



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 29th 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](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 3) reports that Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler has predicted health workers who flocked to the NDIS will move to other care sectors and says a person's diagnosis will play almost no part in determining whether they qualify for access to the scheme.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports that the Australian Medical Council has expressed concerns regarding the Royal Australasian College of Physicians' accreditation, following a board standoff last week which resulted in police being called.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 7) reports that the transition and legal handover of Northern Beaches Hospital to NSW Health will occur this morning, with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park stating he is "reasonably confident" private health services will continue at hospital.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports that a report by the SA Salaried Medical Officers Association to SafeWork SA has found the Forensic Community Mental Health Service is under extreme pressure, with clinicians warning understaffing could result in someone getting hurt due to forensic mental health patients with histories of violent crime being inadequately supervised in the community.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 9) reports that Angaston Hospital will expand its virtual care services and roster a night shift nurse at its Emergency Department in an effort to offset only

MINISTER BUTLER

Big rebates for over-65s good for taxpayers

The Australian, General News, 29/04/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 4

There are growing questions as to the rationale for the federal government's decision to axe higher health insurance rebates for older people, with more analysis indicating subsidies to older people yield big savings for taxpayers, described as a "very good financial deal" for government. Last week Health Minister Mark Butler announced his intention to abolish higher means-tested private health insurance rebates for people over 65 and 70 in the upcoming budget, arguing the Howard-era policy did not make policy sense and the change would reap \$3bn in savings across four years that would be redirected to aged care.

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One Nation could pick up seats from NDIS reform

Australian Financial Review, General News, 29/04/2026, John Black, Page 31

Labor is about to learn that pushing through real structural changes to the budget creates winners and losers and losers have longer memories than winners.

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

Diagnosis will not influence NDIS access, says Butler

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/04/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos and Paul Sakkal, Page 3

Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler says a person's diagnosis will play almost no part in determining whether they qualify for access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, while predicting an army of health workers who have flocked to the NDIS will move to other care sectors. Butler said the new eligibility assessment which is yet to be designed, but will determine access to the NDIS from January 2028 will be "relatively blind" to whether people had clinical diagnoses for particular conditions, so that families would no longer seek out medical diagnoses to get support.

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

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Reform of NDIS won't help failing mental health system

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/04/2026, Allan Fels, Page 16

Australia has two crises in social policy. The highly visible, muchdiscussed NDIS spends too much and applies to too many people, according to the government. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has affirmed that severe psychosocial disability should be in the NDIS.

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

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Albo has to fix NDIS mess

West Australian, General News, 29/04/2026, Jessica Page, Page 13

I know I'm not the only NDIS parent mystified by the elevation of Mark Butler to potential leader status the same week he put the future of thousands of disabled kids in even more limbo. Former Queensland Labor secretary Cameron Milner described the "slash-and-burn reform" as proof he was a "smart operator" and a calculated move to stake his claim.

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

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New GP trial aid to rural health

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/04/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 3

A Northern Territory region will be the 12th in Australia to trial a new rural general practitioner training

model in an attempt to address doctor shortages and GP clinics closing. [...] But under the SEM model, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Australian and Northern Territory governments were working together to make training to be a GP or a rural generalist become more attractive as trainees stayed under one employer.

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NDIS cuts feared

Pakenham Gazette, General News, 29/04/2026, Corey Everitt, Page 1

A sweeping overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has triggered concern across Australia, as the federal government moves to cap spending at about \$55 billion by 2030 and reduce participant numbers by up to 160,000. Health Minister Mark Butler says the changes are aimed at addressing rapid growth, integrity issues and a projected multibillion-dollar blowout, with a stronger focus on eligibility and fraud control.

Also reported by: [Pakenham Gazette \(Melbourne\)](#)

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Changes to Support at Home welcomed

Whittlesea Review, General News, 28/04/2026, Page 7

The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that older people on the Support at Home aged care program will no longer pay out-of-pocket costs for help with showering, dressing and support with continence management. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler and Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae last Wednesday announced that showering will move from the "personal care" category, which attracts client contributions of between 5 per cent and 50 cent, to the "clinical care" category, which is contribution free.

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Win for dignity of older Aussies

Euroa Gazette, General News, 29/04/2026, Page 10

Ageing Australia has welcomed the federal government's decision to reclassify showering as 'clinical care' under the Support at Home program, calling it a win for the dignity of older Australians. 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.

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Fear and loathing as NDIS enters the unknown

South Gippsland Sentinel Times, General News, 28/04/2026, Michael Giles, Page 5

'A lot of people are scared, and we can't ease their anxieties at the moment.' That's the view of Rachel Hall, a director of Helpful Connexions, a local service provider to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) operating in the Bass Coast and South Gippsland areas. She was commenting on the announcement in the past week by Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler of a major overhaul to the scheme, which he says 'has become a soft target for shonks, rorters and the worst elements of organised crime'.

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Lilly rejects Mounjaro T2D PBS listing

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 28/04/2026, Page 1

Eli Lilly Australia has advised that Mounjaro (tirzepatide) will not become available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for type 2 diabetes due to reimbursement conditions it considered unacceptable (PD breaking news 24 Apr). [...] The similar GLP-1 receptor agonist semaglutide (Ozempic, Novo Nordisk) is PBS-listed for type 2 diabetes, and Health Minister Mark Butler has committed to listing its weight loss sibling Wegovy on the PBS, for patients with a BMI over 25 and established cardiovascular disease, providing the government can "negotiate a good price" (PD 13 Jan).

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Gaming giants profit as government chases teens off social media

Australian Financial Review, Other, 28/04/2026, Ronald Mizen

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.

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Health insurers accused of 'aggressive' and 'almost bullying' tactics in private hospital dealings

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2026, Alison Branley

A former Bupa executive has accused health insurers of using "almost bullying" tactics in their negotiations with private hospitals. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler referred the ABC's inquiries to the Department of Health, which said it was the ACCC's responsibility to investigate anti-competitive behaviour.

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Broken PBS system behind failure to list Mounjaro for type 2 diabetics, according to Medicines Australia

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2026, Stephanie Dalzell and Paige Cockburn

Hundreds of thousands of Australians with diabetes will continue paying thousands of dollars a year for lifesaving medication not on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, because of the "broken" process behind subsidising medicines, according to the peak industry body. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says he has asked his department for advice over the negotiations.

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Assessment algorithm tops improvement wish list

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 28/04/2026, Natasha Egan

The assessment system must involve human beings in decision-making, says Paul Sadler, who discusses the issues and solutions raised at the Support at Home National Conference and the aged care funding announcements. [...] Mr Sadler spoke with AAA at the event as Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler was addressing the National Press Club and announcing an additional \$3 billion for the sector...

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Gillard's NDIS vision was a promise she couldn't keep

Crikey, Other, 28/04/2026, Rick Morton

Disabled people will be the ones who are punished when poor planning meets political mongrel. [...] Mark Butler, incidentally, was the aged care minister at the time, and his 2012 Living Longer, Living Better reforms did more than even John Howard in supercharging the enormous privatisation of operational aged care bed places.

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The Zap: latest aged care and health news, plus important consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 28/04/2026, Melissa Sweet

The Federal Government should commit to repaying with interest some of the co-payments collected from older Australians under the Support at Home program over the next five months, according to The Zap's author, Charles Maskell-Knight. [...] In a speech to the National Press Club on 22 April, Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler outlined a range of measures intended to reduce the rate of growth in NDIS spending and eliminate the higher private health insurance subsidy for people aged 65 and over, and redirect some of the savings towards aged care.

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Labor's priorities: War, war, war

Defence minister Richard Marles' April 15 announcement that he plans to increase military spending by \$53 billion over the next 10 years show up Labor's priorities: Boosting weapons' company profits and shoring up Australia's position as deputy sheriff for the United States in the Asia Pacific. [...] Labor's priorities were laid bare when, just one week after Marles' announcement, health minister Mark Butler announced cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), which will throw 160,000 people off the supports.

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Minister Butler admits to failing vaccination efforts as targets collapse for fifth year

Health Industry Hub, Other, 28/04/2026

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has warned that the nation has failed to meet its 95% childhood immunisation target since...

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Are there really 3500 GP clinics surviving on bulk billing alone?

Health Services Daily, Other, 28/04/2026, Louise Stone

Uh, no. The rubbery figures the federal health minister uses to crow about his bulk-billing incentives melt under the pressure of close scrutiny. [...] The federal health minister, Mark Butler, announced the bulk-billing practice incentive program as part of the 2025-2026 Budget.

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HSU urges government to support aged-care workers amid \$3bn sector injection

HR Leader, Other, 28/04/2026, Carlos Tse

The Health Services Union (HSU) stressed the need for workforce sustainability and planning to be "front and centre" to the expansion of the aged-care sector as it welcomed the government's funding boost last week. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler said: "This \$3 billion investment builds on our commitment to deliver more beds, more packages and better care for older Australians, to ensure they get the support they deserve."

[Read More](#)

Uncertainty and fear as major NDIS overhaul leaves Logan providers and participants waiting

MyCity Logan, Other, 28/04/2026, Emma Knuckey

People relying on the National Disability Insurance Scheme are being urged to prepare for change, after Health Minister Mark Butler announced a sweeping overhaul of the system on Wednesday. The reforms aim to slow the scheme's rapid growth, with the federal government signalling tighter eligibility rules, more frequent reassessments and a shift towards "foundational supports" delivered outside the NDIS.

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Nurses central to \$3b aged care reform

Nursing Review, Other, 28/04/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The Albanese government last week announced a \$3 billion investment in aged care, which will be part of the May Budget. [...] Speaking at the National Press Club last Wednesday, Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler said the investment responds to a demographic shift that will see the number of Australians aged over 80 grow by more than 300,000 in the next four years – "four times the growth" seen just a decade ago.

[Read More](#)

Timeline of NDIS changes

Team Dsc, Other, 28/04/2026

NDIS Minister Mark Butler announced a whole raft of changes at the Press Club last week. Some of

these may soon come into effect, while others are planned to be progressively rolled out over the next few years.

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ABC Illawarra, Drive, 28/04/2026, Fairlie Hamilton

Independent MP Rebekha Sharkie is calling for the Federal Government to ensure all providers of the National Disability Insurance Scheme are registered as a part of a major overhaul. Last year, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said 15 out of 16 NDIS providers are unregistered.

Also reported by: [ABC Great Southern \(Albany\)](#).

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ABC Illawarra, Drive, 28/04/2026, Justin Huntsdale

Interview with National Seniors Australia CEO Chris Grice. Huntsdale says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced last week that the Federal Government would cut the private health insurance rebate for Australians over 65 to fund changes to aged care reforms. Grice notes that they want to keep older Australians out of the public system and paying premiums to fund their own private health care, and they have acknowledged the investments in the Support at Home program and dementia care, but they are concerned about the latest announcement because they want to maintain the private health insurance for older Australians.

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Koori Radio, Blackchat, 28/04/2026, Lola Forester

Forester says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has announced the major NDIS overhaul this week, and it aims to tighten eligibility, reduce participant numbers, reduce funding for social and community participation by 30%, and implement a new digital payment system to curb fraud. She also says Disability Discrimination Commissioner Rosemary Kayess stated that people with disabilities, their families, and their carers are rightly concerned about how the proposed NDIS restructure will affect them.

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2CC, 10:00 News, 28/04/2026

The Canberra Liberals have expressed their frustration with the Federal Government's lack of clarity over NDIS reforms. NDIS Minister Mark Butler revealed the scheme's annual growth will be cut from 10% to 5%, saving taxpayers \$15b a year.

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2CC, 06:30 News, 28/04/2026

The Canberra Liberals have voiced sharp frustration over the Federal Government's lack of transparency regarding landmark NDIS reforms. While NDIS Minister Mark Butler has confirmed a sustainability target to cap the scheme's annual growth at 8%, a move expected to save the budget \$15 billion over the next four years, local leaders remain in the dark about how "foundational supports" will be funded.

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2GB, Night Time (Early), 28/04/2026, John Stanley

Interview with political commentator Terry Barnes. Barnes says various governments have changed the settings of the private health insurance rebate and relating it more to taxable income, but the principle still existed until last week when Mark Butler announced it was going to be slashed. He states that it is all about rewarding people who kept their health cover over a long time, and encouraging people to keep taking some responsibility for their own private health care, but the Federal Government decided to make the savings and put them on aged care.

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2GB, Mornings, 28/04/2026, Mark Levy

Levy says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler had the courage to address the National Press Club and lay out his plans to fix the NDIS. He also states that the two standouts in the Albanese Government are Butler and Jason Clare.

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ABC Far North, Drive, 28/04/2026, Adam Stephen

Interview with Townsville grandmother Debbie Gibson, on the inclusion of selpercatinib, a US-made cancer drug, on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. She shares her story about her son, Clinton, who was diagnosed with a rare neuroendocrine cancer, and how she helped advocate for the selpercatinib to be included in the PBS, noting that she received help from Phil Thompson, Bob Katter, Shadow Minister for Health Anne Ruston, and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, as well as his Chief of Staff, Lucas de Toca. She says Butler and the Federal Government are yet to negotiate a price with the drug company and formalise the inclusion of selpercatinib on the PBS.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Afternoons, 28/04/2026, Alice Matthews

Interview with Foundation for Social Health CEO Melanie Wilde. Wilde says there is a general agreement that something needs to be done to rein in the costs of the NDIS. She states that the NDIS was always supposed to be for people who were experiencing profound disabilities and most physical disabilities, and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler revealed that people with disabilities are not receiving the proper care that they need.

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ABC Radio Sydney, 11:00 News, 28/04/2026

Medicines Australia says hundreds of thousands of Australians with diabetes have been let down by a flawed system after the withdrawal of GLP-1 medication Mounjaro from the PBS process, as the drug manufacturer claimed that the price Australia was willing to pay for the drug was too low. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler claims that Australia has a sustainable PBS due to tense price negotiations with drug companies.

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

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ABC Radio Sydney, 09:00 News, 28/04/2026

Independent MP Rebekha Sharkie is leading calls for the Federal Government to fast-track mandatory registration for all NDIS providers, warning that the current lack of oversight is "failing the most vulnerable." While Health Minister Mark Butler recently announced that mandatory registration for high-risk services will begin in July 2026, Sharkie argues that a total overhaul is required to eliminate the "unregulated free-for-all" that has seen scheme costs balloon to over \$46 billion annually.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

ABC IDPwD 2026 Storyteller Scholarship winners announced

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2026

The ABC has awarded its 2026 International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) Storyteller Scholarship to Brendan Bernier and Julie Dickson. [...] Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, congratulated the recipients, highlighting the importance of authentic representation of disability in media.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Perinatal mental health opens in Elizabeth

Bunyip, General News, 29/04/2026, Page 7

Free psychological support for new and expectant parents has come to Elizabeth with the official opening of a new Perinatal Mental Health Centre. Opened on 21 April by Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride and Member for Spence Matt Burnell and operating under the Gidget Foundation, the centre offers support for new and expectant parents throughout the perinatal period.

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Grit and Resilience initiatives highlighted on national stage

Wangaratta Chronicle, Other, 29/04/2026, Simone Kerwin

The efforts of the Wangaratta Grit and Resilience Program in the preventative mental health space have been recognised beyond the rural city, during a recent Sydney conference hosted by the Public Health Association of Australia and mental health organisation Prevention United. [...] "Highlights included an opening address from Emma McBride, Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and a moving session on First Nations social and emotional wellbeing," she said.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

No relevant coverage

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Vic appoints first minister for boys

Education Review, Other, 28/04/2026

Victoria has its first minister for men and boys. Part of a cabinet reshuffle, the role was given to Frankston MP Paul Edbrooke. [...] For example, Dan Repacholi was appointed by the federal government to be Australia's first Special Envoy for Men's Health in 2025.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Afternoons, 28/04/2026, Alice Matthews and Emma Bickley

The Federal Opposition has appointed Queensland Nationals MP Llew O'Brien as the Shadow Special Envoy for Men and Boys. It follows last year's Labor Government appointment of Dan Repacholi as Australia's first Special Envoy for Men's Health.

Also reported by: [Triple J \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Far North \(Cairns\)](#).

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DEPARTMENT

Big rebates for over-65s good for taxpayers

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Support at Home can learn from NDIS mistakes

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 28/04/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

It is impossible to control all aspects of the Support at Home rollout, so focus on what can be measured, StewartBrown's Siobhain Simpson tells conference delegates. [...] "This is another level of challenges, and you've weathered those storms when the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing wasn't ready for those changes," she said.

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Regulate infant formula marketing: AMA

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 28/04/2026, Ernie Hansen

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) wants retailers to be included in mandatory infant formula marketing regulations. In a submission to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing consultation on restricting infant formula marketing, the AMA raised concerns that marketing of the products

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Ask the big questions

Gympie Today, Other, 28/04/2026

Palliative Care Australia is encouraging Australians to start conversations about palliative and end-of-life care ahead of National Palliative Care Week, 10 to 16 May 2026. [...] National Palliative Care Week 2026 is supported by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

[Read More](#)

New ALS treatment approved

Pharma In Focus, Other, 28/04/2026

The TGA has approved a raft of medicines including Biogen's ALS drug Qalsody, the first generic of UCB's Briviact, multiple brands containing semaglutide, plus a new indication for Specialised Therapeutics' (ST) Minjuvi. [...] "With TGA registration secured, we are committed to working with the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to enable equitable access to Minjuvi for Australians with relapsed or refractory follicular lymphoma as soon as possible," ST CEO, Carlo Montagner, said.

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Stocking rules reduce shortages

Minimum Stockholding Requirements (MSR), which were introduced on 01 Jul 2023, have had a positive impact on reducing drug shortages, according to a 24month review by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. MSR required companies to have at least four or six months of stock available in Australia for certain Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listed medicines known as designated brands.

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Who knows how DoHDA is using AI? Not the RACGP

The Medical Republic, Other, 28/04/2026, Holly Payne

The RACGP says it knows DoHDA is using artificial intelligence for compliance and fraud detection, but it doesn't know what that use looks like. The royal college of GPs says it "does not have visibility" over how the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is using AI for compliance and fears another Robodebt scenario.

[Read More](#)

NHS denies it attempted to curb GP referrals

The Medical Republic, Other, 28/04/2026, Holly Payne

The right to refer has become a central flashpoint in the most recent spat between NHS England and 38,000-odd GPs. [...] The advice and guidance saga in the NHS may be particularly informative for Australia's Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, which is currently considering options to modernise the country's patchwork referral system.

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Health insurer Bupa accused of anti-competitive behaviour under secretive No Gap scheme deals

Your Life Choices, Other, 28/04/2026

Health insurance giant Bupa has been accused of anti-competitive behaviour in its dealings with private hospitals, which critics say is ultimately reducing choice for Bupa customers. [...] Source: Department of Health and Aged Care.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

ACH's Rose Park retirement complex rejection sparks warning of dire hospital ramping consequences

Adelaide Now, Other, 28/04/2026, Natalie Vikhrov and Agnes Gichuhi

The national peak body for the retirement living industry has issued a grim warning after the rejection of a \$120m retirement complex in Adelaide's inner-east, saying a shortage of age-friendly housing could exacerbate SA's ambulance ramping crisis. The State Commission Assessment Panel last week rejected aged-care provider ACH Group's 13-storey luxury project proposed for Rose Park because it did not align with the surrounding "low-scale" properties, was too tall, and too big.

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

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Budget needs to be better focused, not bigger

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 28/04/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The existing aged care budget can already make a 'real difference,' the Inspector-General of Aged Care Natalie Siegel-Brown tells Invox Support at Home conference delegates, but smarter spending is needed. 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.

Aged care sector braces for impact: 83% of providers unprepared for new audits

HelloCare, Other, 28/04/2026, Jakob Neeland

Nearly six months after the New Aged Care Act took effect, the Australian aged care sector is navigating a period of significant uncertainty. A recent poll of 200 organisations conducted by Mirus Australia reveals that the vast majority of providers are still scrambling to meet the requirements of the new regulatory model ahead of their first official audits.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Why we need to keep going with NDIS reforms

The Australian, General News, 29/04/2026, 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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UK-based AI firm targets Australia's NDIS admin crisis

The Australian, Business News, 29/04/2026, Jared Lynch, Page 15

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.

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PRIMARY CARE

New \$14m hub to cut screening wait times

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 29/04/2026, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 6

A new diagnostic imaging facility the only of its kind in the state is promising to help alleviate pressure on the public system and has just opened in Robina. The \$14m Lumus Imaging Hub opened on Tuesday is equipped to handle 35,000 patients a year in a move senior interventional radiologist Dr Paul Chou says will give Queenslanders faster access to exclusive, radiation-free biopsies and advanced cancer screening including the state's first Open Bore MRI.

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

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Bulk-billing clinics revealed amid claims of secret policy shifts

Launceston Examiner, General News, 29/04/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 2

With the first TassieDoc rollout announced for two Northern towns, it has sparked a political row over "watered-down" bulk-billing promises and shifted goalposts. The first TassieDoc commitment was announced Sunday, secured for Deloraine and Westbury Medical Centres, rather than the Huon Valley precinct, which was previously promised.

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Perth hospital sees 70% increase in liver transplants using new

technology

Medical Forum, Other, 28/04/2026, Aleisha Orr

An Australian-first liver transplant technology has seen a 70% increase in transplant numbers in one of Perth's biggest hospitals. Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital is the first in the country to make the most of a machine that provides both warm and cold liver perfusion, which not only tests the liver's viability but can recover certain injury or insult.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Prevention is far better than cure, for us all

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/04/2026, Paul Lupo, Page 16

We have a unique opportunity to transform Tasmanians' health and longevity, and all sides agree it must be taken Tasmanians are on the brink of the most consequential health budget in a generation. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows health cost inflation exceeded general inflation in 202324, continuing a long-term trend.

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2GB, Afternoons, 28/04/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with Oracle Healthcare Medical Director and Founder Dr Lena Attebo, on the importance of preventative health care. Attebo says preventative health care strengthens one's body and mind, and research has shown that having good daily habits, such as being physically active, having proper nutrition and sleep, and being socially connected, play a powerful role in protecting the body and the brain. She also discusses some of the key medical checkups or screenings that adults should be doing regularly, noting that people should check in with their GPs and know if they need to be screened for bowel cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer, and lung cancer.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 28/04/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with University of Queensland Tobacco Control Policy International Expert Professor Coral Gartner. Gartner says the UK has passed a bill, making it illegal for retailers to sell tobacco products to anyone born after the year 2008. She states that Australia has not had proper control over the retailing of tobacco, and there was a weakness in the system that allowed illegal traders to sell illegal products, but they need to make sure now that Australia has good control over the retail sector, and drive out illicit tobacco traders.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Siblings take a back seat when families are struck by chronic illness

Age, General News, 29/04/2026, Shona Hendley, Page 8

Jumping on the trampoline, riding bikes and playing games with your siblings are among the joys of childhood. However, for nearly half of Australian families, their reality looks very different.

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Charity urges reform to help medically absent kids

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/04/2026, Will Paige, Page 9

More than a million children at risk of chronic school absence for medical reasons should be formally recognised as a distinct group, a children's charity says, warning education policy is failing them. Up to 1.2 million students are at risk of chronic absence linked to conditions such as cancer, asthma and

trauma, according to MissingSchool, with the charity calling for policy reforms and additional funding to support affected pupils.

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Higher risk of second cancer

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/04/2026, Page 10

Being older at initial diagnosis and male can influence whether someone will develop a second cancer. Additionally, Virginia Commonwealth University researchers in the US found that survivors of lung, bladder, and skin cancer were at a higher risk of developing new cancer.

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It sounds nuts, but it may be fruitful

West Australian, General News, 29/04/2026, Brooke Rolfe, Page 3

Eating fruit and nuts can protect the human body against liver disease, a new West Australianled study has found. Research by Edith Cowan University and Curtin University shows the popular snack can help reverse damage caused by non-alcoholic fatty liver disease a currently untreatable condition affecting about one-in-three Australians.

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

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

New hope after stroke

Newcastle Herald, General News, 29/04/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

A revolutionary treatment for stroke trialled in Newcastle has led to remarkable recoveries among patients who faced severe disability. A clinical drug trial involving John Hunter Hospital showed promising results that could lead to global change in stroke treatment.

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Push to make voluntary assisted dying available through telehealth

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2026, Danielle Pope

When Susan Collins got sick in 2023, it started with back pain, slurred speech and reflux. Soon she was struggling to eat.

[Read More](#)

Australians like Zoe are losing money to the 'ADHD tax' simply because of how their brains are wired

9News, Other, 28/04/2026

If she doesn't set an alarm, a run-of-the-mill trip to the shopping centre can turn into a financial headache for Zoe Sheehan. On a recent sunny Sydney day, the 30-year-old parked in a 30-minute zone at a Westfield, bought a coffee, promptly forgot about her car and walked home.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 28/04/2026, Joe O'Brien

Healthcare advocates say terminally ill patients in regional Australia want the laws changed to help them access voluntary assisted dying. Accessing voluntary euthanasia has to be approved in a face-to-face consultation, which can often mean long, painful road trips to see accredited doctors.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 28/04/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Yvonne Webb. Stimpson says Millie, BreastScreenNT's mobile bus, has served the Northern Territory for years by providing free mammograms for women over 40, and it is now on its final tour. Webb shares her experiences with breast cancer and commends the role of the McGrath Foundation for raising breast cancer awareness.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Gender care guide claims rile parents

The Australian, General News, 29/04/2026, Stephen Rice, Page 5

A group representing more than 50 parents of children with gender dysphoria has slammed Australia's peak human rights body as "highly irresponsible" over explainers it says contain "misleading and inaccurate claims". Parents of Adolescents with Gender Distress (PAGD) has written to the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) pleading for an urgent review and revision of the materials to include balanced, evidence-based information.

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

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Rapists' paradise

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/04/2026, Dasha Havrilenko, Page 1

Forensic mental health patients have been charged with a crime but found mentally incompetent or unfit to stand trial often due to serious psychiatric illness or intellectual disability and are placed under court-ordered supervision in the community. The report identifies 215 such patients living in the community 40 per cent linked to sexual or severe violent offences including homicide.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 28/04/2026, Yvonne Yong

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

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

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4BC, Drive, 28/04/2026, Gary Hardgrave

Interview with Shadow Special Envoy for Men and Boys Llew O'Brien. O'Brien says the statistics around men's health and education are bad, and young men are dying of preventable causes. He states that suicide is the major cause of death for most men, and he is worried that the national suicide prevention strategy that was handed down by the Federal Government last year did not address men's mental health.

[Play Now](#)

6PR, Drive, 28/04/2026, Jamie Burnett

A study has found social media is playing a positive role in helping to prevent suicide. Researchers from Monash University reviewed a decade's worth of research to better understand how social media platforms can be used for suicide prevention.

Also reported by: [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#).

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IMMUNISATION

Nose-spray flu vaccine a game-changer for kids and now's the perfect time to get it

Age, General News, 29/04/2026, Liam Mannix, Page 8

It is my solemn duty to report that it's time to think about getting your flu jab again. With vaccine effectiveness tending to peak one to two months after the jab, and flu season tending to peak in June and July, getting vaccinated now makes sense.

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

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Alarm at vaccination rates

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/04/2026, Gary Shipway, Page 10

As more Territorians become a statistic in the ongoing influenza surge, residents are being urged to "Have the Jab Chat" with their GP to help cut through vaccine misinformation. The Australian Medical Association (AMA), the peak professional body for doctors in Australia, says widespread misinformation has created uncertainty, fuelling declining immunisation rates.

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

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6PR, Drive, 28/04/2026, Jamie Burnett

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners WA Chair Dr Ramya Raman. Raman says the WA Government has announced that young and old West Australians can freely access the flu vaccines from May to June. She states that now is the best time to talk to the GPs and get vaccinated this flu season.

Also reported by: [6PR \(Perth\)](#)

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 28/04/2026, Leon Compton

Interview with Australian Medical Association Tasmania Vice President Dr Meg Creely, on flu vaccines. Creely says acute respiratory infections in the public health departments are currently sitting at low levels, and now is the perfect time for people to get vaccinated from winter viruses such as RSV. She states that there are now vaccination programs to reduce the risk for babies and adults.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Health insurer Bupa accused of anti-competitive behaviour under secretive No Gap scheme deals

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2026, Alison Branley

Health insurance giant Bupa has been accused of anti-competitive behaviour in its dealings with private hospitals, which critics say is ultimately reducing choice for Bupa customers. Leaked documents have revealed how the insurer's contracts impose stifling conditions on small hospitals — operators with little bargaining power against a fund that holds a quarter of the Australian market.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Hospital takeover, as a legacy of Joe

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/04/2026, Michael McGowan, Page 7

Health Minister Ryan Park says he is "reasonably confident" private health services will continue at Northern Beaches Hospital, while conceding high demand for out-of-pocket care has been an added complexity to the \$190 million public takeover of the hospital. The hospital will officially move into public hands today, six months after the Minns government struck a takeover deal with its former private operator Healthscope following the death of two year-old Joe Massa in 2024.

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'The legacy of Joe' as hospital goes public

Daily Telegraph, General News, 29/04/2026, Jake McCallum, Page 18

The wish of Joe Massa's parents to see Northern Beaches Hospital transferred into public hands to prevent other families from experiencing the devastation they faced after losing their son has been granted, with the keys to the embattled health hub finally handed over to NSW Health Minister Ryan Park. The Daily Telegraph can reveal Northern Beaches Hospital is, as of today, under NSW government control, after a 12-month action plan was rolled out to transfer its management away from private provider Healthscope.

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Beds for bucks in \$42m deal

Courier Mail, General News, 29/04/2026, Mikaela Mulveney, Page 14

The state government has quietly struck a deal with a Brisbane private hospital to house 25 patients clogging up public hospitals at a cost of nearly \$1m a year per bed. Metro North Health Services signed a \$42m deal with St Vincent's Private Hospital Kangaroo Point to reserve 25 beds for low-acuity, longerstay older patients to be transferred from public hospitals for two years.

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

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Labour of love turned to Labor pain for mum

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/04/2026, Aden Hill, Page 4

For Lauren Barker, the birth of her second child should have been a joyous occasion, but it quickly turned into a nightmare when the shortcomings of regional healthcare threw her plans into chaos. When she went into labour two weeks early in July 2025, the 35-year-old from Freeling, was told that Gawler Health Service, where she was due to deliver her baby, was on diversion, and her backup option of Lyell McEwin Hospital was at capacity.

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

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Barossa hospital puts life online

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 29/04/2026, Shashi Baltutis, Page 9

he staff-strapped Angaston Hospital will expand its virtual care services and roster a night shift nurse at its Emergency Department to offset having a medical officer available only three days a week. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation SA (ANMF SA) welcomed the support after its chief executive warned that shortages at the hospital "cannot be hidden".

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

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Orange and green rally for hospital, but differ on the method

Border Mail, General News, 29/04/2026, Hana Humboldt, Page 5

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 Monday with one message: a new hospital on a new site.

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

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Mother 'always thinks' about whether birth delay at regional hospital led to son's ongoing health issues

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2026, Sara Garcia

A regional South Australian mother who faced a range of stressful diversions during her son's birth says she will always wonder whether his serious and ongoing health concerns were caused by delays in receiving care. Lauren Barker, who lives in Freeling, 60 kilometres north of Adelaide, had planned to deliver her son Laikyn at Gawler Health Service, about 18 kilometres from her home, where she had attended regular appointments throughout her pregnancy.

[Read More](#)

Doctors concerned about \$3.2b new Women's and Children's Hospital design

ABC Online, Other, 28/04/2026, Stephanie Richards

Doctors say they have "significant concerns" about the proposed design of Adelaide's new \$3.2 billion Women's and Children's Hospital, claiming women arriving by ambulance could experience life-threatening delays in care. The claim has been disputed by the head of Women's and Children's Health Network, who told the ABC in a statement hours after the story was first published that any suggestion that the risk to women's health would increase as a result of the hospital design was "incorrect".

[Read More](#)

Northern Beaches hospital handed to NSW government, ending troubled public-private partnership

The Guardian, Other, 29/04/2026, Penry Buckley

Sydney's Northern Beaches hospital is officially entering the public system, ending a troubled eight-year public-private partnership, although uncertainty about the future of private services remains. The transition and legal handover of the hospital from private operator Healthscope to New South Wales Health will occur at 7am on Wednesday.

[Read More](#)

Some Perth hospitals get extra beds – but will it ease capacity strain?

Medical Forum, Other, 28/04/2026, Aleisha Orr

The announcement of extra public hospital beds in parts of Perth this winter may be welcome news, but the AMA (WA) wants greater transparency on the impact it would have on overall capacity. AMA (WA) President Dr Kyle Hoath said the state government needed to be transparent about both bed capacity and staffing so clinicians and the public could have confidence that these announcements did not amount to creative accounting.

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Who is Catelyn Richards? The nurse stepping into ANMF leadership

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 28/04/2026, Robert Fedele

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation has a new Federal Assistant Secretary – but who is she, and what does she stand for? Registered nurse Catelyn Richards has stepped into the national leadership role with a background that spans paediatric nursing, union organising and climate advocacy.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Doctor college faces probe after EGM row

The Australian, General News, 29/04/2026, Penny Timms, Page 5

The watchdog overseeing the nation's medical colleges has sounded the alarm over the Royal Australasian College of Physicians' accreditation, after a dramatic board standoff last week during which police were called. The Australian Medical Council, which helps to oversee the college on behalf of the Medical Board of Australia, has told The Australian it is concerned the RACP may not be meeting its requirements for good governance.

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

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AFL kicks off team-up in healthy career push

Cairns Post, General News, 29/04/2026, Molly Frew, Page 3

Students from Cape York will be trained to become healthcare workers under a new partnership that promises to transform health services in remote communities. AFL Cape York joined Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service to announce a 12-month partnership to deliver career workshops to students, who can enter into school-based traineeships or work experience with the service.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

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Emergency nurses call for urgent action on workplace violence

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 28/04/2026, Natalie Dragon

An alleged violent assault at Sydney's Prince of Wales Hospital has reignited alarm over escalating risks facing nurses, with the College of Emergency Nursing Australasia (CENA) warning the incident reflects a national crisis. The incident occurred in the emergency department last Saturday night at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Randwick.

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More than 4,000 workers join SA health system

Nursing Review, Other, 28/04/2026, Stefanie Schultz

South Australia has recruited more than 4,000 additional frontline health workers in the past four years. New data shows significant growth across nursing, medical, allied health and ambulance staffing as the state continues efforts to strengthen its public health system.

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Drug company rejects PBS funding offer for tirzepatide as diabetes treatment

Australian Doctor, Other, 28/04/2026, Antony Scholefield

The chance to get tirzepatide on the PBS for type 2 diabetes is 'now shut', Eli Lilly says. Drug maker Eli Lilly has dramatically rebuked an offer of PBS funding for tirzepatide as a type 2 diabetes treatment.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Bacterial disease on the rise in NT

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/04/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 7

Cases of the infectious disease diphtheria have significantly soared in the past month as numbers quadruple in the Northern Territory. Over April, there have been more than 60 cases of the uncommon bacterial infection reported to NT Health, prompting the health body to issue an alert on Tuesday.

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

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Measles alert issues after infectious traveller from Japan visits Sydney

9News, Other, 28/04/2026, Tilli Andrew

Health authorities are urging Sydneysiders to stay alert after a confirmed measles case was linked to busy locations across the city – including a flight into Sydney and a hospital emergency department. The case involves a returned traveller from Japan, where infections have been climbing.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Health Check: At quarter time, who is taking 'speccies' and who is headed for the bench?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/04/2026, Tim Boreham

The trickle of March quarter biotech quarterly reports has turned into a torrent. [...] (The drug is not yet approved in Australia but can be accessed via the Therapeutic Goods Administration's Special Access Scheme.

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

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Dr Boreham's Crucible: Friendlier markets lead the way for Firebrick's respiratory virus killer

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 28/04/2026, Tim Boreham

Firebrick has turned to commercialising Nasodine in more amenable alternative markets, including Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia and the US. [...] At the height of the pandemic in 2020, the company filed with Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for approval.

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

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A dead person's fat pumped into your body? Why the 'zombie filler' trend has some experts spooked | Antiviral

The Guardian, Other, 29/04/2026, Melissa Davey

With people getting everything from salmon sperm to plasma injected into their faces in the name of beauty, it is difficult to be surprised when new, even seemingly extreme methods to achieve youthfulness are promoted. But Dr David Sparks, a specialist plastic surgeon based in Queensland, was alarmed when he heard patients were asking about cadaver fillers, a trend being promoted on social media as "zombie filler".

[Read More](#)

The price ain't right: Lilly

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 28/04/2026, Ernie Hansen

Eli Lilly is calling for "wholesale changes" to be made to the PBS (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) after withdrawing its application to have Mounjaro (tirzepatide) listed. [...] Thank god for Choice and the ABC, this was brought to the attention of the TGA by the founder of...

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Neffy nasal adrenaline gets PBAC nod

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 28/04/2026

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has released the outcomes of its Mar 2026 meeting, with Seqirus Australia's neffy adrenaline (epinephrine) nasal spray for emergency anaphylaxis treatment among the positive recommendations for PBS listing. [...] People aged 75 and older and First Nations adults 60-74 years are eligible for Arexvy under the NIP commencing 15 May (A pre-filled syringe form of Vyvgart (efgartigimod alfa, Argenx Australia) for adult patients with generalised myasthenia gravis (gMG) was recommended, following its TGA approval earlier this year...

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From fake medicines to watches, counterfeits are everywhere and getting harder to catch

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 28/04/2026

Some fake products can pose serious health risks to unsuspecting buyers. Health authorities have warned consumers to "exercise extreme caution when buying medicines and medical devices online".

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

AICIS

Toxic 'forever chemicals' could be leaching into Brisbane River from industrial site

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 28/04/2026, William Davis

"Forever chemicals" could be leaching into the Brisbane River at dangerous levels from a major industrial facility. A government report revealed PFAS was detected at the Chevron fuel terminal in Eagle Farm at levels many times higher than ecological guidelines, and may have been polluting the surrounding environment.

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