



TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 23rd April 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler announced that the government would be scrapping a higher private health insurance rebate for over-65s, ensuring all age groups receive the same level of government support for private cover.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has announced major reforms to the NDIS which will see up to 160,000 participants – or up to 300,000 participants based on future projections – removed from the scheme. The reforms are expected to save up to \$35 billion in next month's Federal Budget and are slated to begin in July.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that AHPRA is facing accusations that its decision-making has been affected by its affiliation with powerful trans lobby group ACON.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports that a UN Special Rapporteur has written to the Australian government expressing serious concern that Queensland Health's termination of child psychiatrist Jillian Spencer following her public criticism of gender-affirming treatments for minors may breach international treaty rights to freedom of expression and scientific inquiry.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that more than half of Australian veterans under 50 are avoiding mental health support due to excessive waiting times and a burdensome claims process, despite some improvements since the 2024 Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

- [The Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 7) reports that governance issues at the Royal Australasian College of Physicians escalated yesterday following a dispute between current its president and her elected successor.
- [The West Australian](#) (page 8) reports that only 60 of the 120 additional hospital beds promised by the Western Australian government will be available before Winter, leaving the health system short of capacity during the peak flu season.

MINISTER BUTLER

'Bitter pill': ALP axes Howard-era insurance rebate

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Rosie Lewis, Page 1

Anthony Albanese has been accused of transferring money from older Australians with private health insurance to those requiring aged care, amid warnings a reduction in the private health insurance rebate for over-65s will put more pressure on public hospitals. Health Minister Mark Butler on Wednesday announced the higher private health insurance rebate for over-65s introduced by the Howard government would be scrapped, declaring it was "not fair" that older Australians paid less than younger generations.

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Albanese finally finds the courage to tackle Gillard's mess

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Geoff Chambers, Page 1

Anthony Albanese is finally prepared to burn some of Labor's political capital in grasping the nettle of the \$50bn NDIS and playing a high-stakes game of chicken with the states and territories to fix Australia's broken disability scheme. [...] Mark Butler has been given a green light to pursue reforms that will upset disability advocates, scheme participants, the ALP base and Australians aged over 65.

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Autism focus on functional capacity, 'not on diagnosis'

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 1

Children and adults diagnosed with autism will no longer have an automatic green light into the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Albanese government says. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the "diagnosis gateway" that had allowed people access to a scheme "never designed for them" would be closed in his new iteration of the NDIS.

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Cuts deliver \$37bn boost to budget

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Thomas Henry and Matthew Cranston, Page 1

Health Minister Mark Butler's plan to cull 160,000 people from the National Disability Insurance Scheme in an effort to slash spending growth is set to deliver more than \$37bn to the budget's bottom line over the four-year forward estimates, but economists warn the reforms are a "tall order". Mr Butler, also the NDIS Minister, on Wednesday announced a sweeping overhaul covering eligibility criteria, reductions in the average size of plans, crackdowns on providers and the introduction of digital payment systems.

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NDIS intervention

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 1

Anthony Albanese has ordered the biggest shake-up of Labor's \$50bn-a-year disability scheme in a high-stakes bid to avoid debt and deficit blowouts in the budget by cutting 160,000 NDIS participants and slashing \$12bn in taxpayer-funded social activities. [...] NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler on Wednesday unveiled Labor's long-awaited plan to revolutionise a scheme weighed down by successive government failures to control eligibility rules that led to unsustainable surges in recipient levels and generous funding of activities including dance lessons, painting and bike-riding.

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Scheme reset: the changes explained

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 4

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is set for a four-year reset that will profoundly change its current scope, save the budget billions of dollars, and ensure it is around for future generations of disabled Australians. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler warned the \$52bn NDIS was growing at such an unsustainable rate there was a risk it "simply will not be there in the future".

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What the Butler served: 'the biggest cost shift in history'

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Mackenzie Scott, Lachlan Leeming and Paul Garvey, Page 5

Queensland Disability Services Minister Amanda Camm has savaged the federal government's NDIS reforms, labelling them "the biggest cost shift in history", as states demanded clarity on the financial implications. [...] "(Health Minister) Mark Butler stood up in the National Press Club and outlined the runaway train of which the NDIS has become, and in doing so simultaneously decoupled the carriages and sent them the states' way," she said.

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On the ground, a sense of fear

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Sarah Ison and Will Seitam, Page 5

Labor's overhaul of the NDIS has sparked "fear" among advocacy groups of being left at the whim of state and commonwealth governments historically unable to agree on social reform such as the Thriving Kids program. While business groups and providers backed the boldest move of any government to make the NDIS sustainable since the scheme's inception, disability advocates said NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler was ripping support from thousands of people with no clearly funded alternative.

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Butler's ambitious NDIS overhaul right for the times

The Australian, Editorials, 23/04/2026, Page 10

Root-and-branch reforms to the \$50bn National Disability Insurance Scheme announced by Health Minister Mark Butler on Wednesday are essential to create a more efficient service, in line with its original objective of giving profoundly disabled Australians some of our most vulnerable citizens a better quality of life.

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A mess of Labor's own making

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/04/2026, John Kehoe, Page 1

Health Minister Mark Butler's goal to remove 160,000 existing participants from the National Disability Insurance Scheme and stop an estimated further 300,000 people joining may seem like a brutal move for a member of Labor's Left faction.

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NDIS is a shared failure. What matters is it's fixed

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/04/2026, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

This is the bravest policy move by this government in its four years. It also shows that Labor, when it is determined, can cut spending.

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Butler bites down hard on the NDIS

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/04/2026, Jennifer Hewett, Page 1

Labor is tackling a scheme that has become unaffordable.

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NDIS reform to save \$15b a year

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/04/2026, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

All participants to be reassessed for eligibility All 760,000 National Disability Insurance Scheme participants will be screened against new eligibility criteria as part of a sweeping...

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

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Butler vows to clean up the mess Labor created

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/04/2026, John Kehoe, Page 4

Health Minister Mark Butler's goal to remove 160,000 existing participants from the National Disability Insurance Scheme and stop an estimated further 300,000 people joining may seem like a brutal move for a member of Labor's Left faction.

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Private health rebate slashed for seniors

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/04/2026, Ronald Mizen, Page 5

Health Minister Mark Butler will scrap the higher private health insurance subsidy for people aged over 65 and spend the proceeds on 5000 new aged care beds and a policy backflip on forcing co-payments for key services.

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'Shelved' CBA payment system may help stop scheme fraud

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/04/2026, James Eyers, Page 5

The chairman of an independent review into the National Disability Insurance Scheme said a new payments system to govern claims which has already been built by Commonwealth Bank could help end the fraud that has blown out the costs of the scheme.

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Labor takes long road to necessary NDIS reform

Australian Financial Review, Editorials, 23/04/2026, Page 30

In 2021, the National Disability Insurance Scheme actuary forecast that if the unrestrained growth in Australia's most out-of-control-ever social program continued, the total cost to the budget would blow out to \$60 billion by 2030.

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Overhaul of NDIS to cut 300,000 and save billions

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 23/04/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 1

Labor's overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme will recoup \$35 billion in next month's budget by removing up to 300,000 people from the scheme and cutting participants' plan budgets over the next four years. Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler, in a major speech yesterday, revealed that significant cuts to the \$50 billion NDIS would effectively stall the scheme's growth in real terms over the four-year forward estimates, saving federal coffers up to \$150 billion in the coming decade.

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

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Albanese's bold call on NDIS comes with risk

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 23/04/2026, James Massola, Page 2

Finally, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is spending some of his political capital. Reforming the \$50 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme is necessary to ensure the scheme's long-term survival. But few people expected Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler to go this hard.

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

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NDIS reform is so huge it simply has to work

Labor is making the biggest cut to a single government program this century. Health Minister Mark Butler will slash projected spending on the NDIS by \$35 billion over the four-year forward estimates, and up to \$150 billion over the coming decade.

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

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

Butler to scrap rebate generation gap

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 23/04/2026, Paul Sakkal, Page 3

The private healthcare rebate for people over 65 will be cut back as the Albanese government scraps a Howard-era bonus for seniors in a controversial move aimed at making the tax system fairer for younger Australians. Health Minister Mark Butler revealed yesterday that Labor would reverse a 2004 change that increased the rebate provided to older people by up to 8 per cent more than younger people on a similar income.

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

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Elderly face huge hikes to insurance

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/04/2026, Julie Cross, Page 2

More than 1.4 million Australians over 65 will pay up to \$640 more a year for their private health insurance, under changes announced by the Health Minister Mark Butler yesterday. The decision to remove the higher subsidy in the age group will help pay for 5000 new aged care beds a year, Mr Butler told the National Press Club.

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Insurers have hit a gold mine

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/04/2026, Julie Cross and Annabel Fleming, Page 15

Some family private health premiums have reached \$1000 per month Family health insurance premiums have smashed the \$1000-a-month ceiling, while even singles are now shelling out more than \$600 a month, an investigation reveals. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler approved an average private health insurance premium increase of 4.41 per cent from April 2026, but The Daily Telegraph's investigation found some funds have hiked premiums by five times that amount.

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

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Credit is due, but hard work to follow

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 23/04/2026, Page 20

It can't have been easy for Health Minister Mark Butler to essentially admit that the National Disability Insurance Scheme had become a cash-burning disaster. After all, the NDIS is sacred Labor territory.

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Shonks off NDIS

Herald Sun, General News, 23/04/2026, Julie Cross, Page 1

The Albanese government is set to slash billions of dollars from the National Disability Insurance Scheme by 2030, in a bid to stem the bleeding of the out-of-control scheme. Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was determined to ensure the scheme was no longer "an ATM for shonks, grifters, fraudsters and crooks".

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

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Home support is ham-fisted

Herald Sun, Editorials, 23/04/2026, Page 22

With all the hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars wasted or lost to rorts in government support

programs, you would think vulnerable elderly Australians reliant on basic assistance could access decent showers and meals. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Wednesday announced the changes at the National Press Club, outlining that from October 1 older people on Support at Home packages will no longer face out-of-pocket costs for help with showering, dressing and continence management.

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NDIS changes both overdue and needed

Courier Mail, Editorials, 23/04/2026, Page 18

It is overdue and frankly should not have been required, but federal Health Minister Mark Butler is to be congratulated for committing to sweeping reforms of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. What was supposed to be another welcomed safety net for Australians who need this support has turned into something quite different as eligibility requirements expanded far beyond the original intent.

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Gillard's big dream has become our nightmare

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/04/2026, Samantha Maiden, Page 13

When a tearful Julia Gillard introduced legislation to fund the National Disability Insurance Scheme, she did so with the best of intentions. [...] That's how Health Minister Mark Butler described it when he announced some major changes this week.

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Screen time for all NDIS patients

West Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Katina Curtis, Page 1

More than 160,000 people cut from the costly disability scheme as Federal Government runs out of patience [...] Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed an overhaul of the taxpayer-funded program would mean about 160,000 people currently receiving support from the NDIS would lose it by 2030.

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Delivering NDIS reform will be a big task

West Australian, Editorials, 23/04/2026, Page 2

When Labor prime minister Julia Gillard spoke to Parliament about the National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill in November 2012, she captured the vision behind the legislation. [...] At the National Press Club on Wednesday, Health Minister Mark Butler detailed a long-awaited overhaul of the NDIS in which about 160,000 people will lose support from the scheme by 2030.

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The hard part has only just started

West Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Katina Curtis, Page 4

With his speech to the National Press Club, Mark Butler has done the easy part on reforming the NDIS. Now, he has to deliver.

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Without the NDIS my family doesn't work

West Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 5

Nick Avery knows all too well what life without the NDIS looks like. [...] Mrs Avery, who is the chief executive of the South West Autism Network, is among those feeling "frightened and angry" after Wednesday's announcement by Mark Butler.

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The S15b broom

Canberra Times, General News, 23/04/2026, Lucinda Garbutt-Young, Page 1

National Disability Insurance Scheme Minister Mark Butler yesterday announced sweeping changes to the NDIS that he says will save taxpayers \$15 billion a year by 2030, despite ongoing concern from

advocates. The changes to the \$50 billion per year scheme would cut annual growth from 10 per cent annually to 5 per cent.

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Where to now for Canberrans moved off the NDIS?

Canberra Times, General News, 23/04/2026, Dana Daniel, Page 6

It's the ultimate hunger games for the 12,431 Canberrans on the National Disability Insurance Scheme. About one in five can expect to be booted from the scheme after Health Minister Mark Butler's shock announcement that the Albanese government will slash billions of dollars from the NDIS in next month's federal budget.

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Major changes to NDIS will save \$15b by 2030: minister

Canberra Times, General News, 23/04/2026, Lucinda Garbutt-Young, Page 7

National Disability Insurance Scheme Minister Mark Butler has announced sweeping changes to the NDIS that he says will save taxpayers \$15 billion a year by 2030, despite ongoing concern from advocates. Mr Butler used a Wednesday address at the National Press Club to announce changes to the \$50 billion per year scheme, which will cut annual growth from 10 per cent annually to 5 per cent.

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NDIS faces \$15bn cut

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/04/2026, Ria Pandey, Page 9

About 160,000 participants are expected to be scrubbed from the NDIS, with \$15bn to be cut from the scheme over four years under sweeping reforms announced by Health Minister Mark Butler. Mr Butler on Wednesday said he would introduce legislation when parliament returns on May 12 to target NDIS "scheme inflation" and eligibility requirements.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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Off ramp

The Nightly, General News, 22/04/2026, Katina Curtis, Page 1

About 160,000 people receiving support from the National Disability Insurance Scheme will lose it by 2030, under a major reset of the massive taxpayer-funded program. Health Minister Mark Butler detailed an overhaul of the NDIS that means it will still grow in dollar terms each year, but at a rate lower than inflation in the immediate future.

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NDIS sums up trouble with modern Australia

The Nightly, General News, 22/04/2026, Aaron Patrick, Page 7

The National Disability Insurance Scheme began as a well-intentioned plan to help the most helpless Australians. It morphed into a sprawling welfare state that facilitated cynical exploitation of the vulnerable and the public purse. Health Minister Mark Butler acknowledged many of the problems and proposed solutions on Wednesday.

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State leaders push back on NDIS changes

Daily Liberal, General News, 23/04/2026, Duncan Murray, Page 7

State leaders have accused the federal government of blindsiding them with changes to the NDIS they fear will leave them shouldering more responsibility for care. The federal health minister has revealed 160,000 people are expected to be shifted off the \$50 billion scheme under new eligibility rules.

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As Thriving Kids approaches, some concerns remain

Link Disability Magazine, General News, 01/05/2026, Danielle Kutchel, Page 54

Thriving Kids the government's first phase of Foundational Supports will start rolling out this year. The Thriving Kids program was announced by Minister for Disability Mark Butler last August.

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160,000 people to be kicked off NDIS as government overhauls eligibility test

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2026, Maani Truu

More than 160,000 people would be kicked off the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) under a government overhaul of eligibility requirements aimed at stemming the growth of the \$50 billion program. Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler unveiled a list of cost-saving measures designed to return the scheme to sustainable levels in a major speech to the National Press Club today, three weeks before the federal budget is due to be handed down.

Also reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [BioPharmaDispatch \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [canberradaily.com.au \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [Capital Brief \(Online\)](#), [Capital Brief \(Online\)](#), [CathNews \(Online\)](#), [Crikey \(Online\)](#), [Croakey \(Online\)](#), [Health Industry Hub \(Online\)](#), [Health Services Daily \(Online\)](#), [Hello Leaders Australia \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#), [In the Cove \(Online\)](#), [The Conversation \(Online\)](#), [Medical Forum \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Australian Seniors News \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Team Dsc \(Online\)](#), [The Medical Republic \(Online\)](#), [The Saturday Paper \(Online\)](#), [The Squiz \(Online\)](#), [WEB InQueensland \(Online\)](#), [WEB InQueensland \(Online\)](#), [WEB OZ Arab Media \(Online\)](#), [WEB OZ Arab Media \(Online\)](#), [WEB OZ Arab Media \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [HealthTimes \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#).

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People with autism to be at centre of 160,000 NDIS removals

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2026, Jake Evans

The decision to remove more than 160,000 participants from the National Disability Insurance Scheme in just a few years will most significantly impact people with autism who are already being diverted from the scheme. [...] That has led to what NDIS Minister Mark Butler dubbed a "diagnosis gateway" of people being funnelled into the NDIS because alternative supports were not available.

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How will the changes to the NDIS affect me? Five key takeaways from the government's planned overhaul

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2026, Janelle Miles

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has announced big changes to Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) today.

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More than 3 million Australians over 65 to pay more for private health

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2026, Evelyn Manfield

More than 3 million Australians aged over 65 will have to pay hundreds of dollars more for their private health insurance per year, in a move the federal government argues will re-establish fairness between generations. In a major pre-budget speech at the National Press Club on Wednesday, Health Minister Mark Butler announced sweeping changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and aged care.

Also reported by: [Insurance Business Australia \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [WEB OZ Arab Media \(Online\)](#).

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Closure of AEIOU centres for children with autism after NDIS cuts leaves lives upended

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2026, Janelle Miles and Emma Pollard

Five-year-old Dimitri Moore has suffered a "massive deterioration in his behaviour" since the abrupt closure of Australia's AEIOU centres for children with autism. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is expected to outline further changes to address ballooning costs to the \$50 billion scheme later today.

[Read More](#)

Butler urged to end 'limbo' for 500,000 Australians with psychosocial disability in NDIS reforms

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2026, Jake Evans and Stephanie Dalzell

National Disability Insurance Scheme Minister Mark Butler must end the "limbo" half a million Australians have been living in when he announces changes to the nation's disability scheme, mental health advocates say. The federal government is on a collision course with the states over the future of hundreds of thousands of Australians living with mental illness who are languishing outside the NDIS, as it moves to restrict access to psychosocial support through the scheme.

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Labor to cut new NDIS spending and limit eligibility as it unveils 'unavoidable and urgent' changes

The Guardian, Other, 22/04/2026, Tom McIlroy and Sarah Basford Canales

Labor will cut new spending on the NDIS to just 2% every year until 2030, and set a ceiling of around 600,000 participants nationally as part of efforts to stop "runaway" growth. Health Minister Mark Butler announced the changes to the \$50bn scheme on Wednesday as part of major cuts to be delivered in the 12 May federal budget.

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'We'd be on our own': families face being thousands of dollars worse off as Labor cuts NDIS lifeline

The Guardian, Other, 23/04/2026, Cait Kelly

Households fear not being able to cope if support is reduced or removed amid confusion about how the cuts will impact children and adults with autism. Hollie-Ann Newman's four-year-old son has level two autism. [...] On Wednesday, health minister Mark Butler announced that around 160,000 people are expected to be removed from the national disability insurance scheme by 2030.

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The NDIS is undergoing sweeping changes. How will the cuts work - and could you be impacted?

The Guardian, Other, 22/04/2026, Sarah Basford Canales

The Albanese government has announced it will make "unavoidable and urgent" cuts to reduce the cost of the National Disability Insurance Scheme by the decade's end. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, on Wednesday said he will make "hard" decisions to drastically cut the NDIS's yearly growth to 2% each year until 2030.

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It's time to reset the NDIS to ensure it is there for those that need it the most

The Guardian, Other, 22/04/2026, Martin Laverty

The federal health minister, Mark Butler, outlined a plan to the National Press Club today that will reset the NDIS to its original intent and save it for those who need it the most. His reform agenda looks very similar to the blueprint the Productivity Commission proposed in 2011.

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Free RSV jab rollout for older Aussies welcomed

Allergy and Respiratory Republic, Other, 22/04/2026, Amanda Sheppeard

Older Australians will soon be offered free protection against respiratory syncytial virus under a major new federal health push, with the government moving to roll out vaccinations nationwide from mid-May. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler said the expansion targets one of the most vulnerable groups to RSV, a virus that can trigger severe respiratory illness, pneumonia and death in older people.

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'People's lives don't stop': why the \$3b aged care funding isn't enough

Canberra Times, Other, 22/04/2026, Phoebe Loomes

Aged care providers are pleading with the government to "be humble" and listen to feedback, as delays push the new system to crisis point, while the lives of vulnerable Australians hang in the balance. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler to improve care and build new aged care placements.

Also reported by: [Ageing Australia \(Online\)](#), [Australian Ageing Agenda \(Online\)](#), [Australian Ageing Agenda \(Online\)](#), [Australian Seniors News \(Online\)](#), [Catholic Health Australia \(Online\)](#), [HealthTimes \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#), [OverSixty \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

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ABC, 7:30, 22/04/2026, Sarah Ferguson

Interview with Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler discusses NDIS reforms, confirming new eligibility criteria by 1 January, 2028, with \$35 billion in projected savings (including \$13 billion to address cost blowouts) and continued collaboration with states, territories, and the disability community. He also mentions \$10 billion in combined funding for replacement services (Thriving Kids and foundational services) and measures to improve integrity, such as expanded provider registration and a new digital payment system to address the fact that 90 per cent of claims currently lack evidence.

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ABC, 7:30, 22/04/2026, Sarah Ferguson

The NDIS faces major reforms as Health Minister Mark Butler pushes to curb waste, fraud, and over-servicing, reduce participant numbers to 600,000 from 2028, and cut spending growth from 10 to 2 per cent, while Minister Jenny McAllister highlights tighter eligibility rules and immediate cuts to community support plans by 16 per cent to \$26,000 per recipient. The changes, forecast to save \$35 billion over four years, drew concern from Shadow NDIS Minister Melissa McIntosh, who acknowledged the need to reduce the scheme's \$50 billion annual growth but reacted strongly to the announcement.

Also reported by: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [NITV \(Sydney\)](#), [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC News, The World, 22/04/2026, Girish Sawlani

Health Minister Mark Butler backed down on a proposed co-payment of up to \$50 per hour for in-home aged care services after concerns were raised by groups, including the Council on the Ageing, while announcing additional funding for 5000 aged care beds annually and new specialist dementia care units to reduce hospital pressure. To fund aged care priorities, the government will remove higher private health insurance rebates introduced under former PM John Howard, affecting well over three million older Australians and saving \$3 billion over four years, with minimal expected impact on insurance participation.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 22/04/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Shadow NDIS Minister Melissa McIntosh. McIntosh discusses proposed changes to the NDIS, focusing on the plan to cap growth at 2 per cent, raising concerns about the lack of detail and the potential impact of widespread reassessments on participants, including those with severe disabilities. She also highlights the absence of consultation with the Opposition and questions how the government will address system issues like fraud and service overpricing while ensuring continued support for vulnerable Australians.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 22/04/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with former NDIS Minister Bill Shorten. Shorten discusses reforms to the NDIS, highlighting changes led by Health Minister Mark Butler that tighten eligibility and provider regulation while aiming to ensure funding reaches intended participants. He says up to 160,000 people leaving the scheme would depend on the availability of alternative disability supports, emphasising the need for coordinated federal and state action beyond the NDIS.

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ABC News, Mornings, 22/04/2026, Lorna Dunkley

Interview with Dr Martin Laverty, CEO of Aruma. Laverty discusses proposed reforms to the NDIS, saying the scheme has grown beyond its original design with costs now around \$50 billion due to higher-than-expected participant numbers and increased demand. He says he is seeking clarity from Health Minister Mark Butler on protecting participants with significant disabilities, supporting those with mild-to-moderate needs outside the scheme, and addressing systemic issues including unregistered providers and pricing transparency.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, Mornings, 22/04/2026, Lorna Dunkley

The Federal Government will unveil a major overhaul of the \$50 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme today during Health Minister Mark Butler's address to the National Press Club. The reform package is expected to include mandatory registration for all service providers, a complete restructure of pricing regulations, and a stricter definition of funded supports to ensure the scheme's long-term sustainability.

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Sky News Live, First Edition, 22/04/2026, Peter Stefanovic

The Federal Government is set to unveil sweeping reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme today in a high-stakes bid to curb surging costs. The move has sparked significant anxiety among families who fear for the future of their loved ones' support packages. NDIS Minister Mark Butler will present the highly anticipated sustainability blueprint during a National Press Club address this afternoon, outlining how the government intends to halve the scheme's annual growth.

Also reported by: [ABC Capricornia \(Rockhampton\)](#), [ABC Capricornia \(Rockhampton\)](#), [River FM \(Ipswich\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC Ballarat, Statewide Drive, 22/04/2026

Interview with Helen Haines, Independent Member for Indi in Victoria. Haines says NDIS reforms, including a planned reduction from about 760,000 to 600,000 participants and proposed changes to eligibility assessments, require detailed legislation and scrutiny to ensure certainty for participants, providers, and taxpayers. She also highlights concerns about the aged care system, including workforce shortages in regional areas, and welcomes the removal of a proposed \$50 per hour shower co-payment, as well as \$3 billion in additional funding, including \$1 billion for home-based

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ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 22/04/2026, Adam Steer

Interview with Sue Shearer, CEO of COTA NT. Shearer criticises aged care assessment systems, arguing that algorithm-based decisions are leaving older Australians with inadequate or insufficient care packages, including assistance with basic needs like showering and dressing. She also expresses concern about long-term aged care planning and service pressures, citing Department of Health challenges in meeting demand, such as care package waiting lists and infrastructure shortfalls, which Health Minister Mark Butler has highlighted.

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ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 22/04/2026

Interview with demographer Dr Liz Allen. Allen says Health Minister Mark Butler's aged care reforms, including measures such as removing co-payments for services like showering and continence care, are a welcome response to long-standing system pressures, including hospital bed blockages caused by delays in aged care placements. She also notes rising healthcare costs for older Australians and changes to private health insurance rebates and says the framing of intergenerational fairness appeared more political than a full response to broader inequality across education and health systems.

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ABC NewsRadio, Mornings, 22/04/2026, Rhiannon Elston

A DNA screening trial at Monash University, led by Dr Jane Tiller and involving 10,000 Australians, discovered that one in 50 people had high-risk gene variations related to hereditary breast and ovarian cancer, Lynch syndrome, and genetic high cholesterol. Monash University is seeking \$50 million in funding for a proposed expansion to 100,000 people as part of health services research into population-wide genetic screening, despite concerns raised by the Council for Civil Liberties and the federal government's recent law prohibiting health insurer discrimination based on genetic information. Health Minister Mark Butler has been contacted for a response.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Drive, 22/04/2026, Nikolai Beilharz

Interview with Shadow NDIS Minister Melissa McIntosh. McIntosh says the NDIS reforms proposed by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, which affect up to 160,000 participants, risk creating uncertainty for around 760,000 participants amid planned reassessments and a target to reduce scheme growth to 2 per cent. She also points to concerns about \$5 billion in alleged roting, \$60 million in tribunal costs, and weak provider regulation with 94 per cent of providers unregistered, arguing reform should focus on tightening oversight and reducing waste rather than proceeding without consultation.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, 12:00 News, 22/04/2026

Report by ABC's Tanya Dendrinis. Health Minister Mark Butler announced plans to curb NDIS growth, projected to cost \$50 billion this financial year, and reverse a controversial aged care policy that required some home care recipients to co-pay for basic services like showering and dressing, costing \$1 billion over four years and effective October. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae confirmed the reclassification of certain services as clinical care, with stakeholders raising concerns about affordability, NDIS sustainability, cost-saving measures, and provider regulation and consultation processes.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Nightlife, 22/04/2026, Philip Clark and Suzanne Hill

The big news today, the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing and Disability in the National Disability Insurance Scheme Mark Butler, appeared before the National Press Club today to unveil the Albanese government's plan to cut spending on the NDIS and its plans to fix the aged care sector.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Albanese finally finds the courage to tackle Gillard's mess

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Geoff Chambers, Page 1

Anthony Albanese is finally prepared to burn some of Labor's political capital in grasping the nettle of the \$50bn NDIS and playing a high-stakes game of chicken with the states and territories to fix Australia's broken disability scheme. [...] Mark Butler has been given a green light to pursue reforms that will upset disability advocates, scheme participants, the ALP base and Australians aged over 65.

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Closure of AEIOU centres for children with autism after NDIS cuts leaves lives upended

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2026, Janelle Miles and Emma Pollard

Five-year-old Dimitri Moore has suffered a "massive deterioration in his behaviour" since the abrupt closure of Australia's AEIOU centres for children with autism. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is expected to outline further changes to address ballooning costs to the \$50 billion scheme later today.

[Read More](#)

Wrapping changes to NDIS and aged care – and responses

Croakey, Other, 22/04/2026, Melissa Sweet

Massive changes to the NDIS and significant developments for aged care were announced by Minister Mark Butler today in a wide-ranging speech to the National Press Club. [...] FPDN will be seeking urgent meetings with Minister Butler, Minister McAllister, and Minister McCarthy to discuss the First Nations implications of today's announcement."

[Read More](#)

First Peoples Disability Network urges government to listen before NDIS overhaul

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/04/2026, Giovanni Torre

First Peoples Disability Network Australia has joined Australia's Disability Representative Organisations in calling for people with disability to lead the design of the National Disability Insurance Scheme changes announced by Health Minister Mark Butler at the National Press Club on Wednesday. [...] FPDN said it will seek urgent meetings with Minister Butler, Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme Jenny McAllister, and Minister Malarndirri McCarthy to discuss the First Nations implications of Wednesday's announcement.

[Read More](#)

The NDIS is undergoing sweeping changes. How will the cuts work - and could you be impacted?

The Guardian, Other, 22/04/2026, Sarah Basford Canales

The Albanese government has announced it will make "unavoidable and urgent" cuts to reduce the cost of the National Disability Insurance Scheme by the decade's end. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, on Wednesday said he will make "hard" decisions to drastically cut the NDIS's yearly growth to 2% each year until 2030.

[Read More](#)

ABC, 7:30, 22/04/2026, Sarah Ferguson

The NDIS faces major reforms as Health Minister Mark Butler pushes to curb waste, fraud, and over-servicing, reduce participant numbers to 600,000 from 2028, and cut spending growth from 10 to 2 per cent, while Minister Jenny McAllister highlights tighter eligibility rules and immediate cuts to community support plans by 16 per cent to \$26,000 per recipient. The changes, forecast to save \$35 billion over four years, drew concern from Shadow NDIS Minister Melissa McIntosh, who acknowledged the need to reduce the scheme's \$50 billion annual growth but reacted strongly to the announcement.

Also reported by: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [NITV \(Sydney\)](#), [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 22/04/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister. McAllister discusses major NDIS reforms following Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement, including a shift to functional capacity assessments and full participant reassessments, with preliminary estimates that around 160,000 people may exit the scheme. She also highlights that the scheme's growth has been reduced from 22 to 10 per cent annually, with further reductions planned alongside a \$10 billion commitment to build support services outside the NDIS, including the \$4 billion Thriving Kids program.

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Sky News Live, The Kenny Report, 22/04/2026, Chris Kenny

Interview with Shadow NDIS Minister Melissa McIntosh. McIntosh says Labor's NDIS reform approach lacks detail and has caused concern among participants, particularly around potential reassessments and a claimed plan affecting around 160,000 people to be moved off the scheme alongside shifting growth targets of 8 per cent, 5 per cent and 2 per cent. She also notes NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister could not confirm the figure and raises concerns about possible cost shifting to states for psychosocial services such as schizophrenia and bipolar care, with risks of people falling through gaps into the hospital system as states have indicated reluctance to participate.

Sky News Live, Politics Now, 22/04/2026, Tom Connell, Kieran Gilbert, Andrew Clennell and Ashleigh Gillon

Interview with NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister. McAllister discusses ongoing NDIS reforms following Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement, including a target of 600,000 participants by 2030 and efforts to address cost growth in areas such as the social inclusion budget, which currently costs about the same as the PBS. She also highlights integrity concerns in plan management and proposed reforms to improve oversight and notes that states and territories are developing implementation plans for the Thriving Kids program.

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MINISTER RAE

Butler to scrap rebate generation gap

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 23/04/2026, Paul Sakkal, Page 3

The private healthcare rebate for people over 65 will be cut back as the Albanese government scraps a Howard-era bonus for seniors in a controversial move aimed at making the tax system fairer for younger Australians. Health Minister Mark Butler revealed yesterday that Labor would reverse a 2004 change that increased the rebate provided to older people by up to 8 per cent more than younger people on a similar income.

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

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

Showering costs to be covered in Support at Home overhaul

Ballarat Courier, General News, 23/04/2026, Andrew Brown, Page 6

Aged care residents won't have to pay extra for help with basic tasks such as showering and dressing after a backdown by the government. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said support for showering will now be classed as clinical care and the payments will no longer apply.

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

'People's lives don't stop': why the \$3b aged care funding isn't enough

Canberra Times, Other, 22/04/2026, Phoebe Loomes

Aged care providers are pleading with the government to "be humble" and listen to feedback, as delays push the new system to crisis point, while the lives of vulnerable Australians hang in the balance. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler to improve care and build new aged care placements.

Also reported by: [Ageing Australia \(Online\)](#), [Australian Ageing Agenda \(Online\)](#), [Australian Ageing Agenda \(Online\)](#), [Australian Seniors News \(Online\)](#), [Catholic Health Australia \(Online\)](#), [HealthTimes \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#), [OverSixty \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Aged Care Minister Sam Rae announces scrapping of aged care co-payments for showers and dressing

Sky News Australia, Other, 22/04/2026, Oscar Godsell

The Albanese government has backed down on controversial charges for essential aged care services, including showers and dressing, but the fix won't arrive until October 2026. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae told Sky News the decision followed intense public feedback, after the policy left some paying hundreds of dollars for essential care.

Also reported by: [Australian Ageing Agenda \(Online\)](#), [Australian Seniors News \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [HealthTimes \(Online\)](#), [Hello Leaders Australia \(Online\)](#), [Crikey \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#), [Ageing Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#), [The Medical Republic \(Online\)](#), [The Squiz \(Online\)](#), [WEB InQueensland \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Millions of Aussies to have their private health insurance rebates slashed

MSN Australia, Other, 22/04/2026, Andrew Brown and Jacob Shteyman

A Howard-era decision to increase private health insurance subsidies for over-65s will be scrapped to help pay for elderly support services. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae conceded the changes to the Support at Home packages were made following concerns from residents, families and providers.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News , 22/04/2026, Briana Shepherd

WA Health Minister Meredith Hammat responded to comments from Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae about hospital discharge issues, while the WA Government stated that 348 West Australians are currently in the hospital and ready to leave if aged care places become available. Opposition Health Spokesperson Libby Mettam criticises the lack of clarity on bed-operating costs.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 22/04/2026, Patricia Karvelas

The Federal Labor Government will scrap the controversial at-home aged care co-payment that saw some people paying \$50 an hour for basic support, with the change taking effect in October and no reimbursement planned for those who have already paid. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the decision followed feedback from older Australians, with showering, dressing and continence management to be reclassified as clinical care.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 22/04/2026, Emma Reballato and James Glenday

Interview with Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, about proposed changes for at-home aged care participants to shower and dress being scrapped. Rae points out that they've always implemented these generational changes, and they'd listen to older people and respond to their experience under the new system, and this is the reason why they are doing this.

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Sky News Live, First Edition, 22/04/2026, Peter Stefanovic

Interview with Aged Care Minister Sam Rae. Compere mentions that the Federal Government is looking to announce that elderly Australians accessing home care will no longer be forced to pay to get help for showering and dressing. Rae admits that throughout the generational reform change, they will listen to the feedback of older people and make the necessary changes that are based on their experiences with the new aged care system. He adds that the new system has been in place since November, and they've heard loud and clear about the feedback from older people and their carers, so they have made the necessary changes.

Also reported by: [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Statewide Mornings, 22/04/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Chris Grice, CEO of National Seniors Australia. Grice says the government's reversal of the at-home aged care co-payment for services, including showering, dressing, and continence care, will make a significant difference for older Australians, and he argues these supports should have been classified as clinical care from the outset, with the change due in October. He also notes around 300,000 people are in the supported home system, more than 100,000 are waiting for packages, and about 850,000 are in the Commonwealth Home Support Program facing future transition, with concerns raised during earlier rollout discussions with Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care Anne Ruston, and Mayo MP Rebekha Sharkie.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, 12:00 News, 22/04/2026

Report by ABC's Tanya Dendrinis. Health Minister Mark Butler announced plans to curb NDIS growth, projected to cost \$50 billion this financial year, and reverse a controversial aged care policy that required some home care recipients to co-pay for basic services like showering and dressing, costing \$1 billion over four years and effective October. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae confirmed the reclassification of certain services as clinical care, with stakeholders raising concerns about affordability, NDIS sustainability, cost-saving measures, and provider regulation and consultation processes.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Mornings , 22/04/2026, Rafael Epstein

Interview with Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae about removing the co-payments for showering and dressing for older Australians. Rae points out that the original program was designed based on expert advice, and the aged care system alone is costing taxpayers about \$40b a year, and demand for aged care is growing very fast. He states that this is the reason why they need to make sure that the aged care system is sustainable and can serve generations of Australians to come.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 22/04/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae. Compere says the government is expected to announce changes to the support of the at-home aged care program today, deciding to dump a controversial co-payment from October, which saw some people paying \$50 for basic support like showering, dressing, and continence care. Rae guarantees people that throughout the launch of the new aged care system reforms, they will listen to older people and their experiences on the new system, as well as the feedback of carers and the families of the older Australians who are being taken care of. He states that they've learned that they want showering and dressing, as well as continence management care, to be considered as clinical care.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

ABC North and West SA, Breakfast, 22/04/2026, Tom Mann

Interview with Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride. Compere mentions that the government's urgent care clinics are getting an expansion with the latest opening seen in Whyalla. McBride says for urgent care clinics, they are determined to make sure that they bring them close to home for more Australians and through the Primary Health Network, as well as working with SA Health, they have determined that Whyalla was a place that could benefit from having one.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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Forum to bring aged care services together

Monaro Post, General News, 22/04/2026, Page 6

The Snowy Mountains University of the Third Age (SMU3A) will host an important forum on the aged care services available in the Snowy Monaro. The forum is open to members of the public who will hear from speakers representing the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and from local aged care services.

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As Thriving Kids approaches, some concerns remain

Link Disability Magazine, General News, 01/05/2026, Danielle Kutchel, Page 54

Thriving Kids the government's first phase of Foundational Supports will start rolling out this year. The Thriving Kids program was announced by Minister for Disability Mark Butler last August.

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

A Southern NSW family's push for affordable eczema medication to help kids have a childhood

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2026, Nicola Ceccato

Playing rugby league with his friends is one of Tanner Hosie's favourite things to do, but there was a time when, due to a debilitating skin condition, this was not possible. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said the next step, which required support documentation from the pharmaceutical company, Sanofi, did not occur.

[Read More](#)

6 vaccine trends to watch this World Immunisation Week

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 22/04/2026, Jorgia Burke

World Immunisation Week 2026 (24–30 April) highlights both the progress and ongoing challenges in vaccine coverage – along with the power of immunisation to protect people of all ages against vaccine-preventable diseases. [...] Over the past week 281,540 doses of the influenza vaccine have been administered surpassing all previous records, according to the latest Australian Immunisation Register data released by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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'People's lives don't stop': why the \$3b aged care funding isn't enough

Canberra Times, Other, 22/04/2026, Phoebe Loomes

Aged care providers are pleading with the government to "be humble" and listen to feedback, as delays push the new system to crisis point, while the lives of vulnerable Australians hang in the balance. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler to improve care and build new aged care placements.

Also reported by: [Ageing Australia \(Online\)](#), [Australian Ageing Agenda \(Online\)](#), [Australian Ageing Agenda \(Online\)](#), [Australian Seniors News \(Online\)](#), [Catholic Health Australia \(Online\)](#), [HealthTimes \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#), [OverSixty \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

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From NDIS scrutiny to smarter health spending

Health Services Daily, Other, 22/04/2026, Kathryn Zeitz

Increasing investment in prevention, embedding nurse-led chronic care clinics and better coordinated funding models are not radical proposals. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's own analysis cites research showing that every dollar invested in preventive health saves approximately \$14.30 in downstream healthcare and other costs.

[Read More](#)

Clinical informatics fellowship set for 2027 launch

Health Services Daily, Other, 22/04/2026

Australia will introduce its first formal accreditation pathway for clinical informaticians in 2027, marking a major step in professionalising the digital health workforce. [...] The fellowship, led by Australasian Institute for Digital Health in partnership with Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, will provide clinicians working at the intersection of healthcare and technology with formal accreditation and professional recognition.

[Read More](#)

'We're listening': DoHDA axes showering and incontinence co-payments policy

Health Services Daily, Other, 22/04/2026, Cate Swannell

Participants in Support at Home will still pay for showers until October, however. One expert put that down to a lack of administrative capacity at the department.

[Read More](#)

Free Online Mental Health Support Now Available Through Medicare

Hope 103.2, Other, 22/04/2026

The Australian Government has expanded free online mental health support, offering practical tools to help people manage anxiety and stress. [...] According to Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, new digital tools are now available to help people manage anxiety, stress and ongoing worries.

Also reported by: [Juice 107.3 Gold Coast \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

'More than reproductive organs': how women's health has changed since the '90s

Newcastle Herald, Other, 22/04/2026, Damon Cronshaw

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 More](#)

First clinical informatics fellowship

Pulse+IT, Other, 22/04/2026

The Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre (DHCRC), Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and the Australasian Institute for Digital Health (AIDH) today announced the next phase of the Clinical Informatics Fellowship (CIF). The AIDH's new Clinical Informatics Fellowship Program will give clinicians working at the intersection of health and digital practice the opportunity to be formally accredited and awarded professional fellowship standing.

[Read More](#)

'We'd be on our own': families face being thousands of dollars worse off as Labor cuts NDIS lifeline

The Guardian, Other, 23/04/2026, Cait Kelly

Hollie-Ann Newman's four-year-old son has level two autism. [...] Led by former Treasury official Anthea Long, the taskforce in the health department was launched after the 30 January national cabinet meeting.

[Read More](#)

At least 160,000 people to be removed from NDIS as Labor unveils 'unavoidable and urgent' cuts

The Guardian, Other, 22/04/2026, Tom McIlroy and Sarah Basford Canales

At least 160,000 people are expected to be removed from the NDIS scheme by 2030, as the Albanese government looks to claw back savings by changing who can access the scheme. The health minister, Mark Butler, also announced on Wednesday the \$50bn scheme's growth rate will be brought down to

just 2% every year until 2030 in an effort to curb annual plan inflation and produce billions in savings ahead of the 12 May federal budget.

[Read More](#)

Labor to cut new NDIS spending and limit eligibility as it unveils 'unavoidable and urgent' changes

The Guardian, Other, 22/04/2026, Tom McIlroy and Sarah Basford Canales

Labor will cut new spending on the NDIS to just 2% every year until 2030, and set a ceiling of around 600,000 participants nationally as part of efforts to stop "runaway" growth. Health Minister Mark Butler announced the changes to the \$50bn scheme on Wednesday as part of major cuts to be delivered in the 12 May federal budget.

[Read More](#)

How do you escape the 80/20 rule?

The Medical Republic, Other, 22/04/2026, Holly Payne

In January and February alone, the PSR ordered various practitioners to repay more than \$3 million. Doctors hauled before the Professional Services Review for providing more than 80 consults per day have famously few avenues for reprieve – but the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has now outlined the two scenarios which count as "exceptional circumstances".

[Read More](#)

What if you fail your annual AI medical license driving test?

The Medical Republic, Other, 22/04/2026, Jeremy Knibbs

How do we make sure that all our doctors are competent to use or start using AI, and remain that way year on year, given how fast this technology is currently evolving. [...] The COVID-19 Vaccination Training Program (CVTP), managed by the Department of Health and Aged Care, was compulsory for authorised providers and was mandatory until October 1, 2023.

[Read More](#)

TGA giving AI updates a longer leash

The Medical Republic, Other, 22/04/2026, Caitlin Wright

The TGA is quietly looking into how AI in healthcare is controlled, and they need your input. [...] In a statement, a spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing told The Medical Republic "The TGA recognises that software plays a critical role in the delivery of healthcare and develops at a rapid pace when compared to traditional technologies.

[Read More](#)

McLean Care home support to be taken over by Australian Unity

The New England Times, Other, 22/04/2026, RK Crosby

Aged care giant Australian Unity will take over delivery of Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) services from McLean Care from 1 June, as the Inverell-based provider continues its transition out of in-home aged care. McLean Care confirmed it will cease delivering CHSP services from that date, with Australian Unity appointed by the federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to provide ongoing support to clients.

[Read More](#)

Exclusive: CHA warns Govt risks repeating NDIS price cap error

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/04/2026, Caroline Egan

Two months out from the introduction of Support at Home price caps, Catholic Health Australia says new price ceilings are unnecessary. [...] He argued a better tool on My Aged Care that allows consumers to compare prices would be preferable to price caps and it would also be "perfectly reasonable" to require providers to justify pricing to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing if concerns are raised.

[Read More](#)

Aged care data review must not add admin burden: Ageing Australia

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/04/2026, Caroline Egan

The peak body for aged care providers has warned further changes to reporting risk increasing the burden on aged care operators when they are already struggling under an additional load. [...] In early 2025, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing began reviewing the data aged care providers report to the Government.

[Read More](#)

Australia's longest-running women's health study turns 30

WEB Inside State Government, Other, 22/04/2026, Kelly Nealon

When a visionary study of Australian women's health was launched in the 1990s, high-quality data was scarce and crippling conditions such as endometriosis under-recognised. [...] The study is funded through the Australian Government's Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 22/04/2026, Adam Steer

Interview with Sue Shearer, CEO of COTA NT. Shearer criticises aged care assessment systems, arguing that algorithm-based decisions are leaving older Australians with inadequate or insufficient care packages, including assistance with basic needs like showering and dressing. She also expresses concern about long-term aged care planning and service pressures, citing Department of Health challenges in meeting demand, such as care package waiting lists and infrastructure shortfalls, which Health Minister Mark Butler has highlighted.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Better use of funding needed, not more money

Community Care Review, Other, 22/04/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Speaking at Invox's Support at Home conference, Inspector-General of Aged Care Natalie Siegel-Brown urged providers to come together and demand 'smarter use' of the sector's \$40 billion budget. The Inspector-General of Aged Care Natalie Siegel-Brown has congratulated the sector on the government's decision to reclassify showering as clinical care, recognising the news comes off the back of extensive advocacy.

[Read More](#)

15 reasons to keep the CHSP: Alliance

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/04/2026, Caroline Egan

The CHSP Alliance, a coalition of more than 40 aged care stakeholders, has issued a position statement outlining 15 reasons to retain the low-care in-home aged care program. The Alliance was formed earlier this year to advocate for retaining the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), which the Government is proposing to roll into Support at Home.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 22/04/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Samantha Edmonds, Director of Policy, Education and Systemic Advocacy at the Older Persons Advocacy Network. Edmonds believes the elimination of co-payments for home care services such as showers, dressing, and continence support is a positive change after previously opposing their implementation. She also mentions long assessment and package wait times, as well as the need to simplify the complex 16-page hardship application process, while warning that changes to the private health insurance rebate for people over 65 may put additional financial strain and demand on the public health system.

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6PR, Drive, 22/04/2026, Jamie Burnett

Interview with Chris Grice, National Seniors Australia CEO. Grice discusses aged care reforms and private health insurance changes, highlighting that the government will classify showering and similar services as clinical care under Support at Home, removing co-contributions for older Australians. He also warns that proposed adjustments to the private health insurance rebate, alongside recent premium increases, could significantly raise costs for around 2.5 million older Australians, increasing financial pressure and impacting system sustainability.

[Play Now](#)

ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 22/04/2026, Dijana Damjanovic

Interview with Corey Irlam, Acting CEO of COTA Australia. Irlam believes the Federal Labor Government's \$3 billion aged care package is a positive step forward, expanding clinical care to include showering and increasing aged care beds and accommodation support. He notes that it is partially funded by reducing the private health insurance rebate for Australians over 65, which will raise costs by about one dollar per day on average and will be closely monitored for effects on vulnerable older Australians, while also welcoming the elimination of shower co-payments in October.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

'This is a big step back'

Courier Mail, General News, 23/04/2026, Kyle Rode, Page 8

Disability policy specialist and NDIS participant Jane Britt said she was deeply concerned about the reassessment of all of the scheme's participants. Ms Britt a deaf/blind participant said she felt like there was not a proper conversation between the federal government and disability care advocates.

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Delivering NDIs reform plan will be a big task

The Nightly, General News, 22/04/2026, Page 4

When Labor Prime minister Julia Gillard spoke to Parliament about the National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill in November 2012, she captured the vision behind the legislation. "Disability can affect any of us and therefore it affects all of us," Ms Gillard said.

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Means-test out of Budget hole

The Nightly, General News, 22/04/2026, David Alexander, Page 20

The Australian Government has a serious spending problem. In recent years the Federal Government's spending level has surged to sit at an estimated 26.9 per cent of GDP, with little sign of slowing down.

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Leadership ability recognised on world stage

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 23/04/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 1

Michelle Garland became one of the first people in the Illawarra to participate in the National Disability Insurance Scheme when it began in the region. Now, the Kiama Downs business owner is a finalist in the international Women Changing the World Awards being held in Paris for disability leadership.

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Sick NDIS carer jailed

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 23/04/2026, Jami Roberts, Page 1

disability support worker has finally been sentenced four years after a heinous breach of trust which saw him sexually abuse and groom a teenage boy. Ryan Michael Daley, 37, sat in the Townsville

District Court on Monday, where he was forced to face the family of his victim.

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Justiz Community Limited forced to release records in lawsuit over Steven Kelly Jr's death in Yamba

The Courier Mail, Other, 22/04/2026, Toni Moon

A Northern Rivers NDIS care provider will now hand over crucial medical records and face a negligence lawsuit after a grieving father won a significant court battle over his son's sudden death. Steven Paul Kelly, a grieving father, secured a major legal victory in his attempt to sue the care provider of his son, Steven Jr., who died in a Yamba residential facility just two weeks after moving in.

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

[Read More](#)

Tightened eligibility and cuts to plans: what the NDIS changes mean for participants

The Conversation, Other, 22/04/2026, Helen Dickinson and Ebe Ganon-Davey

In sweeping reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) announced today, the government will cut 160,000 participants from the scheme over the next four years is that right? Or is it by the end of the decade?

[Read More](#)

First Robodebt, now NDIS and aged care: how computers still decide who gets care

The Conversation, Other, 22/04/2026, Laura Davy

Every welfare program negotiates a fundamental tension: between fiscal responsibility and consistency on one hand, and care for real people with complex needs and situations on the other. Over the past decade or so, one Australian program after another has tried to absolve itself of that tension by handing off part of its decision-making to a computer.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, The Business, 22/04/2026, Kirsten Aiken and Alicia Barry

Interview with independent economist Chris Richardson. Richardson says the federal government's overhaul of the NDIS targets 160,000 higher-functioning participants being moved out of the scheme and around \$15 billion in savings by the end of the decade. He says the changes may shift some costs elsewhere in the budget and notes that more than 300,000 people previously expected to be on the NDIS will no longer be included under the revised plan, alongside ongoing concerns about state funding responsibilities and scheme value.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 22/04/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Bran Black, CEO of Business Council Australia. [...] Black discusses proposed changes to the NDIS, noting that, while he has not yet reviewed the full details, the organisation supports the overall direction of the reforms and acknowledges that they involve difficult policy choices. He commends the Government's reform direction and will assess the full details once available.

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Channel 10, 10 News: Lunchtime, 22/04/2026, Angela Bishop

Interview with Skye Kakoschke-Moore, CEO of Children and Young People with Disability Australia. Kakoschke-Moore says the federal government's NDIS reforms focus on cost control, tighter eligibility rules, and revised reassessment processes, including concerns about intra-plan inflation driving higher plan costs. She also highlights uncertainty over how up to 160,000 fewer participants by 2030 will be supported, including gaps for children transitioning beyond early supports such as the Thriving Kids program for ages zero to eight.

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Channel 7, National News at Noon, 22/04/2026, Natarsha Belling

Interview with Cain Beckett, CEO of Carers ACT. Beckett says greater savings could be achieved by reducing administrative overhead and bureaucracy within the NDIS, rather than cutting services. He highlights supported independent living, which makes up around one third of NDIS expenditure for about 6 per cent of participants, as a key area for reform, while noting concerns about service access and potential cost shifts to state and territory governments.

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 22/04/2026, Laura Jayes

Interview with Cain Beckett, CEO, Carers ACT, about the NDIS' current design. Beckett points out that the NDIS scheme, as of the moment, is far more complicated and bureaucratic than anyone intended it to be when it was first designed. He added that the narrative around the scheme is they need to think a little bit more deeply about its fundamentals and whether they are working well or as intended.

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 22/04/2026, Laura Jayes

Interview with Deputy Liberal Leader Jane Hume. Hume says the Coalition will support efforts to bring the NDIS back under control, citing concerns about around 10 per cent annual spending growth, alleged \$5 billion in fraud or mismanagement, and a high proportion of unregistered providers in the scheme. She declines to propose a target budget, stating that the NDIS is demand-driven and cautioning against capping it.

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ABC Ballarat, Statewide Drive, 22/04/2026, Prue Bentley

Interview with Emma Bennison, CEO of the Disability Advocacy Network Australia. Bennison says proposed NDIS reforms, including cuts to social and community participation funding and a plan to reduce participant numbers from 760,000 to 600,000 by the end of the decade, were unexpected in scale and require urgent clarity on eligibility changes. She warns that uncertainty over reassessments and assessment tools could increase anxiety for participants, while stressing that any reform must be disability-led and co-designed with people with disabilities to ensure quality supports are not undermined.

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ABC Coffs Coast, Breakfast (Late), 22/04/2026, Fi Poole

Interview with Sam Bennett, Disability Program Director at the Grattan Institute. Bennett says that the NDIS is expanding too quickly due to long-standing design issues, noting that more than 760,000 Australians are now enrolled in the scheme and that participant numbers—particularly children—have exceeded initial expectations while budgets continue to rise above inflation. He believes that reform should address systemic issues such as ineffective early intervention for children with developmental delays and inconsistent funding outcomes, especially since governments are already aiming to moderate growth to five to six per cent.

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ABC Illawarra, Drive, 22/04/2026, Fairlie Hamilton

Interview with Ed Birt, Head of Policy and Advocacy at the Community Industry Group. Birt believes NDIS reforms include cautious optimism for providers, which is supported by proposed improvements such as a digital payments system to improve transaction oversight. He expresses concern about potential reductions in social and community participation funding, uncertainty surrounding provider payment reforms, and a shift towards mainstream inclusion programs such as the \$4 billion Thriving Kids initiative for children aged zero to nine, as well as an additional \$6 billion in access and inclusion investment.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 22/04/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Skye Kakoschke-Moore, CEO of Children and Young People with Disability Australia. Kakoschke-Moore says the NDIS reforms announced include a new functional capacity assessment to determine eligibility, raising concerns about how 'capacity' will be measured and how access to supports will be affected. She also warns that the planned Thriving Kids program for children aged 0–8 with developmental delay and low to moderate needs is causing uncertainty, particularly around what supports will replace NDIS assistance and how early intervention will be maintained.

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

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ABC Newcastle, 09:00 News, 22/04/2026

The Australian Greens have condemned looming NDIS reforms, claiming that Labor's plan to slash funding is "not what Australians voted for." Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler is scheduled to address the National Press Club today to outline the government's strategy to reduce the scheme's annual growth from 10% to 5%. Proposed changes include overhauling pricing regulations, mandating provider registration, and tightening eligibility for certain supports to manage the scheme's \$52 billion cost.

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ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 22/04/2026, Dijana Damjanovic

Interview with Skye Kakoschke-Moore, CEO of Children and Young People with Disability Australia. Kakoschke-Moore says proposed NDIS changes, including functional capacity reassessments for people over nine and the Thriving Kids program, are confusing families, especially those with children with autism and developmental delays. She says key details, such as how children assessed as having lower support needs will access services outside of the NDIS, are still unclear, and she emphasises that system integrity and fraud reduction—rather than participant cuts—should be the focus of reform efforts alongside new assessment processes.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 22/04/2026, Steve Austin

Interview with Fisher MP Andrew Wallace and Blair MP Shayne Neumann. Wallace and Neumann discuss the sustainability of the NDIS, highlighting its cost growth to \$50 billion annually with 760,000 participants, compared to the originally envisaged 400,000. Neumann outlines the government actions to reduce growth, address fraud, and improve provider regulation, including the \$4 billion Thriving Kids program, while Wallace raises concerns about rising costs, fraud levels, and the need for reforms to ensure the scheme supports people with permanent and severe disabilities.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Afternoons, 22/04/2026, Alice Matthews and Emma Bickley

Interview with Sophie Cusworth, CEO of Women With Disabilities Australia. Cusworth says proposed NDIS reforms using functional capacity assessments instead of diagnostic-based access raise concerns about fairness and the risk of people repeatedly having to prove disability without adequate outside supports. She also mentions that there are still concerns about losing essential support and emphasises that women with disabilities make up only 38 per cent of participants due to eligibility rules, underdiagnosis, and bias in assessments.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 22/04/2026, Lucy Breaden and Kylie Baxter

Interview with Sarah Langston, President of the Australian Neurodivergent Parents Association. Langston says NDIS reforms involving reduced participant numbers and changes to eligibility pathways will significantly impact children and families, including concerns about a 30 per cent funding cut and the potential loss of up to 100,000 support worker jobs. She says there was no meaningful consultation with disabled people or families and warns that proposed changes, including limiting children's access to the NDIS from January 2028 and reliance on undeveloped mainstream supports such as the Thriving Kids program could leave many children without adequate support.

ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 22/04/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Colin Barnett, former WA Premier. Barnett says early concerns about the 2013 creation of the NDIS included warnings that shifting from a state-run care system to a Commonwealth-managed entitlement model could lead to cost blowouts and misuse, noting that around 80 per cent of disability services were previously state-funded. He also mentions that the increase in participants in the scheme, including those with autism and less severe disabilities, was not expected, and he believes that bringing back more state control and strengthening not-for-profit services could help relieve the current issues in the system.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 22/04/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Dr Martin Laverty, CEO of Aruma. Laverty discusses the rising costs and participant growth of the NDIS, stating it has doubled in size due to unclear eligibility and the shift of people with mild to moderate disabilities into the scheme, despite it being designed for those with permanent and significant needs. He also highlights that 93 per cent of NDIS providers are unregistered, raising concerns about fraud, service quality, and accountability, and calls for mandatory tiered registration.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 22/04/2026, Renee Krosch

Interview with Professor Ian Hickie, co-director of Health and Policy at the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Centre. Hickie explains that the NDIS has a focus on supporting people with severe and persistent mental illness like schizophrenia who need intensive daily living and community-based support to avoid hospitalisation. He says eligibility is based on functional impairment rather than diagnosis, with 65,000 participants and average annual support costs of \$90,000 compared to \$2,000 per day for hospital care. He also notes that half a million people with less severe or episodic conditions are outside the NDIS due to unclear state-territory responsibility and that assessment, workforce training, and oversight weaknesses are limiting effective, outcomes-focused care.

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PRIMARY CARE

Patients plead for cheaper surgeries

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 23/04/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 11

Patients are being forced to plead for fee discounts from specialists for vital surgeries and medical procedures. The cost of living is biting so hard the Australian Medical Association (AMA) Queensland chief Nick Yim reports specialists across the board are reporting more patients haggling for cheaper fees.

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

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

Hundreds more pharmacists set to prescribe in WA

Medical Forum, Other, 22/04/2026

An additional 200 pharmacists in WA are set to begin training to diagnose and prescribe medications for common conditions. It takes the total number of pharmacists undertaking the training in the state to 280.

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

Minister's boast goes up in smoke

Herald Sun, General News, 23/04/2026, Alex White, Page 8

Police Minister Anthony Carbines has endured a horror press conference while announcing millions of dollars in taxpayer funds to shut down the illegal tobacco trade, dodging multiple questions about progress in the fight against it. Unveiling a new budget investment of \$13.4m to almost triple the number of Tobacco Licensing Victoria inspectors to 40, Mr Carbines was grilled on how many tobacco shops have been closed down by authorities.

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Poll smoke signals

Herald Sun, Editorials, 23/04/2026, Page 22

It's amazing the way a pending election can sharpen a government's focus. This week, the Allan government announced it was finally throwing some muchneeded resources at the illicit tobacco scourge.

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ABF blitz on illegal smokes

West Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Page 14

More than 1000 tonnes of illicit tobacco and four million vapes have been seized across the country as part of a continuing enforcement blitz launched by Australian Border Force. The ABF launched Operation Printwall in December 2025 as part of an effort to increase the detection and interception of illicit tobacco reaching Australian shores.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Canberra's blind eye to illicit tobacco

Canberra Times, Editorials, 23/04/2026, Page 14

Canberra's thriving illegal tobacco market has obvious victims in the many taking up smoking because it is suddenly so much more affordable. But an entirely new category of victim has emerged - homeowners whose insurance excesses are shooting up because of the opening of tobacco shops in their apartment buildings.

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Soldier's legacy lives on in homeless facility

Northern Territory News, General News, 23/04/2026, Harry Brill, Page 4

The Salvation Army's plan to help veterans sleeping rough has received a major boost after landing a \$3.2 million grant to build a shelter for ex-servicemen. [...] The alarming figures was reinforced in 2023-24 when the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported 1600 homeless clients around the country were current or former ADF members.

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Contemplating death can help us live better

The Nightly, General News, 22/04/2026, Jeni O'Dowd, Page 19

When Rohan was diagnosed with terminal cancer at 65, he didn't waste time with bravado. He got on with living ately, I've been thinking a lot about a man I don't really Lknow. [...] Nearly 4000 will die from it, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare projections.

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A rare glimpse inside the services helping NSW women leaving custody get clean

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2026

Emma has been in and out of drug rehabilitation for years, but a residential centre tucked away in

Sydney's leafy inner west is where she feels most supported. Guthrie House is one of the few residential rehabilitation services in New South Wales designed to help women with current involvement with the criminal justice system get back on track.

[Read More](#)

Junior clubs and neuroscientists welcome new NRL guidelines to limit head knocks but say it's not enough

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2026

Junior rugby league clubs, a former high-profile player and neuroscientists have responded to changes by the National Rugby League (NRL) to address growing concerns around injuries but say more should be done to protect children. The ABC revealed on Tuesday the NRL has introduced caps on contact in training in a bid to reduce injuries, including concussions.

[Read More](#)

'Smoke-free generation': Nation to ban cigarettes for anyone born after 2008

NEWS.com.au, Other, 22/04/2026, Ella McIlveen

One nation has moved to ban cigarettes for anyone born after 2008, in a bid to create the first "smoke-free" generation. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Aussie vapers are rejecting the prescription model, with over 87 per cent reporting they source their vapes illegally.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 22/04/2026, Adam Steer

Interview with Professor Marita Hefler of Flinders University. Hefler calls the UK government's ban on anyone born in 2009 or later a bipartisan tobacco control measure that Australia should adopt in its national tobacco strategy. She also discusses illicit tobacco in Australia, which is driven more by enforcement gaps than pricing, smoking cessation policy, vaping regulation, and higher smoking rates in remote communities, including work with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress in Tiijikala and the Northern Territory.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

About 100 GPs now qualified to diagnose ADHD in SA with calls to expand to regions

ABC Online, Other, 22/04/2026, Sarah Maunder

When Adelaide resident Tayla Giles found out that specially trained GPs in South Australia could diagnose and treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), she booked an appointment almost immediately. "I was just amazed, blown away. It was something I could finally access," she said.

[Read More](#)

ABC, 7:30, 22/04/2026, David Speers

Emma Carney, a NSW Hunter woman, was diagnosed with breast cancer at 37 weeks of pregnancy and began chemotherapy two weeks after giving birth. She later had a double mastectomy and breast reconstruction and relied on the Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation for transportation to more than 40 medical appointments. The report also notes that rising fuel prices have increased demand for regional healthcare services like the Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 22/04/2026, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter

Interview with Anne Savage, CEO of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. Savage stresses the importance of PSA testing, MRI scans, and MRI-guided biopsies in light of concerns that Australia is

failing men by not funding prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment. She confirms the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia's nationwide survey to assess care gaps, noting that 4000 men are diagnosed with metastatic disease annually.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Young vets avoid mental health support

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Marcus de Blonk Smith, Page 7

More than half of Australian veterans aged under 50 are avoiding mental health support because of long waiting times and complicated claims processes. A survey of almost 250 Australian Defence Force veterans along with 727 family members or close associates found 51 per cent of veterans aged 18-49 had avoided accessing mental health support in the past three years.

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

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

Carving out space for men and boys beyond the shed

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Suzana Hardy, Page 11

Victoria's appointment of a Minister for Men and Boys is significant, but if the role is to mean anything it cannot be confined to telling men to behave better. It must also examine the policies that have quietly reshaped and in some cases diminished the conditions of men's lives.

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NT St John Director of Ambulance Services Craig Garraway calls for 24/7 expansion of the co-response mental health unit during the Toko Harieta-Maki inquest

Northern Territory News, Other, 22/04/2026, Zizi Averill

A top Territory paramedic has called for a mental health response team to be expanded to a 24-hour service, after budget constraints limited the critical program. St John Territory Director of Ambulance Services Craig Garraway told the coroner that a frontline unit pairing paramedics with police and a mental health nurse was only available for a limited period — eight-hours a day, on Monday to Friday.

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

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 22/04/2026, Laura Jayes

A new report from Veterans First Consulting, based on a YouGov survey of 246 current and former Australian Defence Force veterans and 727 family members, found 51 per cent of younger veterans are avoiding mental health care due to complex claims processes and long wait times, with 58 per cent reporting delays, 56 per cent citing complexity, and 35 per cent unsure where to start. Veterans First co-founder Kevin Chapman said two-thirds of younger veterans accessing the Department of Veterans' Affairs system independently report increased stress and anxiety, and despite reforms following the 2024 Royal Commission, nearly one-third of veterans report no improvement while awareness of changes remains low among veterans and families.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 22/04/2026, Steve Austin

Interview with Veterans First co-founder Kevin Chapman. Chapman discusses the Veterans Wellness Index, revealing that about half of younger veterans under 50 are avoiding mental health support due to wait times, system complexity, and uncertainty about where to start. He also highlights that many veterans experience increased stress when accessing support and often delay seeking help, underscoring the importance of early intervention and simplified access to services.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 22/04/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Dr Fotini Vasilopoulos, postdoctoral researcher at the Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use at the University of Sydney. Vasilopoulos discusses her study of children's mental health, finding that stronger pretend play ability at ages two to three is linked to fewer emotional and behavioural difficulties in later childhood. She also highlights that pretend play supports wellbeing through embodied cognition and encourages parents to allow free, unstructured play without unnecessary correction.

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IMMUNISATION

Nothing but cold, hard vax

West Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 14

A significant fall in immunisation fuelled by misinformation has sparked a national campaign urging Australians to speak with their doctor about vaccinations. The Have the Jab Chat campaign, launched by the Australian Medical Association, comes as the country's immunisation rates have declined rapidly since the COVID pandemic.

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

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

2CC, Canberra Live, 22/04/2026, Leon Delaney

Canberrans are being encouraged to protect their health and wellbeing this winter by getting a flu vaccination ahead of an expected increase in respiratory illnesses, with Acting Chief Health Officer Dr Maggie Wilson stating that vaccination now can help protect people from serious illness in the months ahead.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Channel 9, A Current Affair, 22/04/2026, Allison Langdon

Veterans in Townsville and across Australia are expressing concern and emotional distress ahead of Anzac Day, following the war crimes charges brought against decorated soldier Ben Roberts-Smith. Support organisations such as Wounded Heroes report an increase in demand for crisis assistance, while some veterans are considering returning medals or protesting, while others are expressing pride in retaining their medals and service history despite ongoing debate about accountability and leadership within the ADF.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

2CC, Canberra Live, 22/04/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Verity Hawkins, CEO of Cancer Council ACT. Hawkins discusses the announcement of \$200,000 in ACT-based cancer research grants, including projects at the ANU John Curtin School of Medical Research and the University of Canberra. She says the funding, supported by community fundraising, targets research on improving transplant outcomes and increasing physical activity during chemotherapy, with selection from a competitive field of applicants.

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Half of new hospital beds announced will miss winter peak

West Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Oliver Lane, Page 8

Only half of the 120 additional hospital beds the State Government was banking on to relieve patient pressure at Joondalup and Midland hospitals will be ready before the start of winter. The Joondalup beds will likely be available in late May, when two floors of the hospital's new public block will be completed.

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

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New Coomera Hospital design revealed

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 23/04/2026, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 6

The state government has unveiled its new design for the Coomera Hospital nearly a month after this masthead revealed heavy machinery demolished completed sections of the \$2.55bn development. In March, video footage captured a large section of completed work being levelled by heavy machinery, where dozens of structures were removed over 11 days.

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Cessnock hospital nurses up, slab down

Newcastle Herald, General News, 23/04/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

The \$138 million Cessnock Hospital redevelopment is advancing, with work underway to set the foundations for the new acute services building. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park inspected the site yesterday, almost one year after construction began.

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

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Channel 9, Nine News, 22/04/2026, Michael Thomson

Over winter, the WA Government is adding more than 100 public beds at St John of God Midland and Joondalup Health Campus. This includes 60 beds and three surgical theatres purchased at Midland for more than \$81 million three years ago, which will join a new public hospital in late August, and 60 beds at Joondalup next month, with costs unknown. Health Minister Meredith Hammat says the investment includes more beds, staff, and home care, but half won't be available until after winter. Australian Medical Association WA Dr. Kyle Hoath says the system needs 1000 beds and more capacity, while Opposition Health Minister Libby Mettam says it has the second-lowest beds per capita and the worst ambulance ramping last winter.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Doctor's sacking may breach rights treaty, warns UN expert

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Rachel Baxendale, Page 6

Queensland Health's termination of child psychiatrist Jillian Spencer's employment after her public criticism of affirming treatment for gender dysphoric minors may breach international treaty rights to freedom of expression and scientific inquiry, a UN expert says. In an eight-page letter sent to the federal government through diplomatic channels, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls Reem Alsalem expressed "serious concern" regarding Dr Spencer's case.

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'Call cops': doctors' meeting ends in chaos

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Penny Timms, Page 7

A meeting of Royal Australasian College of Physicians members has descended into chaos, with police called, its president stripped of her title, and accusations the entire meeting was invalid. Some of the nation's top doctors who are members of the prestigious medical college gathered around computer screens and dialled into Wednesday's extraordinary general meeting to determine if professor Jennifer Martin was to be removed as president.

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

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Police called as medical college row boils over

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 23/04/2026, Mary Ward and Angus Thomson, Page 7

Police were called to a board meeting of one of Australia's largest medical colleges yesterday, after its president-elect allegedly tried to hold her own proceedings to oust the college president without the subject of the vote and other directors present. The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, which is responsible for training and accrediting more than 33,000 doctors across 33 specialties in Australia and New Zealand, has been in turmoil for months due to an ongoing dispute between its president, Professor Jennifer Martin, and her elected successor, Dr Sharmila Chandran.

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

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RACP says it is investigating validity of president's expulsion after EGM chaos

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/04/2026, Jamie Thannoo and Paul Smith

First, AusDoc receives reports of a fracas during this morning's Royal Australasian College of Physicians meeting, then reports of NSW Police turning up. This is followed by news that the police have left the building but that college members have voted to boot out college president Professor Jennifer Martin.

[Read More](#)

Queensland hospital manager Tarita Ann Fisher found to have shouted at staff aggressively and disrespected them

The Courier Mail, Other, 22/04/2026, Vanda Carson

A Queensland hospital manager is facing the sack after she shouted aggressively at colleagues after spotting "culturally inappropriate" posters telling men to cover their penises and described other workers as "f***ing black bastards". Tarita Ann Fisher, who works at Cherbourg Hospital to manage health for a nearby remote indigenous community, was told she faces possible sacking after she was found to have shouted at staff aggressively and disrespected them on two occasions in July and August 2024.

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

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 22/04/2026, Tom Connell

Interview with Dr Anne Webster, Shadow Regional Health Minister. Webster says the proposed NDIS changes appear 'promising' but stresses the need to rein in costs, highlighting concerns about planning bureaucracy and noting that around 160,000 people may transition to other supports under Labor, requiring clear implementation detail. She also raises regional health priorities in Farrer, such as hospital upgrades in Albury-Wodonga.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Create new MBS items for practice nurses, says AMA

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/04/2026, Paul Smith

The AMA wants practice-based MBS items to directly fund the work being done by GP practice nurses, arguing the current system fails to pay for the care that keeps patients out of hospital. In its new position statement, it says Medicare should create nurse care items covering chronic disease management, triage, vaccination and wound care.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Medical regulator 'captured' by powerful trans lobby

The Australian, General News, 23/04/2026, Stephen Rice, Page 1

Australia's peak medical regulator faces claims it has been hopelessly compromised in a string of controversial decisions because it is a signed-up member of Australia's most powerful trans lobby group, ACON, which promotes gender-affirming medical treatment for children and teenagers. Documents released under FOI reveal how the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency developed an LGBTIQ+ strategy based on adherence to the gender ideology of ACON, extending to the way it regulates health practitioners.

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AHPRA gambles its reputation

The Australian, Editorials, 23/04/2026, Page 10

As an independent statutory authority responsible for upholding public trust in the nation's healthcare institutions, the integrity of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency should be beyond reproach. "The primary purpose of our regulatory response," the agency notes in its list of principles, "is to protect the public and uphold professional standards in the regulated health professions."

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Innovative antimicrobial shows promise against resistant pathogens

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 22/04/2026

A novel sulfur-rich antimicrobial material developed by researchers at Flinders University could offer a new approach to tackling antimicrobial resistance, a growing global health and food security threat. The study, 'A poly(trisulfide) oligomer with antimicrobial activity', is published in

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Biocurious: Stay tuned as drug developers get to the pointy end of their efforts

The Australian, Other, 22/04/2026, Tim Boreham

A gaggle of drug developers is due to disclose company-making clinical study results this year. While late-stage clinical trial victory does not confer commercial success, the results tend to be 'do or die' [...]. The study is pitched at local Therapeutic Goods Administration approval, under the over-the-counter pharmacy route.

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

[Read More](#)

Methylphenidate shortage 'resolving': TGA

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 22/04/2026

Supply shortages of multiple strengths of medications used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are expected to be resolved by late June, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) reports.

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Biological effects of sunlight, sunscreen principles and considerations

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 22/04/2026

Summer may be over, but sunscreen remains a hot topic in Australia, with recent reports causing confusion for both healthcare professionals and consumers.

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New lung cancer drug approved

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/04/2026

Specialised Therapeutics (ST) has announced the approval in Australia of Zepzelca (lurbinectedin) in combination with Tecentriq (atezolizumab, Genentech) as a first-line maintenance treatment for extensive-stage small cell lung cancer (SCLC). The marine-based alkylating agent is approved for use in adults whose disease has responded to first-line induction therapy with atezolizumab, carboplatin and etoposide.

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ADHD drug shortages update

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/04/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised that global shortages of most methylphenidate modified-release products have resolved, including Concerta modified-release tablets and Ritalin LA modified-release capsules. Meanwhile, the shortages of all strengths of Rubifen LA capsules are expected to resolve by the end of Jun 2026.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 22/04/2026, Spence Denny

Interview with psychiatrist Dr Joe Stark. Stark discusses the TGA-authorized prescriber scheme in

Australia, which allows prescribed psychedelics like psilocybin and MDMA for treatment-resistant depression and PTSD with strict screening and psychotherapy protocols. He discusses early-stage research into ibogaine and other psychedelics, noting potential benefits but also safety risks and the need for rigorous clinical oversight rather than viewing them as 'magic bullet' treatments.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

Dairy-free cheese recalled over undeclared allergen

The Australian Retailer, General News, 01/05/2026, Page 20

An urgent recall has been issued for Biocheese Cheddar Shred, which has been sold nationally through Coles and independent supermarkets including IGA. Although the cheese is marketed as being dairy-free, according to Food Standards Australia New Zealand some packets of the product were found to contain milk.

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NSW berries meet food safety standards for pesticide residues

The Australian Retailer, General News, 01/05/2026, Page 23

Consumers can continue to feel confident enjoying NSW-grown berries, with NSW Government laboratory testing confirming local berries meet food safety standards for pesticide residues. The NSW Food Authority analysed 25kg of blueberries and raspberries, made up of 100 samples of 250g each, that were purchased from a range of Sydney retail stores in November 2025.

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Health stars ratings to become mandatory

The Australian Retailer, General News, 01/05/2026, Page 23

The Health Star Rating system is set to become a mandatory inclusion on all packaged foods in Australia.

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AICIS

Aussie council's plan to jump on popular turf trend sparks concern: 'There's a cost'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 22/04/2026

Synthetic sporting grounds are taking over the suburbs, but they come with a risk that not everyone is willing to accept. Fake grass has become a contentious issue across Australia, with some councils banning the controversial product and others embracing it.

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