



# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 30th 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 Age](#)** (page 4) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler says addressing a severe shortage of nursing home beds and reining in "out of control" medical specialist fees will be his next tasks following the NDIS overhaul.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that a couple operating unregistered NDIS provider Mosaic Elite Health in Lakes Entrance have been banned from providing NDIS services due to concerns surrounding their past drug trafficking and violent crimes.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that the latest Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission wastewater report has found Australians consumed the highest levels ever recorded of cocaine, MDMA, methylamphetamine and heroin in 2024-25.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 5) reports that new research from Mater Research and The University of Queensland has found a screening test of the placenta could see babies identified as being at-risk for potentially deadly allergies at birth.
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (page 1) reports that a partnership between the ABF, Access Canberra, ACT Policing and the TGA has seen raids in Canberra seize nearly half a million cigarettes and about 26 kilograms in loose tobacco from six retail outlets.

- **The Canberra Times** (page 1) reports that staff and union members raised safety concerns regarding an emergency department unit prior to a patient holding staff hostage with a knife last Wednesday.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### **Alone in a darkened room, my elderly dad's the lucky one**

The Australian, General News, 30/04/2026, Matthew Condon, Page 12

Last weekend we paid a surprise visit to my 88-year-old father at his new digs - a nursing home on the Gold Coast - went through the Covid-test entry requirements, walked past the entertainment area, alongside the dining rooms and the little library with its small number of books and puzzles, then tapped on his door and opened it to complete darkness. [...] This week, federal Health Minister Mark Butler stood at the National Press Club to announce a landmark NDIS reset.

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

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

### **RBA now has chance to wait for budget**

Australian Financial Review, General News, 30/04/2026, John Kehoe, Page 4

Inflation is already too high at 4.6 per cent, and will rise further over the coming months as the fuel price shock from the Middle East conflict inflames price pressures.

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

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

### **Butler targets 'out of control' specialist fees as next health priority**

Age, General News, 30/04/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos and Paul Sakkal, Page 4

Health Minister Mark Butler says reining in "out of control" medical specialist fees and dealing with a severe shortage of nursing home beds for ageing Baby Boomers will be his next problems following Labor's major overhaul of the NDIS. After campaigning on the cost of seeing a GP at last year's election, Butler said Labor was now considering the same with specialist fees in its second term, even if this meant pushing laws to their limit.

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

### **Cuts to private health insurance rebate 'disappointing'**

Weekly Times, General News, 29/04/2026, Page 3

The government's decision to cut the Private Health Insurance Rebate will disappoint thousands of older Australians, says Dr Rachel David, CEO of Private Healthcare Australia. [...] Preliminary estimates suggest more than 1.4 million older Australians will be affected by the policy announcement made by Health Minister Mark Butler during his National Press Club address last week.

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

### **Cuts to the NDIS: Cuts to choice and agency**

Clifton Courier, General News, 29/04/2026, Page 6

The recent cuts to the NDIS were made in favour of reining in the huge cost of the Scheme. [...] "These reforms are about saving the NDIS itself." Minister for the NDIS, Mark Butler said.

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

### **Liberal elders urge Labor to scrap NDIS 'choice and control' principle**

The Australian, Other, 30/04/2026, Sarah Ison and Lachlan Leeming

Former Liberal minister Pru Goward has called for caps on NDIS plan budgets, arguing the scheme's rights-based approach lacks financial boundaries. [...] In laying out landmark reforms last week to save the budget more than \$30bn and diverting 160,000 participants off the program, NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler recognised the "genuine flaws" of the \$50bn scheme Labor created in 2013, including lax eligibility and a "free for all market" rife for rorting.

## **Anthony Albanese progresses Bill Shorten manifesto, as inflation roars**

The Australian, Other, 29/04/2026, Geoff Chambers

Anthony Albanese is on the cusp of fulfilling Bill Shorten's 2019 election housing tax dream in a budget overshadowed by inflation running hot, an economy teetering on the edge of recession and not enough homes being built. [...] Mark Butler, who ran Albanese's failed leadership campaign against Shorten, last week committed the government to finally reining in the ballooning NDIS left behind by the former Labor leader.

[Read More](#)

## **Treasurer faces inflation crisis ahead of budget as rate rise threatens households**

The Australian, Other, 29/04/2026, Judith Sloan

When grinning Jim, our Treasurer, tells us that the budget is in better nick and he has managed to reduce government debt, informed people know these statements to be falsehoods. [...] Mind you, good job for trying, Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

## **Private health insurance rebates to older people the 'greatest saving' for taxpayers**

The Australian, Other, 29/04/2026, Natasha Robinson

Analysis of higher rebates for private health insurance found the biggest benefit, up to \$5000, came from helping older age groups. [...] 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.

[Read More](#)

## **I helped create the seniors' PHI rebate. Scrapping it is a false economy**

Australian Financial Review, Other, 29/04/2026, Terry Barnes

The weekend before the 2004 federal election was called, then prime minister John Howard issued a brief to his then social policy adviser, the late John Perrin, and me as senior policy adviser to then health minister, Tony Abbott.

[Read More](#)

## **Anthony Albanese insists NDIS families shouldn't panic over plan to cut 160,000 participants across Australia**

West Australian, Other, 29/04/2026, Katina Curtis

Anthony Albanese insists families who use the NDIS shouldn't be panicking despite his health minister having flagged that some 160,000 current participants will be removed from the scheme within two years. [...] "We've made that very clear, very, very clear, as (health minister) Mark Butler did at the press club."

Also reported by: [Thenightly.com.au](https://thenightly.com.au) (Online).

[Read More](#)

## **How will the NDIS decide who to cut off?**

ABC Online, Other, 30/04/2026

The growth of the NDIS is about to be slashed, but what tool will the government use to determine who gets to stay and whose disability supports are cut? [...] Mark Butler, Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme: In terms of eligibility, that is something obviously we need to work through much more carefully with the community and with states.

[Read More](#)

## **Guardian Essential poll: Australians want higher tax on gas exports and**

## extension of petrol excise cut

The Guardian, Other, 30/04/2026, Josh Butler

A majority of Australians support taxing profits from gas exports and extending the cut to the fuel excise, according to the latest Guardian Essential poll, despite Anthony Albanese on Wednesday ruling out a new tax on existing gas export contracts. [...] Restricting spending on the NDIS, as the health minister, Mark Butler, outlined last week, was supported by 52% of respondents; while boosting defence spending was supported by 51%.

[Read More](#)

## Cost of becoming a doctor 'contributing to the healthcare crisis'

9News, Other, 29/04/2026, Mikala Theocharous

Australia's regional and rural healthcare system is facing a critical shortage of GPs. [...] The solution so far has been to rely on immigrant workers, according to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

## New NDIS eligibility tool will be 'relatively blind' to diagnoses

CathNews, Other, 29/04/2026, Rebecca Comini

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.

[Read More](#)

## 5 Ways Churches Can Support People Living with Disability

Hope 103.2, Other, 29/04/2026

NDIS funding changes are increasing pressure on families. [...] According to ABC News, the NDIS minister Mark Butler said funding amounts for social and community participation would be "reset" to 2023 levels, around \$500 a week, with measures aimed at preventing further "runaway growth".

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

[Read More](#)

## After tribunal battle, mother fears NDIS overhaul will undo son's support

pakenhamgazette.com.au, Other, 30/04/2026, Jin Hui

After a long "ugly battle" with the NDIS Tribunal to win back her son's funding, Nurindah Lestari fears proposed reforms could undo the progress her family fought so hard to achieve. [...] But less than a year after securing a "life-changing" support for her son, Health Minister Mark Butler announced plans to cut the NDIS budget to \$55 billion by 2030, removing 160,000 participants.

[Read More](#)

## Concerns for participants as government set to remove 160,000 off NDIS

pakenhamgazette.com.au, Other, 30/04/2026

A major overhaul to the NDIS has been announced, but long-time leaders in the sector are concerned that the burden of stabilising the system will be disproportionately borne by participants, as the federal government has flagged reducing numbers by 160,000. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has announced major changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme in the lead-up to this year's budget to stabilise the growth of the \$50 billion program and realign its focus towards functional capacity.

[Read More](#)

## Single employer model coming to the top end

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/04/2026, Holly Payne

The Northern Territory has traditionally struggled to attract registrars, but some hope an investment in training will turn its luck around. The Northern Territory will host its first single employer model trial for rural generalist registrars from June, a move that ACRRM hopes will help the jurisdiction attract fresh

faces. Federal health minister Mark Butler announced the trial, which is funded through to December 2028, on Wednesday.

[Read More](#)

## **IHACPA releases 2024-25 Aged Care Cost Collection findings**

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/04/2026, Caroline Egan

The independent pricing authority has released the results of its 2024-25 Residential Aged Care Cost Collection, which will inform aged care funding from 1 October 2026. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler has made clear that AN-ACC funding should not include a margin.

[Read More](#)

## **Urgent care clinic opened**

Whyalla News, Other, 29/04/2026

Whyalla – The Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) in Whyalla was officially opened on Wednesday, April 22, by Federal Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler emphasised the importance of UCCs in regional areas.

[Read More](#)

## **NBN Lismore, NBN News, 29/04/2026, Natasha Beyersdorf**

Health care access in the Northern Rivers is under pressure due to rising fuel and living costs, ongoing impacts from the 2022 floods, and increased demand for mental health services, with psychologist Daniela McCann noting that some families cannot afford psychological care and that telehealth is not always suitable for young children or complex cases. The Australian Association of Psychologists is calling for an increase in the Medicare rebate to reduce out-of-pocket costs, as well as concerns on limited rural service availability, tightening NDIS budgets and forthcoming eligibility changes in October affecting access to psychologists. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has been contacted for comment.

[Play Now](#)

## **Sky News Live, Politics Now, 29/04/2026, Tom Connell**

Interview with Assistant Treasurer and Financial Services Minister Daniel Mulino. Mulino says the upcoming budget will include savings measures, citing Health Minister Mark Butler's announced structural changes to the NDIS that include savings and process improvements. He says the budget will also include spending cuts, reprioritisations, tax reform, and assistance for vulnerable people, describing it as fiscally responsible.

[Play Now](#)

## **Sky News Live, Newsday, 29/04/2026, Kieran Gilbert**

Interview with Treasurer Jim Chalmers. Chalmers believes the upcoming budget will be the most ambitious of the five, driven by productivity reforms, significant savings identified by Health Minister Mark Butler, and additional tax reforms. He says spending as a share of GDP is in the 26 per cent range, owing primarily to NDIS and aged care pressures, and it is expected to fall further.

[Play Now](#)

## **Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 29/04/2026, Laura Jayes**

Interview with Deputy Liberal Leader Jane Hume. Hume discusses NDIS changes, saying they were similar to reforms attempted in 2019 that were blocked by the Labor government. She also says Health Minister Mark Butler had been 'extremely courageous' on the decision and that while there was general support in principle, the Opposition would wait and see and consider the detail before supporting any legislation put to Parliament.

[Play Now](#)

## **MIX 104.9, 360, 29/04/2026, Katie Woolf**

The Northern Territory will become the 12th region to trial a new rural GP practitioner training model,

with the single employer model (SEM) due to be rolled out from June in Katherine. Under the SEM, the state government will employ GP registrars instead of individual GP practices. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said that the Federal and Northern Territory Governments are working together to make GP and rural generalist training more attractive by fixing problems with short-term contracts.

[Play Now](#)

### **ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 29/04/2026, Steve Austin**

Interview with Jay Allen, CEO of the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation. Allen says rising costs for skin cancer screenings are limiting access, particularly in regional Australia, while the organisation operates mobile clinics providing free checks and recently sought \$7 million in funding to expand services. He says they were told by the chief of staff in Health Minister Mark Butler's office that the proposal was considered but not approved in the current budget, despite claims that prevention-focused investment could reduce the \$2 billion annual treatment burden.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### **ABC Gippsland, Regional Statewide Mornings, 29/04/2026, Nic Healey**

Interview with Federal NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister, about the removal of some Australians from the NDIS. McAllister says they are getting the scheme back on track, and she thinks that from a perspective of a person living in Australia, it'll mean getting rid of the fraud and the poor performance in the sector. She says it will also make access arrangements and the planning arrangements more transparent and predictable.

[Play Now](#)

### **ABC North Queensland, Breakfast, 29/04/2026, Michael Clarke**

Interview with Federal NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister, on the government's decision to remove 160,000 Australians from the scheme. McAllister points out that they believe in the scheme and they think that the Australian community believes in the scheme and is proud of it as well; however, everyone acknowledges that the scheme at present is not on track. She adds that there are way too many frauds and its costing too much compared to what was budgeted and forecasted for the scheme.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER RAE

### **Dignity in care**

Bairnsdale Advertiser, General News, 29/04/2026, Page 4

Co-payments removed for essential aged care services Gippsland Lakes Complete Health (GLCH) has welcomed Federal Government changes to aged care reform that will remove co-payments for personal care services under the new Support at Home program. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said the reforms ensure dignity in ageing is not determined by cost.

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

### **New aged care design guide aims to support First Nations Elders**

The Indian Sun, Other, 29/04/2026

Older Australians should have access to safe and high-quality aged care close to their communities, with new federal guidance released to help providers better support First Nations people. [...] Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae said collaboration with First Nations communities was essential.

[Read More](#)

## \$5.7M for four aged care beds in Tasmania

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/04/2026, Caroline Egan

The Tasmanian Government has opened tenders for Stage 2 of the upgrade to West Coast District Hospital, which includes the addition of four new aged care suites. [...] "This significant upgrade to the West Coast District Hospital will support people in the region to access high quality aged care services in their local community," said Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Bridget Archer Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae , said the Albanese Government is investing in aged care at "record levels".

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Urgent care clinic opened

Whyalla News, Other, 29/04/2026

Whyalla – The Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) in Whyalla was officially opened on Wednesday, April 22, by Federal Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler emphasised the importance of UCCs in regional areas.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### Aged care 'failing dismally'

Islander, General News, 30/04/2026, Dee Elferink, Page 3

Five months since the Federal Government made changes to Australia's aged care system, the Independent Member for Mayo has told Parliament the "whole system is an abject failure". [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is boasting on its website it is improving the system "to deliver the highest quality person-centred care for older people, where and when they need it".

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

### Locals benefit from healthcare traineeship

Monaro Post, General News, 29/04/2026, Page 14

Securing a job in the healthcare system is now more obtainable for a group of Snowy Monaro residents participating in a healthcare traineeship program. The University of Wollongong (UOW) and UOW College have secured Australian government funding through a Department of Health, Disability and Ageing initiative to deliver a regional healthcare traineeship pilot across the South East, including Cooma.

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

## Forum to bring aged care services together

Monaro Post, General News, 29/04/2026, Page 19

Federal government departments and local providers have come together to help Cooma's 'older' residents learn more about the aged care services available in town. Representatives from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and Cooma's Country Mobility Trends spoke to about 80 people at an aged care services forum held last week.

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

## Private health insurance rebates to older people the 'greatest saving' for taxpayers

The Australian, Other, 29/04/2026, Natasha Robinson

Analysis of higher rebates for private health insurance found the biggest benefit, up to \$5000, came from helping older age groups. [...] 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.

[Read More](#)

## Damning report warns sport in Sydney is being crippled by lack of space

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/04/2026, Harrison Finlay

Grassroots sport could be crippled across Sydney by a lack of places to play, a damning report has found, as land scarcity and population growth block the pathway of the next generation. [...] At the same time, young Sydneysiders are becoming increasingly sedentary, with just 20 per cent of children getting at least one hour of moderate or vigorous physical activity per day, in line with the federal health department's guidelines, in 2023.

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

[Read More](#)

## Self-employment can help autistic people avoid workplace barriers

ABC Online, Other, 29/04/2026

For Warragul woman Carmel Riley, self-employment provided an opportunity to grow. [...] A Department of Health, Disability and Ageing spokesperson said the strategy's focus on self-employment and entrepreneurship was driven by community consultation, acknowledging that many autistic people started their own businesses due to the barriers they faced in workplaces and an ability to find creative solutions to problems.

[Read More](#)

## Home care package wait time over 300 days

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/04/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The department has pointed to updated wait times on My Aged Care in its response to Senator Anne Ruston's question about reassessment wait times. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has pointed to this data in its response to a question taken on notice from Senator Anne Ruston at the 1 April Senate inquiry hearing into Support at Home Ms Ruston had asked about the wait time between reassessment and the older person receiving the higher level of care.

Also reported by: [Community Care Review \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Residents cost up to \$489 per day, on average

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/04/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Costs differ between geographic locations, with rural homes recording an average daily cost of \$768 per permanent resident compared to \$419 in metropolitan homes, IHACPA notes in its cost collection report. [...] IHACPA noted that its care minute data should not be directly compared to that of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing as the workforce categories are not aligned.

## DoHDA overpays \$368 million in aged care subsidies and fees

Health Services Daily, Other, 29/04/2026, Helen Tobler

It was all due to 'reconciliation issues', an inquiry heard. Meanwhile, weakness in IT controls was the biggest issue identified in an audit of 243 government bodies.

[Read More](#)

## HealthLink wins national contract to integrate IAR-DST

Pulse+IT, Other, 30/04/2026

HealthLink has been selected by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) to support the broader rollout of the Initial Assessment and Referral – Decision Support Tool (IAR-DST) across Australian general practice software. The IAR-DST is a Commonwealth-funded mental health decision support tool designed to assist health professionals to determine the most appropriate level of care a person will need across five levels of care within the Australian stepped care model.

[Read More](#)

## New aged care design guide aims to support First Nations Elders

The Indian Sun, Other, 29/04/2026

Older Australians should have access to safe and high-quality aged care close to their communities, with new federal guidance released to help providers better support First Nations people. [...] Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae said collaboration with First Nations communities was essential.

[Read More](#)

## 'Not our fault': Anaesthetists say outdated rebates driving patient costs

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/04/2026

Pressure is building across the private system, as a new survey highlights billing constraints, ethical tensions in emergencies, and growing frustration with insurers. Australia's anaesthetists are warning that rising patient out-of-pocket costs are being driven less by specialist fees and more by mounting system pressures, including stagnant rebates and insurer settings that have failed to keep pace with the cost of care.

[Read More](#)

## How Juniper offers lifeline to stand-alone aged care operators

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/04/2026, Caroline Egan

The WA operator, which specialises in regional aged care, has announced it will acquire community-owned Esperance Aged Care Facility, located 720km southeast of Perth. [...] Registrations have shifted from the offices of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission under the new Act, meaning new staff and systems.

[Read More](#)

## Seven Regional WA, Seven Regional News, 29/04/2026, Noel Brunning

The Albany After Hours Clinic in Western Australia, funded through the Australian Government's Primary Health Networks program, faces possible closure as funding expires at the end of the financial year, having treated over 2300 patients last year. MLA Scott Leary stated that without the clinic, Albany Hospital's emergency department would face substantial pressure, while the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing noted that future funding is under consideration and that the government's focus on new Medicare urgent care clinics may take one to two years to reach the region.

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

## Budget must be measured by what it delivers for people

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/04/2026, Tamara Thomas

As the Albanese Government prepares to hand down what it has called its most ambitious budget yet, it's worth pausing to ask: ambitious for whom, and to what end? At a time marked by rising living costs and global conflict, ambition should not be measured by fiscal headlines alone, but by whether the budget makes life more secure for people and strengthens the support systems they rely on.

[Read More](#)

## Why 500 aged care homes could face care minute penalties

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/04/2026, Caroline Egan

More aged care homes than ever are meeting the Government's mandatory care minute targets, yet hundreds still fall short despite financial penalties. From 1 April 2026, non-specialist residential aged care operators in MM1 have faced financial penalties for non-compliance with mandatory care minute targets in the December 2025 quarter.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News, 29/04/2026, Kate Freebairn

Ten intermediate care beds have opened at the College Grove facility within a Walkerville retirement village through a partnership between the Central Adelaide Local Health Network and Ampliar Health, providing care for older patients who no longer need hospitalisation but are not yet ready to return home. The service is intended to support rehabilitation and free up hospital beds, with all 50 beds expected to be operational by mid-year, according to SA Health Minister Blair Boyer.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 29/04/2026, Mark Burrows

Australia's medical watchdog approved two breakthrough Alzheimer's drugs, including Kisunla (donanemab), for patients with early disease and confirmed amyloid plaques. Neurologist Dr Rowena Mobbs reported that PET scans showed significant amyloid reduction in some patients after treatment. A Cochrane review of 17 studies concluded that the overall effect is trivial, but the Australian Dementia Network disputes the pooled findings.

[Play Now](#)

## 4BC, Drive, 29/04/2026, Gary Hardgrave

Interview with Luke Traini, CEO of Trilogy Care. Traini discusses concerns about Australia's Support at Home program, highlighting co-contribution payments that may require older Australians to pay gap fees for home care services, including basic assistance such as showering and household support. He also raises concerns about affordability pressures and system complexity, including navigation through My Aged Care and Services Australia assessments. He further warns that shifting from in-person assessments to questionnaire-based evaluations risks overlooking individual circumstances, emphasising the need to maintain human oversight in aged care decision-making and support delivery.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Inflation to add billions to spending

Australian Financial Review, General News, 30/04/2026, Ronald Mizen, Page 1

Treasurer Jim Chalmers is preparing to unveil a multibillion-dollar blowout in the May budget in spending programs linked to inflation, such as the aged pension, after annual price rises surged to a two-year...

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

### NDIS bans couple over dodgy past

A drug trafficker and her partner, who was shot five times by police after charging at them with a knife, have been banned from providing National Disability Insurance Scheme services due to concerns over their chequered histories. Mistee Royal and West Goehner had been operating unregistered NDIS provider Mosaic Elite Health in Lakes Entrance since July 2024, providing cooking classes, fishing trips, boxing, dancing, chair yoga, beauty therapy, art classes and physiotherapy billed to clients via their disability support packages.

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

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

## Labor warned against 'pump priming' the economy as oil crisis pushes inflation back up to 2023 levels

Sky News Australia, Other, 29/04/2026, James Harrison

Labor has been warned against "pump priming" the economy during the fuel crisis as shortages have pushed inflation up to 2023 levels. Labor should not "pump prime" the economy during the fuel crisis as shortages have pushed inflation up to 2023 levels, a leading economist warned.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 29/04/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Finance Minister Katy Gallagher. Gallagher discusses budget savings, stating that the government is reviewing every area of government for potential savings, with no area exempt from the process. She also says that the NDIS will continue to grow, but its growth is being slowed to place it on a sustainable footing, alongside investments in aged care, health and hospitals.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 29/04/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Shadow Treasurer Tim Wilson. Wilson addresses the NDIS, noting a deceleration in its growth from around \$50 billion to the 60s while emphasising fraud and corruption estimated by the NDIA at about 10 per cent, or \$5 billion. He says that reforms have failed at the first hurdle because states must cooperate and the government must deliver on its promises.

[Play Now](#)

## 4BC, Drive, 29/04/2026, Gary Hardgrave

Interview with Jock Beveridge, CEO of Guide Dogs Queensland. Beveridge discusses the 'Bridging the Gap' program focused on improving accessibility for the 375,000 Queenslanders living with low vision or blindness, including the need for better public transport access such as bus hailing systems. He also highlights the goal to double guide dog teams and services over six years and stresses the importance of regular eye checks for early detection of vision conditions.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### This AI tool is coming to a doctors' office near you. It claims it will fix the most common GP gripe

9News, Other, 29/04/2026, Maddison Leach

A new AI tool that could slash GP wait times could be coming to a doctors' office near you, but is it just a more powerful version of 'Dr Google'? Not quite, according to Dr Michael Wright, President of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). [...] The RACGP, Australian Digital Health Agency and medical insurers are all in the process of developing guidelines to govern how GPs use these AI tools.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Illegal drug use surges to record high of \$14bn

The Australian, General News, 30/04/2026, Mohammad Alfares, Page 7

Australia's massive hunger for illegal drugs has hit a record street value of \$14.3bn, with the use of meth and cocaine reaching "confronting" new highs in every corner of the country. The latest Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission wastewater report shows Australians consumed 26.8 tonnes of cocaine, MDMA, methylamphetamine and heroin in 2024-25 the highest level ever recorded and a 21 per cent surge in just 12 months.

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

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

### Illicit tobacco trade to spark violence: police

The Australian, General News, 30/04/2026, Mohammad Alfares, Page 7

Federal police have warned Australia's illicit tobacco market has been "left unchecked" and now risks fuelling more violence, in a damning new report that contradicts the Albanese government position on the crisis. In its strongest comments to date to the federal inquiry into Australia's illicit tobacco crisis, the Australian Federal Police said criminal syndicates were scaling production specifically to meet "burgeoning" Australian demand.

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

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

### Arrogant: Parents' blast for AHRC

The Australian, General News, 30/04/2026, Rachel Baxendale and Elizabeth Pike, Page 8

Parents of gender-distressed adolescents have accused Australia's human rights commission president of "astounding arrogance", after he claimed his organisation prioritised "the best interests of the child" in advocating for treatment that can result in a range of irreversible harms, including infertility. AHRC president Hugh de Kretser also claimed that referring to trans women as biological men amounted to a "denial of their existence", and said he did not see "great conflict" between transgender and women's rights, despite the commission being accused of championing the rights of transgender women over those of biological women in two cases currently before the courts.

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

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

### Ice age hits new highs

Herald Sun, General News, 30/04/2026, Alex White, Page 3

Illicit drug use in Victoria has hit "confronting highs" in the past year as methylamphetamine and cocaine consumption have surged to the highest levels recorded. The National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program report reveals a stunning uptick in drug use across the country, with Australians blowing a record \$14.3bn on illicit drugs.

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

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

### Aussies' \$39m a day drug habit

Courier Mail, General News, 30/04/2026, Stephen Drill, Page 14

Australians are spending \$39m a day on drugs, as cocaine use surged almost 20 per cent, despite the cost of living crisis. An Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission report uncovered the spike in drug use, with the value of the illicit drugs market skyrocketing by more than 25 per cent to \$14.3bn a year.

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

### Toxic tide: Queensland's cocaine and meth use hits all-time high

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 29/04/2026, Courtney Kruk

Queenslanders are consuming the illicit drug ice in record amounts – 720 kilograms more than the previous year – according to the latest analysis of wastewater. A National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program analysis of samples from 64 facilities across the country measured the presence of illicit substances such as methamphetamine, cocaine, MDMA and heroin.

[Read More](#)

## **Australia becomes second largest consumer of methamphetamine globally, wastewater monitoring reveals**

The Guardian, Other, 29/04/2026, Caitlin Cassidy

Methamphetamine use in Australia has almost doubled in the past decade and stimulants are being taken at record highs, new wastewater monitoring reveals. On Wednesday evening the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) released its latest annual report after testing wastewater samples from 64 treatment plants across the country between August 2024 and 2025.

[Read More](#)

## **Gina Rinehart pledges \$200million to house homeless war veterans**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/04/2026, Kylie Stevens

Australia's richest woman Gina Rinehart will contribute \$200million towards emergency accommodation for homeless veterans in one of the nation's biggest-ever philanthropic donations. [...] She was compelled to act after learning that 5,800 veterans experience homelessness annually - nearly three times the rate of the general population, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## **CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING**

### **Placentas reveal allergies**

Courier Mail, General News, 30/04/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 5

Babies could be identified as being at-risk for potentially deadly allergies at birth with a screening test of the placenta. Groundbreaking research from Queensland has discovered at phase one clinical trials that the answer to the early detection of allergies lies in the mother's afterbirth.

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

### **Four minutes of daily movement could help prevent type 2 diabetes, study finds**

7News.com.au, Other, 29/04/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

A new study reveals the surprisingly simple daily habit that could slash your risk of type 2 diabetes by more than a third. World-leading research has found that short bursts of daily movement could prevent type 2 diabetes, with activities as simple as climbing stairs, carrying groceries and going for walks making a huge difference in as little as four minutes a day.

[Read More](#)

### **Why WA's unique history has it leading the pack on ADHD medication prescriptions**

ABC Online, Other, 29/04/2026

Perth and southern Western Australia account for seven of Australia's 10 highest ADHD-prescribing neighbourhoods, raising questions about why rates are so concentrated in the west. Nationally, ADHD affects about 2.5 to 3 per cent of adults, but data sourced from the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) shows more than 4 per cent in some Perth areas are being dispensed ADHD medication.

[Read More](#)

### **WA's five-year research project to improve approaches to autism**

A five-year research program to improve the accuracy and effectiveness of autism screening, diagnosis and care in Western Australia is now underway. Led by a global leader in autism research who has relocated to Perth to carry out the work, the research is expected to help transform how children with autism are diagnosed and supported.

[Read More](#)

### **Channel 7, Seven News, 29/04/2026, Mike Amor and Karina Carvalho**

Emmanuel Stamatakis of Monash University led an eight-year study of more than 22,000 people and discovered that accumulating short daily bursts of high-intensity activity was associated with a 36 per cent lower risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Grant Brinkworth of Diabetes Australia stated the findings are significant but emphasised that such activity must be performed as part of a healthy lifestyle.

[Play Now](#)

### **2CC, Canberra Live, 29/04/2026, Leon Delaney**

Interview with Chris Gribble, Principal Solicitor at Blumers Personal Injury Lawyers. Gribble discusses voluntary assisted dying laws, highlighting a conflict between state and territory frameworks in NSW, Victoria, Queensland and the ACT and Commonwealth law. He says this conflicting framework makes using telehealth in relation to assisted dying potentially a criminal offence due to federal provisions on assisting suicide via telecommunications.

[Play Now](#)

### **ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 29/04/2026, Thomas Oriti**

Interview with Doug Hawkins, CEO of the Pancare Foundation. Hawkins discusses upper gastrointestinal cancers, highlighting they are now the number one cause of cancer death in Australia due to a longstanding lack of attention and funding. He also identifies inequities in drug access under the PBS, including cases where treatments are subsidised for some cancers but not for pancreatic cancer, despite shared genetic factors.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

### **An unsafe space for our teens**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/04/2026, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 16

Teenagers are searching out anorexia "coaches" and sharing pictures of their terrifyingly thin bodies inside a thriving and dangerous online community thumbing its nose at Australia's worldleading social media ban. An investigation has unearthed more than 20 active accounts of users who openly identify themselves as Australians aged under 16, participating in the disturbing "eating disorder Twitter" movement and sharing dangerous content that includes self-harm.

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

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

### **Family's pain: Our boy should be here**

Border Mail, General News, 30/04/2026, Page 1

The parents of a father of two fatally stabbed during a random attack say the man responsible for his death should never have been in the community. David Summers-Smith had been discharged from Nolan House on June 12, 2024, after a nineday admission.

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

### **Parentline reveals 114 per cent surge in calls from parents whose kids are struggling with ADHD**

The Courier Mail, Other, 30/04/2026

Queensland parents of neurodivergent children are pleading for support more than ever before, with one counselling service tackling a 114 per cent increase in calls from parents of kids with ADHD/ADD. Free, over-the-phone counselling service Parentline responded to 11,241 inquiries from struggling parents and carers in the past year alone, averaging 30 to 40 calls a day.

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

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 29/04/2026, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Interview with new SA Chief Psychiatrist Associate Professor Melanie Turner. Turner explains that she has been a psychiatrist for about 26 years and added that the Chief Psychiatrist is the one responsible for looking after the Mental Health Act for SA, as well as the Suicide Prevention Act.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## IMMUNISATION

### Reasons for flu shots

Herald Sun, General News, 30/04/2026, Page 13

Australians will likely get a flu jab because they trust the vaccine and healthcare professionals, have had one previously, and have a personal responsibility to get one. Researchers including University of Sydney scientists say the trust in health workers rose from 80 per cent in 2024 to 86.5 per cent this year.

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

### When should I get the flu jab? We ask the experts about winter vaccines

ABC Online, Other, 29/04/2026, Lauren Roberts

Winter is the ideal time for hot tea, knee blankets and reading by the fire. But it's also the time when many of us get sick and spread respiratory illnesses such as influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

### Diphtheria, mpox undervaccination concerns

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/04/2026

A growing outbreak of diphtheria in northern and central Australia, mainly among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, has been linked to declining vaccination rates. More than 100 cases have been notified nationally in 2026 to date, mostly cutaneous infections, compared with a handful of cases in other years since the introduction of diphtheria vaccination on the NIP.

[Read More](#)

### Channel 9, Nine News, 29/04/2026, Michael Thomson

Western Australia now offers RSV vaccination to babies born between October and March, addressing waning protection from maternal immunisation, according to Catherine Hughes of the Immunisation Foundation. Professor Hannah Moore of The Kids Research Institute noted that the program has helped prevent hospitalisation, with nearly 80,000 children affected nationwide last year and more than 500 WA families avoiding admission in its first year.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

### Channel 10, 10 News, 29/04/2026, Sharyn Ghidella

The Queensland Government has signed a \$42.3 million agreement with St Vincent's Private Hospital to provide 25 beds for transferring patients from the Metro North public hospital system, aiming to address capacity pressures. Health Minister Tim Nicholls stated the strain is equivalent to losing the capacity of Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital daily, attributing it to limited residential aged care availability.

[Play Now](#)

### 2GB, Drive, 29/04/2026, Clinton Maynard

Interview with Dr Rachel David, CEO of Private Healthcare Australia. David says changes to private health insurance for older Australians would increase premiums by at least 5 per cent for those aged 65–69 and at least 11 per cent for those over 70, adding up to about \$700 extra and affecting around 3 million people. She says government modelling suggests people may drop out or downgrade cover, reducing access to treatments such as joint replacements and heart valve procedures and increasing reliance on the public hospital system, and calls for pensioners and low-income earners to be exempt.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Murdoch's wish? To champion medical research for children

The Australian, General News, 30/04/2026, Christine Middap, Page 1

Each time Sarah Murdoch walks the corridors of Murdoch Children's Research Institute she feels the sense of urgency that drives the researchers working on lifechanging solutions for sick kids. The institute is embedded in The Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, an arrangement that provides a circular stream of information and interaction between doctors and researchers.

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

### Easing women's pain

Daily Telegraph, Features, 30/04/2026, Page 6

As a public health researcher and Research Co-Lead of Chronic Reproductive Diseases at the Robinson Research Institute, Associate Professor Avery has built a career around tackling chronic reproductive conditions such as endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). Her work is now at the forefront of a growing push to modernise how endometriosis is detected, using artificial intelligence to reduce diagnosis times and improve outcomes for patients.

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

### A swell discovery

Daily Telegraph, Features, 30/04/2026, Page 24

In medical science, the real challenge isn't just discovery - it's turning complex research into treatments for patients. It's far from simple, but for Dr Con Panousis and other scientists at CSL, it's been a labour of love.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).*

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

### Real game changer

Daily Telegraph, Features, 30/04/2026, Page 25

It's the battle being fought in lounge rooms and bedrooms worldwide: Is gaming good or bad for mental health? Southern Cross University Faculty of Health psychology researcher Dr Dylan Poulus is

adamant there needs to be a clear distinction between gaming and esports (competitive gaming) before continuing the argument.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).*

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

## Survival instincts

Daily Telegraph, Features, 30/04/2026, Page 7

In the battle against cancer, the challenges continue long after treatment. Professor Raymond Chan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Flinders University understands this well that's why he's dedicated his career and life into research in this area.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).*

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

## Dreams are made

Daily Telegraph, Features, 30/04/2026, Page 10

Improving people's sleep is what keeps Professor Danny Eckert up at night. A former elite cyclist and now an expert in human sleep and respiratory physiology research for more than 25 years, Professor Eckert studies sleep disorders especially sleep apnoea, a condition in which people repeatedly stop breathing during sleep.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).*

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

## Battle of the phages

Daily Telegraph, Features, 30/04/2026, Page 11

From the smallest organisms on Earth may come some of the biggest breakthroughs in science. That belief sits at the heart of Professor Rob Edwards' work.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).*

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

## Mighty microbes

Daily Telegraph, Features, 30/04/2026, Page 13

Inside the human gut lives a hidden world of trillions of microbes and Professor Sam Forster is exploring how they shape our health. Most people think of bacteria as something to fight, but the world is slowly learning just how important they can be.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).*

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

## Our gene-ius minds

Daily Telegraph, Features, 30/04/2026, Page 14

Professor Jozef Gecz is figuring out how differences in our DNA shape the brain and play a role in conditions like intellectual disability, autism, epilepsy and cerebral palsy. His research combines large-scale genetic analysis with insights that have helped identify specific DNA changes behind these disorders work that has produced major breakthroughs in understanding how they arise.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).*

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

## Signals of change

Daily Telegraph, Features, 30/04/2026, Page 19

For Professor Tim Hughes, progress in cancer research isn't just measured by big headlines and

column inches it's about the patients he's been treating for years and their quality of life. A haematologist based in Adelaide, Professor Hughes has spent more than two decades focused on chronic myeloid leukaemia, a blood cancer that, during that time, has been completely transformed.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).*

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

## Veggies saving lives

Daily Telegraph, Features, 30/04/2026, Page 23

Rare conditions can be daunting, terrifying and isolating. For the people and families affected by them, the search for a treatment can feel overwhelming and sometimes impossible.

*Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).*

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

## Cause and effect

Daily Telegraph, Features, 30/04/2026, Page 26

Understanding cancer isn't just about the tumour itself, it's about the environment around it. That's a simple starting point when speaking to Professor Tracy Putoczki and her amazing work within cancer research.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).*

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

## The human factor

Daily Telegraph, Features, 30/04/2026, Page 27

Professor Karen Reynolds' office at Flinders University is a place where curiosity meets real-world problem solving. For nearly 30 years, she has been shaping biomedical engineering in Australia, helping turn ideas into devices that can save lives.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).*

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

## Seeds of wellbeing

Daily Telegraph, Features, 30/04/2026, Page 15

In rural communities, a farmer's resilience is often worn as a badge of honour, and asking for help can be one of the hardest things to do. For Associate Professor Kate Gunn, bridging the gap between need and support for our primary industries has become the focus of her life's work.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).*

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

## Natural mind set

Daily Telegraph, Features, 30/04/2026, Page 29

When catastrophic floods devastated Australia's NSW Northern Rivers region in 2022, followed by landslides, the physical damage was undeniable. What wasn't immediately visible was the psychological toll on survivors many of whom are still grappling with post-traumatic stress disorder years later, some still without permanent homes.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).*

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

## It's a gut feeling on long covid

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 30/04/2026, Zoe De Koning, Page 4

The answer to long Covid symptoms might be found in something most people flush away without a

second thought human poo. While it may sound bizarre, Geelong researchers are set to undergo a government-funded clinical trial testing whether faecal microbiota transplant (FMT) could help restore microbial balance disrupted by Covid-19 infection.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### **ABC Alice Springs, Drive Show, 29/04/2026, Nat Tencic**

Interview with Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy. McCarthy discusses the opening of the Congress Health Hub in Central Australia, highlighting medical assistance, primary health care, research, and 500 positions for health practitioners, including traineeships. She says the Aboriginal community-controlled health sector works when it is resourced and supported, pointing to Closing the Gap and the role of organisations like Congress during COVID in partnership with the government.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### **Why Joe's picture is on premier's desk**

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/04/2026, Michael McGowan, Page 21

Since the death of her two-year-old son, Joe, after serious failures of care at the Northern Beaches Hospital in 2024, several doctors have told Elouise Massa it was "only a matter of time" before a tragedy of that scale occurred at the scandal-plagued institution. "The writing was on the wall," they said.

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

### **Farley says he's a realist after comments labelled 'insulting'**

Border Mail, General News, 30/04/2026, Hana Humboldt, Page 2

Farrer's two leading contenders have exchanged jabs over the nuances of their differing health policies. At the April 27 health rally in QEII Square, independent candidate for Farrer Michelle Milthorpe took to the stage to criticise her opponent, David Farley, over remarks made in a previous election Q&A by The Border Mail, where he said: "Albury Wodonga Health leadership and clinicians must demonstrate the discipline and capability to deliver the program while maintaining high-quality, compassionate, professional care".

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

### **Royal Darwin Hospital's \$3.35 million repairs declared complete with further measures planned**

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/04/2026, Lottie Hood

More than five months after Cyclone Fina caused damage to the Territory's busiest hospital, it has this week been declared fully repaired. A section of Royal Darwin Hospital's brick facade on the outer wall collapsed during November last year when Cyclone Fina swept through Darwin.

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

[Read More](#)

### **Hospital finally 'run for people' after public takeover**

Canberra Times, Other, 29/04/2026, Tom Wark and Kat Wong

The Northern Beaches Hospital in Sydney completed its transition to the public health system on Wednesday, ending eight years of private ownership under Australia's second-biggest private hospital

operator, Healthscope. The death of Joe Massa, who died after waiting three hours for urgent treatment, prompted parents Elouise and Danny to crusade against private ownership of emergency care.

[Read More](#)

## **ABC News, News Breakfast, 29/04/2026, Emma Reballato and James Glenday**

The Northern Beaches Hospital has officially transitioned into the NSW public health system today, ending a decade-long experiment with private management at the Frenchs Forest site. Following a successful community-led campaign, the \$190 million government takeover became official this morning, bringing more than 1,800 healthcare and operational staff under the umbrella of NSW Health.

[Play Now](#)

## **Channel 10, 10 News, 29/04/2026, Sandra Sully**

The NSW Government has completed the acquisition of Northern Beaches Hospital for \$190 million, transferring it from a public-private partnership to state control following the death of Joe Massa and the introduction of 'Joe's law', which prevents future public-private partnerships. From July, the hospital will operate as a high-volume elective surgery hub to address statewide backlogs, while existing private patient arrangements continue temporarily and the future model for private services remains undecided pending an independent advisor's report next month.

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

[Play Now](#)

## **Radio National, Breakfast, 29/04/2026, Sally Sara**

Interview with Qld Health Minister Tim Nicholls. Compere says last week, the Federal Government announced funding for an extra 5000 aged care beds nationwide in a bid to address waiting lists. Nicholls admits that like other States and Territories, Qld will continue to grapple with high numbers of waiting lists and their most recent data shows that there are over 14000 stranded Australians across the state.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## **CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE**

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## **HEALTH WORKFORCE**

### **No way out staff raised safety fears**

Canberra Times, General News, 30/04/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 1

Union and staff members raised safety concerns about an emergency department (ED) unit before a patient, who was subject to a psychiatric treatment order, held staff hostage with a knife last Wednesday. The public was not notified of the incident, which was first reported by The Canberra Times five days later.

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

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

### **A grenade goes off and nobody is told**

Canberra Times, Editorials, 30/04/2026, Page 16

The ordeal of Canberra Hospital workers trapped for hours in what was essentially a glass box by an armed patient last week raises many very serious questions. Last Wednesday, eight staff were

besieged in a room attached to the emergency department's behavioural assessment unit for three hours while a patient brandished a knife he had allegedly smuggled in.

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

## Historic pay boost for hospital nurses could 'pull' nurses from GP practices

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/04/2026, Ciara Seccombe

Practice nurses may be tempted to jump ship to the public sector, says APNA president Denise Lyons. A landmark pay rise granted to public sector nurses may entice practice nurses back into the hospital system, warns the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### This AI tool is coming to a doctors' office near you. It claims it will fix the most common GP gripe

9News, Other, 29/04/2026, Maddison Leach

A new AI tool that could slash GP wait times could be coming to a doctors' office near you, but is it just a more powerful version of 'Dr Google'? Not quite, according to Dr Michael Wright, President of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). [...] The RACGP, Australian Digital Health Agency and medical insurers are all in the process of developing guidelines to govern how GPs use these AI tools.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Country is heading for a 'Flu-mageddon'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/04/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 16

A "flu Armageddon" is projected to hit this week as the 18th week of the year is traditionally when there is a mega explosion of cases. The Australian Respiratory Surveillance Report reveals the 18th week which in 2026 is from April 27 has seen a tenfold spike in reported flu cases over the last five years.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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

### Queenslanders urged to get tested for viral hepatitis after liver cancer deaths triple since 1980s

ABC Online, Other, 29/04/2026, Janelle Miles and Emma Pollard

A new report has revealed Queensland liver cancer deaths have risen from 1.6 deaths per 100,000 population in the 1980s to 5.1 in 2018–2022. It is estimated almost 50,000 Queenslanders are living with chronic hepatitis B or C, which are responsible for around half of liver cancer cases.

[Read More](#)

## Outbreak of potentially fatal infection not seen in WA for half a century

Medical Forum, Other, 29/04/2026

The Kimberley region is experiencing a diphtheria outbreak with 42 cases recorded in the region so far this year. There have been 47 cases across Western Australia in the past four months, almost eight times the total amount of cases recorded throughout the previous five years.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, A Current Affair, 29/04/2026, Allison Langdon

A 51-year-old woman, Kathleen Kelly, reports severe health complications following two doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, resulting in multiple surgeries, hospitalisations, and inability to work. She has been offered less than \$500,000 under the federal government's vaccine compensation scheme, which her legal representative states does not account for future care needs. The case highlights concerns about assessment processes within the scheme administered by Services Australia, with 479 claims still pending, and follows earlier COVID-19 policy enforcement under former Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Smoked!

Canberra Times, General News, 30/04/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 1

The government says it has seized nearly half a million cigarettes and about 26 kilograms in loose tobacco after raiding six Canberra retail outlets. [...] The raids were a partnership between the ABF, Access Canberra, ACT Policing and the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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

### Illicit cigarettes, vapes, cash seized in raids on Canberra's black market tobacco trade

ABC Online, Other, 29/04/2026

More than 455,000 illicit cigarettes have been seized as part of a series of raids on Canberra retailers, led by the ACT government and Australian Border Force. [...] Raids ramp up nationally Access Canberra officers, ACT Policing and the Therapeutic Goods Administration worked with Australian Border Force on the operation, which involved "sustained planning and preparation over a number of months," according to an ACT government statement.

[Read More](#)

### Catching ZZZs: raising awareness around sleep health

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/04/2026, Leanne Philpott

Sleep disorders are common, often undiagnosed and closely linked to chronic disease, placing community pharmacy in a prime position to identify risk and improve patient outcomes...

[Read More](#)

### Supplement brand fined over ad breach

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/04/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued four infringement notices to Switch Nutrition in relation to the alleged promotion of therapeutic goods. The regulator reported that the company had

advertised products containing nicotinamide mononucleotide (NMN) and vitamin D3 (cholecalciferol) for the treatment of serious medical conditions.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

### **Amount of antibiotic florfenicol used at Tasmanian salmon farm lease concerning, say Greens, expert**

ABC Online, Other, 29/04/2026, Lucy Macdonald and Alexandra Humphries

More than 2.7 tonnes of antibiotics were used at a Tasmanian salmon farm lease in just two months, but the total amount that entered public waterways over summer remains under wraps. The Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has released its report on the use of florfenicol in the Zuidpool lease in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

[Read More](#)

### **4BC, Drive, 29/04/2026, Gary Hardgrave**

Interview with Dr Ian Wright, Associate Professor at Western Sydney University. Wright discusses PFAS chemicals in the environment, highlighting how they stay in products like firefighting foam and build up in the food chain, leading to cancers and liver disease in humans. He also raises concern about PFAS exposure risks in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay fishing areas, noting evidence of contamination in waterways and fish, including past findings such as high levels in Murray cod from the Belubula River and long-term persistence in groundwater systems.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

