



# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 15th April 2026

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[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)  
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)  
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |  
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| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that NDIA inaugural board director Martin Lavery has warned Labor it needs to confront "weak boundaries" which allow too many people on to the NDIS.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 6) reports that the federal government has granted \$1.25m to the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania in order to continue delivering the National Assistance Card. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said "It's a very innovative idea that originated in Tasmania and proved to be so good that it's gone national".
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 2) reports that Clare Pearson, the CEO of children's charity Little Wings, has met with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park to discuss emergency funding, as surging fuel prices jeopardise the charity's flight services for children with life-threatening illnesses who need to access treatment in major cities.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that the TGA has issued a safety alert about unregulated peptides, warning they pose a "significant" public health risk.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that the WA government has started to roll out the FluMist needle-free influenza vaccine for children.

## Mental illness tops NDIS reviews

The Australian, General News, 15/04/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 1

Labor must confront "weak boundaries" that have allowed too many people on to the \$50bn-a-year NDIS and eroded Australia's "social capital" in caring for disabled friends and family, the scheme's inaugural board director has warned, as disability and health sectors brace for sweeping changes to access for participants with mental illness. Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler has foreshadowed major changes focused on constraining the number of people entering the disability program, the size of average plan budgets or a "combination of those two things", with several industry sources confirming they expected the scheme's \$6bn mental health spend was in the government's sights.

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

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## 'Just BS': family slams govt inaction

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/04/2026, Nadine Morton, Page 5

Describing the death of six people in a stabbing spree as "tragic" or "something that couldn't have been foreseen" is "just bulls---", Jade Young's grieving cousin Toby Halligan says. [...] 'My daughter is dead' In a joint letter to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, federal Health Minister Mark Butler and federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride, Mrs Young pleaded for more coordination, collaboration and seamless connected care.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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## Free mental health support now available

Kingborough Chronicle, General News, 14/04/2026, Page 2

Free mental health support is now available to Australians aged 16 and over, with the rollout of the Federal Government's Medicare Mental Health Check In service. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the program marked a significant step in improving access to mental health care.

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## Coalition backs NDIS crackdown as Butler prepares to reveal savings plan

CathNews, Other, 14/04/2026, Rebecca Comini

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 in the program.

[Read More](#)

## The Zap: latest health and aged care news. Plus key consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 14/04/2026, Melissa Sweet

This column is packed with advice for governments. [...] Charles Maskell-Knight writes: On 10 April, Health Minister Mark Butler announced that over 3,700 Medicare bulk billing practices are now registered across the country.

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## The Government's historic investment in strengthening Medicare has reached a major milestone almost two years ahead of schedule with over 3,700 Medicare Bulk Billing Practices now registered across the country.

Grapevinenewsonline.com, Other, 14/04/2026

The strengthening of Medicare has exceeded government projections that 3,600 Medicare Bulk Billing Practices would be achieved by late 2027. Minister for Health Mark Butler said, "The Albanese

Government promised more bulk billing practices for more Australians and we have delivered.

[Read More](#)

## **Channel 9, Nine News, 14/04/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry**

Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls calls for increased federal funding to ease hospital ramping pressures and support frontline health services. He says he has written to Health Minister Mark Butler seeking investment in Qld programs, despite reported improvements showing ramping rates easing to 37% in the latest quarter.

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## **Sky News Live, The Late Debate, 14/04/2026, James Macpherson, Liz Storer and Caleb Bond**

Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler has foreshadowed major changes focused on constraining the number of people entering the disability program the size of the average planned budgets, or a combination of those two things, with several industry sources confirming they expected the scheme's \$6 billion mental health spend was in the government's sights.

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## **Sky News Live, Newsday, 14/04/2026, Kieran Gilbert**

Interview with Melissa McIntosh, Shadow Minister for the NDIS, about concerns over NDIS reform and sustainability. McIntosh criticises mixed messaging from Health Minister Mark Butler and the PM on potential means testing, saying it creates anxiety for vulnerable families while system growth and rorting continue unchecked. She calls for stronger policies to ensure funding supports essential care rather than administrative waste.

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## **2GB, Mornings, 14/04/2026, Mark Levy**

Interview with Melissa McIntosh, Shadow Minister for the NDIS, about concerns over rising costs and system integrity. McIntosh criticises Health Minister Mark Butler for pursuing cost-cutting measures without proper consultation, arguing the system now fails those most in need while waste and rorting grow. She calls for urgent reform and better oversight, warning repeated reviews and task forces will not fix structural issues.

*Interview continues on: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#).*

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[Back to Top](#)

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### **Relief as funding for card rolls on**

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/04/2026, Oscar Moodley, Page 6

A pocket-sized yet vital accessory that protects some of Tasmania's most vulnerable has been given a \$1.25m green light that will sustain it for another two years. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said it "is so important to fund initiatives like this".

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[Back to Top](#)

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## MINISTER RAE

### **Home care the shift from human n- centric to algorithm-led**

Village News, General News, 01/04/2026, Julia McCarthy, Page 23

The barometer of how well an aged care system is working is found in the lived experience of those needing or receiving care not how well the government thinks it's working. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae defended this as "equitable".

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### 'Just BS': family slams govt inaction

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/04/2026, Nadine Morton, Page 5

Describing the death of six people in a stabbing spree as "tragic" or "something that couldn't have been foreseen" is "just bulls---", Jade Young's grieving cousin Toby Halligan says. [...] 'My daughter is dead' In a joint letter to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, federal Health Minister Mark Butler and federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride, Mrs Young pleaded for more coordination, collaboration and seamless connected care.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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### New clinic improves women's services

Coast Community News, Other, 14/04/2026

Central Coast women now have access to better women's health care, with the recent opening of the new Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinic at Wyoming. [...] Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health and Member for Dobell Emma McBride said women's health had been overlooked for too long.

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### The Zap: latest health and aged care news. Plus key consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 14/04/2026, Melissa Sweet

This column is packed with advice for governments. [...] Charles Maskell-Knight writes: On 10 April, Health Minister Mark Butler announced that over 3,700 Medicare bulk billing practices are now registered across the country.

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### Women on the Central Coast now have access to better women's health care, with the opening of the new Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinic in Wyoming.

Grapevinenewsonline.com, Other, 14/04/2026

The Wyoming clinic will provide treatment for people with endometriosis and pelvic pain as well as perimenopause and menopause care. Assistant Minister and Member for Dobell Emma McBride said, "For too long women's health has been overlooked.

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### The new service providing free mental healthcare for Illawarra children

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 14/04/2026, Natalie Croxon

Free mental healthcare is available for the children of the Illawarra through a new service that brings together different supports under the one roof. [...] Ms Jackson and Emma McBride, the federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide and for Rural and Regional Health, said the Illawarra was chosen because it was a growing region.

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### ABC Illawarra, Mornings, 14/04/2026, Nick Rheinberger

Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, about a new Kids Mental Health Hub in Wollongong. McBride explains that the service delivers free, early

intervention support for children aged 0–12 through psychologists, nurses, and social workers. She says the hub also supports more complex mental health needs and helps families navigate care pathways amid rising demand and workforce shortages.

*Interview continues on: [ABC Illawarra \(Wollongong\)](#).*

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[Back to Top](#)

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### Shot in the arm for rural health woes

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/04/2026, Alison Foletta, Page 6

A \$1bn federal government push to train more GPs will deliver 100 additional medical student places in Launceston, as one young rural doctor warns access to care remains critical in regional Tasmania. [...] Federal Lyons MP Rebecca White said Tasmania continued to face a shortage of regional GPs.

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### River FM, 06:00 News, 14/04/2026

A new specialised endometriosis clinic in Oxley expands access to care for women living with the condition, which affects at least one in seven Australians and is often underdiagnosed. Assistant Minister Rebecca White says the clinic reflects stronger investment in Medicare and women's health, helping patients have their symptoms taken seriously.

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[Back to Top](#)

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

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## DEPARTMENT

### Mental illness tops NDIS reviews

The Australian, General News, 15/04/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 1

Labor must confront "weak boundaries" that have allowed too many people on to the \$50bn-a-year NDIS and eroded Australia's "social capital" in caring for disabled friends and family, the scheme's inaugural board director has warned, as disability and health sectors brace for sweeping changes to access for participants with mental illness. Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler has foreshadowed major changes focused on constraining the number of people entering the disability program, the size of average plan budgets or a "combination of those two things", with several industry sources confirming they expected the scheme's \$6bn mental health spend was in the government's sights.

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

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### A turning point in care

Busselton Dunsborough Mail, General News, 15/04/2026, Page 3

A new Busselton retreat aimed at providing important vacation time to people living with their dementia will help to nurture emotional connection and resilience in the early stages of the illness. [...] The retreats are fully funded by the Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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## 'Not a safe option': Health council welcomes vaping research

Cape York Weekly, General News, 14/04/2026, Luke Mortimer, Page 3

A Cape York primary health provider has pointed to a University of New South Wales (UNSW) study which has aired evidence nicotine vapes likely cause oral and lung cancers and urged peninsula communities to give the habit the flick. [...] While some people have quit smoking using e-cigarettes as a cessation tool, the Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing states evidence of effectiveness "remains limited".

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## 'Too many barriers' to NDIS support in Cape community

Cape York Weekly, General News, 14/04/2026, Luke Mortimer, Page 12

Federal authorities say they have committed to improving the NDIS and health services in remote Far North Queensland as an allied health provider has detailed serious logistical challenges staff faced trying to help children in a remote Cape York community. [...] A Department of Health, Disability and Ageing spokesman said the Federal and Queensland governments had partnered to give \$4.5 million to Far North Queensland (FNQ) Connect.

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## The Zap: latest health and aged care news. Plus key consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 14/04/2026, Melissa Sweet

This column is packed with advice for governments. [...] Charles Maskell-Knight writes: On 10 April, Health Minister Mark Butler announced that over 3,700 Medicare bulk billing practices are now registered across the country.

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## Pfizer, DoHDA talks stall as PBS listing times blow out to almost two years

Health Services Daily, Other, 14/04/2026, Helen Tobler

Cancer patients are being 'abandoned', advocates say, as access to a recommended treatment waits on pricing negotiations.

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## Psychology workforce shortfall to nearly double by 2038, federal modelling shows

Health Services Daily, Other, 14/04/2026, Cate Swannell

A new DoHDA analysis shows a worrying workforce crisis is about to get a lot worse.

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## DoHDA's use of AI to manage provider non-compliance under the microscope

Health Services Daily, Other, 14/04/2026

The National Audit Office wants to know. The Australian National Audit office has announced that it's looking into whether the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's use of AI to manage health provider non-compliance is working.

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## Labor's controversial algorithm tool for aged care under investigation by ombudsman

The Guardian, Other, 15/04/2026, Melissa Davey

The commonwealth ombudsman is investigating the government's algorithm-based aged care assessment tool, which has been described by assessors as "cruel" and "inhumane" in its determination of home support funding for elderly Australians. [...] Ahead of the IAT's launch, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing quietly added an algorithm to classify IAT responses and determine a funding classification.

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## Patients skip non-PBS scripts amid spiraling costs

The Limbic, Other, 14/04/2026, Emma Koehn

Out-of-pocket costs are stopping Australians from filling scripts for non-PBS listed medications, with more than 40% of patients reporting they've been offered treatments that don't carry a subsidy. The results of the review of 1,506 patient experiences, conducted by progressive think tank the McKell Institute, led to calls for the Australian government to accelerate delivery of recommendations from the Health Technology Assessment Review to speed up access to subsidised medicines.

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## ABC Coffs Coast, Breakfast (Late), 14/04/2026, Fi Poole

Interview with Greg Winfield, General Manager of Volunteers at Feros Care, about a volunteer visitor scheme supporting isolated seniors. Winfield explains the program, delivered in partnership with the Department of Health Disability and Ageing, connects volunteers with older people for regular companionship, social visits, and shared activities to reduce loneliness. He says the initiative supports seniors living at home or in aged care while also benefiting volunteers.

*Interview continues on: [ABC Coffs Coast \(Coffs Harbour\)](#).*

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[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### 'Akin to neglect'

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/04/2026, Kate McIlwain, Page 1

The Inspector-General of Aged Care has slammed long wait times for beds after the story of 'hospital homeless' patient Lynette Bishop, 84, was publicised in The Mercury. The Illawarra is dealing with a shortage of more than 1000 aged care beds, Cunningham MP Alison Byrnes said.

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

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### 'Tip of the iceberg': Elder abuse under-recognised in Australian hospitals

Nursing Review, Other, 14/04/2026, Stefanie Schultz

A national study has found that elder abuse is being significantly under-recognised in Australian hospitals and emergency departments, with researchers warning that the health system may be missing thousands of cases each year. Published in the Medical Journal of Australia the study examined linked hospital and aged care data from 965,986 older Australians across four states between 2010 and 2019.

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### "Living without care is a crisis": RVRA sounds warning

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/04/2026, Ian Horswill

The need for additional care for residents in retirement villages will not go away quietly. Now, the NSW Retirement Villages Residents Association (NSW RVRA) says it is a crisis with people who have paid taxes all their lives being ignored.

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[Back to Top](#)

## DISABILITY AND CARERS

## The NDIS was a promise now it's a broken market

The Australian, General News, 15/04/2026, Martin Laverty, Page 11

I hardly recognise what the National Disability Insurance Scheme has become. I was part of the campaign to establish it 20 years ago, was privileged to be on the first board that set it up 15 years ago and saw it positively change thousands of people's lives in its early days.

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## Teal MPs trash fiscal credibility

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/04/2026, Pru Goward, Page 30

Crossbench Independent members representing Australia's most affluent seats are acting like populist protest parties by ignoring the nation's spiralling debt.

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

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## Tears flow for beloved Adior

Courier Mail, General News, 15/04/2026, Shayla Bulloch, Page 14

A girl who drowned at a popular Ipswich swimming reserve was a caring, beautiful and mature sister who adored her siblings, heartbroken family have said. [...] The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commissioner said it was aware of the incident.

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

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## Calls for disability education in nursing programs

Nursing Review, Other, 14/04/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Research has found that undergraduate nursing programs are failing to adequately prepare graduates to care for people with disability, who face significantly poorer health outcomes. The review, led by Dr Lesley Andrew from Edith Cowan University (ECU) and Dr Martina Costello from Murdoch University, examined publicly available curriculum materials from all 32 Australian public universities offering preregistration nursing degrees in 2024.

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## Man claims more than \$12,000 for work not done

Shepparton News Online, Other, 14/04/2026, Monique Preston

An Echuca ndis provider claimed more than \$12,000 for work he did not do, leaving a stroke victim with no funding for supports he needed, a court has heard. Jye Sellings, 33, formerly of the Echuca area, pleaded guilty in Echuca Magistrates' Court to invoicing for services not rendered to gain money from NDIS funds allocated to his client.

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## The government wants to curb NDIS spending. Here's how it might succeed

The Conversation, Other, 14/04/2026, Sam Bennett and Reilly Polaschek

Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has grown too big, too fast. The NDIS is a government-funded program providing support to more than 760,000 disabled Australians.

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[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Fuel Crisis to ground flights for sick kids

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/04/2026, Madeleine Bower, Page 2

A charity that flies children with life-threatening illnesses from the bush to treatment in major cities has warned crippling fuel price rises will force it to ground its entire fleet by the end of May unless emergency funding is secured. Volatile global fuel markets have sent operating costs soaring, leaving Little Wings in a desperate race to maintain its lifesaving missions for regional families.

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

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## 2CC, Breakfast, 14/04/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Dr Michael Wright, President of the RACGP, about rising bulk billing rates and Medicare incentives in rural areas. Wright says higher government incentives in regional and remote communities drive increased bulk billing, but a long-standing freeze on Medicare rebates still limits affordability for many practices.

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## FIVEAA, Afternoons, 14/04/2026, Stacey Lee

Interview with Peter Subramaniam, President of the AMA SA, about suspended Adelaide–Mount Gambier flights and regional healthcare access. Subramaniam warns that the loss of flights disrupts specialist travel and forces patients to endure long road trips for essential treatments. He calls on government action to secure reliable transport links, arguing regional patients should not lose access to healthcare due to reduced aviation services and rising travel pressures.

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[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Healthiness all in mind

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 15/04/2026, Page 3

Australians are becoming overconfident about their health, with a new survey revealing a significant gap between perception and actual health outcomes. In Healthylife's National Confidence Survey, Australians gave an overall national health confidence score of 75 out of 100.

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### Aussies deaf to healthy hearing

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2026, Page 10

Australians visit their GP six times a year on average. Eight in ten have their eyes tested every two years.

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### Ten-year-old Kennedy Costa raises thousands for diabetes research after her own diagnosis

Northern Territory News, Other, 14/04/2026, Emma Cam

Ten-year-old Kennedy Costa has become the city's leading fundraiser for Type 1 diabetes research, raising thousands of dollars after being diagnosed with the auto-immune condition three years ago. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, it affects about 13,200 Australian children and young people aged 19 and under, with eight Australians diagnosed every day.

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

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### Banks lodge hundreds of suspicious activity reports for suspected illicit tobacco operations

ABC Online, Other, 14/04/2026, Stephanie Chalmers and David Taylor

Australia's big banks have made hundreds of reports of suspicious activity related to illegal tobacco

since the anti-money laundering regulator called for a crackdown late last year. AUSTRAC chief executive Brendan Thomas told The Business dozens of "active leads" had been passed to law enforcement agencies as a result of intelligence the financial crimes agency had received from the banks.

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## **This Queensland program looks after Indigenous youth in watch houses. It's about to lose its funding**

SBS, Other, 14/04/2026, Glenn Trowbridge and Dan Butler

A Queensland service providing assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in watch houses is hoping a meeting with the state government later this month will reverse a decision not to renew its funding. [...] Figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show Queensland has the highest number of young people in detention on any given night: 300 on average (June quarter 2025).

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[Back to Top](#)

## **CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING**

### **Sick dad refused to heed warnings about risks of AI**

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/04/2026, Teddy Rosenbluth, Page 28

Ben Riley's father was tech savvy and scientific, but he trusted chatbots over his oncologist...

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### **Liver disease warning**

Herald Sun, General News, 15/04/2026, Page 6

Nearly 1.8 billion people could be living with metabolic liver disease by 2050. International researchers found that in 2023, an estimated 1.3 billion people had metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease, marking a 143 per cent increase since 1990.

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### **Severe asthma**

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2026, Cat Woods, Page 61

It's estimated that up to 10 per cent of people with asthma have a severe form of the disease, according to the Centre of Excellence in Severe Asthma (CESA) in Newcastle, NSW, funded by the NHMRC. In Australia, this represents up to 176,000 people.

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### **Terminally ill MP Emma Vulin calls for review of federal ban on telehealth for voluntary assisted dying consultations**

ABC Online, Other, 14/04/2026, Nicole Asher

A Labor politician with a terminal illness has made a personal appeal to the attorney-general to revise federal laws blocking doctors from offering voluntary assisted dying (VAD) consultations over telehealth. Victorian MP Emma Vulin has motor neurone disease (MND) and has been open about eventually facing a choice about ending her life.

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### **Almost 2bn to be affected by metabolic liver disease by 2050, study suggests**

The Guardian, Other, 14/04/2026, Andrew Gregory

Metabolic liver disease will affect 1.8 billion people worldwide by 2050, driven by rising obesity and blood sugar levels, a study suggests. Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), previously known as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), is one of the most prevalent and rapidly growing liver conditions globally, according to the research.

## 6PR, Afternoons, 14/04/2026, Tod Johnston

Interview with Sarah Emery, CEO of Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia, about raising awareness of allergic disease and anaphylaxis in Australia. Emery explains that around one in three Australians live with some form of allergy and stresses the importance of recognising severe reactions and knowing how to respond with proper first aid. She also highlights the emotional toll on families managing food allergies.

*Interview continues on: [6PR \(Perth\)](#).*

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, 14/04/2026, Joel Rheinberger

Interview with Dr Rebecca Chabot, Founder and Managing Director of Pure Wellness Tasmania, about workshops on managing stress during a cancer diagnosis. Chabot explains the program, run with the Cancer Council, teaches patients and families mindfulness and present-moment awareness to help reduce psychological distress during cancer treatment. She says stress naturally escalates when people ruminate on past or future fears.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### **Anorexia kills more Australians than the road toll, but is still dismissed as vanity**

Age, General News, 15/04/2026, Wendy Tuohy, Page 3

It is the deadliest mental health condition, but specialists say treatments have not progressed for 40 years, largely because of perceptions of who gets it. Anorexia is seen as a disease of "young, white, affluent females", experts, including researcher Andrea Phillipou, say.

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[Back to Top](#)

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## IMMUNISATION

### **A job well done: How to tackle new 'Super-K' flu**

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 15/04/2026, Elise Davey, Page 25

The autumn chill has arrived and with it your timely reminder to get your influenza vaccination. This year we are encouraging earlier vaccination due to a new viral variant: the Subclade K strain of influenza, referred to as "Super-K".

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### **WA government first in nation to offer FluMist nasal spray vaccine to children**

ABC Online, Other, 14/04/2026

Western Australia's government started to roll out on Tuesday a needle-free influenza vaccine for children, a step that could help prevent a repeat of last year's worst season on record. The vaccine, called FluMist, is aimed at children who are scared of needles and is available free of charge for those aged two to 11 at pharmacies, GPs, Aboriginal Medical Services and community health clinics.

*Also reported by: [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#)*

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## **Nurses call for pharmacist-like vax funding**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/04/2026

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is urging the Federal Government to give nurses a greater role in vaccination to help address declining coverage amid record-high influenza rates and the circulation of vaccine-preventable diseases. The peak body is calling for the establishment of a Nurse Payment Administrator to manage payments to nurses for administering vaccines in community settings outside of the MBS system, along similar lines to the Pharmacy Programs Administrator.

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## **'He was forced': Jackson Warne blames COVID vaccine for Shane Warne's death as he reveals his long-held belief**

Sky News Australia, Other, 14/04/2026, Chloe Walker

Shane Warne's son Jackson has opened up about the moment he "instantly" blamed the government and COVID following his father's sudden death. Jackson Warne has spoken out about his belief that the COVID vaccine played a role in his father Shane Warne's sudden death in 2022.

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## **ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 14/04/2026, Yvonne Yong**

A new nasal vaccination programme for influenza is being described as a game-changer in lifting immunisation rates. The nasal spray, called FluMist, is an alternative for children who are anxious about needles.

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## **Channel 10, 10 News, 14/04/2026, Natalie Forrest**

WA introduces a needle-free flu vaccine for children ahead of winter in response to concerns about a potentially severe flu season. The move follows the state's worst recorded influenza season last year, which saw more than 36,500 cases and prolonged hospital pressure from a highly infectious variant.

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## **ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 14/04/2026, Rory McClaren**

Interview with Blair Boyer, Minister for Health in SA, about influenza vaccination policy and the emerging "super K" flu strain. Boyer defends limiting free flu shots to vulnerable groups, citing public health advice that prioritises those most at risk of complications while highlighting new protections like a nasal spray vaccine for young children.

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## **FIVEAA, Mornings, 14/04/2026, Graeme Goodings**

Interview with Dr Emily Kirkpatrick, Managing Director of EKology, about the rollout of a nasal spray flu vaccine for children. Kirkpatrick explains the new TGA-approved "FluMist" option aims to improve vaccination uptake by reducing needle fear, while still protecting against major influenza A and B strains.

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## **FIVEAA, Breakfast, 14/04/2026, Will Goodings and David Penberthy**

Interview with Dr Sian Goodson, Chair of the RACGP SA, about the rollout of nasal flu vaccines for children. Goodson says the "FluMist" is already in use in Australia, offers similar effectiveness to injections, and provides a simple, needle-free option that may improve vaccination rates among young children. She notes it is government-funded for ages two to under five, while older children can access it privately.

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[Back to Top](#)

### Insurance not really about health

Canberra Times, General News, 15/04/2026, Crispin Hull, Page 14

Last week I was asked by someone on a very modest income whether it was worthwhile keeping private health insurance. I replied that, for someone in their circumstances, almost certainly not.

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

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### Revolutionising the Australian health system through intelligent pathways and 'whole-of-life' healthiness

The Mandarin, Other, 14/04/2026, Joshua Gliddon

'Value Integration' may be a key for unlocking intelligent, preventive pathways in Australia's future healthcare approach. Like most healthcare systems in the world, Australia's can be considered reactive, rather than proactive, especially when it comes to each person's individual health journey through life.

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Trial to reshape 'gruelling' IVF process

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 15/04/2026, Page 6

Cancer patients and women with hormonal disorders are among those who may benefit from a breakthrough fertility treatment that eliminates a gruelling two weeks worth of injections. Melbourne GP Jilly Gallagher, who has undergone three rounds of egg freezing, says the standard IVF process comes at an enormous emotional and physical cost.

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### Hospital delirium a red flag for severe health decline

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 14/04/2026, Natalie Dragon

A single episode of delirium in hospitalised older adults is a significant risk factor for other serious health complications including fractures, stroke and sepsis, new research shows. Delirium, often triggered by infection, surgery, pain, dehydration or medication, affects up to one in four older adults during a hospital stay.

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### ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 14/04/2026, Yvonne Yong

A recent Monash University study found people who listened and played music regularly decreased their risk of developing dementia by more than 35%. Many members only learn to play in their retirement, and they say this is the highlight of their week.

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### Channel 9, Nine News, 14/04/2026, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

Australian researchers are studying elite endurance athletes to better understand atrial fibrillation, a heart condition typically linked to high blood pressure and overweight individuals. They say ultra-fit athletes are around seven times more likely to develop the disorder.

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[Back to Top](#)

### New initiative about more than funding

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 15/04/2026, Katrina Lovell, Page 5

Hannah Ellwood's career working for South West Healthcare is one management wants to see more of with a new initiative hoping to do just that. After finishing school, Ms Ellwood completed a traineeship as a dental assistant, but last week she moved to a newly created role as an Aboriginal liaison officer for the region's cancer patients.

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[Back to Top](#)

## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Surgery stalemate

Cairns Post, General News, 15/04/2026, Arun Singh Mann, Page 1

Queensland's Health Minister has hit back at the Opposition's claims that his government was delaying specialist hospital consults in a bid to slash the Far North surgery waitlist. During a visit to Cairns on Tuesday, Opposition Leader Steven Miles said the local health service's surgery waitlist was dropping, because fewer patients were being added on as they awaited initial appointments with specialists.

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

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### Wide Bay ambulance ramping soars as new data sparks fierce political clash

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/04/2026, Rebecca Nicol

The State Opposition has slammed an increase in ambulance ramping and surgery wait times on the LNP's watch but the Crisafulli Government says the problem didn't happen overnight and it's time for the truth. The State opposition has slammed the Crisafulli Government over new Queensland Health performance data saying it "paints a sick picture" for Wide Bay hospitals but the LNP says this "did not develop overnight".

[Read More](#)

### Uncertain prognosis for Mount

West Australian, Business News, 15/04/2026, Rebecca Le May, Page 33

The future of Perth's Mount Hospital remains uncertain after the spectacular collapse of operator Healthscope, as the Cook Government stays tightlipped on calls to add it to the jam-packed public system. US private equity giant Brookfield handed over the debt-laden group to receivers at McGrathNicol in May last year and an ensuing 10-month sales process for its nationwide network of 37 hospitals failed to result in deals.

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

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### ABC Goulburn Murray, Breakfast, 14/04/2026, Sandra Moon

Interview with Dr Anne Webster, Federal Shadow Minister for Health, about regional healthcare funding and hospital planning in the Farah by-election region. Webster argues that hospitals in Albury-Wodonga and surrounding areas suffer from underinvestment and poor planning, criticising Labor for neglecting regional communities and prioritising city-based decision-making.

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Training new class of medicine for NT

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/04/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 4

Specialist general practitioner Dr Lwin Myo remembers the morning she opened the consultation door to find four generations of the same family in the Palmerston waiting room. The great grandma, grandma, dad, mum and child had booked back-to-back appointments to see Dr Myo, their family doctor.

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### Four hours of sleep, ice cream for dinner and a caffeine 'addiction': Brutal reality behind rotating shift work in Australia

9News, Other, 14/04/2026

Nurses and midwives across NSW start 24-hour strike When Jarrod Wolhuter would lay his head to rest after a chaotic night shift as a critical care nurse, he'd barely get four hours of uninterrupted sleep. That very evening, he'd drag himself out the door, provide life-saving care for patients for eight hours straight, barely eat a square meal, and then do it all?

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### Unions lobby to unlock fuel cap for workers who drive

Canberra Times, Other, 14/04/2026, Andrew Brown and Sam McKeith

Workers who drive their own car for their job could soon be paid more for out-of-pocket costs on the road to combat rising fuel prices. The Australian Council of Trade Unions launched a case to the Fair Work Commission on Tuesday to increase vehicle allowances, arguing workers were paying more just to do their jobs.

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

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### ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 14/04/2026, Saskia Mabin

Australian unions say higher fuel costs are leaving essential workers in nursing, aged care and disability support out of pocket just to do their jobs and they're launching an urgent case in the Fair Work Commission to increase vehicle allowances.

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[Back to Top](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Tariffs threaten PBS listings: Breast Cancer Network Australia

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/04/2026

Patients needing access to high-cost medicines are being abandoned as Trump's tariffs prompt "pharmaceutical standoff", advocacy group warns Concerns are being raised that patients are being left to deteriorate as talks to list cancer treatment, Tucatinib (tukysa), on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) stall.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

## Why it pays to keep health insurance details updated

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 15/04/2026, Julia Hartman, Page 26

Are all your dependants insured for private hospital? Are they all listed by name on your card, including newborns?

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

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## Medicare services underutilised in T2D

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/04/2026

People newly diagnosed with diabetes are potentially missing out on care that could make a big difference to the management and outcomes of the condition, according to new Australian research. The team from the University of Sydney examined the health records of over 12,000 people recently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, and identified a substantial underuse of Medicare-funded services, especially allied health services such as podiatry, dietetics, and diabetes education, within the first two years of diagnosis.

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[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Fresh warning about using superannuation on health treatments after 100 complaints to regulator

ABC Online, Other, 14/04/2026, Stephanie Dalzell and Paige Cockburn

A GP found to have engaged in professional misconduct while helping a patient access almost \$20,000 of her superannuation for cosmetic liposuction is one of two health practitioners referred to tribunals by regulators amid dozens of related complaints. Since 2019, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) received 95 complaints about health practitioners involved in patients accessing their superannuation early.

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### Law lifts secrecy on practitioner sexual misconduct

Nursing Review, Other, 14/04/2026

Sexual misconduct findings against more than 100 medical professionals are now available to the public following a major change in the law. A national reform now in effect has seen changes made to the way sexual misconduct findings against doctors and health practitioners are made public.

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[Back to Top](#)

## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Channel 7, Seven News, 14/04/2026, Mike Amor and Karina Carvalho

Shane Warne's son Jackson publicly speculates that the COVID-19 vaccine may have contributed to his father's death, prompting renewed attention around the cricketer's passing. Medical experts reiterate that Shane Warne died from a heart attack caused by a build-up of plaque.

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[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

## Product news

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/04/2026, Page 34

[...] Australia's most dispensed vaping product in pharmacies\* is expanding its line-up. The alt. Pods range, a TGA-notified nicotine vaping product (NVP), now features Spearmint and Peppermint.

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## Therapeutic Goods Administration issues safety alert amid explosion of illegal peptide use

ABC Online, Other, 14/04/2026, Caitlyn Gribbin and Rachel Carbonell

Australia's drug regulator has issued a safety alert about unregulated peptides, warning the latest wellness craze poses a "significant" public health risk. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said it was "concerned" about an increase in the importation and supply of unapproved peptides, which were a "safety risk".

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## Most-prescribed medicinal cannabis type 'not supported by evidence'

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/04/2026, Ciara Seccombe

The TGA issued 112,000 Special Access Scheme Category B approvals for category 5 cannabis last year. Scant evidence exists on the efficacy of medicinal cannabis in the TGA's most-used approval category, Australian researchers say.

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## 'Significant' health risks linked to unregulated peptide products

Medical Forum, Other, 14/04/2026

The medicines regulator has issued a safety warning about unregulated peptide products that pose a significant public health risk. Interaction with other medicines, infection or local tissue damage, severe allergic reaction and musculoskeletal injuries were among the potential health risks listed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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## Peptides in TGA's sights

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/04/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a safety advisory in response to concerns about risks associated with the rise in the import, supply, compounding and advertising of unapproved peptide products. Peptides are short chains of amino acids that can mimic or stimulate natural biological processes, including those involved in growth, metabolism and tissue repair, and are best known for their regulated use in insulin and GLP-1 RAs, such as semaglutide.

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## ABC News, ABC News, 14/04/2026, Joe O'Brien

Interview with Dr Michael Bonning, Chair of Public Health at the Australian Medical Association, about the Therapeutic Goods Administration's warnings on illegal peptide products. Bonning warns that unregulated peptides sold online and promoted through social media influencers may contain unknown substances and can cause severe allergic reactions, infections, and systemic health complications.

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, 15:00 News, 14/04/2026

A health warning about unregulated peptides has been issued by Australia's drug regulator. The Therapeutic Goods Administration says injectables in particular a major risk and have caused severe allergic reactions.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

### **What goes into a food health star rating – and crucially, what doesn't**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 14/04/2026, Liam Mannix

Last month, Kate Aubusson and I covered a new paper arguing that multinational corporations were the world's deadliest "vectors of disease": corporate mosquitos spreading obesity, lung cancer and microplastics. One line jumped out to a lot of readers: a mention that the food health star system had been co-designed by the food industry and was, to quote a professor of food politics, "deeply flawed".

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### **ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 14/04/2026, Mark Gibson**

Interview with Stephanie Godrich, Senior Lecturer in Nutrition in the School of Medical and Health Sciences at Edith Cowan University, about improving public food systems. Godrich says the report finds governments spend \$2.13b on institutional food but rely heavily on unhealthy, imported options. She advocates for smarter spending to connect aged care providers with local farmers, thereby improving nutrition and building more resilient supply chains.

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[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

### **Wild frenzy over Aldi Special Buys item exposes 'harmful' truth: 'Please stop'**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 14/04/2026

A wild shopping frenzy over an Aldi Special Buys item has lifted the lid on a worrying trend among consumers, as experts plead with Aussies to reconsider how they shop. Scores of shoppers rushed into their local supermarket to pick up the viral Crofton speckled chopping board this week, with videos apparently showing "grown women fighting" over the brightly coloured \$24.99 item.

[Read More](#)

### **ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 14/04/2026, Jess Ong**

Interview with Prof Rebecca Robker, Head of Reproduction and Development at the Robinson Research Institute, about new findings on PFAS exposure in drinking water. Robker says studies in mice show even low levels considered "safe" can still affect eggs and early embryos, raising concerns about subtle impacts on fertility. She explains that PFAS are synthetic, persistent chemicals used in many products.

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