



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 17th April 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [The Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 12) the NSW Industrial Relations Commission has awarded the majority of the state's 69,000 nurses and midwives pay rises over the next three years.
- [The Daily Telegraph](#) (page 9) reports that the Police Federation of Australia has called for the tobacco excise to be slashed as the high cost of legal cigarettes is fuelling the criminal black market.
- [The Daily Telegraph](#) (page 11) reports that a new review has found anti-amyloid drugs likely have no "clinically meaningful" positive effects and offer little to no real-life improvements to dementia patients.
- [The Courier Mail](#) (page 18) reports that new research shows GPs and pharmacists being slow to adopt longer prescriptions are stopping potential savings for patients.
- [The Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 2) reports that Angaston Hospital will operate a virtual emergency department service temporarily as it tries to find doctors to staff it all week.

Crying shame of NDIS rorts

West Australian, General News, 17/04/2026, Mark Riley, Page 13

Julia Gillard was reduced to tears 13 years ago as she presented the legislation funding the National Disability Insurance Scheme to the House of Representatives. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said recently that one in every 10 Australian six-year-old is now on the NDIS.

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

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PBS move spares cancer patients hip pocket pain

SE Voice, General News, 16/04/2026, Page 7

Decorated Mount Gambier Prison officer Allan Bridges has been spared a \$60,000 bill for life-saving medicines to combat his renal cancer. [...] There was renewed focus on Mr Bridges recently when he addressed a press conference in Adelaide alongside Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and his state counterpart Blair Boyer.

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

Albury Wodonga Health review identifies series of errors before man's death by suicide

ABC Online, Other, 16/04/2026, Emily Baker

Blake Whittington is remembered by his mother, Tanya Caputo, as a kind, accepting and respectful young man who loved spending time with family and friends. [...] Ms Caputo has also written to NSW Health Minister Ryan Park and federal Health Minister Mark Butler about her son's experience, and received a response only from Mental Health Minister Rose Jackson on behalf of herself and Mr Park.

[Read More](#)

Health system needs more than a 'quick fix', AMA warns

Medical Forum, Other, 16/04/2026

The National President of the AMA has taken journalists on a 'house tour' of the Australian health system while addressing the National Press Club. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler is due to speak at next week's National Press Club event.

[Read More](#)

Australia still hooked on SABAs, asthma council guide warns

The Limbic, Other, 16/04/2026, Geir O'Rourke

The National Asthma Council Australia has published five clinical information sheets to help GPs implement the updated Australian Asthma Handbook, with a particular focus on moving patients away from short-acting beta2 agonist (SABA)-only treatment. [...] The sheets companion the Australian Asthma Handbook V3.0, published in September 2025 and launched by Health Minister Mark Butler at the NAC's Reshaping Asthma Management webinar.

[Read More](#)

Private billing name-and-shame is 'gutless politics': AMA Tasmania

The Medical Republic, Other, 16/04/2026, Holly Payne

A federal politician's 'disappointing political stunt' will likely increase patient aggression toward general practice staff in the island state. [...] Health minister Mark Butler even told industry publication NewsGP that "of course" local MPs would be speaking to doctors about the benefits of bulk billing.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

MINISTER RAE

IAT under investigation

Community Care Review, Other, 16/04/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The Integrated Assessment Tool has been the subject of controversy in recent months, with senators questioning the inability of human assessors to override results. [...] The IAT has been questioned extensively by senators, and in March an open letter addressed to Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae was signed by 21 federal politicians on behalf of their respective parties for the restoration of human oversight on needs assessments , among other things.

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State and federal govt spends \$40M on 20-beds in regional NSW

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/04/2026, Caroline Egan

After the only aged care home in the NSW Snowy Monaro town closed in 2022, State and Federal funding is now helping expand the Government-owned facility. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, said, "The Albanese Government has now invested almost \$1 billion in the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program ensuring programs like these can serve communities across the country.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Cairns Medicare Mental Health Centre opens offering free, walk-in services

Herald Sun, Other, 16/04/2026, Molly Frew

The Cairns Medicare Mental Health Centre has opened, offering free, walk-in mental health support to residents. [...] The centre was officially opened on Wednesday by Leichhardt MP Matt Smith and Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride, who said the centre was intended to remove barriers to accessing support and potentially reduce stress on the emergency department.

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

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WIN Toowoomba, WIN News Darling Downs, 16/04/2026, Steve Hart

Young Queenslanders will soon have greater access to free mental health support with Headspace across the state set for expansion. Four centres in regional Queensland are already being upgraded to Headspace Plus facilities. Assistant Mental Health Minister Emma McBride says young people will now have access to a psychiatrist in addition to a psychologist and a social worker.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

No relevant coverage

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

DEPARTMENT

English barrier costs us millions

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/04/2026, James Morrow, Page 3

Australian taxpayers are funding millions of dollars to translate documents for non-English speakers, it has emerged, as former prime minister Paul Keating made an extraordinary entry into the raging immigration debate. A review of tenders by News Corp found the federal Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing entered a four-year, \$52m contract with Melbourne-based Think HQ to translate documents.

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'Abject failure' of aged care

Fleurieu Sun, General News, 16/04/2026, Dee Elferink, Page 3

Five months since the Federal Government made changes to Australia's aged care system, the Independent Member for Mayo has told Parliament the "whole system is an abject failure". [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is boasting on its website it is improving the system 'to deliver the highest quality person-centred care for older people, where and when they need it.

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Med cannabis sales plunge

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 16/04/2026, Page 2

Medicinal cannabis sales in Australia have fallen sharply for the first time in nearly a decade, with experts from Penington Institute attributing the drop to a regulatory crackdown on high-volume prescribers and clinics. [...] Data from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing showed sales peaked at 3.72 million units in late 2024, plateauing in early 2025, then falling to 2.65 million units by year's end.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#)

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Older Australians without family more likely to feel lonely

Have a Go News, Other, 16/04/2026, Jennifer Merigan

A new study from Monash University has found that older Australians without close family ties are much more likely to experience loneliness, even when they receive formal aged care support. [...] It was supported by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and the Department of Social Services.

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Why Australia must act now on chronic disease

Health Services Daily, Other, 16/04/2026, Travis Grant

With leadership from the federal health department, we must urgently align on these critical capabilities, and the coherent implementation plan, so we can deliver sustainable national systemic performance improvements. Australia needs to reinvent how the health ecosystem manages chronic diseases.

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New Secretary General of the Department of Health

Pulse+IT, Other, 16/04/2026

Derek Tierney has been officially named as the new secretary general of the Department of Health. Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, made the announcement earlier this week, saying: "I am delighted to welcome Derek Tierney as Secretary General of my Department.

ABC Radio Sydney, The World Today, 16/04/2026, Andy Park

The Federal Government is urged to allocate \$4 billion in funding for dental treatment. The proposal is echoed by the Australian Dental Association, which says delayed treatment prolongs suffering and can increase the costs of care in the longer term. A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing says the government is spending an additional \$107 million for public dental services for low-income adults in the current budget, on top of \$215 million already allocated in 2024.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Over 400 older Australians hospitalised daily from falls

Aged Care Insite, Other, 16/04/2026, Stefanie Schultz

More than 400 older Australians are hospitalised every day because of a fall, and an average of 17 of those people will die as a result. Falls cost the health system more than three billion dollars a year, making them one of Australia's most significant and preventable health burdens.

[Read More](#)

New award program targets aged care excellence

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 16/04/2026

The Hearts and Heroes of Aged Care Awards aim to boost the visibility and value of the aged care workforce. A group of aged care technology platform founders and clinical leaders have established a national awards program with 12 categories to recognise the everyday people who are the backbone of aged care.

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New national award program launched

Community Care Review, Other, 16/04/2026

The Hearts and Heroes of Aged Care Awards aim to recognise extraordinary individuals working across Australia's residential and home aged care sector. A group of aged care technology platform founders and clinical leaders have established a national awards program with 12 categories to recognise the everyday people who are the backbone of aged care.

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Complex system adds to home care provider pressures

Community Care Review, Other, 16/04/2026, Natasha Egan

The key concerns highlighted in survey of over 50 Support at Home providers include Program complexity, higher workloads and profitability. Inquiries are up, but the time needed for administration, onboarding and explaining the new program has increased by more, according to a survey of Support at Home providers.

[Read More](#)

We've built an administrative system, not a care system

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/04/2026, Lauren Broomham

In this week's issue of SATURDAY, one theme is clear: Support at Home is reshaping how care is delivered – and not always in ways that support it. Home care is increasingly being experienced as an administrative system, not a care model.

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COTA Australia's ambitious pre-Budget submission

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/04/2026, Caroline Egan

The national peak body for aged care consumers is calling for a clear transition path to a single home care system but wants Support at Home fixed first. In its 22-page 2026-27 Federal Budget Pre-Budget Submission Council on the Ageing (COTA) supports the Government's plan to merge the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) into Support at Home.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Pump up frontline

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 17/04/2026, Dean Kerrison, Page 1

Gold Coast frontline services are demanding "essential worker" status to prevent the nation's fuel crisis from swamping already-busy emergency departments. A high-needs NDIS service said fuel costs doubled in a month turning a financial squeeze into a "direct threat" to participant safety.

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

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There is a better way to fix NDIS than a means test

Australian Financial Review, Other, 16/04/2026, Sam Bennett

Making the NDIS affordable does not have to mean hurting the people who rely on it. But avoiding that trade-off requires harder work than governments have so far been willing to attempt – and the May budget will show whether this government is ready to...

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New \$27m scheme to pay professional carers for children with complex needs

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/04/2026, Nikita McGuire

Vulnerable children in Townsville with disabilities and complex needs will be moved out of residential care and into stable family homes under a \$27m professional foster care pilot program. The Crisafulli government launched the program to transition children with neurodiversity and trauma-related behaviours away from the residential care system.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

GPs slow on longer scripts

Courier Mail, General News, 17/04/2026, Page 18

GPs and pharmacists being slow to adopt longer prescriptions are putting a handbrake on the potential savings for patients, research has suggested. The government launched 60-day prescriptions in September 2023 but a study focusing on blood pressure medication is showing uptake is well below projections.

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Drug prescription plan hits hurdles

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/04/2026, Page 26

GPs and pharmacists being slow to adopt longer prescriptions is putting a handbrake on the potential savings for patients, research has suggested. The government launched 60-day prescriptions in September 2023 but a study focusing on blood pressure medication is showing uptake is well below projections.

Heavyweight leaders join RFDS board

West Australian, Business News, 17/04/2026, Adrian Rauso, Page 46

Former Fortescue chief executive Fiona Hick is among four new hires to refresh the board of the Royal Flying Doctor Service WA. Ms Hick, Liontown and NRW Holdings director Adrienne Parker, employment lawyer Cheryl Chan and former Queenstown Airport boss Colin Keel start as board members of the non-profit this month.

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Doctors want 'strong consultation' on scope changes

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/04/2026

On the ground, there may be high levels of trust between GPs and pharmacists, but when it comes to scope changes, there needs to be greater consultation, the AMA says. Changes to healthcare policy, including expanding pharmacists' scope of practice, should not be pushed through as a "knee-jerk reaction" to challenges, Australian Medical Association (AMA)

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Win for women's health access as community pharmacist-led contraception expands to every state

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 16/04/2026

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed the news that women in New South Wales will be able to access safe, convenient consultations for hormonal contraception at community pharmacies. New South Wales is the final state to enable appropriately trained pharmacists to prescribe and supply hormonal contraception including the pill.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 16/04/2026, Brenton Ragless

Australians are saving millions by doubling their medication on a single prescription. However, new research looking at common blood pressure medications has discovered that the policy only reached 21 per cent of prescriptions, falling way short of the Federal Government's projected 45 per cent uptake. Researchers have estimated that if the uptake jumped to 50 per cent, they could save \$165 million a year.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#).

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POPULATION HEALTH

War a chance to wound illicit tobacco market

The Australian, General News, 17/04/2026, Sarah Ison and Mohammad Alfares, Page 6

Supply chain shocks stemming from the Iran war have hit the tobacco black market, doubling the cost of some products and sparking calls for Labor to seize the opportunity and quash the illegal trade by lowering the excise on legal cigarettes. As New Zealand businesses warn their government to urgently address the nation's own illicit market or risk repeating the "failures" of Australia, retailers in Melbourne have revealed the impact of disruptions in the Middle East on their operations.

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

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Slash tobacco excise, cops say

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/04/2026, Jon Kaila, Page 9

The Police Federation of Australia has called for the tobacco excise to be slashed, saying the cost difference between legal and illicit cigarettes is fuelling the criminal black market. The national body,

which represents 65,000 police officers across all state, territory and federal police jurisdictions, said "everyday law-abiding Australians" were now buying illicit tobacco due to the high cost of legal cigarettes.

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

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Mainland 'scourge' is getting smoked out

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/04/2026, Oscar Moodley, Page 9

Police have reinforced their fight against tobacco's black market in Tasmania, seizing \$390,000 worth of illicit product last month. The contraband was claimed on arrival in East Devonport last month, boosting the Department of Health's Tobacco Control Unit's seizure value to \$6.8m this financial year.

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

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Heat rises for illegal trade

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 17/04/2026, Page 24

Tasmania's latest crackdown on the illicit tobacco trade is more than a law-and-order story. It is a significant public health win that deserves strong support. The seizure of \$390,000 worth of illegal tobacco in East Devonport highlights the scale of a black market that undermines years of progress in reducing smoking rates.

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Any moves to protect health is a good one

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/04/2026, Abby Smith, Page 35

We all want our kids to grow up healthy and not be pulled into an addiction that can cut lives short and cause unfathomable harm. That's why QuitTas (formerly Quit Tasmania), part of Cancer Council Tasmania, welcomes the Public Health Amendment (Prohibited Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2026 currently before parliament.

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

Organised crime 'milking' tobacco market

Burnie Advocate, General News, 17/04/2026, Benjamin Seeder, Page 4

Police Minister Felix Ellis has said the illicit tobacco trade has exploded and has become a "cash cow" that is fuelling organised crime in the state. Mr Ellis said \$8.8 million worth of illicit tobacco products had been seized in Tasmania over the past nine months, including one East Devonport seizure with a street value of \$390,000.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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With diagnosis rates steadily increasing, men need to talk about prostate cancer

ABC Online, Other, 16/04/2026, Toby Hemmings

Michael Platts remembers the feeling of panic that set in when he was first diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2020. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the country.

[Read More](#)

Pom in Oz with Derek Goforth: Public messaging one-sided with men 'expected' to get on with it, not complain

West Australian, Other, 17/04/2026

There is a quiet expectation placed on men that rarely gets questioned. Get on with it. [...] Men also make up roughly 93 per cent of the prison population, based on Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacy again drives health spending up

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/04/2026, Kate Cowling

Purchases at the dispensary have again pushed up healthcare spending, which rose 1.4% in March, CommBank's Household Spending Insights report shows.

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Strengthening Nurses and Midwives' Response to Domestic and Family Violence

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 16/04/2026

Domestic and family violence is a health issue. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 1 in 4 women have experienced intimate partner violence, with DFV contributing to a range of poor physical and mental health outcomes.

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Closing the Gap at risk without urgent focus on urban Indigenous health, experts warn

National Indigenous Times, Other, 16/04/2026, Giovanni Torre

Closing the health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Australia will remain out of reach without urgent, targeted investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services in capital cities, Indigenous leaders and researchers warn. [...] The new resources - developed by UQ's Poche Centre in partnership with the Research Alliance for Urban Community Controlled Health Services - include an Urban Health and Wellbeing Framework, a State of Play Report and Australia's first Urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Dashboard, developed with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Doubts cast on 'breakthrough' dementia drugs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/04/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 11

New "breakthrough" dementia drugs offer little to no real-life improvements to patients, a major review has suggested, sparking fierce debate and challenging decades of research work. The development of the drugs that remove amyloid beta protein in the brain has been celebrated as a milestone achievement, considered the first disease-modifying treatments for Alzheimer's.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

No relevant coverage

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IMMUNISATION

Readers blast Labor, LNP inaction as Madonna King warns toddlers are

dying from diseases like whooping cough

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/04/2026

Furious debate has erupted after News Corp columnist Madonna King suggested fining parents who refuse to vaccinate their children, as medical experts warn that "recalcitrant" rates are leading to the re-emergence of deadly diseases. The controversy was ignited by data showing that while 90 per cent of two-year-olds are protected, the figure is well below the 95 per cent required for herd immunity.

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

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 16/04/2026, Leon Compton

Panel discussion with Tasmanian Health Department specialist medical advisor Dr Shannon Melody and Immunisation nursing director Nikki Gadsby. Melody says they are expecting an increase in flu cases this year, urging Tasmanians to get vaccinated ahead of the flu season. She notes that April and May are the perfect months for flu vaccination.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

New tool ensures digital health innovation benefiting Indonesian communities including those in remote areas

SBS, Other, 16/04/2026, Anne Parisianne

A new toolkit has been developed to ensure that digital health innovations in Indonesia truly meet the needs of patients and communities, including those living in remote areas. Monash University researchers along with nine senior Indonesian health experts have collaborated to develop a digital health innovation tool.

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 16/04/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Breast Cancer Trials chief operating officer Heath Badger. Badger says they are currently conducting the ROSALIE clinical trial across Australian states and territories. He notes that the trial is designed for people with early-stage breast cancer, looking at whether they can avoid radiation therapy after completing chemotherapy and surgery.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

VACCHO marks 30 years of Aboriginal community-controlled health leadership in Victoria

National Indigenous Times, Other, 16/04/2026, Dechlan Brennan

The peak body for Victorian Indigenous community-controlled health organisations is celebrating 30 years of supporting communities across the state. Established in 1996, the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), based in Collingwood, has helped strengthen

the Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation (ACCO) sector, advocating to government and private providers to enable self-determination in Aboriginal health and wellbeing.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

'Virtual' doctors to fill GP gap at Angaston Hospital

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/04/2026, Brad Crouch and Elizabeth Henson, Page 2

Angaston Hospital will operate a "virtual" service for its emergency department as it tries to find GPs to staff it seven days a week. As The Advertiser reported, patients are arriving to find no doctor on duty some days.

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Private surgery to ease squeeze

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/04/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 7

Private hospitals will be used for more elective surgery on public patients over winter to ease the strain on the public health system. The state government is also pushing to fast-track discharges to free up beds faster as winter ills including the flu loom.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Bumper nursing pay rise to stress budget surplus

Australian Financial Review, General News, 17/04/2026, Paul Karp, Page 10

The largest pay rise in two decades for nurses and midwives will cost the NSW budget billions over the next four years and put pressure on the surplus Labor projected would be delivered in 2027-28.

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Nurses secure pay rises of up to 28 per cent

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/04/2026, Angus Thomson, Page 12

Nurses and midwives in NSW will receive pay increases of up to 28 per cent after the industrial court acknowledged the majority-female workforce had been undervalued, ending a two-year battle with the state's Labor government. The majority of the state's 69,000 nurses and midwives will receive an immediate 7 per cent wage increase including backpay to July, following a historic decision by the NSW Industrial Relations Commission yesterday.

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

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'No cuts to services' as nurses win pay hike

Daily Telegraph, General News, 17/04/2026, Madeleine Bower, Page 18

A multi-billion-dollar pay hike for NSW's nurses and midwives will not result in any cuts to state projects

or services, the Treasurer Daniel Mookhey has vowed, after a landmark court ruling ordered the Minns government to significantly boost wages. More than 60,000 nurses and midwives across the state will see pay increases of up to 28 per cent over three years after the Industrial Relations Commission (IRC) ruled on a long-running dispute between the Minns government and the nurses' union.

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'Virtual' doctors to fill GP gap at Angaston Hospital

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/04/2026, Brad Crouch and Elizabeth Henson, Page 2

Angaston Hospital will operate a "virtual" service for its emergency department as it tries to find GPs to staff it seven days a week. As The Advertiser reported, patients are arriving to find no doctor on duty some days.

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State role for midwife

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 17/04/2026, Erin Blond, Page 6

A Toowoomba midwifery leader will be at the forefront of professional midwifery leadership in Queensland in her new role. Darling Downs Health midwifery leader Karen McDonald Smith has been appointed chairwoman of the Australian College of Midwives Queensland Branch.

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

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NSW nurses, midwives awarded major pay rise after decision from Industrial Relations Commission

ABC Online, Other, 16/04/2026, Isobel Roe

NSW nurses and midwives have been awarded a major pay rise following a decision by the Industrial Relations Commission, which found their work had been significantly undervalued, likely because most are women. Registered nurses will receive a "one-off reset" of a 10 per cent pay rise in the first year, backdated to July 1, 2025, with a 3 per cent pay rise the following two years.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal \(Online\)](#).

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'We are listening to our heartbeat': AMA Queensland responds to its critics

Australian Doctor, Other, 16/04/2026, Paul Smith

Late last year, AMA Queensland made the decision to split from the federal AMA. The move shocked many, but AMA Queensland argues it was necessary to ensure that the interests of Queensland doctors are effectively represented at both the state and federal levels.

[Read More](#)

Could pharmacy services impact practitioner safety?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/04/2026, Megan Haggan

As pharmacists' work takes them further into one-on-one work with patients, are they increasingly at risk of sexual and other harassment? Pharmacists providing services such as home medicines reviews and consultations with patients under the umbrella of a general practice may be more likely to be subjected to bad behaviour from patients, one leading pharmacist

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 16/04/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

NSW nurses and midwives have been awarded a historic pay rise after a fight in the Industrial Relations Commission. The commission has ruled that caring has been undervalued because it's mostly done by women. Health Minister Ryan Park says this will stop nurses leaving to other states, but the union is skeptical about it.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 16/04/2026, Mark Burrows

Thousands of registered nurses and midwives have been disappointed over the pay rise decision of the NSW Industrial Relations Commission, saying it does not go far enough. Registered nurses have been awarded a one-off 10 per cent pay reset backdated to July last year, followed by another 3 per cent for 2026 and 2027, but their weekly take-home is still lower than a Queensland colleague.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 16/04/2026, Sandra Sully

Around 50,000 registered nurses and midwives in NSW will receive a 16 per cent pay rise over three years, including a 10 per cent pay reset backdated to July 1 last year, less the 3 per cent interim boost they were handed last year. NSWNMA members say the decision does not go far enough.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 16/04/2026, Janice Petersen

Some healthcare workers in NSW are set for a pay rise after a two-year battle with the state government. Over a three-year period, registered nurses and midwives are set to receive a 16 per cent increase, enrolled nurses will get an 18 per cent increase, while nursing assistants will receive a 28 per cent rise.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 16/04/2026, Ashleigh Gillon

The NSW Industrial Relations Commission has agreed to increase wages for nurses and midwives. Registered nurses will see a pay rise of 10 per cent, which followed by separate increases of 3 per cent for the next two years, totalling 16 per cent. The NSWNMA took the state government to the commission last year, campaigning for a 35 per cent increase, arguing it would cover the rising costs of living.

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2GB, Afternoons, 16/04/2026, Michael McLaren

The NSW Industrial Relations Commission has today awarded more than 60,000 nurses and midwives pay increases of up to 26 per cent. This follows a two-year battle with the state government, which eventually went to court after the government failed to strike a deal with the NSWNMA back in 2024.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 16/04/2026, Lucy Breaden and Kylie Baxter

Interview with Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmania secretary Emily Shepherd. Shepherd says the industrial action taken by midwives at the Royal Hobart Hospital is entirely focused on care of women and their babies.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 16/04/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with NSWNMA general secretary Michael Whaites. The New South Wales Industrial Relations Commission has agreed to increase wages for nurses and midwives. Whaites says that while enrolled nurses and assistant nurses are happy with the decision, many registered nurses and midwives are feeling pretty flat with the pay rise decision.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 16/04/2026, Hamish Macdonald

Interview with NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey. The NSW Industrial Relations Commission has handed a landmark decision today, which will see registered nurses and midwives receive pay increases of up to 28 per cent. Mookhey says it is a pretty fair outcome, which will deliver vital cost of living relief for nurses and midwives in the state.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Pharmacists 'notably excluded' from MBS: Bonner

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/04/2026, John Smith

Pharmacist prescribing along with other pharmacy clinical services should be integrated into Medicare via the MBS, argues Michael Bonner, director of the Wellness Partners Foundation, in a new position statement seen by the AJP.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Illawarra doctor banned after alleged concerning conduct

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 17/04/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 9

A former Corrimal doctor whose threehour consultation with a patient sounded alarm bells with a supervisor is no longer allowed to practise medicine because she poses a "significant" risk of harm to the health and safety of the public. The ban came after Dr Amanpreet Purewal launched an appeal to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) against a Medical Council of NSW decision to place conditions on her medical practitioner registration.

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Woman claims 'toxic dose' of wrong drug during routine surgery at PRH left her brain damaged

ABC Online, Other, 16/04/2026, Jason Walls

A Top End woman who claims she suffered a hypoxic brain injury after a doctor mistakenly gave her a "toxic dose" of the wrong medication ahead of routine surgery is suing the Northern Territory government for negligence. In documents filed with the Supreme Court, Kimberley Gleed says she was admitted to Palmerston Regional Hospital (PRH) in March 2022 for surgery to remove a benign tumour from her wrist.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

This dementia drug promised miracles. A review found it made 'no meaningful difference'

Scientists have delivered a crushing blow to decades of Alzheimer's research after finding celebrated anti-amyloid drugs offer no real hope to patients. [...] "The clue to treating Alzheimer's disease effectively, and this is what the TGA acknowledged when they did register both lecanemab and donanemab, the two drugs and the two studies that had positive results [in the Cochrane review], is you've got to remove enough amyloid to get a statistically significant and clinically meaningful effect," he said.

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

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Accuhaler product correction

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/04/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced that sponsor, GSK Australia, has identified that "a small number" of accuhaler devices for its Flixotide and Pavtide medications may not automatically reload.

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What is andrographis, the cold and flu ingredient the TGA says can be fatal?

Medicine Today, Other, 16/04/2026, Ian Musgrave

A herb commonly sold in cold and flu supplements may no longer be classified as "low-risk", after Australia's therapeutic goods regulator found it can cause severe allergic reactions and even death. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is proposing to remove andrographis – widely used in Indian and Chinese traditional medicine – from its list of permitted ingredients.

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Cannabis sales plummet as regulators crack down on booming industry

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 16/04/2026, Angus Thomson

Medicinal cannabis sales in Australia have fallen sharply for the first time in a decade as regulators crack down on one-stop online clinics and GPs issuing dozens of scripts a day. [...] Australia's medicines watchdog, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), is considering major reforms to how it regulates the booming industry that has emerged since cannabis was legalised for medicinal use a decade ago.

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Too many slick sellers take the bloom off medicinal cannabis

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 16/04/2026

Australia's medicinal cannabis industry has grown too fast for the good of its own users. [...] Doctors need to obtain permission from the Therapeutic Goods Administration to prescribe medicinal cannabis.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Viva refinery fire threatens Australian Defence Force fuel and anti-sniffing petrol supply

The Australian, Other, 16/04/2026, Noah Yim

The Viva refinery fire raises new questions about the impact on petrol sniffing in remote communities, supply of unleaded petrol, and about the ADF's fuel supply as production in one of the two remaining refineries in the country could face significant disruption. It is also the only manufacturer of bitumen, polypropylene, hydrocarbon solvents, and Avgas in the country, the company's 2025 annual report read.

2GB, Mornings, 16/04/2026, Mark Levy

Data obtained through Freedom of Information laws reveals cannabis sales has fallen by almost 30 per cent in the six months following the changes in guidelines. The AHPRA recently released new guidelines in response to what it described as poor prescribing practise amid rampant patient demand.

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FOOD STANDARDS

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

Age, General News, 17/04/2026, Liam Mannix, Page 24

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 codesigned by the food industry and was, to quote a professor of food politics, "deeply flawed".

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Fines over food safety: business in response

Border Mail, General News, 17/04/2026, Blair Thomson, Page 2

Harris Farm Markets staff have taken action following three fines for food safety issues in the past year, a spokesman says. The Albury business has been penalised by Albury Council staff for failing to ensure food is suitable for sale, selling unsuitable food and selling mouldy food.

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