



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 28th April 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) | [Australian CDC](#) |
[Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)
| [AICIS](#)

LINKS

[Click here to view full print articles in this report](#)

[Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports policy leaders have signed a pledge urging the Federal Government to undertake comprehensive tax reform to address long-term funding challenges for the nation's health and social systems, highlighting an ageing population and widening wealth inequality.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (online) reports Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler has been urged to extend funding for the Albany Afterhours GP Collaborative beyond June 30 to prevent increased pressure on the local emergency department.
- **[The Mandarin](#)** reports the Federal Government is currently reviewing the use of the Integrated Assessment Tool after the Commonwealth Ombudsman and the Australian Human Rights Commission expressed concern regarding the lack of human intervention for automated algorithmic decision making in the Support at Home program.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 13) reports Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler has announced a reset of the NDIS intended to rein in costs by 35 billion dollars over four years and reduce participant numbers by 300,000 people.
- **[The Times Victor Harbor](#)** (page 3) reports Ministers for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and Sam Rae have announced that showering and continence care will be reclassified as clinical

care to ensure these services remain free of client contributions after criticism of elderly paying out-of-pocket fees.

- **The Canberra Times** (page 6) reports an incident involving a knife-wielding patient required the AFP to deploy a sound-and-flash grenade to rescue emergency department staff trapped at Canberra Hospital.
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 1) reports a six-year-old girl from Tasmania was diagnosed with stage-two kidney cancer after her abdominal pain was reportedly misidentified as anxiety or a urinary tract infection for two years, highlighting issues of diagnostic accuracy in primary healthcare networks and the financial burden on rural families accessing specialist medical services.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (online) reports the 2026 Bupa Pulse Check survey indicates that one in three Australian parents are finding that financial pressures impacting access to preventive health care are leading to a growing reliance on social media and artificial intelligence for medical advice.

MINISTER BUTLER

Games giants' high score after kids kicked off social media

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/04/2026, Ronald Mizen, Page 5

Streaming giants and gaming platforms have emerged as the unlikely winners of the Albanese government's under-16 social media age ban, capitalising on a forced pivot in how hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer advertising is deployed.

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

Painful changes to NDIS are political karma for Labor

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/04/2026, Pru Goward, Page 35

The Coalition would be smart to support Mark Butler's reforms, rejecting the opportunity for a short-lived friendship with disability advocates.

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

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

NDIS fix could sort the lot

The Australian, Business News, 28/04/2026, Robert Gottlieb, Page 21

The attempt to reform the NDIS is incredibly important for the nation. Just as important as slashing the overspending and removing organised crime, NDIS reform can also help the introduction of artificial intelligence and better productivity into the public service.

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

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

NDIS fix a priority for Labor

West Australian, General News, 28/04/2026, Katina Curtis, Page 13

The "reset" of the National Disability Insurance Scheme is the latest example of Labor coming back to fix the things that were stupidly rushed in the final days of the Gillard government. Mark Butler did something highly unusual for any minister last week: he admitted that the previous iteration of his party in government had got things wrong, without seeking to blame (too much) the other side holding power in between.

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

Butler will never reach the top unless he cuts Wong adrift

West Australian, General News, 28/04/2026, Cameron Milner, Page 13

Mark Butler will be Labor's next PM if he can cut himself loose from Penny Wong. His deft management of the NDIS reform has put his CV at the top of the pile, but he will need to jettison

Shower pressure heats up

Times Victor Harbor, General News, 28/04/2026, Dee Elferink, Page 3

Older Australians have had some dignity returned as the Federal Government backflipped on charging them to shower and dress at home. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler and Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, announced on April 21 that showering will move from the 'personal care' category, which attracts client contributions of between 5 per cent and 50 per cent to the 'clinical care' category, which is contribution free.

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

Cancer drug subsidy

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 28/04/2026, Josh Mercer, Page 4

A North Queensland mother has been moved to tears after a cancer treatment vital to her son's health was subsidised. [...] Ms Gibson said when federal Health Minister Mark Butler's chief of staff rang her on Friday, she burst into tears.

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

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

'Very brave, minister': How boldness shapes political decisions

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/04/2026, Sean Kelly

A strange thing is happening in Australian politics. Two weeks ago, Opposition Leader Angus Taylor delivered a major speech. [...] Then, on Wednesday last week, Labor minister Mark Butler did a similar thing.

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

[Read More](#)

Health risk or vital tool? The backlash over burn-offs

Canberra Times, Other, 27/04/2026

In recent weeks, due to regular large prescribed burns, Canberra's air pollution has regularly exceeded what the Australian government and the World Health Organisation recognise as dangerous levels.[...] The Federal Health Minister, Mark Butler, has necessarily advised that some 160,000 current participants in the NDIS will be kicked out of the scheme primarily because of spiralling costs.

[Read More](#)

How will the new NDIS criteria be used to work out who's eligible?

Canberra Times, Other, 27/04/2026, Georgia Van Toorn

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.

Also reported by: [The North West Star \(Online\)](#), [Batemans Bay Post \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Loss of Federal funding will leave Albany without after-hours urgent care, local MLA raises the alarm

West Australian, Other, 27/04/2026, Jacki Elezovich

The future of Albany's only alternative urgent-care medical service hangs in the balance, as its funding stream ends on June 30 and the Federal Government considers shifting funding focus elsewhere. [...] Mr Leary said he had raised the issue with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, as well as the WA Health Minister Meredith Hammat, calling for urgent action.

[Read More](#)

Monday Briefing: Proposed changes to the NDIS

The Mandarin, Other, 27/04/2026, Alex Cameron

When Minister for Health, Ageing, and the NDIS Mark Butler addressed the National Press Club last week, he started — as is often prudent for politicians about to announce potentially unpopular policy — with the promise of cash. "This budget will invest three billion dollars in delivering more beds, more packages, and better care for older Australians," he announced. The country's elderly population (those aged 80 and over), he pointed out, was expanding at "four times the growth we saw a little more than a decade ago".

[Read More](#)

The Government's NDIS cuts, explained

The Daily Aus, Other, 27/04/2026

Late last week, NDIS Minister Mark Butler announced major changes to the NDIS, Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme, in an attempt to cut rising costs. Under the changes, every single person on the scheme will be reassessed from 2028, with a view to moving people with "lower needs" to other supports.

[Read More](#)

Reforms spark fears over new definition of 'permanent' disability

CathNews, Other, 27/04/2026, Rebecca Comini

In the face of mounting pressure to clarify how the Government plans to remove 160,000 participants from the scheme and reduce its growth from 10 to 2 per cent, NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler "reluctantly" said he expected those with more "obvious" conditions would face less rigorous assessment. And while stressing Labor would not take a "diagnosis to diagnosis" approach in shifting people off the NDIS, he said the 320,000 people on it with autism make up a "reasonably substantial part" of those to be pushed into mainstream services by 2028.

[Read More](#)

The Last Mile: Diane Lloyd on the challenges faced by women with HIV

OUTinPerth, Other, 28/04/2026, Graeme Watson

Diane Lloyd has been a prominent voice for women living with HIV over many decades. [...] In 2024 the Australian government launched the Ninth National HIV Strategy with Health Minister Mark Butler restating Australia's commitment to eliminate blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections by 2030.

[Read More](#)

NDIS cuts not just about kicking people off, Labor says

Parra News, Other, 27/04/2026, Andrew Brown

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.

[Read More](#)

The NDIS reform is a real test of Labor's courage

Pearls and Irritations, Other, 27/04/2026, Jack Waterford

New National Disability Insurance Scheme reforms pose a novel test of character for the Albanese government. [...] And because the proposal is being steered by an unusually competent minister in Mark Butler, the minister for health.

[Read More](#)

People in wheelchairs or suits – who gets burned?

The Echo, Other, 27/04/2026, David Lowe

160,000 participants are set to be removed from the National Disability Insurance Scheme, presumably because we can't afford it, while multinational gas companies are likely to continue being sheltered

from paying a fair rate of tax. [...] NDIS While all this was happening, just down the road at the National Press Club, Health Minister Mark Butler was flagging big changes to the national disability insurance scheme which he said were absolutely necessary for Australia's budget bottom line, going forward.

[Read More](#)

Extra aged care fees axed after crossbench pushback

Wangaratta Chronicle, Other, 27/04/2026

Independent federal MP for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, has welcomed the federal government's decision to scrap aged care co-payments for essential daily care, following persistent advocacy from the crossbench and community. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler and Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae announced that showering will move from the 'personal care' category, which attracts client contributions of between five per cent and 50 per cent to the 'clinical care' category, which is contribution free.

[Read More](#)

Federal budget snapshot: What it may mean for your finances in 2026

Your Life Choices, Other, 27/04/2026, Lexanne Garcia

With the federal budget just around the corner, all eyes are on Treasurer Jim Chalmers as he prepares to unveil what's shaping up to be one of the most significant budgets in recent memory. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has announced sweeping reforms that will see \$15 billion cut from the NDIS over the next four years.

[Read More](#)

MIX 104.9, 360, 27/04/2026, Katie Woolf

Interview with Somerville Community Services CEO Natasha Fyles, on Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's plan to cut the overall costs of the NDIS by 20%, reduce participant numbers, and crack down on fraud. Fyles says the NDIS needs to be sustainable, and they need to be cautious in the changes because it has a profound effect on Territorians living with a disability, as well as ensuring that they are supported. She also says it is disappointing that fraud has occurred within the NDIS, but the steps aimed at reducing fraud are welcomed.

[Play Now](#)

NOVA 96.9, Ricki-Lee & Tim, 27/04/2026, Ricki-Lee Coulter & Tim Blackwell

The Federal Government is under pressure to explain plans to remove up to 160,000 people from the NDIS. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says many participants, including a large number with autism, could transition into mainstream services by 2028, while critics say the changes risk leaving vulnerable Australians behind.

Also reported by: [NOVA 93.7 \(Perth\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

2DU, 2DU Breakfast, 27/04/2026, Matt Watson

The Federal Government is defending a controversial plan to slash private health insurance rebates for Australians over 65, a move that effectively hikes premiums for seniors to fund aged care reforms. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stated that the government 'searched high and low' for the \$482m in savings required to bolster the Support at Home program.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Drive, 27/04/2026, Clinton Maynard

Maynard says Health Minister Mark Butler was quizzed by Andrew Clennell from Sky News about whether he would replace Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. He also states that he received emails from listeners who said that Butler should be sacked over his management of the NDIS.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Mornings, 27/04/2026, Jason Matthews

Matthews says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has announced that 160,000 Australians will be removed from the NDIS as part of the Federal Government's plan to reduce the scheme's costs, which were projected to blow out to \$70b by 2030. He states that the Federal Government should change the entire structure of the NDIS and not cut the numbers if it is serious about fixing the scheme.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Statewide Mornings, 27/04/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Crickey.com.au Political Editor Bernard Keane, on Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's long-awaited announcement about the future of the NDIS. Keane says disability groups that supported the reform of the NDIS have recognised that the trajectory of the scheme's costs was unsustainable, but that cutbacks to services will have a substantial effect on people supported by the NDIS, and that Labor always knew its decisions would be criticised. He also says there has been so much criticism of the Federal Government's timidity and lack of ambition.

Also reported by: [ABC Broken Hill \(Broken Hill\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Afternoons, 27/04/2026, Adrienne Francis

Interview with Accessilife founder Maria Jerez, on Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement of the National Disability Insurance Scheme's major overhaul, particularly the reduction of the scheme's participants from 760,000 to 600,000 by the end of the decade. Jerez says the latest announcement is quite alarming for many families, and it will be interesting to see how the overhaul will unfold. She also states that people can go to accessilife.com.au, where they will be able to register as a member or a provider.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 27/04/2026, Stacy Lee

Interview with disability advocate Shane Hryhorec. Hryhorec says he was threatened with a \$400 fine for using an accessible pick-up zone without a permit at Adelaide Airport. He also shares his experience a few months ago, where he was not able to visit Federal Disability Minister Mark Butler's office because he was met with steps leading to the front door, and the doorbell was broken, noting that they need to make things better for people with disabilities.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

Shower pressure heats up

Times Victor Harbor, General News, 28/04/2026, Dee Elferink, Page 3

Older Australians have had some dignity returned as the Federal Government backflipped on charging them to shower and dress at home. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler and Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, announced on April 21 that showering will move from the 'personal care' category, which attracts client contributions of between 5 per cent and 50 per cent to the 'clinical care' category, which is contribution free.

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

Extra aged care fees axed after crossbench pushback

Independent federal MP for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, has welcomed the federal government's decision to scrap aged care co-payments for essential daily care, following persistent advocacy from the crossbench and community. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler and Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae announced that showering will move from the 'personal care' category, which attracts client contributions of between five per cent and 50 per cent to the 'clinical care' category, which is contribution free.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Channel 7, Seven News, 27/04/2026, Peter Mitchell

Women living with endometriosis can now seek help at 11 new care clinics across Australia. Assistant Minister for Women Rebecca White states that this is an enormous achievement that has been driven by the stories of women who felt they had been dismissed or ignored.

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

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 27/04/2026, Steph Anderson

The Federal Government's new endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic is now open in Werribee, with space to treat up to 30 patients a day. Assistant Minister for Women Rebecca White says endometriosis clinics are located around Australia, and they provide a service for Australian women where they will be heard and taken seriously.

Similar coverage reported by: [SBS \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Loss of Federal funding will leave Albany without after-hours urgent care, local MLA raises the alarm

West Australian, Other, 27/04/2026, Jacki Elezovich

The future of Albany's only alternative urgent-care medical service hangs in the balance, as its funding stream ends on June 30 and the Federal Government considers shifting funding focus elsewhere. [...] Mr Leary said he had raised the issue with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, as well as the WA Health Minister Meredith Hammat, calling for urgent action.

[Read More](#)

WIN Canberra, WIN News, 27/04/2026, Bruce Roberts

There are renewed calls for a freeze on the Federal Government's \$25 cap on PBS-listed medications, with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia warning that patients may go without essential prescriptions if prices go up. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing was contacted for comment.

Also reported by: [WIN Orange \(Orange\)](#), [WIN Wagga Wagga \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [WIN Toowoomba \(Toowoomba\)](#), [WIN Bendigo \(Bendigo\)](#), [WIN Ballarat \(Ballarat\)](#), [WIN Cairns \(Cairns\)](#), [WIN Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [WIN Wollongong \(Wollongong\)](#), [WIN Townsville \(Townsville\)](#), [WIN Gippsland \(Sale\)](#), [WIN Sunshine Coast \(Sunshine Coast\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Statewide Mornings, 27/04/2026, Waleed Aly

Interview with The George Institute for Global Health Respiratory Program Head Professor Christine Jenkins. Jenkins says asthma is a highly prevalent condition in Australia, and they are very concerned that more Australians are putting up with the symptoms, and that their asthma control is worsening over time. She notes that the affordability and availability of the anti-inflammatory reliever, a new approach to asthma, is important, and they are now going to lobby the Australian Department of Health, Disability, and Aged Care to make the medication equally affordable to the blue puffer.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

The push for tax reform to break Groundhog Day

Australian Financial Review, General News, 28/04/2026, Luke Kinsella, Page 1

It is "Groundhog Day" in Melbourne, declares Mike Baird, the former NSW premier and chief executive of McKinnon, a non-partisan non-profit devoted to improving systems of government.

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

That's seafood for thought

West Australian, Edition Changes, 28/04/2026, Brooke Rolfe, Page 3

West Australians are being encouraged to eat at least two servings of seafood a week in a new push for people to boost their fish intake. [...] It determined that seafood's combination of omega-3s, protein, vitamin D, B12, iodine, selenium and zinc could reduce risks of cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and improve fetal brain development during pregnancy while supporting cognition during ageing.

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

Meet the Melbourne-built robot now in dozens of aged care homes

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/04/2026, David Swan

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. [...] Five years on, the 26-year-old mechatronics engineer is chief executive of Andromeda Robotics, a Melbourne-headquartered company valued at roughly \$100 million with offices in San Francisco, and convinced that the robot she started as a hobby will become something far larger than aged care.

[Read More](#)

Human rights advocates support review of automated aged care assessment tool

The Mandarin, Other, 27/04/2026, Tom Ravlic

The Australian Human Rights Commission has endorsed the decision of the Commonwealth ombud to review the use of the integrated assessment tool in aged care. A review is underway to determine whether the IAT is being used appropriately to assess the level of care an older person needs as part of the government's Support at Home program.

Law firm flags key change to VIC's Retirement Villages Act

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/04/2026, Ian Horswill

Law firm Russell Kennedy says the most significant policy change in the Retirement Village Regulations relates to the treatment of aged care payments for residents leaving. A non-owner resident's entitlement to request funding for an Aged Care Refundable Accommodation Deposit (RAD) is now limited to residents who entered into a residence contract between 1 August 2006 and 29 July 2017.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 27/04/2026, Tony Jones

As of December last year, almost 347,000 older Australians had access to the Support at Home program, providing them with clinical care and personal assistance, but more than 94,000 people are still on the wait list. The Federal Government insists more help is on its way, promising to deliver an extra 83,000 home care packages by the end of the financial year, with more investments in aged care to come in next month's budget.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#)

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Poor policy burns our most vulnerable

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/04/2026, Theo Foukkare, Page 27

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 multi-billion-dollar illicit tobacco black market run by organised crime gangs on the government's persistent tax hikes on legal, government-regulated smoking products.

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

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

Man sentenced over NDIS fraud

Shepparton News, General News, 28/04/2026, Monique Preston, Page 9

An Echuca ndis provider who claimed more than \$12,000 for work he did not do has been spared jail. Jye Sellings, 33, formerly of the Echuca area, pleaded guilty in Echuca Magistrates' Court to invoicing for services not rendered to gain money from NDIS funds allocated to his client.

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

New AI platform Beam targets NDIS admin crisis amid massive cuts

The Australian, Other, 28/04/2026, Jared Lynch

About 160,000 people are facing removal from the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and artificial intelligence is being presented as the solution to retain care levels people have come to expect. Australia's social services sector is "at breaking point", struggling under the "greatest financial pressure in years" and grappling with overwhelming administrative duties that fuel staff burnout.

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

[Read More](#)

Something's got to give: Ray Hadley warns the NDIS falling apart before our eyes

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/04/2026

Ray Hadley has pointed to a case before the courts in which a man allegedly siphoned \$1.5m from the NDIS in just five days, warning that with rorts and ballooning costs the scheme could run out of money. He said the NDIS cost was about \$13 billion for roughly 400,000 participants in 2020 but it is now around \$50 billion.

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

[Read More](#)

Mother calls for a more accessible world after daughter's cerebral palsy diagnosis

ABC Online, Other, 27/04/2026, Becc Bird & Josh Brine

Three-year-old Ayla Moyle is her mother's whole world. [...] Now, Ms Moyle is calling on others in her community in South Australia's south-east to help make their region more accessible.

[Read More](#)

Families of children with autism say their NDIS plans are already being cut – and the alternatives aren't there

The Guardian, Other, 28/04/2026, Cait Kelly

Aidyn is eight. For anyone who doesn't know him well, his speech is impossible to understand. [...] His coordinator and advocate, Jayde Parker, notified the national disability insurance scheme of a change in the family's circumstances and asked for support for Aidyn's mother, who also has autism.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Secrecy erodes Hunter hospital trust

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/04/2026, Page 16

The people of the Hunter do not expect perfection from their public institutions. But they are entitled to expect honesty, transparency and, above all, safety - especially when it comes to a hospital that treats some of the region's most vulnerable patients.

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

MPs hit back at drug law criticism

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 28/04/2026, Daniel Shirkie, Page 6

North Queensland MPs have defended the government's latest tranche of adult crime, adult time laws after crucial legislative changes were labelled "short-sighted" by health experts. The latest laws were met with condemnation by Australian Medical Association's Queensland President Dr Nick Yim, who said changes to how the judiciary handled drug diversion would not reduce drug use.

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

'Damages trust': Doctors wanted pharmacist prescribing heads-up

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/04/2026, Kate Cowling

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has joined a chorus of doctors' groups in hitting out at the latest pharmacist prescribing changes in NSW, which it says it should have been asked.

[Read More](#)

Sea of orange and green rally for a new hospital, but parted on the method

The Border Mail, Other, 27/04/2026, Hana Humboldt

On a public holiday, Farrer voters made a rare show of cross-party solidarity on a hot byelection issue. Border health advocates and Farrer candidate Michelle Milthorpe took to QEII Square in Albury on

[Read More](#)

4BC, Drive, 27/04/2026, Gary Hardgrave

Hardgrave says he admires the Australian Medical Association of Queensland and its President, Dr Nick Yim, but they are wrong for wanting political leaders to get flu jabs in public. He states that he supports Queensland Premier David Crisafulli's decision.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

As he strangled her, he said 'I will end you'so why is Amanda the one living with shame?

Age, General News, 28/04/2026, Wendy Tuohy, Page 6

As a competitive triathlete, it was not uncommon for strategic financial adviser Amanda Thompson to find herself covered in bruises, though "nothing that looked unusual". [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare notes that both non-fatal strangulation and separation are common precursors to many domestic homicides, the most common form of homicide in Australia.

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

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

Rice fights off disease

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 28/04/2026, Page 7

Almost three-quarters of rice sold in supermarkets has less than 3g of fibre per 100g, but many varieties contain unexpected nutrients that can actually reduce the risk of chronic disease, experts say. Coloured rice has antioxidants that fight off damaging cells and have the potential to lessen the risk of disease.

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

Parents turn to AI, social media for health advice in cost of living crisis: 2026 Bupa Pulse Check Survey

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/04/2026, Jennifer Pittorino

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

[Read More](#)

Lifting health literacy for multicultural women in Canberra

ABC Online, Other, 27/04/2026, Adrienne Francis

A Canberra-based volunteer group is shining a light on women's health and the challenges faced by multicultural communities. Initiatives for Women In Need (IWIn) has been supporting women and children since 2013, and is now preparing to host a Mother's Day health symposium, Act Early to Prevent, at the National Portrait Gallery on 16 May.

[Read More](#)

What new data says about the health of Illawarra residents

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 27/04/2026, Natalie Croxon

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).

[Read More](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 27/04/2026, Leon Delaney

Crackdowns on illegal cigarettes in Canberra have begun, but the Liberals say it should have happened sooner. Black market sellers were raided last week, with Border Force and police visiting stores suspected of selling illicit tobacco.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Afternoons, 27/04/2026, Michael McLaren

McLaren notes that Australia's smoking rates appear to be growing once again, and the Federal Government has completely stuffed the whole legal sector with its excessive tobacco excise due to the nation's problem with the black market. He says the UK is now trying to ban smoking, and it would be fascinating to watch how the experiment unfolds, but he wonders whether Australia should do the same thing.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Let's rice and shine

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/04/2026, Taylor Penny & Matilda Mcdermott, Page 9

Almost three-quarters of rice sold in supermarkets has less than 3g of fibre per 100g, while many varieties contain unexpected nutrients that can actually reduce the risk of chronic disease, experts say. The Advertiser has analysed the rice at Coles, Woolworths and Aldi to show how a simple swap can help your muscles, metabolism and brain health.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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

Two years of agony

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/04/2026, Taylor Penny, Page 1

A mother says her daughter had stomach pains for two years before she was diagnosed with stage-two kidney cancer. Sondra Carey said her sixyear-old Amarni Leila Donaghy's diagnosis in April 2026 had flipped her family's world upside down.

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

VAD architect forecasts eligibility expansion

The Nightly, General News, 27/04/2026, Stephen Johnson, Page 14

The architect of the world's first-ever euthanasia laws is predicting voluntary assisted dying will one day be expanded to cover those who are simply too old to enjoy life or are in constant pain. July 1 this year marks the 30th anniversary of the Northern Territory becoming the first place in the world to allow euthanasia.

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

Channel 7, Seven News, 27/04/2026, Angela Cox & Tim McMillan

Women living with endometriosis will now have access to more help with 11 new specialist centres opening across Australia, including three in New South Wales. There are now 33 government funded clinics up and running. At least one in seven women suffer from endometriosis. It's estimated pelvic pain conditions cost the Australian economy \$6 billion each year.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 27/04/2026, Monika Kos

The Royal Perth Hospital has a robot that is lending a helping hand to surgeons, and it is part of an Australian-first program, allowing bowel cancer patients to go home on the same day of surgery. The WA Government and the RPH Research Foundation are funding the technology.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Talks on key health service

Northern Territory News, General News, 28/04/2026, Zizi Averill, Page 7

Edgington has revealed the expansion of a critical mental health service was part of prolonged discussions with the Territory's ambulance service. On Thursday, Steve Edgington confirmed that calls to expand a Darwin-based co-response mental health unit to a 24/7 service was on the table, as NT Health continues to negotiate the five-year-contract with St John Ambulance.

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

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

A new door to access mental health help

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/04/2026, Alison Foletta, Page 10

Tasmania's "no wrong door" mental health network is expanding into a heritage-listed Glenorchy building to provide immediate support for anxiety and depression. Healthcare professionals are expecting mental health struggles to increase over the year due to more cost-of-living issues and political turmoil, with the walk-in mental health clinics vital in boosting mental health with psychologist waitlists six to eight months long.

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

'Dehumanising': a regional teen's 300km journey for mental health treatment

Canberra Times, Other, 27/04/2026, Chelsea Wilson

Katie Kendall, 20, has thought about leaving her home in Wodonga, in Victoria's border region, for better access to mental health support after spending much of her teen years in crisis and being sent more than 300km away for treatment. In the whole state of Victoria there are only 54 dedicated in-patient beds for adolescents that are largely concentrated in metropolitan areas.

Also reported by: [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Coalition to unveil special envoy for men and boys in bid to tackle mental health and wellbeing challenges

Sky News Australia, Other, 27/04/2026, Max Melzer

Nationals leader Matt Canavan has revealed the Coalition will unveil a new special envoy for boys and men in a bid to tackle rising mental health and wellbeing challenges faced by Australians across the country. [...] Speaking to Sky News on Monday evening, Senator Canavan explained the new envoy would seek to address the growing "challenges" facing men and boys in Australia.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

Political leaders urged to get jab

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.

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

2CC, Canberra Live, 27/04/2026, Rod Henshaw

Interview with GP Dr Antonio Di Dio. Henshaw says Canberrans planning to travel to high-risk areas for outdoor activities can be protected against Japanese encephalitis by a government-funded vaccine, and it will be available until 30 June. Di Dio states that there are no cases of encephalitis in Canberra, but he urges people to get vaccinated because vaccinations save many lives.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 27/04/2026, Yvonne Yong

Health insurance giant Bupa has been accused of anti-competitive behaviour in its dealings with private hospitals, which critics say ultimately reduces choice for customers. Documents obtained by the ABC have revealed how its contracts impose crippling conditions on operators who are too small to object, and the Australian Private Hospitals Association is now calling on the competition regulator to act.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Blood filter hope for pregnancy risk

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/04/2026, Page 10

A potential treatment for pre-eclampsia has shown promising results. Pre-eclampsia is a serious pregnancy complication involving high blood pressure and currently can't be treated other than by delivering the baby.

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

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Aboriginal life expectancy a factor in murder sentence

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 27/04/2026

A judge has taken into account the age, health conditions and Aboriginal life expectancy as she jailed a man who admitted the gruesome murder of a 72-year-old inside his home. John Hunter was found dead by a friend in his Dimboola home in western Victoria on January 23, 2023, after three days of no contact.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Scandal spawns second hearing

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/04/2026, Damon Cronshaw & Jamieson Murphy, Page 1

A second hearing will be held at the parliamentary inquiry into the Calvary Mater Newcastle's mould and maintenance scandal. [...] The internal documents emerged through Shadow Health Minister Sarah Mitchell's "order for papers" into the maintenance and cleanliness of hospitals in NSW.

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

Queensland patients waiting at hospitals for up to eight hours, new figures reveal

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/04/2026, Taylah Fellows

Patients are waiting outside Queensland emergency departments for up to eight hours, new figures reveal, as the state government blames more than 1400 long-stay patients clogging beds. Government documents showing the worst ramping cases recorded at all 26 major hospitals during January have revealed shocking wait times ranging between five and eight hours.

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Armed patient held staff hostage at hospital

Canberra Times, General News, 28/04/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 6

Police set off a grenade to rescue Canberra Hospital emergency department staff trapped by a knife-wielding patient. A group of staff spent about three hours under siege in the Behavioural Assessment Unit (BAU) on Wednesday, April 22.

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

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

Tribunal slams Department of Health

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/04/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 3

A senior hospital nurse has won a legal battle against the Department of Health after an attempt to strip her of workers' compensation benefits for a stress injury caused by her own staff. The Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT) recently dismissed an application by the department to dispute the workers' compensation claim, ruling it failed to provide clear legal reasons for its opposition.

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

Don't forget: Renew your registration before deadline

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 27/04/2026

All nurses and midwives have until 31 May to renew their general or non-practising registration to avoid any delays or late fees. You should have already received an email from AHPRA reminding you to register via your online portal.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

Health officials issue health warning for Aussie capital after new case confirmed

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/04/2026, Tia Clarkson-Pascoe

Health officials have issued an alert for people in Sydney to monitor for signs and symptoms of measles after a case was confirmed. New South Wales Health said the person visited various locations across Sydney including a healthcare facility while unknowingly infectious.

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

[Read More](#)

Measles alert in Sydney after traveller infected in Japan visits Concord Repatriation General Hospital and Burwood Crowne Plaza

7News.com.au, Other, 27/04/2026, Demi Huang

Sydneysiders have been warned to stay alert after another measles case was confirmed in a traveller returning from a country experiencing a surge in infections.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 27/04/2026, Spence Denny

Interview with Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis Chief Investigator Associate Professor Richard Bradhurst, on the highly-contagious H5 bird flu. Bradhurst states that there are 500 to 600 distinct animal species that have been noted as having become infected with H5NI, and it can lead to a very serious situation. He also says that the H5NI is not currently widespread in humans, but other viruses such as FMD and ASF remain a danger, and it is plausible that products could be the pathway in for such viruses.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.
See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

