



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 27th April 2026

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports NDIS Minister Mark Butler told [Sky News](#) on Sunday that a key plank of NDIS reforms will be replacing the current "diagnosis gateway" with standardised eligibility assessments based on participants' functional capacity. *Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review](#), [Canberra Times](#)*
- The **Courier Mail** (page 3) reports that Minister Butler said Queensland is the only state yet to sign up to Thriving Kids reforms in exchange for hospital funding, warning that the state government will be "answerable to their community".
- **The Age** (page 2) reports that surgeons at Austin Hospital in Melbourne have performed Australia's first double transplant using organs that have been artificially sustained outside the body. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*
- The **Hobart Mercury** (page 5) reports that the Tasmanian Government will not confirm the status of a promised \$15 million medical precinct in the Huon Valley for which a site is still yet to be selected.
- The **Hobart Mercury** (page 5) reports that the Health and Community Services Union has launched industrial action to fight the proposed relocation of Clare House youth mental health facility to the Hobart CBD.

- The [NT News](#) (page 5) reports that fewer than three in four Australians know to call triple-0 in response to stroke symptoms, Stroke Foundation's National F.A.S.T. Awareness Survey found. *Also reported by: [West Australian](#)*
- The [NT News](#) (page 5) reports that more than \$2.5 million was pledged to GoFundMe campaigns referencing the NDIS in the last year, 17 per cent more than the previous year.
- [The Australian](#) (page 6) reports that Australian Psychological Society board member Andrew Chau faces an internal investigation after the mother of a detransitioning child accused him of "intimidation".
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 8) reports that a 51-year-old man was arrested at Sydney's Prince of Wales Hospital on Saturday night for an alleged violent rampage that left a nurse seriously injured. *Also reported by: [West Australian](#), [Guardian Australia](#), [7News.com.au](#)*
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 9) reports a survey by Bupa found that Australian parents are increasingly forgoing GP visits in favour of self-diagnosis via social media and AI tools. *Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury](#)*
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 11) reports that AMA Queensland has urged politicians to set a good example and fight misinformation by getting vaccinated, after Premier David Crisafulli and Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie refused a public flu shot for the second year in a row.

MINISTER BUTLER

Butler grapples with how to pick the NDIS losers

The Australian, General News, 27/04/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 1

Labor faces a fierce backlash over how it will define "permanent" disability and "functionality", with warnings it will be "impossible" for one eligibility tool to be rolled out across more than 100 disability types as the government indicates those with the most obvious conditions will face "light touch" assessments. In the face of pressure to clarify how the government plans to remove 160,000 participants from the scheme, NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler said he expected those with more "obvious" conditions would face less rigorous assessment.

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

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Cooking, personal care skills to be assessed in NDIS overhaul

Australian Financial Review, Other, 26/04/2026, Nicola Smith

Eligibility for the National Disability Insurance Scheme may in future be based on meal preparation, toileting and basic personal care skills as the government embarks on a major cost-cutting overhaul to save the system from collapse.

[Read More](#)

NDIS changes 'not just about kicking people off'

Canberra Times, General News, 27/04/2026, Andrew Brown, Page 2

Spending cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme won't be entirely driven by tens of thousands of people with disabilities being kicked off its supports, the minister responsible says. NDIS Minister Mark Butler has defended controversial reforms to the scheme, which would involve removing 160,000 people and reassessing all participants, regardless of their disability.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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NDIS criteria: how will it work?

Canberra Times, General News, 27/04/2026, Georgia Van Toorn, Page 21

Last week the government unveiled plans to reduce the number of people in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) by 160,000 over the next four years, a decision NDIS Minister Mark Butler

has called "hard" but "unavoidable and urgent". This reduction will rely on tightening the eligibility criteria.

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State in showdown over NDIS reforms

Courier Mail, General News, 27/04/2026, Nathan Schmidt, Page 3

The Queensland government will be "answerable to their community" after refusing to sign on to a key pillar of NDIS reforms in the first major test for the Albanese government's plan to upend the beleaguered program, federal Health Minister Mark Butler has warned. New legislation is expected to be put before parliament when it resumes later this year, targeting NDIS "scheme inflation", cracking down on eligibility requirements, and ending alleged rorting of the scheme.

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

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NDIS eligibility rewrite to be led by disability community and states, says NDIS Minister Mark Butler

Sky News Australia, Other, 26/04/2026, Oscar Godsell

NDIS Minister Mark Butler has said the disability community will help define new eligibility rules that will ultimately determine which 160,000 people are removed from the scheme. It comes after the Albanese government announced the number of NDIS participants will be cut from 760,000 to around 600,000 by the end of the decade.

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NDIS Minister Mark Butler denies NDIS cuts will force disabled Australians to pay out of pocket for support services

Sky News Australia, Other, 26/04/2026, Oscar Godsell

NDIS Minister Mark Butler has denied that disabled people will be forced to pay more for supports as the government plans to cut 160,000 participants from the NDIS. As part of cost saving efforts, the government has committed to cutting the number of NDIS participants from 760,000 to about 600,000 by the end of the decade.

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Sky News Live, Sunday Agenda, 26/04/2026, Andrew Clennell

Interview with Minister for Health, Aged Care, and the NDIS Mark Butler. Butler says the Federal Government is going to bring the National Disability Insurance Scheme's costs back under control. He says it is a necessary reform that is about curtailing the scheme's growth. He says they want to return the NDIS to its original purpose, which is supporting people with severe and permanent disability.

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'You cannot exclude us'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 27/04/2026, Bailey Forbes, Page 1

Tasmania's disability minister has said she was blindsided by the news that more than 160,000 people would be kicked off the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Federal Health Minister Mark Butler made the announcement on April 22 at the National Press Club.

Also reported by: [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), *More coverage:* [WAMN News Online \(Online\)](#), [South Gippsland Sentinel-Times \(Online\)](#), [Toorak Times \(Online\)](#).

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Being bold is flavour of the month

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 27/04/2026, Sean Kelly, Page 28

A strange thing is happening in Australian politics. Two weeks ago, Opposition Leader Angus Taylor delivered a major speech. He cited two polls in which respondents said they wanted immigration cut before going on to say he would cut immigration. Then, last Wednesday, Labor minister Mark Butler did a similar thing. He cited a poll finding most Australians liked the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) but thought it needed fixing before going on to outline how he'd fix it to make sure it lasted.

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

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Noble NDIS ripped off by shysters and shonks

Northern Territory News, General News, 27/04/2026, Peta Credlin, Page 24

The Albanese government wants you to believe that it's serious about reforming the NDIS to end the waste and the rorts that have already quadrupled the cost and doubled the numbers on this very poorly designed (but necessary) scheme. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says that these changes (which have not actually been specified) will save \$35bn over the forward estimates.

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Butler at your service to lead

West Australian, General News, 27/04/2026, Andrew Greene, Page 9

There is renewed chatter inside Labor ranks about Health Minister Mark Butler's leadership prospects after the veteran South Australian MP dodged questions over whether he hopes to eventually replace Anthony Albanese. Last week The Nightly revealed growing discussion among Government MPs about the steady political rise of their powerful Left faction colleague, who is currently overseeing a massive overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Similar coverage: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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What we know about federal budget so far

Yahoo! Finance Australia, Other, 26/04/2026, Ria Pandey

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers will hand down what is shaping up to be one of Australia's most consequential federal budgets. [...] \$15bn will be cut from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) over the next four years under sweeping reforms announced by Health Minister Mark Butler.

[Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), and syndicated widely online

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Channel 7, Weekend Sunrise, 26/04/2026, Monique Wright and Michael Usher

Wright and Usher are joined by 7News political reporter Mark Riley. Usher says Minister for Health Mark Butler has detailed plans to cut the NDIS ahead of the federal budget and it has been revealed that about 160,000 Australians will leave the scheme. Riley says the cost of the NDIS has blown out and it needs to return to its original purpose.

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Channel 9, Today on Sunday, 26/04/2026, Alison Piotrowski and Michael Atkinson

Piotrowski and Atkinson are joined by political reporter Charles Croucher. Croucher says the Minister for Health Mark Butler has announced a major overhaul of the NDIS to save \$50b by the end of the decade, which would entail about 160,000 Australians currently on the NDIS being shifted to another system. He says the reform is about focusing on those who have permanent and lifelong disabilities.

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ABC, Insiders, 26/04/2026, David Speers

Panel discussion with author Lenore Taylor, The West Australian journalist Katina Curtis, and ABC journalist Tom Crowley. Taylor says the NDIS overhaul leads to a lot of very understandable anxiety

among Australians living with a disability because these are life-changing decisions in their lives. Curtis says it is a lot of work for Minister Mark Butler.

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ABC, Insiders, 26/04/2026, David Speers

Panel discussion with author Lenore Taylor, The West Australian journalist Katina Curtis, and ABC journalist Tom Crowley. Curtis says the issue with the NDIS is already one of the biggest volumes of calls to electorate offices, and part of the initial, immediate financial control that Minister for Health Mark Butler wants to get passed before the end of June will be a crackdown on unplanned reassessments.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 26/04/2026, Mike Bowers and Michael Hing

Bowers discusses Mark Knight's cartoon about NDIS Minister Mark Butler, where he is shown 'tinkering' with the NDIS wheelchair. Hing says he does not think that the wheelchair is up to code.

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2SM, 18:00 News (Weekend), 26/04/2026

Minister for Health Mark Butler has warned the states that any refusal to sign on to a program to rein in the cost of the NDIS will reflect on them, not the Commonwealth. The Federal Government is ushering in the \$4b Thriving Kids program for children with autism or mild to moderate developmental delays.

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2CC, 08:00 News (Weekend), 26/04/2026

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has unveiled sweeping cuts to the ballooning National Disability Insurance Scheme aimed at bringing the projected cost of the program down to \$55b by the end of the decade. Under the proposal, standardised assessments of functional capacity would determine eligibility for the scheme rather than diagnosis alone, which could result in about 160,000 people losing support amid other cost-cutting measures.

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Ad blitz as vax rates plunge

Northern Territory News, General News, 27/04/2026, Madeleine Bower, Page 15

Australia's wall of immunity is cracking as vaccination rates for both children and the elderly continue to decline, leaving the nation's most vulnerable exposed to a significant backslide in preventable disease. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the concerning fall in vaccination rates was putting young children and older Australians at risk.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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

Albanese government rolls out national vaccine campaign amid concerns over declining immunisation rates

Sky News Australia, Other, 26/04/2026, Oscar Godsell

The Albanese government has launched two major vaccine campaigns as part of efforts to tackle growing "vaccine fatigue". Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed the rollout of two vaccine campaigns – one targeted at children under five years old and another for older people.

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Channel 9, National Nine News (Sunday), 26/04/2026, Peter Overton

The Federal Government has launched a \$20m national campaign to address plummeting vaccine rates and online misinformation about vaccines. Minister for Health Mark Butler says it is their responsibility as a government to steer people to reliable and evidence-based information.

Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 26/04/2026, Georgie Tunny

Old and young Australians are being urged to get their flu, COVID and RSV vaccines ahead of winter. Minister for Health Mark Butler says the national campaign for childhood immunisation will cost around \$6m over coming months and for adult immunisation about \$14m.

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GOLD 96FM, 08:00 News (Weekend), 26/04/2026

Childhood vaccination rates across Australia have been falling below the Federal Government's target of 95% for six years. Minister for Health Mark Butler says the risks rise when vaccination rates fall.

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'Unviable': No deal on subsidised weight loss drug

Age, General News, 27/04/2026, Angus Thomson, Page 8

An estimated 450,000 Australians will miss out on discounted weight loss medication after pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly declined a recommendation to have the government subsidise its Mounjaro drug for people with Type 2 diabetes. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler declined to comment.

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Soul-crushing FY27 Labor tax grab on superannuation detonates core value behind Australia's enterprising spirit

Sky News Australia, Other, 26/04/2026, Louise Roberts

With now depressing familiarity, it is clear that Albanese government policy is about crushing opportunity for everyday Australians. [...] When Health Minister Mark Butler fronted the cameras on Wednesday, he said the extra private health subsidy means "two households on the same income receive different levels of government support, based only on their age."

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2GB, Weekends, 26/04/2026, Luke Grant

Interview with Private Healthcare Australia CEO Dr Rachel David. Grant says Minister for Health Mark Butler has announced the higher insurance rebate for Australians over 60 is set to be scrapped, noting it is not fair that older Australians pay less than younger generations. David says the changes are going to impact a large number of older Australians who are not wealthy, and anyone who is on pension should not be subject to the measures.

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2SM, 19:00 News (Weekend), 26/04/2026

The Federal Government has defended a proposed hike in private health insurance premiums for Australians aged over 65. Minister for Health Mark Butler told Sky News the government searched high and low for crucial savings.

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2SM, 12:00 News (Weekend), 26/04/2026

Three million Australians will soon have to pay about \$240 more a year for private health insurance. Minister for Health Mark Butler says Howard Government subsidies in the 1990s favoured older Australians over younger demographics, even if those households had similar wages.

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Personal care cost-free from October

gannawarratimes.com.au, Other, 26/04/2026, Denika Anderson

Personal care services offered through the Support at Home program will be free of charge from

October 1. Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler MP said part of the 2026 federal budget's \$3bn investment to deliver better care for older Australians will make personal care services free alongside other clinical care.

[Read More](#)

Free RSV vaccines roll out for older Australians

Geelong Times, Other, 27/04/2026, Ellie Claringbold

RSV vaccinations will be free for older Australians from next month, with the federal government adding the protection to the national immunisation program ahead of winter. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler said vaccination remained the most effective way to reduce the impact of seasonal illness.

Also reported by: [Surf Coast Times \(Online\)](#), [Bellarine Times \(Online\)](#).

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

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MINISTER RAE

Resources industry in the spotlight during Angus Taylor's first trip to WA as Opposition leader

ABC Online, Other, 26/04/2026, Keane Bourke

The true power of one of the biggest political forces in Western Australia was on full display this week. [...] "Older people have a right to access health care in hospitals and hospitals have always had older people in them, so I don't always appreciate the language that's being used" was how Federal Aged Care minister Sam Rae responded when asked about the challenge this week.

[Read More](#)

Four new aged care beds on the way for West Coast District Hospital

WEB Pulse Tasmania, Other, 26/04/2026

Aged care capacity at Queenstown's West Coast District Hospital is set to expand by four beds, with construction tenders now open for stage two of a federally funded upgrade. [...] The project is fully funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's aged care capital assistance program. [...] Federal Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae said the investment was about keeping older Australians close to home.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

New age robot adding some cheer to lonely residents at care facilities

Age, Business News, 27/04/2026, David Swan, Page 30

In a Mecwacare residential home in Ballarat, staff work alongside a four-foot robot that is brightly coloured, speaks up to 90 languages, occasionally blows bubbles and remembers details such as the songs residents grew up with. Grace Brown built the first of these machines, called Abi, in her bedroom during a Melbourne lockdown because she felt lonely.

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

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

For sake of fairness, broken NDIS must be rescued and reset

The Australian, General News, 27/04/2026, Angela Jackson, Page 11

When the Productivity Commission first recommended the creation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme 15 years ago, it did so in response to a system that was underfunded, unfair, fragmented and inefficient. The need for reform was undeniable.

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NDIS-related fundraisers

Northern Territory News, General News, 27/04/2026, Page 5

A review of GoFundMe data shows a 17 per cent year-on-year increase in the amount donated to Australian fundraisers referencing the National Insurance Disability Scheme (NDIS). In the year to March 2026, more than \$2.5m was donated to NDIS-related fundraisers.

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PRIMARY CARE

\$15m medical hub mystery

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/04/2026, Bridget Clarke, Page 5

The status of a promised \$15m medical precinct in the Huon Valley has been questioned after the health minister was unable to confirm a site for the project while promoting its first TassieDoc clinic. The state government had pledged within its first 100 days to determine a location for a purpose-built precinct, including a mental health hub in the Huon Valley.

POPULATION HEALTH

Busy Aussies turn to social media 'medicos'

Herald Sun, General News, 27/04/2026, Jennifer Pittorino, Page 9

Australian parents are increasingly turning to social media and AI-powered tools for health advice as cost-of-living and time pressures make traditional care harder to access, new research shows. The 2026 Bupa Pulse Check survey confirmed social media is the go-to for parents, who are more likely than non-parents to trust, act on, and even spend money based on health content they view online to support their physical and mental wellbeing.

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

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Symptoms of a stroke

Northern Territory News, General News, 27/04/2026, Page 5

Concerning new data reveals fewer Australians know to call triple-0 when a stroke strikes. Stroke Foundation's National F.A.S.T. Awareness Survey found that 74 per cent of Aussies say they would call triple-0 as a first action when witnessing or experiencing a stroke, the lowest level on record.

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

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NDIS fix so close, yet so far

Herald Sun, General News, 27/04/2026, Theo Foukkare, Page 25

There's a simple, foolproof solution that would save 160,000 National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants from having their support cut by the Albanese government but the Prime Minister, Treasurer and Health Minister just won't act on it. Border Force, the Australian Police Federation, economists and criminologists have all blamed the booming multibillion-dollar illicit tobacco black market run by organised crime gangs on the government's persistent tax hikes on legal, government-regulated smokes.

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People not moving enough for good health

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 27/04/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 2

More than half of Illawarra residents do not exercise enough to meet physical activity guidelines, new health data suggests. Most people also do not eat the recommended amount of fruit, and in some suburbs, more than 40 per cent of adults are considered obese according to their body mass index (BMI).

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Zero-alcohol products may still promote drinking, study finds

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 27/04/2026, Nance Haxton

While zero-alcohol products are increasing in popularity, research suggests they are being marketed as an addition to alcohol, rather than a replacement. Australian research has found alcohol companies are exploiting weak advertising rules by promoting zero-alcohol products in new contexts that widen the scope of where it is acceptable to drink.

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Childhood BMI changes genetically linked to adulthood diabetes and heart disease

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 27/04/2026, Geng Wang

A study led by the University of Queensland has analysed how genes can affect a child's body mass

index (BMI) over time. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, around one in four Australian children aged 5-17 years live with overweight or obesity.

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Functional neurological disorder in Australia: disabling, stigmatised, and under-served

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 27/04/2026, Adith Mohan

Sarah* is 34, works in administration, and has spent two years without a diagnosis. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported on FND for the first time in 2025, estimating that 21 500 Australians are living with the condition, likely an underestimate driven by poor diagnostic coding and inaccessible healthcare.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

No relevant coverage

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Trans uproar as mum claims intimidation

The Australian, General News, 27/04/2026, Rachel Baxendale, Page 6

The Australian Psychological Society has been forced to investigate one of its own board members, after he suggested a mother who had expressed concern about the peak body's controversial position on the treatment of transgender patients may have been preventing her son from receiving appropriate support. The mother, whose 22-year-old son began medically transitioning with hormones at 18 but has decided he is not transgender, has accused APS board member Andrew Chua of "intimidation".

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

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Health union fights youth site relocation

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/04/2026, Bridget Clarke, Page 5

Workers at a New Town youth mental health facility have escalated their campaign against a proposed relocation, arguing the alternative site is unsuitable for delivering adequate patient care. The Health and Community Services Union (HACSU) has launched a petition and undertaken stop-work actions opposing the planned move of Clare House.

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Rise in mental health claims adds pressure to cover affordability

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 27/04/2026, Colin Kruger, Page 31

Personal risk insurance is adding more pain to the cost of living crisis with premiums for life, total and permanent disability (TPD), and income protection soaring in response to a massive rise in mental health claims on these policies. Australia's largest super fund AustralianSuper informed members this month that after its insurance premiums had fallen for three years, premiums for its TPD cover would jump as much as 40 per cent due to rising claim payments over the last year.

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

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Hollands medical team backed

The Australian, Sport, 27/04/2026, Jon Ralph, Page 24

Australian footballThe afl Doctors Association has backed the integrity of Carlton's medical team as the

AFL works through whether to penalise the Blues for allowing Elijah Hollands to remain on the field. The league is reviewing Carlton's investigation findings into the incident during the Blues MCG clash against Collingwood in which Hollands is suspected to have suffered a mental health issue during the match.

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

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Club doctors defend Carlton medicos

Age, Sport, 27/04/2026, Jake Niall, Page 44

The AFL's club doctors have defended the conduct and professionalism of Carlton's medical team in the Elijah Hollands affair. Dr David Long, a club doctor at Richmond and previously a medico for Geelong and the Brisbane Lions, who is also president of the AFL Doctors' Association, also urged media commentators to exercise caution when speculating about the health issues arising from the Hollands case.

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Three cheers for a wise and eloquent Cat

Northern Territory News, General News, 27/04/2026, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 23

I've invariably written off Geelong AFL player Bailey Smith as a bit of a nuisance and a waste of space, but that changed last weekend when my teenage son asked me to watch a post-game interview featuring Smith. [...] "There is one thing that I want to touch on ... I just want to shout out to the Dawson family and Elijah Hollands ... I think it is about time the AFL get a men's mental health round," the 25-year-old told Seven's Abbey Holmes in a clip reportedly viewed more than four million times.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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Scrolling and worrying: the hidden dangers of DIY diagnosis

The Guardian, Other, 27/04/2026, Carly Dober

Ben* sat across from me, explaining how his low motivation, lethargy and trouble sleeping seemed like depression from content he had seen online. I made a recommendation to get his bloodwork done with his GP, who advised that Ben was low in vitamin D and iron, which can mimic depressive symptoms.

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IMMUNISATION

Political leaders urged to get jab

Courier Mail, General News, 27/04/2026, Jackie Sinnerton and Taylah Fellows, Page 11

The state's peak medical body has called on political leaders to roll up their sleeves and show Queenslanders they have faith in the influenza vaccines, as the latest horror strain is taking lives in record numbers. After Premier David Crisafulli and Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie refused for the second year to publicly have a flu jab, health leaders have urged government leaders to openly demonstrate their support of the evidence-based medicine.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Flu shot push as cases up

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/04/2026, Bridget Clarke, Page 14

Health Minister Bridget Archer has urged Tasmanians to get their flu vaccination as the federal government ramps up efforts to boost uptake amid falling rates. The latest figures from the state's health department indicate current activity levels for acute respiratory illnesses, Covid-19, influenza and RSV remain low.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Frank's life saved by organs that were kept alive outside the body

Age, General News, 27/04/2026, Melissa Cunningham, Page 2

The kidney and liver waiting for Frank Giamarelos were still alive when he arrived at the Austin Hospital in the middle of the night for an Australian-first double transplant. No longer inside a human body and sitting in a plastic box, the liver was being fed sugars and nutrients it would normally receive from the digestive system through normothermic machine perfusion.

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

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Woman's plea amid 'war zone' treatment

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 27/04/2026, Zoe De Koning, Page 3

When doctors told Taryn Elder she had leukaemia, the first question she asked was "am I dying?" Now, six weeks into an aggressive chemotherapy regime at Barwon Health, the 39-year-old is using her diagnosis to advocate for more young Australians to register as stem cell donors – a simple act she says could save lives.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#)

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Gut to know

West Australian, General News, 27/04/2026, Page 12

Researchers at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre have developed a powerful new tool that can track how microbes spread between people with unprecedented precision, offering new ways to prevent infections and improve treatments based on healthy bacteria. The new tool, called TRACS, allows researchers to distinguish between closely related strains of the same microbial species.

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2GB, Healthy Living, 26/04/2026, Dr Ross Walker

Interview with Sydney Children's Hospital Kids Cancer Centre paediatric oncologist and geneticist Dr Noemi Fuentes-Bolanos, on research by the Children's Cancer Institute revealing a genetic disposition to cancer in some children.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Nurses, police officer injured in alleged hospital rampage

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 27/04/2026, Harriet Alexander, Page 8

A man is alleged to have assaulted three nurses, a police officer, a security guard and a visitor to Prince of Wales Hospital during a rampage on Saturday night. The 51-year-old patient at the Randwick hospital is alleged to have seriously injured a nurse's leg about 8.30pm, before assaulting two other nurses and a security guard.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), Similar coverage: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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ED patient lashed out at nurses

West Australian, General News, 27/04/2026, Kat Wong and Melissa Meehan, Page 22

A hospital attack that left a nurse seriously injured has fuelled calls for improved safety and security after several violent incidents in emergency departments. Police restrained a 51-year-old patient after he allegedly assaulted several nurses, police and a member of the public in a Saturday night melee at Sydney's Prince of Wales Hospital.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Surgery surges as skin help runs thin

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/04/2026, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 6

National blowouts in dermatology waiting lists are pushing more skin cancer patients into operating theatres for plastic surgery, an expert says. [...] A snapshot compiled by the Australasian College of Dermatologists shows that there are less than 700 practitioners nationally, with just 10 per cent catering to patients in remote areas.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Nurses' key demands to ensure robust healthcare workforce

Launceston Examiner, General News, 27/04/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 3

Tasmania's nurses and midwives are pushing the state government for better working conditions and pay parity, citing unsafe workloads and critical staffing challenges. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) Tasmania presented the state government with a 68-item log of claims developed on behalf of its members.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Australian surgeon explains the new 'zombie filler' trend using cadaver fat for cosmetic injections

7News.com.au, Other, 26/04/2026, Hayley Taylor

There is a bizarre new trend in the cosmetic surgery space — injecting the fat of dead people to plump up the living. Known as "zombie filler", alloClae is gaining traction among US patients looking for solutions to "botched" liposuction or to fill out areas that Ozempic has hollowed. [...] It has not yet been submitted for TGA approval in Australia — but that is not because the nation's plastic surgeons are unfamiliar with using cadaver remains in their practice.

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