



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 21st April 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports the Federal Government have issued an ultimatum to state jurisdictions to co-fund the Thriving Kids program and manage foundational supports for children with autism to ensure the NDIS remains financially sustainable. Health Minister Mark Butler notes that failure to reach this agreement and reduce the growth rate of the NDIS to 5 per cent will result in the states being liable for increased annual growth contributions of 8 per cent from 2028.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports mental health experts are calling on the Federal Government to clarify the allocation of approximately \$6 billion in funding intended for mainstream disability supports outside the NDIS that have left an estimated 500,000 people with mental illness without adequate support.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is currently reviewing a financial audit of the Dubbo Aboriginal Medical Service following the deaths of sisters Caroline and Jessica Hangan.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports University of Sydney researchers have found that the intrauterine administration of human chorionic gonadotropin as an IVF add-on provides no improvement to live birth or clinical pregnancy rates, raising concerns regarding the routine offering of unproven, costly interventions within the assisted reproductive sector.

- **The Age** (page 2) reports Federal Government faces an estimated shortage of more than 70,000 nurses by 2035, yet approximately 1500 newly qualified Victorian graduates remain unemployed due to a limited pool of graduate-level positions.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 1) reports birthing services at Kapunda Hospital have been suspended for six weeks due to workforce shortages and staff fatigue, forcing expectant mothers to divert to Gawler Health Service for labour and post-natal care.
- **The Canberra Times** (page 2) reports the AHPRA has maintained the suspension of cardiologist Dr Rajeev Kumar Pathak following a failed appeal against a ruling that his continued practice posed a serious risk to the public. Despite arguments from legal counsel that the suspension violated work-related rights and the presumption of innocence, the tribunal dismissed the appeal and upheld the decision regarding the physician, who faces 21 charges of sexual assault involving former staff members.
- **The Mercury** (online) reports medical experts and high-profile researchers have criticised the Federal Government for low success rates in medical research grants and a failure to release the full annual allocation of the Medical Research Future Fund. In an open letter to Mark Butler, Jenny McAllister, and Sam Rae, more than 80 researchers argued that current funding priorities are skewed toward non-medical studies while the national medical research sector faces a 96 per cent rejection rate for proposals.
- **ABC Online** reports Australian Red Cross Lifeblood has confirmed that gay and bisexual men and transgender people in monogamous relationships for longer than six months are now eligible to donate blood following approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration to remove gender-based sexual activity rules.

MINISTER BUTLER

End welfare for the wealthy, says BCA

Australian Financial Review, General News, 21/04/2026, John Kehoe, Page 1

Big business says a blowout in untargeted government spending supporting higher and middle-income earners via the NDIS, Medicare, home batteries and electricity subsidies must be reined in through means testing to address a decade of budget deficits.

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States given ultimatum on NDIS

Australian Financial Review, General News, 21/04/2026, Phillip Coorey & Lea Jurkovic, Page 1

The government will tell the states they face paying billions more for disability care if they refuse to take responsibility for children with autism and mild developmental conditions, warning the financially unsustainable NDIS is at risk of collapse.

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

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

'NDIS won't survive \$400k living costs'

The Australian, General News, 21/04/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 1

The architect of Australia's disability housing system has warned that the NDIS will not survive if the government continues to offer participants individualised packages in boutique accommodation worth an average of \$400,000 per person, in a dramatic call for reform that would save taxpayers \$10bn a year. [...] NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler has made clear that in order to achieve the 5 per cent growth target agreed to by national cabinet, the "two pathways" available were reducing the number of people coming onto the scheme through eligibility changes, or reducing the size of participants' plans.

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

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Chalmers vows overhaul of 'unaffordable' NDIS

Age, General News, 21/04/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos Shane Wright, Page 1

Treasurer Jim Chalmers has warned that the National Disability Insurance Scheme is not affordable in its current form, laying the groundwork for major changes to the \$50 billion program to become the central savings plank of next month's budget. Chalmers will try to keep backlash from the states at bay by holding an online meeting today to brief treasurers about the NDIS overhaul that Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler will announce at the National Press Club in Canberra tomorrow.

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

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'Hostage nation' facing a slump

Daily Telegraph, General News, 21/04/2026, Ellen Ransley, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer & Nathan Schmidt, Page 6

Treasurer Jim Chalmers has called a meeting with state and territory counterparts as Labor explores options to rein in federal spending on the ballooning National Disability Insurance Scheme. [...] Mr Chalmers said it was "a really big part of our pre-Budget deliberations" and that he and Health Minister Mark Butler would brief the states and territories on imminent reforms.

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

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NDIS blowouts in Chalmers' crosshairs

Canberra Times, General News, 21/04/2026, Zac De Silva & Jacob Shteyman, Page 6

Reining in spending on the National Disability Insurance Scheme will be the centrepiece of a savings package Treasurer Jim Chalmers is preparing for the May budget. [...] NDIS Minister Mark Butler will address the National Press Club tomorrow, and is expected to focus on unregistered providers, as well as how support packages are priced.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#).

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Dr Jim's bitter budget pill

West Australian, General News, 21/04/2026, Katina Curtis, Page 1

Australia's economy is being held hostage to 'decisions taken in Washington and Tehran', Jim Chalmers has lamented as he flagged the Budget's major savings will be found in the NDIS. [...] Dr Chalmers and Health Minister Mark Butler will detail the NDIS plan to State and Territory counterparts on Tuesday afternoon before Mr Butler unveils it publicly at the National Press Club on Wednesday.

Also reported by: [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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Chalmers must make hard call on NDIS

West Australian, Editorials, 21/04/2026, Page 2

With the Federal Budget due in a little over three weeks the lights will be burning late into the night at Treasury. [...] But this month NDIS Minister Mark Butler said it remained "off track" and lacking "disciplined design".

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

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Aged care model needs rethinking: Opinion

Aged Care Insite, Other, 20/04/2026, Lachie Green

April 1 marked six months since the full commencement of the Aged Care Act, and the date passed with barely a whimper. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, his predecessor Anika Wells, and Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler have overseen the system on its downward trajectory.

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Older Australians to receive free RSV vaccine from May

Aged Care Inside, Other, 20/04/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Older Australians will soon have free access to a Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine, with the Albanese government announcing a major investment to protect those most at risk of severe illness from the common but potentially deadly virus. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the program would help protect older Australians.

[Read More](#)

Fed Govt funds \$300 RSV shot, but states go it alone on needle-free flu vaccine

Australian Doctor, Other, 20/04/2026

A \$300 respiratory syncytial virus vaccine will be free for all patients aged 75 and older and Aboriginal patients aged 60 and older, the Federal Government says. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler announced on Sunday that the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine Arexvy will be added to the National Immunisation Program on 15 May.

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

[Read More](#)

Budget 'hostage' to global chaos but Chalmers holds firm on reform

Australian Financial Review, Other, 20/04/2026, Ronald Mizen

Treasurer Jim Chalmers has vowed to forge ahead with an ambitious reform agenda, which includes tax, productivity and saving goals, and to address the nation's critical supply chain vulnerabilities.

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Anthony Albanese's government about to swing the axe on the NDIS with huge changes looming

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 20/04/2026, Nicholas Comino

The Albanese government has committed to major cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, as Treasurer Jim Chalmers said it is becoming too expensive for the government. [...] ' NDIS Minister Mark Butler is expected to reveal further details in a major speech at the National Press Club on Wednesday.

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Reform of the NDIS is a national obligation

The Australian, Other, 20/04/2026, Linda Reynolds

Australia's world-first plan to revolutionise how as a nation we treat and support our most profoundly disabled citizens started with great promise and multi-partisan enthusiasm across our federation. [...] This campaign, supported by the Greens and many disability advocates, forced me to scrap the much-needed independent assessments – which would have made the scheme far more equitable and sustainable – ironically something minister Mark Butler is reportedly now considering.

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NDIS infiltrated by organised crime gangs using intimidation and threats of violence against Australians

The Guardian, Other, 21/04/2026, Tom McIlroy

Organised crime gangs are using the national disability insurance scheme to launder money, earn income and hide assets, law enforcement officials have warned parliament, seriously undermining probity in the \$50bn program [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, is due to announce major changes on Wednesday.

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'The time to act is now' for children with severe eczema

The Medical Republic, Other, 20/04/2026, Lincoln Tracy

Eczema Support Australia is putting out an SOS call for children with severe eczema. [...] The PBAC will meet in July before delivering a recommendation regarding funding to Federal Minister for Health,

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Top scientists slam research funding as lifesaving medical studies rejected

The Mercury, Other, 20/04/2026, Kylie Lang

Australia's most revered medical researchers are crying out for funding to cure deadly diseases while taxpayers fork out more than \$1bn for frivolous studies. [...] Prof Fraser, Professor Trent Munro (director of biotechnology innovation at UQ) and Emeritus Professor Paul Young (UQ's school of chemistry and molecular biosciences) wrote an open letter to Health Minister Mark Butler, NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae.

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NDIS changes to be unveiled on Wednesday will provide budget's biggest cuts

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 20/04/2026

The Albanese government on Wednesday will unveil the biggest source of cuts in the May 12 budget, when it announces a sweeping overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. [...] Minister for the NDIS Mark Butler will announce the changes now not just to prevent the bad news overshadowing the budget, but to give the government an opportunity to manage stakeholders, especially the states.

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

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ABC News, ABC News Day, 20/04/2026, Kathryn Robinson

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers has foreshadowed changes to the capital gains tax discount and cuts to the NDIS in the May budget. Meanwhile, Federal Minister for the NDIS Mark Butler will be addressing National Press Club on Wednesday, where it has been foreshadowed there will be more details about how the Federal Government plans to rein in spending in the scheme.

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Channel 10, 10 News+, 20/04/2026, Denham Hitchcock & Amelia Brace

Hitchcock and Brace are joined by Channel 10 Political Editor Ashleigh Raper. Brace says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler will deliver a speech to outline how the Federal Government plans to rein in the ever-expanding NDIS. Raper notes that the government is spending about \$50b this financial year on the scheme, and the figure is expected to grow to \$62b in just three years, but it is now planning to cut the scheme's growth to between 5% and 6% per year.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 20/04/2026, Tom Connell

Connell is joined by Senior Political Reporter Trudy McIntosh. McIntosh says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler does not want to rule things in or out when it comes to the changes to the NDIS, but he clarified that the system needs significant structural changes. She states that Butler will address the National Press Club on Wednesday.

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Sky News Live, Newsday, 20/04/2026, Kieran Gilbert

Panel Discussion with former NSW Liberal Leader Kerry Chikarovsky and former Labor adviser Bruce Hawker. Gilbert says the Federal Government is set to reform the NDIS, and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler will address the National Press Club on Wednesday. Chikarovsky states that the NDIS needs an overhaul, and there has been a strong indication from the Opposition that it will support the government's reform.

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2SM, Breakfast, 20/04/2026, Tim Webster

Compere mentions that Health Minister Mark Butler is looking to save \$6b out of the NDIS and is also increasing the knowledge that they have of unregistered providers. He states that Butler has expressed amazement that 15 out of 16 NDIS providers are unregistered, which is a sharp contrast to aged care, where every provider has to be regulated. vernalment, I have no idea.

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3AW, Drive, 20/04/2026, Heidi Murphy

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners President Dr Michael Wright. Wright says RSV is a common cause of coughs and colds, and more than 500 Australians have died from the infection. He also says the Federal Health Minister has announced that the Federal Government is going to offer free RSV vaccines for vulnerable Australians over 75 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders over 60.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Afternoons, 20/04/2026, Katherine Feeney

Interview with Growlife Medical GP Dr Aaron Chambers. Chambers says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has announced that the RSV vaccines will be funded for Australians over 75. He notes that the vaccine has been made available on the National Immunisation Program.

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ABC Radio Canberra, 14:00 News, 20/04/2026

The Federal Treasurer has revealed the National Disability Insurance Scheme will be the most important part of savings in the upcoming budget. On Wednesday, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is expected to outline how the Federal Government plans to cut back growth of the NDIS from nearly 10% a year to around 5%.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC NewsRadio \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [Triple J \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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ABC Radio Melbourne, 16:00 News, 20/04/2026

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers says savings in the upcoming budget will come primarily from the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler will outline how the Federal Government will reduce the cost of the ballooning scheme to just 5% annually.

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ABC Radio Sydney, 20:00 News, 20/04/2026

The Federal Government has flagged cuts to the NDIS in next month's budget, with Health Minister Mark Butler expected to outline plans to cut back the scheme's growth from nearly 10% a year to around 5%. Megan Spindler-Smith from People with Disability Australia says it is important the cuts are made from the right areas.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

States on edge about NDIS cuts as Chalmers flags they will be 'easily the most important' part of budget savings

The Guardian, Other, 20/04/2026, Tom McIlroy

The states are increasingly on edge about Labor's efforts to cut NDIS spending in next month's budget, with officials asking the health minister, Mark Butler, to explain planned savings before a major speech

this week. [...] Butler and the NDIS minister, Jenny McAllister, want to bring growth down to between 5% and 6% annually, while preserving essential services for people with a permanent and significant disability.

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

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Top scientists slam research funding as lifesaving medical studies rejected

The Mercury, Other, 20/04/2026, Kylie Lang

Australia's most revered medical researchers are crying out for funding to cure deadly diseases while taxpayers fork out more than \$1bn for frivolous studies. [...] Prof Fraser, Professor Trent Munro (director of biotechnology innovation at UQ) and Emeritus Professor Paul Young (UQ's school of chemistry and molecular biosciences) wrote an open letter to Health Minister Mark Butler, NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae.

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MINISTER RAE

Aged care model needs rethinking: Opinion

Aged Care Insite, Other, 20/04/2026, Lachie Green

April 1 marked six months since the full commencement of the Aged Care Act, and the date passed with barely a whimper. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, his predecessor Anika Wells, and Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler have overseen the system on its downward trajectory.

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Top scientists slam research funding as lifesaving medical studies rejected

The Mercury, Other, 20/04/2026, Kylie Lang

Australia's most revered medical researchers are crying out for funding to cure deadly diseases while taxpayers fork out more than \$1bn for frivolous studies. [...] Prof Fraser, Professor Trent Munro (director of biotechnology innovation at UQ) and Emeritus Professor Paul Young (UQ's school of chemistry and molecular biosciences) wrote an open letter to Health Minister Mark Butler, NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

DEPARTMENT

Supreme Court battle after loss of daughters

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/04/2026, Angus Thomson, Page 1

Jessica and Caroline Hangan were as close as sisters come. [...] A federal government audit of the service's finances was completed in November. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is still probing its findings.

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How nutrition ratings are being 'gamed'

Northern Territory News, General News, 21/04/2026, Taylor Penny, Page 9

Most popular protein bars sold in supermarkets with Health Star Ratings are scored four or higher, but experts warn Australia's Health Star system is being "gamed". [...] The Department of Health said the system did not class foods as "healthy" or "unhealthy" and was only intended for comparing similar products.

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

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

Grants available for Men's Shed

Manningham & Nillumbik Bulletin, General News, 01/04/2026, James Poyner, Page 17

What happens in Men's Sheds goes well beyond woodwork and a cuppa. Information on the Federal Government's Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing website states that Men's Sheds improve the general mental, physical, and social wellbeing of men in Australia by providing a safe space where they can make friends, be social, and participate in meaningful activities.

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Federal budget should stay true to long-term health goals

Health Services Daily, Other, 20/04/2026, Anja Nikolic

We are eagerly awaiting the federal Budget in a few weeks' time. [...] Pleasingly, with the support of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and the Digital Health CRC, the AIDH has begun developing a Clinical Informatics Fellowship.

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The cervical cancer gap can be closed

The Medical Republic, Other, 20/04/2026, Laura Andronicos

On the current trajectory, cervical cancer will be eliminated in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women 12 years later than the national 2035 target [...] According to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the national HPV vaccination rate in 2025 among adolescent girls was 80.65% and 73.14% for First Nations girls.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Garbo strike stinks

Herald Sun, Editorials, 21/04/2026, Page 18

More than 1000 council employees are the latest in a growing list of workforces threatening strike action over pay. [...] Roadside bins have not been collected for weeks across Merribek, Darebin and Hume and the Australian Services Union is calling on the Allan government to ditch or increase rate

caps to secure a pay rise for street cleaners, rubbish collectors, aged care workers, landscapers and parking inspectors.

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Thousands of older Tasmanians offered free vaccine for virus 'worse than Covid'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/04/2026, Alison Foletta

Over 50,000 Tasmanians will have federally funded access to the first vaccine for a respiratory disease that can feel "worse than flu or Covid". The first respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine, called AREXVY, will soon be available on the National Immunisation Program (NIP), and available for free for Australians aged 75 and over, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 60 and over from May 15.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#)

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Ombudsman probes home care assessment tool

Aged Care Insite, Other, 20/04/2026, Hal Swerissen

The way Australians are assessed for home-based aged-care funding is being investigated by the Commonwealth ombudsman. Critics say assessment for funding under the Support at Home program is flawed, leaving some older people unable to access the right level of care they need to safely live at home.

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Abi's move into 22 homes now permanent

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 20/04/2026

Victoria-based not-for-profit aged care provider mecwacare is celebrating the largest deployment of empathetic humanoid companion robots, with 22 Abi robots permanently moving in to support more than 1,500 residents across its 22 aged care homes. The updated Andromeda-developed robots have been built in close partnership with mecwacare since February 2025. Clinical and lifestyle teams at mecwacare co-designed Abi to ensure she enhances residents' wellbeing, particularly those living with dementia and from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

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Alliance calls for primary aged care program

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 20/04/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

In a series of position statements released on Monday, the CHSP Alliance has reiterated its opposition to the government's plan to merge the Commonwealth Home Support Program into the Support at Home program. It has also called for the establishment of a new national primary aged care program – with CHSP at the core initially – in its position statement on required amendments to Aged Care Act 2024

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"How much is a human life worth?" Former government economist says we're paying too much

HelloCare, Other, 20/04/2026, Jakob Neeland

When Professor David Cullen is asked the question every politician dodges – how much is a human life worth to the Australian taxpayer? – he does not hesitate. That is the maximum he believes Australian taxpayers can sustainably spend per person per year on high-needs care, whether in aged care or disability support.

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Experts tell Canberra to back off CHSP and fix the aged care reforms

HelloCare, Other, 20/04/2026, Jakob Neeland

A formidable coalition of aged care experts, providers, unions and consumer advocates has launched a

determined campaign to prevent the government from dismantling one of Australia's most successful community support programs. The newly formed CHSP Alliance is calling for the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) to remain a standalone initiative and to be strengthened as the primary tier of a redesigned aged care system.

[Read More](#)

How to complain about your aged care, and why it's important to speak up

The Senior, Other, 20/04/2026, Phoebe Loomes

As the Australian government continues to be blasted over their failing aged care system, the peak advocacy body says the more people who make a formal complaint the more pressure there will be for the government to fix it. "Speaking up and self-advocating not only puts older people in the driver's seat of their own lives, but it can also help others who may be experiencing the same issues," Samantha Edmonds, Director of Policy, Education and Systemic Advocacy at the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) told The Senior

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

NDIS still the best option this can make it better

The Australian, General News, 21/04/2026, Cain Beckett, Page 11

I was born with cerebral palsy in the early 1970s. My skin was translucent and I stopped breathing when I fell asleep. [...] The main driver for implementing the NDIS was because disability, even before the NDIS, was the fastest growing area of government spending.

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Chalmers must make hard call on cutting NDIS cost

The Nightly, General News, 20/04/2026, Page 2

With the Federal Budget due in a little over three weeks, the lights will be burning late into the night at Treasury. [...] As Dr Chalmers reviews his Budget plan, one area which must remain at the top of the savings list is the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The NDIS costs taxpayers \$50b per year and that is expected grow to \$100b within a decade.

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Excluding people with mental illness from NDIS is harmful discrimination

The Australian, Other, 20/04/2026, Allan Fels

Martin Laverty, chief executive of not-for-profit disability provider Aruma, effectively argued in The Australian last week that any Australian with severe and permanent disability can be in the National Disability Insurance Scheme – except if they have a psychosocial disability. This is blatant discrimination.

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NDIS changes to be unveiled on Wednesday will provide budget's biggest cuts

The Conversation, Other, 20/04/2026, Michelle Grattan

The Albanese government on Wednesday will unveil the biggest source of cuts in the May 12 budget, when it announces a sweeping overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. It wants to get the \$49 billion-a-year scheme, now growing at 10% annually, down to a growth rate of about 5%.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 20/04/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with One Nation MP Barnaby Joyce, on the Federal Government's plan to reduce the growth of the NDIS in its upcoming budget. Joyce says the NDIS needs to be trimmed up because it is not fair to other people who have to go to work for people living off their taxpayers' dollars. He notes that no person who does not think the NDIS needs restraint, and Australians will lose the scheme if its growth is not reduced.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 20/04/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Shadow Housing and Environment Minister Andrew Bragg, on the Federal Treasurer revealing that the National Disability Insurance Scheme will be the most important part of the budget. Bragg says every Australian taxi driver has a story about NDIS rorts, and it is concerning because Australians work very hard. He also states that the NDIS needs to be means-tested across the board.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 20/04/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers is flagging there will be more savings to the National Disability Insurance Scheme as the government seeks to curb growth to around 5%. He says they need to make sure that the scheme is sustainable.

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PRIMARY CARE

Baby bonus for city 's west

Herald Sun, General News, 21/04/2026, Carly Douglas, Page 11

The Allan government will pump almost \$250m into hospital maternity wards in Melbourne's west to tackle a baby boom as it attempts to claw back support in Labor's heartland. [...] New Health Minister Harriet Shing said the funding commitment was needed to cater for huge population growth in Melbourne's west.

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Ambos 'can't cope' says MP

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 21/04/2026, Allan Murphy, Page 1

Mildura MP Jade Benham said communities across the Mildura electorate were being left to deal with the consequences of chronic workforce shortages and poor system resourcing. [...] But a spokesperson said the government had invested \$2 billion into ambulance services, recruited more than 2200 more paramedics and built or upgraded more than 40 ambulance branches across the state.

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

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The hidden costs of our public food systems

ABC Online, Other, 20/04/2026, Jack Mcdonnell

A new report has estimated the total cost of what Australia spends providing food for public institutions and programs. The cost of providing food for our hospitals, aged care centres, the defence, long day care centres and other public programs totals \$2.1 billion.

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Long waits make for sicker patients. Sicker patients need more time in hospital. Our health system needs urgent care

The Guardian, Other, 21/04/2026, Ranjana Srivastava

Visiting the magnificent Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia, my elderly dad resolutely navigated the steep stairs as I held my breath. [...] The problems facing Australian healthcare are well documented.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 20/04/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Dr John Zorbas, NT President, Australian Medical Association. Compere mentions that the Royal Darwin Hospital continues to operate under serious pressure and has called a Code Yellow on Friday. Zorbas admits that doctors and nurses who have been at the hospital for decades have not seen a worst condition as its current state so far, when it comes to coping through their current system.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).

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POPULATION HEALTH

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 20/04/2026, Tom Connell

According to the latest findings from the Australian Council on Smoking and Health, Queensland and South Australia are the top performers in cracking down on illegal tobacco, while the Northern Territory has been ranked last. Australia has about 40,000 stores selling tobacco, despite only 10% of adults smoking.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 20/04/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Flinders University Professor of Public Health Dr Marita Heffler. Stimpson plays an audio clip of David Thomas from the Menzies School of Health Research, where he said that the Health Department estimated that nearly 20% of all deaths of people over the age of 30 in the NT are caused by smoking. Heffler states that tackling illicit tobacco is a great opportunity for the NT Government to stop organised crime coming into the territory.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 20/04/2026, Jess Ong

Health experts and tobacco control advocates are warning that the proliferation of cheap, illegal cigarettes could have devastating health impacts in the Northern Territory. Public health bodies, including the Cancer Council, are calling for urgent reform to strengthen the NT's tobacco licensing laws, arguing that the availability of untaxed cigarettes undermines quit efforts and invites organized crime syndicates into the region.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 20/04/2026, Leon Delaney

The ACT has been ranked as the second worst state or territory across the country when it comes to cracking down on the illicit tobacco market. Australian Council on Smoking and Health Chief Executive Laura Hunter says the ACT Government needs stronger penalties, closure orders, and landlord protections.

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3AW, Drive, 20/04/2026, Heidi Murphy

Interview with Australian Council on Smoking and Health Chief Executive Laura Hunter, on a report revealing that Victoria is one of the worst Australian states for its response to the illicit tobacco wars. Hunter says Victoria is underperforming when it comes to combating illicit tobacco, and the state needs to close loopholes and introduce tough measures to protect the community. She notes that Queensland and South Australia are the top performers in cracking down on illegal tobacco.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 20/04/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Australian Council on Smoking and Health Chief Executive Laura Hunter, on illicit tobacco. Oriti plays an audio clip of NSW Health Minister Ryan Park, who noted that 200 shops have been closed, and they can be subject to further and longer closure orders if they decide to reopen and continue to sell illicit tobacco. Hunter says illicit tobacco is hurting communities because it is fueling violence in every state and territory, but conversations around taxing tobacco will not solve anything, and they have to enforce and strengthen laws around them.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Highlighting a hidden gap "It shouldn't be that hard to get diagnosed."

Burnie Advocate, General News, 21/04/2026, Rodney Woods, Page 1

"It shouldn't be that hard to get diagnosed", that's the message Max Grandfield wants to get across this Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Month, which this year has a focus on the cost of diagnosis delays. The 23-year-old was diagnosed eight years ago with Crohn's disease, a type of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) that can cause inflammation anywhere in the digestive system.

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

Need an endocrinologist's input? This diabetes initiative is connecting more GPs

Medical Forum, Other, 20/04/2026

A program providing general practitioners access to specialists with expertise in managing diabetes is expanding to cover the whole of Western Australia. Diabetes Connect allows GPs to consult directly with specialist endocrinologists when managing patients with diabetes and it will now be delivered state-wide.

[Read More](#)

BreastScreen truck to roll into Menindee

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 20/04/2026, Emily McInerney

BreastScreen NSW will be in the Far West next month with the the mobile screening van stopping at Menindee on Tuesday 5 May and Wednesday 6 May. BreastScreen NSW provides free breast screening to all women over 40 to support the early detection of breast cancer.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 20/04/2026, Brenton Ragless

Diabetes Australia has now rolled out SiSu's health check stations across retail stores, and they will help shoppers detect if they have diabetes in less than five minutes. About 10 Target stores have machines up and running across metropolitan Adelaide, and it is hoped that it will be rolled out across Australia.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#).

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mental health funding scrutiny

The Australian, General News, 21/04/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 5

Mental health experts are demanding the government front up on the future of billions of dollars in federal funding earmarked for those with mental illnesses, as global uncertainty and cost-of-living pressures drive Australians' wellbeing below levels seen during the Covid-19 pandemic. While questions have been raised in recent days about Labor's plans for \$6bn in NDIS support delivered to

participants with mental illness, the government is facing mounting calls for clarity on how it will spend a further \$6bn intended for disabled Australians outside the scheme.

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

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

It's time to honour Spud's legacy

Ballarat Courier, General News, 21/04/2026, Greg Gliddon, Page 20

The death of Adelaide Crows captain Jordan Dawson's brother Jaryd, and the distressing scenes surrounding Carlton footballer Elijah Hollands last Thursday night, have once again shone a light on the continuing battles people face every day with mental ill-health. [...] Over the five years from 2016 to 2020, 65 Ballarat men ended their lives, making it the eighth most common cause of death among men in the city according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's annual Mortality Over Regions and Time (MORT) report.

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

Seeking an ADHD diagnosis as an adult? This is how assessments are meant to work

ABC Online, Other, 20/04/2026, Norman Swan

Over the past eight years, there has been a sharp rise in the number of Australian adults diagnosed with ADHD. That is clear from research commissioned by Four Corners, which shows both a massive increase in the number of adults filling prescriptions for ADHD medication, and also a large variation from neighbourhood to neighbourhood and state to state

[Read More](#)

ABC, Four Corners, 20/04/2026, Dr Norman Swan

Report by Dr Norman Swan. Australia has seen an increase in adult ADHD diagnoses, and according to the latest data from the Medicines Intelligence Research Program at the UNSW, more women have been diagnosed with the condition than men. It is also revealed that Western Australia's Fremantle has the highest rate of adults diagnosed with ADHD and the highest rate of ADHD medication prescriptions. Professor David Coghill, Monash University ADHD researcher Mark Bellgrove, AMA WA President Dr Kyle Hoath, clinical psychologist Dr David Bakker, University of Sydney Professor of Psychological Medicine Dr Nick Glozier, National Health and Medical Research Council CEO Professor Steve Wesselingh, St Vincent Hospital emergency psychiatrist Dr Jacqueline Huber, Australian Medical Association President Dr Danielle McMullen, and University of Massachusetts Boston clinical psychologist Professor Lisa Cosgrove discuss the ADHD figures, the impact of social media, particularly TikTok, the risks of ADHD misdiagnosis and overdiagnosis, the current guidelines for ADHD diagnosis and treatment, and the conflicts of interest in psychiatry.

Also reported by: [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC News, ABC National News, 20/04/2026, Joe O'Brien

Report by Dr Norman Swan. The number of adults being treated for ADHD has increased sharply in the past eight years. It has been revealed that Brunswick and the Blue Mountains have high rates of ADHD medication use, but WA dominates the list of hot spots, with Fremantle the highest in the country.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 20/04/2026, Monika Kos

The University of New South Wales has found that Fremantle, Cottesloe, Augusta, Margaret River, Bayswater, Bassendean and Perth City have the nation's highest ADHD medication prescriptions. The AMA WA president says high rates show greater awareness of the disorder.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 20/04/2026, Lara Stimpson

Mitsopoulos is joined by Radio National Health Report host Dr Norman Swan. Swan says Northern Territory has the lowest rates in ADHD diagnoses. He also notes that the Medicines Intelligence Research Program at the University of New South Wales has revealed that the percentage of adults filling prescriptions for ADHD medicine has risen.

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ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 20/04/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Mitsopoulos is joined by Radio National Health Report host Dr Norman Swan. Swans says latest figures have shown that ADHD diagnoses among adults are rising, particularly in Fremantle. He also notes that the Medicines Intelligence Research Program at the University of New South Wales has revealed that the percentage of adults filling prescriptions for ADHD medicine has risen.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 20/04/2026, Hamish Macdonald

Macdonald is joined by Radio National Health Report host Dr Norman Swan. Swan says a research conducted by the Medicines Intelligence Research Program at the University of New South Wales, with the help of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, has revealed that the percentage of adults filling prescriptions for ADHD medicine has risen.

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IMMUNISATION

Flu vaccines are on way

West Australian, General News, 21/04/2026, Oliver Lane & Claire Sadler, Page 8

Premier Roger Cook has gone on the attack and dismissed pharmacist concerns about a chronic lack of supply of the nasal-spray flu vaccine which the Government has made free for children. Last week, the Government made FluMist available at no cost for two to 11-year-olds, but pharmacists quickly raised the fact they have not been able to order anywhere near enough doses to meet demand prior to the announcement.

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

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

Immunisation rates, particularly for infants, are falling. This is the threat to herd immunity

Canberra Times, Other, 20/04/2026

As the nation prepares to pause and reflect on April 25 for Anzac Day, another significant global observance is quietly slipping under the radar. April 24 marks the beginning of World Immunisation Week.

[Read More](#)

Free RSV vaccine for older adults

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 20/04/2026

The Australian Government yesterday announced that respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccinations will now be covered under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for Australians aged 75 and older, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 60 years and older (PD breaking news 19 Apr).

[Read More](#)

4BC, Afternoons, 20/04/2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Mater Health Director of Infectious Diseases Dr Paul Griffin, on the addition of RSV vaccines to the National Immunisation Program. Griffin says 180,000 RSV cases were recorded nationally last year, and the vaccines have now been made available for vulnerable Australians. He

notes that the vaccines are now free for Australians over 75 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders over 60.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 20/04/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners SA Chair Dr Sian Goodson, on RSV. Goodson says RSV is a respiratory virus that spreads among people in winter, and it can cause wheezing, coughing, and pneumonia. She notes that RSV vaccines will be available for Australians and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders over 60 from 15 May this year.

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FIVEAA, Afternoons, 20/04/2026, Stacy Lee

Vulnerable Australians will soon gain access to the RSV vaccine through the National Immunisation Program, following revelations that nearly 180,000 RSV cases were recorded nationally last year. Mater Health Director of Infectious Diseases Paul Griffin is urging Australians to get vaccinated.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Funding is a geek tragedy

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 21/04/2026, Kylie Lang, Page 26

Australia's most revered medical researchers are crying out for funding to cure deadly diseases while taxpayers fork out more than \$1bn for frivolous studies like determining the optimal length of workplace naps and gender bias in modern productions of Ancient Greek tragedies. [...] Even worse is the Medical Research Future Fund, which rejects up to 96 per cent of proposals despite having a Commonwealth-guaranteed annual \$1bn to spend.

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IUD pain a barrier: Study

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 21/04/2026, Page 4

A national study has revealed that while nearly half of Australian women experience minimal discomfort during intra-uterine device (IUD) insertion, one in five report "severe" pain. The Monash University research in collaboration with Jean Hailes for Women's Health identifies mental health, pregnancy history, and "self-perceived knowledge" of IUDs as key factors associated with how pain is experienced during the procedure.

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

Gut microbiome can reveal risk of Parkinson's, scientists say

The Guardian, Other, 21/04/2026, Ian Sample

Changes to microbes that live in the gut can identify people at greater risk of Parkinson's disease long before symptoms develop, according to work that also raises hopes for new therapies. Researchers discovered signature changes in the gut microbiome that are more pronounced in people with a genetic risk for Parkinson's and even more stark in those diagnosed with the disease.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Lung Foundation Australia urges First Nations communities to get 'flu ready' this winter

National Indigenous Times, Other, 20/04/2026, Giovanni Torre

Lung Foundation Australia is encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to take action now to protect themselves and their loved ones from the flu. On Monday the Foundation noted that influenza contributes to serious illness, hospitalisation and complications every year; particularly for people with existing respiratory conditions.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

No relevant coverage

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Dead patient's card used

West Australian, General News, 21/04/2026, Page 5

A palliative nurse who stole a debit card from a dead patient to buy cigarettes has been banned for three years. The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia found Paul McMahon had engaged in professional misconduct after being charged with theft and obtaining property by deception in Melbourne in June 2023.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Hospital pass: Nursing grads can't get jobs

Age, General News, 21/04/2026, Henrietta Cook & Melissa Cunningham, Page 2

Up to 1500 newly qualified Victorian nurses are struggling to find work almost five months after finishing their degrees, despite an expected shortage in Australia more than 70,000 nurses by 2035. Many of the recent graduates were lured into the profession by a state government offer to pay the course fees of more than 10,000 nursing and midwifery students-an initiative aimed at boosting staffing at the state's strained hospitals.

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

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Pregnant pause in Kapunda

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 21/04/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 1

Six women have been forced to have their babies elsewhere after birthing services were cancelled at Kapunda Hospital again with officials blaming staff shortages and "fatigue". [...] "This pause is due to managing workforce shortages and ensuring we provide the support our workforce needs", Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network chief executive Bronwyn Masters told The Advertiser.

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

Skin docs are rashed off feet

Northern Territory News, General News, 21/04/2026, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 9

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancers in the world but it's getting harder and harder to see a specialist, experts warn. [...] The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) the nation's peak training body and membership organisation for dermatologists reports "Australia is experiencing a national workforce shortage of dermatologists" with surging demand and not enough specialists being trained.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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Skills a lifeblood for Mount Isa nurses

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 21/04/2026, Page 3

Renal nurses in Mount Isa are gaining advanced, hands-on training through a cross-hospital collaboration. Six Mount Isa-based nurses have completed specialised haemodialysis training at tertiary hospitals, including Princess Alexandra Hospital and Townsville University Hospital.

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NSW Health admits to underpaying emergency doctors

The Mandarin, Other, 20/04/2026, Julian Bajkowski

The NSW Department of Health has admitted to the late payment of key entitlements for salaried emergency doctors at Westmead Hospital, potentially amounting to as much as a quarter of their take-home pay, following intervention by the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation. In a long-running dispute over payment times for allowances that compensate specialists for what the doctors' union describes as a "unique combination of intense, unpredictable, and shift-based work inherent to emergency medicine", NSW Health has publicly apologised for payroll delays but pulled up short of detailing how they occurred.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Rape-accused doctor alleges breach of rights

Canberra Times, General News, 21/04/2026, Hannah Neale, Page 2

A cardiologist accused of rape and sexual assault has failed in his second bid to overturn a suspension on practising medicine. [...] Despite Pathak being granted bail with conditions allowing him to work in a restricted and supervised capacity, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency took "immediate action" and suspended the physician's registration in February 2025.

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Sandipan Dhar's father says someone should be held accountable for son's death

The father of Sandipan Dhar, who died after not receiving a blood test at a Perth hospital, says there is still a lack of accountability over his son's death. [...] James Cafaro, the state manager of the hospital's operator, Ramsay Health Care, said after the inquest findings were handed down that all involved clinicians had been referred to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) for review.

[Read More](#)

Perth father vows to keep fighting after son's hospital death that 'totally destroyed our lives'

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 20/04/2026, Hamish Hastie

The father of a young boy who died in a Perth emergency department says a coronial inquest has vindicated the family's claim that they pleaded with doctors for a blood test that could have saved their son, but did not address the accountability issues that persisted at Joondalup Health Campus. [...] Joondalup Health Campus and its owner, Ramsay Healthcare, and AHPRA has cleared Siow and other staff involved in Sandipan's care of any wrongdoing.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

No relevant coverage

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Alarm over dubious IVF 'add-on'

Age, General News, 21/04/2026, Melissa Cunningham, Page 1

A common hormone "add-on" being offered to IVF patients has been found to have no benefit for pregnancy success, sparking fresh concerns treatments are being sold to boost chances of conceiving without clear evidence they work. The study, led by University of Sydney researchers and published in the Human Reproduction Update today, found that intrauterine administration of the hormone human chorionic gonadotropin (known as hCG) before embryo transfer does not increase pregnancy or live birth rates.

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

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Peptide craze too risky for big pharma investment

Age, Business News, 21/04/2026, Kishor Napier-Raman, Page 24

The most popular peptides being bought illegally in Australia are yet to attract serious attention from big pharmaceutical companies, who believe they would not be lucrative or safe enough products to bring to the legitimate market. [...] "Substances such as BPC-157, Melanotan II and GHK-CU that are promoted online or sold through unregulated channels have not gone through rigorous TGA evaluation for evaluation of their safety, benefits and risks.

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

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Blood donor rules change

Northern Territory News, General News, 21/04/2026, Euan Kennedy, Page 13

Gay and bisexual men, in addition to transgender people, will be able to safely donate blood through the Australian Red Cross for the first time. [...] "This change has many years of work behind involving lots of different organisations, including the Therapeutic Goods Administration and governments," she said.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Nick's mum can give blood. He can't. Today, that changes

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 20/04/2026, Angus Thomson

Every Australian wanting to give blood will be asked gender-neutral questions about their recent sexual activity in an overhaul of rules that had effectively banned many gay and bisexual men from becoming donors. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration approved Lifeblood's application to change the rule last year, after extensive risk modelling and screening research showed the overhaul would not affect the safety of Australia's precious blood supply.

[Read More](#)

Lifeblood's blood donation eligibility expands for gay and bisexual men, transgender people

ABC Online, Other, 20/04/2026, Josephine Lim

From April 20, Australian Red Cross Lifeblood will use gender-neutral assessments for blood and platelets donations. [...] Lifeblood executive director Cath Stone said eligibility criteria for blood donation have been expanded after the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved the removal of gender-based sexual activity rules last year.

[Read More](#)

More gay, bisexual and trans Australians can now donate blood. Why were they stopped before, and what will the change mean?

The Guardian, Other, 20/04/2026, Melissa Davey

Up to 20,000 additional blood donations are expected to be made each year across Australia, with new rules in effect from Monday allowing many gay and bisexual men and transgender people to donate for the first time. [...] Australia has among the safest blood donation systems in the world, and all changes have been reviewed and approved by Australia's drugs regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

[Read More](#)

Taking a precision approach to treat MND/ALS

Medical Forum, Other, 20/04/2026, Frances Theunissen & Dev Nathani

The rapidly evolving field of precision medicine and how it is reshaping the understanding and treatment of motor neurone disease (MND) was explored in a recent review led by WA researchers in collaboration with Kings College London. [...] Current available treatment options are limited with just two medications in Australia approved by the Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) and listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

[Read More](#)

\$2 million steroid and peptide bust

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 20/04/2026

A joint investigation undertaken by the Australian Border Force (ABF), the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and Victoria Police, has resulted in the arrest of three Victorians for importing performance and image enhancing drugs (PIEDs) into Australia. The eight-month operation led to the seizure of PIEDs, illicit steroids and peptide products with an estimated street value in excess of \$2 million.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 20/04/2026, Emma Reballato & James Glenday

Australia has officially scrapped gender-based restrictions on blood donation today, moving to a world-class "individual risk" assessment model. Under the new rules, gay and bisexual men, as well as

transgender people in monogamous relationships of six months or more, are eligible to donate blood and platelets for the first time, provided they meet standard safety criteria.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 20/04/2026, Sandra Sully

More Australians can now give blood from today after donation rules were relaxed for monogamous gay, bisexual and transgender people. Red Cross Lifeblood is changing its pre-donation questionnaire so that everyone will be asked the same questions before they donate blood, and it comes after the Therapeutic Goods Administration approved the removal of gender-based sexual activity rules last year.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#)

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 20/04/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Lifeblood Australia Executive of Donor Management and Experience Cath Stone. Mabin says more gay and bisexual men, and transgender people in monogamous relationships will be eligible to and platelets for the first time in Australia. Stone says the Therapeutic Goods Administration approved their submission, and they have been working hard to get the new donor questionnaire done as quickly as possible.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Tighter leash on TV ads

Herald Sun, General News, 21/04/2026, Page 7

Australians want better protections from harmful TV ads, research has found. Foundation For Alcohol Research and Education polling found that three in four people (75 per cent) want less alcohol ads on TV.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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

Builder set for \$36m for rehab centre

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 21/04/2026, Alistair Finlay, Page 4

The Victorian State Government has revealed the company that'll build a proposed multi-million-dollar drug and alcohol treatment facility at Merbein. Set for the old Merbein Primary School site, the Government has allocated \$36 million for the works, with Ballarat-based firm AW Nicholson appointed as primary contractor for the job.

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

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