosis

The Senior, Other, 13/04/2026, Lauren Richardson

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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## Channel 9, Nine News, 13/04/2026, Alicia Loxley & Tom Steinfort

News potential new treatment has emerged in the fight against motor neurone disease. Melbourne researchers have developed a new drug that could extend patients' lives by up to 16 months and boost quality of life.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 13/04/2026, Melissa Downes & Joel Dry

A new phase one trial at Calvary Healthcare in Caulfield South tests the veterinary drug monepantel in

12 motor neurone disease patients. Early results show signs of slower disease progression, reduced respiratory decline, and an estimated life extension of around 16 months compared to historical data.

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## 4BC, Afternoons, 13/04/2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Prof Jason Kovacic, Director & CEO of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, about how chronic stress and modern lifestyles affect cardiovascular disease risk. Kovacic explains the heart and brain connect through hormonal, nervous and inflammatory pathways, where stress hormones, increased blood pressure and disrupted sleep contribute to long-term heart damage.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Blast over 'outdated' switch on gender

The Australian, General News, 14/04/2026, Stephen Rice, Page 7

Australia's peak psychology body has been labelled "disgraceful" and "dangerously outdated" after supporting gender-affirming medical care for children and teenagers, an about-face on its previous recommendations for a more evidence-based approach to dealing with gender dysphoria. In a newly released position paper, the Australian Psychological Society deleted references in an earlier draft to the groundbreaking UK Cass report and more than a dozen other studies that cast doubt on the mental health claims of the genderaffirming treatment model.

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

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### AI being used for mental health help

Canberra Times, General News, 14/04/2026, Tom Wark, Page 8

More than a quarter of people aged under 24 are using artificial intelligence to bolster their mental health as the cost of professional help bites. A survey of more than 2300 young people in NSW found mental health and cost of living pressures are impacting younger generations as much as their parents.

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

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### Little Audrey makes case for skipping, not scrolling

Canberra Times, Other, 13/04/2026, Poppy Johnston

For nearly nine decades, an eye-catching animated neon sign of a little girl skipping has been lighting up Melbourne evenings. Little Audrey, as she is affectionately known, has now been temporarily plunged into darkness and replaced with a girl hunched and glued to a glowing screen.

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

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### Toowoomba veteran reveals how exercise saved his life after 40-year depression battle

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/04/2026, Erin Blond

A Toowoomba veteran who struggled with depression for more than 40 years has revealed how exercise became his lifeline. [...] Statistics from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show that Mr Keane's experience is one that resonates deeply with Toowoomba and the surrounding Darling Downs community.

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### SBS, World News Australia, 13/04/2026, Janice Petersen

Melbourne's heritage-listed Scrolling Girl installation is switching off to highlight the mental health risks

of excessive screen time among young people. New research from YouGov and the NSW Office for Youth shows nearly 30% of teens now turn to AI tools like chatbots for support, raising concerns they may replace professional help.

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## **2GB, Afternoons, 13/04/2026, Bill Woods**

Interview with Rose Jackson, Minister for Youth in NSW, about a NSW Office of Youth poll on young people's use of AI for mental health. Jackson notes that mental health remains a top concern alongside the cost of living and bullying across ages 10 to 24. She cautions that while AI can support early conversations, young people still need real-world help from family, GPs, and crisis services when issues become serious.

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## **IMMUNISATION**

### **Doctor nose the best way to vaccinate**

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 14/04/2026, Karli Farrell, Page 4

Children and parents can rest a little easier knowing there's an alternative to the flu needle vaccination at Sunraysia Medical Centre in Red Cliffs. FluMist, which is delivered as a nasal spray, is a highly effective way of protecting our little people against the new strain of flu, with milder side effects at a small cost for patients.

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### **'Concerning' drop in flu shots**

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 14/04/2026, William Stanley, Page 7

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 8600 in 2016.

Also reported by: [Australian Doctor \(National\)](#).

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### **When is the best time to get your flu shot? 2 infectious diseases experts explain**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 13/04/2026, Allen Cheng & Meru Sheel

We usually have to wait until winter approaches before we see an increase in cases of influenza, or the flu. [...] Most people with the flu recover without treatment, but it can cause serious complications in older people, young children, pregnant women and those with underlying chronic diseases such as asthma or heart disease.

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### **Channel 10, 10 News, 13/04/2026, Kate Freebairn**

A new fast-spreading flu strain, Super K, is driving a surge in illness across SA, with young children among the most at risk. Health authorities are rolling out a nasal spray vaccine to improve protection and lift low vaccination rates, which saw fewer than a quarter of children immunised last year.

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### **Channel 7, Seven News, 13/04/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings**

SA children aged 2 to 5 can now access a free needle-free flu vaccine via nasal spray, aiming to boost low immunisation rates. Health authorities warn of the fast-spreading Super K strain and urge early vaccination, especially after more than 4000 cases and 430 hospitalisations in young children last year.

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### **ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 13/04/2026, Emma Crowe**

Interview with Emma Palmer, Clinical Geneticist at the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, about the discovery of the RNU2-2 gene causing Ava's severe epilepsy. Palmer explains that international collaboration, including researchers in Manchester and Australia's Gene2Care program, helps match rare genetic cases worldwide, especially for conditions affecting less than one in 2000 people and often previously undiagnosed.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### **Indigenous-led cancer program aims to strengthen care in Far North Queensland**

Northern Territory News, Other, 13/04/2026, Emma Cam

A new Cancer Care Program has been launched in the remote Far North Queensland community of Yarrabah to support people throughout every stage of the cancer journey. Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service, located about 50 km from Cairns, introduced the program within its Public Health unit, backed by \$2.3 million over three years in federal funding through the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

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

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### **How killer mould crept into hospital**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/04/2026, James O'Doherty, Page 10

No "formal" processes were in place to ensure mould was being cleaned at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital when it was gripped by a deadly mould cluster that killed two transplant patients. The Daily Telegraph can reveal new details about the fatal fungal infections, after examining tens of thousands of internal government documents released to parliament.

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### **Hospital build fund in \$500m blowout**

West Australian, General News, 14/04/2026, Oliver Lane, Page 9

The cost of WA's major hospital projects has blown out by \$500 million just five months after three flagship projects were announced. Roger Cook announced on Monday an extra \$500m would be put towards the existing \$1.5 billion to fund major hospital projects.

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

## WA government's \$1.5 billion spend on hospitals sparks questions on where money will go

ABC Online, Other, 13/04/2026, Courtney Withers

WA's hospital spend was already large — and it has just got even bigger, although with very little detail. On Monday morning, in front of a busy construction site for the new Women and Babies Hospital in Murdoch, the WA government announced an additional \$1.5 billion in health infrastructure spending as part of its 2026-27 State Budget, due to be handed down next month.

[Read More](#)

## 'Uncertain times': Cook blames Iran war for hospital budget blowout

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/04/2026, Hamish Hastie

The \$1.8 billion Women's and Babies Hospital in Murdoch will likely blow out, with both Premier Roger Cook and Health Infrastructure Minister John Carey flagging construction cost pressures were impacting the state's entire hospital infrastructure pipeline. Cook and Carey made the admission while announcing another \$1.5 billion injection into hospital infrastructure, with \$500 million allocated to the building hospitals fund, \$214 million for maintenance funding and \$36.2 million to establish a new office tasked with commissioning the new hospital builds.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News, 13/04/2026, Natalie Forrest

Rising fuel costs linked to the global crisis are driving potential budget blowouts across major WA construction projects, including hospital builds. With more than \$700m remaining unaccounted for, Premier Roger Cook cannot guarantee the new Women and Babies Hospital will stay within its \$1.8b budget despite promising on-time delivery.

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## 6PR, Afternoons, 13/04/2026, Tod Johnston

The WA Opposition criticises the Cook Labor government over cost blowouts in hospital projects, while the Premier announces a \$500m boost to the Building Hospitals Fund. The Premier links the extra funding to rising fuel costs and supply pressures from the Middle East conflict, a claim Shadow Health Minister Libby Mettam dismisses as an excuse.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Plan to grow Aboriginal health workforce

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/04/2026, Matilda McDermott, Page 6

A new program is set to invest in the future of Aboriginal health professionals and grow the NT's Aboriginal nursing and midwifery workforce. The Aboriginal Enrolled Nurse Training program supports school leavers with career pathways into nursing and midwifery through funded tuition, part-time employment and mentoring.

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

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## Virtual doctors hit turbulence

Australian Doctor, General News, 17/04/2026, Bella Rough, Page 4

Using virtual hospitals as a cheap fix for areas without doctors could put patients at risk, the Royal Flying Doctor Service is warning. Most states and territories have developed or are developing a centralised, city-based virtual hospital or ED to remotely treat outback patients.

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## Aboriginal nurse training program aims to strengthen local healthcare delivery

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/04/2026, Dechlan Brennan

Aboriginal school leavers in the Northern Territory will be offered supported career pathways into nursing and midwifery under a new government program. The Aboriginal Enrolled Nurse Training program, announced by NT Health Minister Steve Edgington, is aimed at growing the Territory's Aboriginal nursing and midwifery workforce.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 13/04/2026, Michael Thomson

WA Health data shows frontline health workers face violent assaults every two hours, including incidents of spitting, kicking and punching across hospitals and regional centres. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation calls the figures alarming, while WA Health says staff receive training in aggression prevention and de-escalation.

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## 4BC, Afternoons, 13/04/2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Sarah Beaman, Secretary of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union, about rising work-related costs for nurses. Beaman says nurses struggle to afford fuel, parking, and childcare, with some even losing money by taking extra shifts or avoiding them entirely. She urges hospitals and governments to reduce parking fees, introduce more flexible 10–12 hour rostering, and pressure private car park operators to ease costs.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Kids with eczema left out of the safety net

Daily Advertiser, General News, 14/04/2026, Maryam Sulaiman, Page 5

A Riverina mother has called on the government to fund medicine that has changed her son's life for the better. [...] Dupilumab is a medicine for severe eczema that has been available for Australians aged 12 and older through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### 'Publish their fees but don't take their rebates'

Australian Doctor, General News, 17/04/2026, Jamie Thannoo, Page 14

The Federal Government is preparing to publish the fees charged by individual doctors based on Medicare data, pending a Senate report due next month. Meanwhile, health department officials are examining the radical option of withholding rebates from doctors who charge so-called extreme fees, currently defined by the Grattan Institute as three times the MBS schedule fee.

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## Your next pharmacy visit could cost less—here's why

Prevention, Other, 13/04/2026, Christine Diane Almanzor

Medicare card holders are paying less for PBS prescriptions, with the patient co-payment for Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines reduced to \$25, down from \$31.60. This change came into effect earlier this year.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Doctor case condemned

Australian Doctor, General News, 17/04/2026, Heather Saxena, Page 1

The Medical Council of NSW is facing serious questions after a tribunal found it misused its emergency powers against a cardiothoracic surgeon. Dr Pankaj Saxena has been unable to operate since July last year, when Newcastle's John Hunter Hospital abruptly withdrew his privileges while an investigation into his care of four complex high-risk patients unfolded.

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### Tasmanian student vaccinated without consent prompts council call for state government to run program

ABC Online, Other, 13/04/2026, Hayden Smith

A Tasmanian mayor is calling on the state government to take on responsibility for running school immunisation programs, after a student was vaccinated without caregiver consent. [...] A West Tamar Council spokesperson said when it became aware that a student had been vaccinated through its program without consent, all the relevant mandatory referrals were made to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

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### Sexual misconduct finds added to Ahpra registers

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/04/2026

Regulator begins updating the public registers of practitioners and cancelled practitioners to include existing sexual misconduct findings. Sexual misconduct findings against more than 100 health practitioners have been added to publicly-accessible and searchable registers, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) says.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal \(Online\)](#).

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### TGA issues unapproved peptide warning

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/04/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Regulator flags concerns over rise in import, supply, compounding and advertising of unapproved peptide products. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a safety advisory warning of potential safety risks associated with unapproved peptides.

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## Will GLP-1 RA generics mean \$4 a month obesity treatments?

Australian Doctor, General News, 17/04/2026, Jamie Thannoo, Page 5

Semaglutide is now generic. Just not in Australia.

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## TGA considers action on widely used flu supplement

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 13/04/2026, Chloe Hava

It's mid April and flu season is kicking into gear. [...] But this could potentially change, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) proposing swift action following a safety review linking the herb to rare but potentially fatal anaphylaxis.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Antidepressant reduces meth use

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/04/2026

People who want to stop using crystal methamphetamine may be able to treat their addiction with the cheap and readily available antidepressant mirtazapine, according to research conducted by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) at UNSW Sydney. The team recruited 339 adults with moderate to severe methamphetamine use disorder who had taken the drug on at least 24 days in the last 28, and randomly assigned them to receive either mirtazapine (30mg daily) or placebo for 12 weeks.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### 4BC, Drive, 13/04/2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Judy Plath, Agricultural Consultant at Queensland Water Advisory Services, about loopholes in Australian food labelling laws. Plath claims major supermarkets use imported soy in private-label soy milk while counting Australian water as an ingredient, which allows products to appear largely "Australian-made" despite limited local soy content.

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## AICIS

No relevant coverage

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