



# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 22nd April 2026

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| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |  
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| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)  
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 4) reports that today Health Minister Mark Butler will use a pre-budget speech to unveil changes to Australia's aged care system and an overhaul of the NDIS.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that AHPRA has registered Beth Upton - the transgender doctor at the centre of a landmark UK legal dispute over women's spaces - as an emergency medic to work in two NSW hospitals.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 5) reports that the federal government will scrap extra costs for seniors needing personal care, with older Australians no longer required to pay hundreds of dollars for showers at home.
- **[The Northern Territory News](#)** (page 1) reports that the NT government has announced the Royal Darwin Hospital will receive security and air-conditioning upgrades following increasing reports of violence and welfare issues.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 2) reports that there are concerns junior doctors in Tasmania could be seriously disadvantaged by planned changes to the Postgraduate Medical Education Council of Tasmania which will see its services transferred to the Tasmanian Department of Health.

## The budget's lifeboat

The Australian, General News, 22/04/2026, Sarah Ison, MacKenzie Scott and Thomas Henry, Page 1

Labor will unveil sweeping changes to the NDIS aimed at reining in the cost of at-home care and other multibillion-dollar scheme expenses, while demanding states commit to their biggest investment in support of reforms to the \$50bn-a-year program. As NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler prepares to lay out the road map to achieving Labor's promise of slashing the scheme's growth, analysis by The Australian shows the federal government would reduce gross debt by \$96bn over the next decade if it achieved its 5 per cent annual growth target.

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

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## Trans doc in UK legal row clear to work here

The Australian, General News, 22/04/2026, Rachel Baxendale, Page 1

Australia's medical regulator has registered as "female" the transgender doctor at the centre of a landmark UK legal dispute over women's spaces, allowing the emergency medic to work in two NSW hospitals. [...] Comment has also been sought from federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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

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## PM must don boxing gloves as national cabinet unity splinters

The Australian, General News, 22/04/2026, Geoff Chambers, Page 1

Anthony Albanese must finally confront state and territory leaders over NDIS spending and deliver on his broken promise to usher in reforms. [...] The impetus for the Prime Minister and Disability Minister Mark Butler moving from rhetoric to action on reforming the out-of-control National Disability Insurance Scheme is linked to a sick federal budget that can no longer prop up the broken NDIS.

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

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## Taken for a ride in the wild west

The Australian, General News, 22/04/2026, Paul Garvey, Page 5

Welcome to Australia's home of NDIS malfeasance: western Sydney. [...] The sharp rise in the number of banning orders and sanctions and in particular the unearthing of fraud inside the scheme have hurt public sentiment towards the NDIS ahead of sweeping changes set to be unveiled by Health Minister Mark Butler.

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## Reforms will save the NDIS for those who need it most

The Australian, Editorials, 22/04/2026, Page 10

Health Minister Mark Butler's address to the National Press Club on Wednesday about the \$50bn-a-year National Disability Insurance Scheme is expected to put one of the most civilising features of our society care for the profoundly disabled- on to a surer footing across the long term. One of the most important reforms, which has been widely canvassed, will bring changes for families whose children with mild autism have been on the scheme as the states step up largely against their will to resume support for those children under the Thriving Kids program.

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

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## Butler's NDIS plan lets kids down

The Australian, General News, 22/04/2026, Amanda Camm, Page 11

On August 20 last year, Mark Butler walked up to the podium at the National Press Club and delivered a speech that would have untold consequences on some of the most vulnerable children in our country.

It was the first time I heard the term Thriving Kids.

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## Tax reform gets new united push

Australian Financial Review, General News, 22/04/2026, John Kehoe, Page 1

Former Liberal and Labor premiers Mike Baird and Anna Bligh are spearheading a new push by business, social welfare groups and economists to set up a road map for serious long-term tax reforms beyond any immediate...

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## States lukewarm on huge NDIS overhaul

Australian Financial Review, General News, 22/04/2026, Phillip Coorey and Paul Karp, Page 3

The Albanese government will forge ahead with an overhaul of the NDIS in a bid to save it from collapse, despite Queensland refusing to agree to changes that require the states to help ease the cost burden, while other jurisdictions expressed only...

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

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## Pop psychology a wrong diagnosis for mental health and NDIS

Australian Financial Review, General News, 22/04/2026, Allan Fels, Page 31

To imply that people with psychosocial disability are merely the 'worried well' and don't have a true disability is discriminatory and unfair.

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

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## Labor plans to fix aged care with \$1 billion budget spend

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/04/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 4

Health Minister Mark Butler will unveil fixes to the country's struggling aged care system alongside his overhaul of the \$50 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme in his pre-budget speech on two of the government's fastest-growing cost pressures. Labor will spend \$1 billion extra in next month's budget to cover costs for older people in home care who need help showering, dressing and managing incontinence services that started incurring out-of-pocket fees when Labor's new aged care system came into effect last November.

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

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## Backflip on fees for 'basics of ageing with dignity'

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 22/04/2026, Julie Cross, Page 5

Older Australians will no longer have to pay hundreds of dollars for showers at home, with the federal government scrapping extra costs for seniors needing personal care. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler is set speak at the National Press Club today, where he will outline that from October 1 older Australians on Support at Home packages will no longer face out-of-pocket costs for help with showering, dressing and continence management.

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

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## States left in the dark over NDIS savings plan

Herald Sun, General News, 22/04/2026, Mikaela Mulveney and Madeleine Bower, Page 8

States have been left in the dark about the federal government's biggest overhaul to the NDIS since the scheme's inception, as providers and advocates say people's lives are at risk if Labor gets it wrong. Health Minister Mark Butler will on Wednesday outline how the government will save billions of dollars

by reigning in the ballooning scheme, currently costing the budget almost \$50bn a year and growing at 10 per cent a year.

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

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## Call to cap NDIS funding at \$300k

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/04/2026, Julie Cross, Page 6

Taxpayer funding for disability and aged care must be capped at \$300,000 per person, a former chief economist has warned, declaring the multibillion-dollar systems can no longer operate as a blank cheque. [...] His comments come hours before Health Minister Mark Butler is due to reveal major changes to make the \$50bn a year disability scheme sustainable, in a speech to the National Press Club.

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

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## Your NDIS mess not our issue

West Australian, General News, 22/04/2026, Katina Curtis, Page 1

Roger Cook insists the States will not bear all the costs of Federal cuts to the NDIS as Health Minister Mark Butler plans tighter regulation and a reset of eligibility to rein in the runaway program. The Federal Government is looking for billions in savings from the NDIS by halving its growth rate.

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

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## NDIS anxiety: why families like Arthur's are worried

Canberra Times, General News, 22/04/2026, Dana Daniel, Page 3

Five-year-old Arthur has come a long way since his mum Amanda first reached out for help. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler, who last year announced the change to rein in the ballooning cost of the \$50 billion-a-year NDIS, will on Wednesday unveil further changes in a speech to the National Press Club, after Treasurer Jim Chalmers flagged that savings from the scheme will be central to next month's federal budget.

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## Ballooning NDIS bursting budget

The Nightly, General News, 21/04/2026, Stephen Johnson, Page 6

The NDIS was meant to be about the individual above the state. Unlike other government agencies, it was meant to be less bureaucratic. [...] His successor Mark Butler last year announced that from July 2026, autistic kids would be placed into a new Thriving Kids program instead of the NDIS.

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

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## Meet the man who may be Labor's next leader

The Nightly, General News, 21/04/2026, Andrew Greene, Page 7

This week is shaping as one of the biggest in Mark Butler's career, as the Health Minister unveils sweeping changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, designed by his former leader Bill Shorten. For months however, government MPs have been closely tracking the steady political rise of the charismatic South Australian frontbencher, as they quietly contemplate Labor's leadership options post Anthony Albanese.

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

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## Free vaccine for pensioners

Mandurah Times, General News, 22/04/2026, Page 3

Pensioners aged 75 and over will soon be able to be vaccinated against the potentially deadly RSV virus for free. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on Saturday urged those eligible to take advantage of the free vaccinations "I encourage eligible Australians to protect themselves and their community this winter by getting vaccinated against RSV," Mr Butler said.

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## 'We got it wrong' Labor changes contentious home care policy

The Australian, Other, 21/04/2026, Sarah Ison

Elderly Australians accessing home care will no longer be forced to pay co-contributions for assisted showering and dressing after backlash over the policy announced by Labor in its first term of government. As part of a landmark National Press Club address expected to provide significant detail on the nation's other major care sector - the NDIS - Health Minister Mark Butler will reveal a suite of changes to aged care to be included in next month's budget.

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## Time to end welfare for the wealthy, says big business

Australian Financial Review, Other, 21/04/2026, John Kehoe

Big business says a blowout in untargeted government spending supporting higher and middle-income earners via the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Medicare, home batteries and electricity subsidies must be reined in through means testing to address...

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## Chalmers foreshadows NDIS cuts

The Saturday Paper, Other, 21/04/2026

Treasurer Jim Chalmers confirmed cuts to the NDIS will be "easily the most important part of the savings package" presented on next month's budget night, further warning the fallout from war in the Middle East could be severe. [...] NDIS minister Mark Butler is expected to announce further details about the government's plan during a National Press Club address in Canberra on Wednesday (The Age).

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## 'Scared': NDIS shake-up sparks fear of cuts to support

West Australian, Other, 22/04/2026, Zac De Silva

Disabled Australians fear their services will be cut under a major overhaul aimed at reining in the spiralling cost of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Health Minister Mark Butler is expected to unveil sweeping reforms to the \$50 billion program on Wednesday, which are likely to include changes to who is eligible for support and tougher registration requirements for providers.

Also reported by: [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Government backs down on charging older Australians \$50/hour for showers

ABC Online, Other, 21/04/2026, Evelyn Manfield and Stephanie Dalzell

The federal government has moved to dump a controversial decision that saw some older Australians charged \$50 an hour for basic care like showering, just six months after the sweeping changes took effect. [...] Following sustained criticism from advocates and older Australians who described the scheme as an "obscenity", the federal government has backed down, with Aged Care Minister Sam Rae conceding showering is an essential service.

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## States and territories left in the dark on NDIS savings

ABC Online, Other, 21/04/2026, Jake Evans

State and territory treasurers say a briefing about major reforms intended to save billions of dollars in

NDIS spending was "light on detail", risking the states again being blindsided by the federal government's announcement due on Wednesday. [...] It leaves a major NDIS savings measure unresolved even with the scheme beginning in just six months, and NDIS Minister Mark Butler due to announce a new round of reforms that will require state buy-in.

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## **From cost blowouts to fraud and benefits, here's everything you need to know about the NDIS**

ABC Online, Other, 21/04/2026, Evan Young and Nas Campanella

Life changing supports, cost blow outs, cuts, and rorts — the discussion around the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is wide ranging. [...] On Wednesday, federal minister Mark Butler will address the National Press Club with a significant announcement about the scheme's future.

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## **Government to scrap out-of-pocket aged care personal care services costs**

Capital Brief, Other, 21/04/2026

Health Minister Mark Butler will on Wednesday scrap out-of-pocket costs for aged-care package holders for showering, dressing and support with continence management under the government's Support at Home aged care program. As part of the 2026-27 Budget, to be announced on 12 May, these care items will be moved into the "clinical care" category, fully removing costs for users.

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## **Housing ambitions hit council workforce wall**

Capital Brief, Other, 21/04/2026

Local governments have warned Australia will be unable to solve its housing crisis because of severe shortages of engineers, town planners and building inspectors. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler will address the National Press Club on Wednesday, when he unveils his proposed reforms to NDIS spending.

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## **Chalmers warns 'unaffordable' scheme faces major changes**

CathNews, Other, 21/04/2026, Rebecca Comini

Treasurer Jim Chalmers has warned 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. Mr Chalmers will try to keep backlash from the states at bay by holding an online meeting today to brief treasurers on the NDIS overhaul, which Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler will announce at the National Press Club in Canberra on Wednesday.

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## **I'm an NDIS insider. Forget rogue providers — conflict of interest is built into the auditing system**

Crikey, Other, 21/04/2026

While the government focuses on weeding out providers rorting the NDIS, the process of auditing those same providers is embedded with potential conflicts of interest. [...] All eyes are on NDIS Minister Mark Butler's National Press Club address tomorrow, with his new round of reforms to the disability scheme focusing on unregistered providers and pricing reforms.

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## **The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus key consultations now open**

Croakey, Other, 21/04/2026, Melissa Sweet

The Albanese Government has been urged to fund priority oral health access schemes for older people, First Nations people and people on low incomes in the upcoming federal budget. [...] Health

Minister Mark Butler announced the Government would fund an additional 100 places in 2027 in the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program, on top of 200 additional places allocated in 2026.

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## **Week in Review Tuesday 14 April to Tuesday 21 April 2026**

In the Cove, Other, 21/04/2026, Liz McPherson

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler urged people to take up the offer, saying: "I encourage eligible Australians to protect themselves and their community this winter by getting vaccinated against RSV."

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## **Disability cuts on table as treasurer eyes cost spiral**

MSN Australia, Other, 21/04/2026

Federal officials will make the case for major changes to the \$50 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme at a meeting with their state counterparts, with the reforms expected to form the centrepiece of Treasurer Jim Chalmers' budget savings. Ahead of a major speech outlining efforts to cut the spiralling cost of the support program, Health Minister Mark Butler will team with Dr Chalmers to brief state treasurers on Labor's plans.

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## **Labor faces trillion-dollar debt burden in upcoming budget, two decades after Australia was declared debt free**

Sky News Australia, Other, 21/04/2026, Oscar Godsell

The Albanese government has been forced to reckon with \$1 trillion in public debt on the 20th anniversary of the Howard-Costello government declaring Australia debt free. [...] Mr Mulino said the changes, to be unveiled by Health Minister Mark Butler on Wednesday, would ensure the scheme remains viable as costs continue to surge.

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## **Government finally to cover full cost of showering under home care program**

The Conversation, Other, 21/04/2026, Michelle Grattan

From October people will no longer have to pay to receive help with showering, dressing and support in managing continence, in changes to home care packages to be announced by Health Minister Mark Butler on Wednesday. Under the aged care reform program brought in by the Albanese government, clinical care is free but showering and similar personal help fell into the category of services for which the person is charged a co-payment.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## **Labor to tighten child NDIS eligibility to curb spending as Queensland MP warns change is 'failing kids'**

The Guardian, Other, 21/04/2026, Tom McIlroy and Sarah Basford Canales

National disability insurance scheme service providers will be required to undergo mandatory character checks and eligibility rules will be tightened further for children under 18, as Labor moves to curb growth in the \$50bn program. But the health minister, Mark Butler, faces a backlash from state counterparts as he announces major changes on Wednesday, with Queensland accusing federal Labor of walking away from responsibilities to families dependent on long-term care.

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

Your Life Choices, Other, 21/04/2026

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.

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### **ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 21/04/2026, Patricia Karvelas**

Interview with Finance Minister Katy Gallagher. Gallagher says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is ensuring that the NDIS is sustainable into the future, and even though he will further discuss the reforms tomorrow, the scheme has been a key part of their considerations through the budget process. She notes that states and territories have an interest in making sure the scheme is sustainable over time.

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### **Channel 7, Seven News, 21/04/2026, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson**

The Federal Government is set to begin a major course correction for the NDIS hoping to restore the disability scheme to its original purpose. NDIS participants are now waiting for Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to unveil the most comprehensive overhaul of the NDIS tomorrow, and it is understood that Butler's central aim is returning the NDIS to its original purpose, which is supporting people with significant and permanent disabilities, and reining in spiralling costs.

*Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Seven Tasmania \(Hobart\)](#), [Seven Wagga Wagga \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#).*

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### **Channel 9, Nine News Late, 21/04/2026, Natalia Cooper**

Federal Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler will address the National Press Club tomorrow to outline how Labor intends to rein in unsustainable spending growth in the scheme ahead of next month's federal budget. Currently, the National Disability Insurance Scheme is one of the budget's biggest expenses, costing taxpayers more than \$50b this financial year and predicted to keep growing.

*Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).*

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### **Sky News Live, Politics Now, 21/04/2026, Andrew Clennell**

Interview with Shadow Minister for the NDIS Melissa McIntosh. Clennell says Federal NDIS Minister Mark Butler will announce the reforms for the National Disability Insurance Scheme tomorrow as the Federal Government moves to control its spending. McIntosh says the Coalition will be supporting the plans to reduce the scheme's expenditure and growth, and they want the Federal Government to have a good plan, but they are scaring Australians.

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### **Sky News Live, Newsday, 21/04/2026, Kieran Gilbert**

Interview with LNP MP Andrew Wallace. Wallace says Labor Party members continue to spend money like drunken sailors, and they spent \$50b a year on the NDIS, which is more than what they are spending on defence. He states that they will listen to Federal Minister Mark Butler tomorrow, and they need to ensure that the Coalition supports the NDIS.

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### **ABC North Coast NSW, Breakfast, 21/04/2026, Bridie Tanner**

Compere mentions that Independent MP Monique Ryan says any reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme must be made sensitively. He states that the Minister for Disability, Mark Butler, will detail the government's plan for the NDIS tomorrow.

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### **2SM, Mornings, 21/04/2026, Chris Smith**

Interview with former Liberal Government Minister and Senator Linda Reynolds. Smith says Federal

Health Minister Mark Butler will outline the changes in the National Disability Insurance Scheme at the National Press Club tomorrow, and the Federal Government is aiming to halve the scheme's 10% growth rate, which has seen it blow out to \$50b a year. Reynolds says the scheme's intent is good because it supports the most vulnerable Australians, but both sides of the political divide have not yet come together to actually support reforming the NDIS, and she is hoping that Minister Butler will return the scheme to its original intention.

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### **3AW, 22:00 News, 21/04/2026**

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler have held talks with their state and territory counterparts today on the ballooning cost of the scheme. The Federal Government argues its annual \$50b cost must be reined in and states must take responsibility for funding some services.

*Also reported by: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#), [6PR \(Perth\)](#), [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#), [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#).*

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### **ABC NewsRadio, Mornings, 21/04/2026, Rhiannon Elston**

Interview with Grattan Institute Disability Program Director Sam Bennett. Elston says Federal NDIS Minister Mark Butler will detail the major changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme at the National Press Club Tomorrow, as the scheme is projected to cost taxpayers \$50b this year. Bennett says Australians have realised that the scheme's level of growth over the last several years is not sustainable, and a reform of the NDIS is needed, but it needs to ensure that it is sustainable, moderated, and that it supports future generations of disabled Australians.

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### **ABC Radio Adelaide, Statewide Mornings, 21/04/2026, Rory McClaren**

McClaren is joined by ABC Political Reporter Sara Tomevska. Tomevska says NDIS Minister Mark Butler is set to give more details about Labor's plan to curtail the National Disability Insurance Scheme's growth to 5% a year. She also says they are expecting that Butler will unveil changes to eligibility and the way that budgets are administered for people with NDIS plans.

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### **ABC Radio Brisbane, 11:00 News, 21/04/2026**

The Federal Government is warning it will crack down on fraud and unscrupulous providers in the National Disability Insurance Scheme Disability. Federal NDIS Minister Mark Butler will tomorrow unveil more details about changes to the NDIS as Labor aims to rein in the program's growth from 10% to 5% a year.

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### **ABC Radio Canberra, 15:00 News, 21/04/2026**

Federal Opposition Leader Angus Taylor says the Coalition will support efforts to curb growth of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Federal Minister for Disability Mark Butler will use the speech tomorrow to outline the government's plan to reform the \$50b scheme.

*Also reported by: [ABC Mid North Coast \(Taree\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Newcastle \(Newcastle\)](#), [ABC NewsRadio \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#).*

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### **ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 21/04/2026, Saskia Mabin**

Independent MP Monique Ryan says any changes to the NDIS must be made sensitively as Federal Disability Minister Mark Butler prepares to detail the Federal Government's plans for the scheme tomorrow. Changes to eligibility are among the announced measures in an attempt to curb the scheme's growth.

*Also reported by: [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#).*

## ABC Radio Sydney, Nightlife, 21/04/2026, Philip Clark and Suzanne Hill

[...] The NDIS has also been earmarked as a prime focus for savings in the budget. Well, when we say savings, I want to slow the growth of it. It's unaffordable at the moment, according to the Treasurer. Federal Minister for Disability, Mark Butler, is going to use a speech tomorrow to outline the government's plan to reform it.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, 23:00 News, 21/04/2026

A former chairman of the National Consumer Watchdog is fearful of reported cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme that he will describe as indiscriminate. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is set to outline cuts to the NDIS in a speech tomorrow with Treasurer Jim Chalmers flagging an overhaul of the scheme as a key savings measure in next month's budget.

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## FIVEAA, 10:00 News, 21/04/2026

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers will meet with his territory counterparts today to discuss the Federal Government's planned changes to the NDIS. As Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is set to unveil how they plan to rein in the ballooning cost of the scheme ahead of the May budget, Labor Cabinet Secretary Andrew Charlton says the NDIS has to be made sustainable.

*Similar coverage reported by: [Sonshine 98.5 FM \(Perth\)](#), [Curtin FM \(Perth\)](#), [6PR \(Perth\)](#).*

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## Radio National, Life Matters, 21/04/2026, Hilary Harper and Beverley Wang

The Federal Government has warned of a major crackdown on fraud and non-compliant providers within the NDIS to rein in the scheme's annual growth from 10% to 5%. Minister for Disability and the NDIS Mark Butler will unveil further details tomorrow regarding Labor's sweeping reforms, which are expected to serve as a primary savings measure in the upcoming May Budget.

*Also reported by: [Triple J \(Sydney\)](#).*

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### Thieves, thugs and scammers abusing system

The Australian, General News, 22/04/2026, Paul Garvey, Page 4

A convicted romance scammer, nurses who stole thousands of dollars from vulnerable patients and a man who starved his dog are among a host of convicted criminals unearthed inside the \$50bn National Disability Insurance Scheme. [...] Asked about the banning orders and criticism of a lack of detail published by the commission, a spokesman for NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the government had made its expectations clear: "We expect the commission to take timely, proportionate and appropriate compliance action against those who breach requirements and conduct regular reviews of its public facing information."

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

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### From cost blowouts to fraud and benefits, here's everything you need to know about the NDIS

ABC Online, Other, 21/04/2026, Evan Young and Nas Campanella

Life changing supports, cost blow outs, cuts, and rorts — the discussion around the National Disability

Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is wide ranging. [...] On Wednesday, federal minister Mark Butler will address the National Press Club with a significant announcement about the scheme's future.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER RAE

### Labor plans to fix aged care with \$1 billion budget spend

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/04/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 4

Health Minister Mark Butler will unveil fixes to the country's struggling aged care system alongside his overhaul of the \$50 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme in his pre-budget speech on two of the government's fastest-growing cost pressures. Labor will spend \$1 billion extra in next month's budget to cover costs for older people in home care who need help showering, dressing and managing incontinence services that started incurring out-of-pocket fees when Labor's new aged care system came into effect last November.

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

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### Backflip on fees for 'basics of ageing with dignity'

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 22/04/2026, Julie Cross, Page 5

Older Australians will no longer have to pay hundreds of dollars for showers at home, with the federal government scrapping extra costs for seniors needing personal care. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler is set speak at the National Press Club today, where he will outline that from October 1 older Australians on Support at Home packages will no longer face out-of-pocket costs for help with showering, dressing and continence management.

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

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

### Your NDIS mess not our issue

West Australian, General News, 22/04/2026, Katina Curtis, Page 1

Roger Cook insists the States will not bear all the costs of Federal cuts to the NDIS as Health Minister Mark Butler plans tighter regulation and a reset of eligibility to rein in the runaway program. The Federal Government is looking for billions in savings from the NDIS by halving its growth rate.

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

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

### Government backs down on charging older Australians \$50/hour for showers

ABC Online, Other, 21/04/2026, Evelyn Manfield and Stephanie Dalzell

The federal government has moved to dump a controversial decision that saw some older Australians charged \$50 an hour for basic care like showering, just six months after the sweeping changes took effect. [...] Following sustained criticism from advocates and older Australians who described the scheme as an "obscenity", the federal government has backed down, with Aged Care Minister Sam Rae conceding showering is an essential service.

[Read More](#)

### Showering to be made free after Aged Care Minister swamped with complaints

Bendigo Advertiser, Other, 21/04/2026, Phoebe Loomes

People receiving care in their homes will no longer have to pay for showers, after Sam Rae, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors said he had listened to feedback from the community. Registered nurse Kerry Paul said price rises had meant vulnerable older people were going without showers.

[Read More](#)

## Win for 'basic dignity': why your home care costs are about to drop

Canberra Times, Other, 21/04/2026, Phoebe Loomes

The Federal Government says they have "listened" to the public, backflipping on recently introduced aged care laws that left many vulnerable people choosing between a shower or getting a nurse. [...] Recipients receiving known as Home Care) will no longer have to pay for help to bathe, get dressed and manage their continence, under budgetary measures announced by the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae.

[Read More](#)

## Government finally to cover full cost of showering under home care program

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 21/04/2026

From October people will no longer have to pay to receive help with showering, dressing and support in managing continence, in changes to home care packages to be announced by Health Minister Mark Butler on Wednesday. [...] When he was asked on The Conversation podcast last year why showering wasn't being entirely funded as a necessity, Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said: "We'll be monitoring this very closely.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### South Australia's first Gidget House opens in Elizabeth offering free support to new and expectant parents

Glam Adelaide, Other, 21/04/2026, Liana Webster

A new specialist mental health service for expectant and new parents is set to open in Adelaide today, with South Australia's first Gidget House launching in Elizabeth to help families facing perinatal mental health challenges. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride will officially open the service tomorrow.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### High price of allergy fight

Launceston Examiner, General News, 22/04/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 1

Suffering from allergy attacks was significantly impacting Alison Buckingham's life so she sought out Launceston's specialist allergy clinic. [...] Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White said considerations for listing on the PBS must follow an independent assessment by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), which assesses it across multiple criteria.

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

## DEPARTMENT

### **Change in women's health since the '90s**

Newcastle Herald, General News, 22/04/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 9

Four generations of women have been captured in a trailblazing study of Australian women's health trends that has marked great change across three decades. [...] The study, funded by the federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, has shone a light on big issues such as endometriosis and domestic violence.

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

### **Aged Care is a 'Failure'**

Times Victor Harbor, General News, 21/04/2026, Dee Elferink, Page 5

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.

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

### **Start important conversations during Palliative Care Week**

Wangaratta Chronicle, General News, 22/04/2026, Page 7

Starting conversations about palliative and end-of-life care is being encouraged, ahead of National Palliative Care Week (10 to 16 May). [...] National Palliative Care Week 2026 is supported by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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

### **The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus key consultations now open**

Croakey, Other, 21/04/2026, Melissa Sweet

The Albanese Government has been urged to fund priority oral health access schemes for older people, First Nations people and people on low incomes in the upcoming federal budget. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced the Government would fund an additional 100 places in 2027 in the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program, on top of 200 additional places allocated in 2026.

[Read More](#)

### **The Coalition wants NDIS reform to focus on 3 things. Here's what this would mean for users – and the budget**

MSN Australia, Other, 21/04/2026, Libby Callaway and Lloyd Walker

The government is expected to announce further changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) this week, focused on containing the rising number of participants and the growth in costs, and cracking down on fraudulent activities. [...] Libby Callaway sits on the NDIS Evidence Advisory Committee Assistive Technology and Capital subcommittee established by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

[Read More](#)

### **How pharmacies can get behind Palliative Care Week**

Retail Pharmacy Assistants, Other, 21/04/2026, Margaret Mielczarek

Led by Palliative Care Australia, this year's campaign — Getting to the heart of it: Big Questions. Real Answers. [...] National Palliative Care Week 2026 is supported by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Tribunal upholds sacking of aged care worker who raised elder abuse concerns

HelloCare, Other, 21/04/2026, Jakob Neeland

A Tasmanian aged care worker who claimed he was sacked after raising concerns about the mistreatment of vulnerable residents has failed in his attempt to overturn the rejection of his anti-discrimination complaint. Asad Shah was dismissed by Uniting AgeWell Tasmania in February 2025.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Thermomix claims? Now we're really cooking, say lawyers

The Australian, General News, 22/04/2026, Angelica Snowden and Paul Garvey, Page 1

Legal expenses paid by the National Disability Insurance Agency have surged in the past seven years to \$313m amid an increase in plan appeals, with the scheme fighting legal battles against people claiming Thermomixes, pilates reformers and a \$4800 temperature regulating mattress. Annual reports published by the NDIA since its inception in 2013 show legal expenses have blown out from \$10.1m in 2019 to \$75.4m last year.

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

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### Our one 'lifeboat' for the most in need sinking under weight of rorting, inefficiency and buck-passing

The Australian, General News, 22/04/2026, John Della Bosca, Page 4

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is often described as a jumbo jet being engineered while already in flight. The phrase captures a real problem.

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

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

### Tax take hits record \$30,633 per person

Australian Financial Review, General News, 22/04/2026, Lea Jurkovic, Page 4

The government taxed each Australian a new high of \$30,633 on average in 2024-25, helping to pay for record spending on aged care and disability benefits.

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

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

### Fix NDIS and don't torch it

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/04/2026, Nicole Rogerson, Page 12

Most parents of children with disability carry a quiet, terrible thought: we cannot afford to die. I have carried that thought for 30 years.

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

### I am living proof of the NDIS's value. Now I fear it will all be taken away

Canberra Times, Other, 21/04/2026, Jeremy Hope

Weekends can be hard. As a person with a disability, I feel incredibly fortunate to have access to NDIS

supports.

[Read More](#)

## **People underestimated Michelle because of her disability. Now she's up for an international award**

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 21/04/2026, Natalie Croxon

Michelle Garland became one of the first people in the Illawarra to participate in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) when it rolled out in the region.

[Read More](#)

## **Albanese government's 'welfare churn' under fire as calls to means test NDIS grow**

Sky News Australia, Other, 21/04/2026, James Harrison

Means testing the NDIS and better targeted spending are crucial to avoiding Labor's massive sea of debt, economists and business figures have declared. The Business Council of Australia said the government needed to stop handing out welfare for the wealthy.

[Read More](#)

## **Labor must means-test the NDIS to help reel in the ballooning scheme, AMP's chief economist Shane Oliver demands**

Sky News Australia, Other, 21/04/2026, James Harrison

Labor must means test the NDIS, a leading economist has demanded as the government looks to rein in the ballooning scheme. The Albanese government is considering ways to cap annual NDIS spending growth, which currently sits above 10 per cent, to about six per cent.

[Read More](#)

## **The Coalition wants NDIS reform to focus on 3 things. Here's what this would mean for users – and the budget**

The Conversation, Other, 21/04/2026, Libby Callaway and Lloyd Walker

The government is expected to announce further changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) this week, focused on containing the rising number of participants and the growth in costs, and cracking down on fraudulent activities. The Coalition has also signalled some suggested focus areas for reform, centred on three pillars:

[Read More](#)

## **ABC News, News Breakfast, 21/04/2026, Emma Reballato and James Glenday**

Disability advocates are urging the Federal Government to be more transparent following reports of planned NDIS cuts in next month's budget. Treasurer Jim Chalmers is meeting with state and territory leaders today to secure their agreement on the reforms, as he seeks to reduce the scheme's annual growth from 10% to approximately 5%. Advocates warn that such a significant reduction in spending growth could undermine the quality of life for participants.

[Play Now](#)

## **Channel 9, Today Extra, 21/04/2026, Richard Wilkins and Sylvia Jeffreys**

Interview with Rachel Carey Group founder Rachel Carey, on running multiple businesses that are changing thousands of lives across the disability sector. Carey says she was a disability support worker before she started Allara Support Services, which supports independent living specialists, and Provider Business Solutions, which was built to give providers the systems, strategies, and operational support to run stronger businesses. She also says she started Zoomly, which is a platform built to connect people with disabilities to safe, reliable, and personalised transport.

[Play Now](#)

## **Channel 9, Today Extra, 21/04/2026, Richard Wilkins and Sylvia Jeffreys**

Panel Discussion with commentators Susie Elelman and Scott Emerson, on Treasurer Jim Chalmers signalling a significant overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Elelman says the NDIS was brought in 13 years ago under Julia Gillard, but it was never properly planned and costed, which resulted in the scheme experiencing huge problems and cost blowouts. Emerson also adds that the NDIS is a sensitive and important program, and something has to be done because it now costs \$50b.

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## ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 21/04/2026, Sarah Dingle

Interview with Mind Australia Chair Professor Allan Fels. Dingle says the NDIS has had a massive impact on the Australian social landscape, and around one in every 37 Australians is currently supported by the NDIS, but it is now predicted to cost \$50b this year. Fels notes that \$50b is a huge amount, and Labor has to take steps to curb its growth, but it will be very painful for low-income Australians supported by the NDIS.

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[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Pharmacist training plan to be expanded

West Australian, General News, 22/04/2026, Oliver Lane, Page 7

Another 200 WA pharmacists will be trained to diagnose common conditions such as asthma, shingles and acne. The State Government will put \$4.1 million towards subsidising 200 places in the Enhanced Access Community Pharmacy Pilot across the next two years, hoping it will help relieve pressure in doctors surgeries.

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

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### Cost 'not a barrier' for expanded pharmacist training: minister

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 21/04/2026, Megan Haggan

Western Australia moves to expand the Enhanced Access Community Pharmacy Pilot, with the health minister saying pharmacists are keen to take on the training The Cook Labor Government has invested a further \$4.1 million in State Budget 2026-27 to significantly boost access to primary care across Western Australia, through the Enhanced Access Community Pharmacy Pilot.

[Read More](#)

### AMA calls for expansion to practice nurse role

Nursing Review, Other, 21/04/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) is calling for sweeping reforms to strengthen the role of practice nurses in general practice, warning that outdated funding and workforce structures are preventing GP-led teams from delivering the coordinated preventive care patients need.

[Read More](#)

### ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 21/04/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Diabetes Connect Endocrinologist Dr Greg Ong. Ong says Diabetes Connect is a hotline service for GPs to connect with specialists and diabetes educators, and it is used to ensure that diabetic patients can get the most appropriate treatment plan as quickly as possible. He also states that Diabetes Connect is a dedicated service available for advice, and they are grateful that it was made possible by funding from the WA Government and the WA Primary Health Alliance.

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[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

## Status quo won't end tobacco wars

The Australian, Editorials, 22/04/2026, Page 10

The collapse in Australia's tobacco excise and the remarkable rise in black market activity across the nation bear all the hallmarks of a well-intentioned public policy gone wrong. The flourishing illegal tobacco trade, which now accounts for half of the country's cigarette consumption, is fuelling a national crisis that extends beyond health and economic concerns, reaching across state and territory borders deep into our regions and cities, and inflaming issues of social cohesion and national security.

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

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## Smoking out the smugglers

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/04/2026, Josh Hanrahan, Page 14

As a weary traveller returns to Sydney from overseas, a border force official opens her suitcase and out falls a single packet of loose leaf tobacco. But by the time the suitcase is completely opened, many more are cascading onto the airport terminal floor representing just some of the almost 1000 tonnes of illicit tobacco and four million vapes seized at the border in four months.

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## \$93m to hit crims

Herald Sun, General News, 22/04/2026, Shannon Deery, Page 1

The number of illicit-tobacco inspectors is set to triple under a massive \$93m boost to frontline law enforcement. The Herald Sun can reveal next month's state budget will include \$13.4m to triple the number of Tobacco Licensing Victoria inspectors to crack down on the illicit trade.

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## Ketamine usage doubles in Australia over five years, finds Adelaide University study of wastewater samples

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/04/2026, Darren Chaitman

Australians have more than doubled their use of ketamine – a popular painkiller and horse tranquilliser – over fewer than five years as its recreational use grows, a study of wastewater samples by Adelaide University has found. In some areas, the presence of ketamine traces in urine was 16 times higher during weekends than weekdays, suggesting the usage is recreational.

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

[Read More](#)

## Goodbye uterus: Life after a hysterectomy

ABC Online, Other, 21/04/2026, Ann Marie and Yumi Stynes

The uterus is central to womanhood: it's the baby house, and allows for menstruation. So, what's it like to have it removed? [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, around 30,000 women in Australia will have a hysterectomy every year.

[Read More](#)

## Australian women have overtaken men in prescribing rates for ADHD medication

ABC Online, Other, 21/04/2026, Norman Swan, Kate-Ainsworth, Amy Greenbank and Amy Donaldson

Australian women have overtaken men in prescribing rates for ADHD medication. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reports that during the years 2004–05 to 2023–24 the yearly proportion of dexamfetamine prescriptions for ADHD ranged between 86 per cent and 93 per cent.

[Read More](#)

## IGA trials 'Community Check-In' lane in Sydney to bring back human interaction at the register

As major supermarket chains race towards self-serve checkouts, scan-as-you-go trolleys and increasingly machine-based experiences, one local store is taking a different approach. [...] Research from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare suggests up to two in five Australians experience loneliness at least some of the time.

[Read More](#)

## Research shows popular IVF hormone add-on may not work

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/04/2026

A new study has sparked fresh concerns that would-be parents are being sold ineffective treatments being marketed as boosting their chance of falling pregnant. A University of Sydney-led research found adding a common hormone to in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatments does not improve patients' chances of pregnancy or live birth.

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

[Read More](#)

## Ketamine use climbs nationwide, study finds

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 21/04/2026

Recreational ketamine use is increasing across Australia, according to a nationwide wastewater study led by researchers at Adelaide University. The study examined daily influent wastewater samples collected between December 2020 and April 2025 from treatment plants across capital city and regional sites, covering an average of 53% of the population.

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[Back to Top](#)

# CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

## An Australian study linked vaping to cancer. Then came the international backlash

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 21/04/2026, Angus Dalton

Last month, Australian researchers put out a paper with a conclusion that snagged national headlines: vaping probably causes lung and oral cancer. Much of the public reaction was sardonic. Sucking fruit-flavoured vapour from an often illegally manufactured device shown to relinquish toxic metals and formaldehyde might cause cancer?

[Read More](#)

## Australia's ADHD Hotspots: Is Your Postcode Dictating Your Diagnosis?

Mamamia, Other, 21/04/2026

If your social media feed has convinced you that everyone has ADHD, new data is offering a reality check. Freshly released figures expose a hidden story: your diagnosis might depend more on your postcode, your paycheque, and whether there's a doctor nearby rather than your actual symptoms.

[Read More](#)

## WA leads the way on ADHD prescriptions for adults

Medical Forum, Other, 21/04/2026

Western Australia is home to the majority of the highest ADHD-prescription dispensing neighbourhoods in the country, new data reveals. Around 65% of the suburbs with the highest rates of ADHD prescriptions were found to be in WA.

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[Back to Top](#)

## Sport & music ward off suicide

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/04/2026, Ruby Kraner-Tucci, Page 5

Extracurricular activities like playing sport or music were just as important as attending class to help reduce the risk of teen suicide, according to new research. The latest report from a longitudinal child development study which has been tracking a cohort of 10,000 Australian children since 2004 found teenagers who experienced a sense of belonging at school, rather than achieving perfect attendance, were less likely to experience suicidal thoughts and behaviours as they entered early adulthood.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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## Team sports boosting girls' mental health

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 22/04/2026, Page 36

New research has found a sense of belonging in soccer clubs can help lead to positive mental health outcomes for teenage girls. RMIT University researchers worked with local soccer club North Geelong Warriors last year and the results suggest the growth in the women's game is translating to meaningful social and mental health benefits.

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## Service to help mums and dads thrive, not just survive AAP

West Australian, Other, 21/04/2026, Maeve Bannister

Parents and parents-to-be in South Australia will soon have access to free, face-to-face and telehealth mental health services as the state's first Gidget House opens. Named after a young mum who died by suicide while experiencing postnatal depression, the Gidget Foundation supports the mental health of expectant and new parents.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 21/04/2026, Adam Steer

Interview with Flinders University Caring Futures Institute Associate Professor Stuart Ekberg. Steer says Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths from suicide are almost twice as high as for other people in Australia. Ekberg states that there is a persistent gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other people of Australia in terms of mental health care. He notes that understanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kinship systems could be critical to determining the best care to deliver for those people in need.

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[Back to Top](#)

## IMMUNISATION

### Free RSV vaccinations for older adults – and other winter virus updates

Medical Forum, Other, 21/04/2026

Free RSV vaccinations will be available for older adults from next month as the federal government looks to protect the community ahead of winter. As part of an expansion of the National Immunisation Program the Arexvy vaccine will be made available to adults aged 75 years and over, and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians aged 60 years and over.

[Read More](#)

### ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 21/04/2026, Lucy Breden

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners President Dr Michael Wright, on RSV vaccines. Wright says RSV is a virus that causes respiratory infections. He notes that the Federal

Government has now announced that it is going to provide RSV vaccines for older Australians and Aboriginal Australians over 60.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 21/04/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners President Dr Michael Wright, on the Federal Government's addition of RSV vaccines to the National Immunisation Program. Wright says RSV is a virus that causes cold-like symptoms, but it can also lead to serious illnesses, and making RSV vaccines available for older Australians is a smart move. He notes that the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation recommended the RSV vaccines to be listed on the program, and older Australians and Aboriginal Australians over 60 will be able to access the vaccines.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Female scientists transforming STEM knowledge gaps

West Australian, Other, 21/04/2026, Maeve Bannister

A cohort of female scientists are working to close research gaps, improve health outcomes and increase representation in fields traditionally dominated by men. In 2024, the federal government ended the Women in STEM Ambassador initiative after a report urged a more intersectional approach to diversity in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) fields.

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

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### Buy now, die later: Leigh asks benefactors to think hard about bequests

The Mandarin, Other, 21/04/2026, Julian Bajkowski

The Albanese government is on a mission to re-humanise the art of leaving research and humanitarian organisations bequests in wills. One of the great inheritances of outer ministry in any government is having to salvage causes that a solid evidence base might otherwise find wanting.

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[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Missing in maternity

Courier Mail, General News, 22/04/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 15

The hospital with Australia's highest risk pregnancies has churned through nine obstetric directors in

four years and running with the role unfilled since January last year, with a maternity group warning mothers and babies were being put at risk. Queensland Health has refused to explain why Logan Hospital cannot retain its maternity leaders.

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## Hot under the collar

Northern Territory News, General News, 22/04/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 1

The Northern Territory's most critical hospital will receive security and air-conditioning upgrades after being plagued by growing reports of violence and welfare issues over the past few months. The NT government has announced key changes at Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH) in an effort to ensure staff safety and the comfort of patients.

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## Right cure

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 22/04/2026, Page 14

The Territory government has made two important pre-Budget decisions that are welcomed attempts to tackle two serious problems at the Royal Darwin Hospital. Both are issues of safety. One is for expectant mums and the other is staff safety.

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## Where were you?: MP

Border Mail, General News, 22/04/2026, Hana Humboldt, Page 1

Border independents elected and hopeful have slammed the Coalition's future promise for hospital funding as a grab for votes. Opposition Leader Angus Taylor has promised \$200 million to finish the current construction at Albury Wodonga Health, as well as secure a greenfield site for future development.

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

## Promised Forster hospital shelved as \$80m in funding siphoned to second project

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/04/2026, Madeleine Bower

A long-promised new hospital on the NSW mid north coast was shelved by the Minns government despite \$80m having already been approved for it, while an urgent-care clinic proposed to replace it is yet to get off the ground. Forster-Tuncurry residents had been told there was no money to build a proposed Forster hospital, with the former Coalition government only announcing \$20m for the project.

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

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## Expectant parents and ED patients diverted as two regional hospitals struggle with workforce shortages

ABC Online, Other, 21/04/2026, Arj Ganesan, Eugene Boisvert and Thomas Kelsall

Two regional hospitals, 30 minutes' drive from one another, are struggling to consistently deliver basic health services. From Tuesday to Thursday, the Angaston and District Hospital is routinely without on-site medical officers at its emergency department.

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## \$200m health promise: But shire still left behind

Shepparton News Online, Other, 21/04/2026, Zoe McMaugh

The Federal Coalition is dangling a \$200 million health commitment as a carrot for electorate voters, but has stopped short of promising anything of note for the Southern Riverina. Through Liberal candidate Raissa Butkowski, the Coalition last week said it would deliver a 'Healthcare Built to Last' package to secure the future of healthcare in Farrer.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 21/04/2026, Adam Steer

Steer says the Royal Darwin Hospital has declared Code Yellow on Friday, as it continues to operate under pressure. An audio clip of Australian Medical Association NT President Dr John Zorbas was played, where he says the pressure in the RDH's emergency department is now worse, and the Code Yellow declaration was caused by an increase in the number of patients who are bed-blocked.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Doctors sick with worry over new 'support care'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/04/2026, Amber Wilson, Page 2

Fears are building that Tasmania's junior doctors could be seriously disadvantaged by planned changes to an independent body delivering early medical career support. The Postgraduate Medical Education Council of Tasmania (PMCT) has been operating for nearly 30 years as an independent, not-for-profit body ensuring the state's doctors have appropriate education, supervision and support in hospitals.

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### Expectant parents and ED patients diverted as two regional hospitals struggle with workforce shortages

ABC Online, Other, 21/04/2026, Arj Ganesan, Eugene Boisvert and Thomas Kelsall

Two regional hospitals, 30 minutes' drive from one another, are struggling to consistently deliver basic health services. From Tuesday to Thursday, the Angaston and District Hospital is routinely without on-site medical officers at its emergency department.

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### Tribunal upholds sacking of aged care worker who raised elder abuse concerns

HelloCare, Other, 21/04/2026, Jakob Neeland

A Tasmanian aged care worker who claimed he was sacked after raising concerns about the mistreatment of vulnerable residents has failed in his attempt to overturn the rejection of his anti-discrimination complaint. Asad Shah was dismissed by Uniting AgeWell Tasmania in February 2025.

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### IRC finds NSW nurses undervalued, orders historic pay rise

Nursing Review, Other, 21/04/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Tens of thousands of nurses and midwives in New South Wales will receive their largest pay rise in more than two decades after the state's Industrial Relations Commission (IRC) handed down a landmark ruling finding the professions had been historically undervalued. The decision delivers wage increases of 16 per cent for registered nurses and midwives, 18 per cent for enrolled nurses, and 28 per cent for assistants in nursing, applied over three years from 1 July 2025.

[Read More](#)

### 3AW, Breakfast, 21/04/2026, Ross Stevenson and Russel Howcroft

Compere says up to 1500 newly qualified Vic nurses are struggling to find work almost five months after finishing their degrees. He adds that despite the expected shortage in Australia of more than

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## **FIVEAA, Mornings, 21/04/2026, Graeme Goodings**

Interview with SA Health Minister Blair Boyer. Boyer says hospital workforce shortages are felt right around Australia, particularly in South Australia, but they are doing what they can to overcome them. He notes that they have a system where they are trying to sustain smaller regional hospitals that can accommodate people, but finding the funding to continue it will be a challenge for him as the new Health Minister.

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[Back to Top](#)

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## **TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS**

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[Back to Top](#)

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## **MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH**

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[Back to Top](#)

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## **BENEFITS INTEGRITY**

### **Doctor struck off for prescribing unnecessary opioids to multiple patients**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/04/2026, Scott Kovacevic

A former Fraser Coast doctor has been struck off after repeatedly, unnecessarily prescribing potent opioids to multiple patients for "back pain". Deepak Rohella's medical registration was first suspended in October, 2020 after the allegations were raised with the Medical Board of Australia, a newly published Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal decision said.

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### **Transgender doctor who left UK's NHS after changing room controversy resurfaces in Australia**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/04/2026, Frank Chung

A transgender doctor at the centre of a changing room dispute that sparked a costly legal battle in the UK is now working in the NSW health system. [...] Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) records show Dr Elisabeth Ruth Annikki Upton is now registered as an unaccredited trainee in emergency medicine as of April 9.

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### **Rape-accused doctor alleges human rights breach in second failed bid to practise**

Canberra Times, Other, 21/04/2026, Hannah Neale

A cardiologist accused of rape and sexual assault has failed in his second bid to overturn a suspension on practising medicine. In a dismissed appeal, Dr Rajeev Kumar Pathak, claimed the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal failed to consider his human rights.

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## Fewer medicinal cannabis scripts filled after AHPRA put prescribers on notice

Australian Doctor, Other, 21/04/2026, Ciara Seccombe

Dispensed units of medicinal cannabis dropped from 3.7 million to 2.65 million in 2025, says Penington Institute. The number of medicinal cannabis products dispensed fell nearly 30% in the second half of 2025, marking the first significant decline since they were legalised a decade ago, a new report suggests.

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## Pharmacists should not dispense S4 or S8 medicines they prescribe: pharmacy board's draft guidelines

Australian Doctor, Other, 21/04/2026, Heather Saxena

Pharmacists should not dispense the medicines they prescribe, the Pharmacy Board of Australia says in its draft guidelines for a national prescribing credential.

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## Dr Beth Upton: How a British doctor embroiled in a transgender row over a women-only changing room controversy is now working in Australia

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/04/2026, Nicholas Comino

A transgender doctor who was embroiled in a legal row over access to women-only changing facilities in Scotland is now working in Australia. Dr Beth Upton, who identifies as a woman, is listed as a registered medical practitioner with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

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## Call for embedded rural pharmacist pilot

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 21/04/2026

As the Federal Government enters final negotiations for the First Pharmacy Programs Agreement (1PPA), the Remote and Isolated Pharmacist Association Australia (RIPAA) is calling for a dedicated funding pilot to support resident clinical pharmacists in Australia's most isolated communities.

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## Sky News Live, Credlin, 21/04/2026, Peta Credlin

Credlin says Rachel Baxendale from The Australian has reported that the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency registered Dr Beth Upton, a UK transgender doctor, as a female emergency medicine trainee on 9 April. She notes that Upton was also embroiled in a controversial legal fight back in the UK, but she is now permitted to work under supervision in Australia.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Police seize \$1m from vape vendor

The Australian, General News, 22/04/2026, James Dowling, Page 3

Police have seized \$1m in suspected criminal proceeds following a successful civil case against the operator of a black market website supplying illicit vapes. The NSW Supreme Court ordered funds

implicated in unauthorised e-cigarette sales be passed on to the commonwealth after a joint investigation by Austrac, the Therapeutic Goods Administration and Australian Federal Police.

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

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## TGA seizes \$1.8m-worth of illegal vapes

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 21/04/2026

Authorities continue clampdown on illicit vaping suppliers with Sydney raids Efforts to combat the flow of illegal vaping goods are continuing with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announcing the seizure of more than 30,000 products.

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## Illegal peptides are booming: how doctors suggest fixing the problem

The Australian, Other, 21/04/2026, Penny Timms

Peptides promise it all but in an unregulated, cash-rich market awash with myths, these doctors fear regulation may backfire. [...] It's an unenviable question Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration is aiming to answer as it teams up with other health and law enforcement agencies.

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## Health Check: The doctor is always 'in' as telehealth platforms dial up growth

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/04/2026, Tim Boreham

Telehealth doesn't suit everybody, but the results from two key ASX-listed operators show the remote medium is gaining traction. [...] In 2023 the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) reclassified MDMA and psilocybin from prohibited substances to controlled drug status.

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

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