



# TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 3rd May 2026

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Telegraph](#)** (page 5) reports Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has committed \$1.8 billion in the upcoming budget to make the network of 137 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics permanent, framing the 100% bulk-billed service as a critical cost-of-living measure.
- **[The Sun Herald](#)** (page 2) reports a petition signed by nearly 30,000 Australians is urging the federal government to enshrine "menstrual leave" in law to support the millions of workers-- 1 in 7 women according to the AIHW-- suffering from debilitating conditions like endometriosis and adenomyosis. Health Minister Mark Butler has 90 days to respond to the proposal.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (online) reports that complaints regarding aged care pricing have skyrocketed following reforms that allowed providers to set their own rates. The Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae has noted that the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission has the power to hold providers accountable for overcharging, with the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stating that from October, aged care patients will no longer have to pay co-contributions towards basic necessities like showers, dressing, and continence care.
- **[Sunday Herald Sun](#)** (page 30) reports the TGA has issued a warning regarding the proliferation of unapproved and potentially contaminated peptides sold online and resulting in patient hospitalisations for conditions including systemic inflammatory response syndrome.

- [The Sunday Times](#) (page 2) reports researchers at Murdoch University have discovered that painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy—which affects a third of patients with diabetes—is driven by changes in the central nervous system rather than just localized nerve damage in the feet.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Calling in sick every month, Zoe feared losing her job

Sun Herald, General News, 03/05/2026, Emily Kaine, Page 2

Missing school and work for period pain that rendered her bedridden was a monthly occurrence for Zoe Kapolos, who was diagnosed with endometriosis at 19. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has 90 days to respond to the proposal.

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### A \$1.8bn injection to boost health

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 03/05/2026, Madeleine Bower, Page 5

Anthony Albanese will lock in \$1.8b in this month's budget to make Medicare Urgent Care Clinics permanent in the hope that it will ease pressure on emergency departments. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the \$1.8b meant that urgent care clinics were "here to stay".

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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### 'Don't forget dementia care'

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 03/05/2026, Taylah Fellows, Page 20

Hundreds of Australians living with dementia remain stranded in public hospital beds due to a chronic shortage of aged care placements, as the federal government prepares to fund just 20 additional specialist units in the upcoming budget. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the investment would deliver a "significant expansion of support" for people with high-level dementia.

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

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### Dire plea for \$10m

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 03/05/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 28

Calls to fund a promising therapy to treat a deadly childhood cancer have reignited ahead of the upcoming federal budget. [...] In January 2026, the organisation submitted a pre-budget submission to federal Health Minister Mark Butler requesting \$10m in the 2026-27 budget to establish Australia's first national pediatric CAR-T cell therapy platform.

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### Albanese reveals his plan to fend off One Nation

Australian Financial Review, Other, 02/05/2026, Phillip Coorey

When Australians went to the polls a year ago to re-elect the Albanese government, just over one in 20 – or 6.4 per cent – voted for One Nation.

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### Aged care complaints surge as providers charge up to \$180 for a shower

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/05/2026, Julie Cross

Aged care complaints have surged in the last six months as a result of the Albanese government's reforms allowing providers to set their own prices, with some charging up to \$180 for an assisted shower at home. [...] The Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae said the commission "has the power to

investigate whether prices are unreasonable" and claimed the government "has bolstered its powers to hold providers to account if they are found to be overcharging older Australians in bad faith".

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

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## Major tax reform, spending cuts and defence boost: What you can expect in this year's 'ambitious' federal budget

9News, Other, 02/05/2026, Yashee Sharma

Australians are set to be hit by major tax changes, including losing access to a popular concession, in this year's federal budget, which is shaping up to be one of the most significant in decades. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced \$15 billion would be cut from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) over the next four years to clamp down on ballooning costs and prevent it from becoming "an ATM for shonks, grifters, fraudsters and crooks".

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## Disability advocate criticises 'revolting' changes to NDIS

Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia, Other, 02/05/2026, Joe Attanasio

A leading Australian disability advocate has branded the government's proposed cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) "revolting" and "beyond cruel", warning it's certain "lives will be lost" as 160,000 people are given the boot from the scheme. [...] In April, Health Minister Mark Butler announced sweeping changes to the program, which are expected to see more than 160,000 people lose eligibility by the end of the decade under tightened access rules.

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## A "kick in the teeth" for seniors

Gympie Today, Other, 02/05/2026

Members Health Fund Alliance has criticised the Government's decision to slash the Private Health Insurance (PHI) rebate for older Australians, arguing it undermines one of the most cost-effective parts of Australia's health system by shifting care from the private sector to already overstretched public hospitals. In a speech at the National Press Club today, Minister for Health Mark Butler announced plans in the forthcoming Budget to remove the higher rebate tiers currently afforded to Australians as they age.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### Channel 9, Today on Saturday, 02/05/2026, Lizzie Pearl

More than \$3.5b has been lost to fraud as the extent of trouble in the NDIS has been laid bare at a parliamentary inquiry. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister says the NDIS has become a soft target for crooks.

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## MINISTER RAE

### Aged care complaints surge as providers charge up to \$180 for a shower

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/05/2026, Julie Cross

Aged care complaints have surged in the last six months as a result of the Albanese government's reforms allowing providers to set their own prices, with some charging up to \$180 for an assisted

shower at home. [...] The Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae said the commission "has the power to investigate whether prices are unreasonable" and claimed the government "has bolstered its powers to hold providers to account if they are found to be overcharging older Australians in bad faith".

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

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## Stolen Generations advocates welcome aged care reversal but warn survivors still face 'gap within the gap'

Indigenous News Australia, Other, 02/05/2026, Dean Foley

Stolen Generations advocates have welcomed the Albanese government's decision to scrap charges for basic aged care services such as showering and dressing... but warn that without deeper reform, ageing survivors remain trapped in a "gap within the gap" of financial hardship and disengagement from care. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said basic personal care was not optional.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### 'We need more GPs': doctor urges second thought as town cries out for free clinic

Blayney Chronicle, Other, 02/05/2026, Dane Wilson

While the community is crying out for a free medical centre, one of the region's doctors has suggested a clinic would negatively impact the practitioners the area already has. At their April 28, 2026, meeting, the Dubbo Regional Council unanimously voted in favour of mayor Joshua Black asking the federal government to establish a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) in Dubbo. [...] The Talbragar Street Dubbo Medicare Mental Health Centre was opened on September 30, 2025, with federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health Emma McBride describing that centre as "intended to bring support sooner, closer to home, and for free".

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

## Be careful your super move does not hit benefit

Sunday Telegraph, Business News, 03/05/2026, Brenton Miegel, Page 80

I have been on the disability support pension (DSP) for about four months. My wife, who is 55, works three jobs as a casual employee, one of them being permanent parttime.

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

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Confidence in Albo is in the red

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 03/05/2026, James Campbell, Page 10

Australians are more likely to be dissatisfied than pleased with how the Albanese government has handled the Bondi massacre, the fuel crisis and the rise of antisemitism. And while voters support the federal government's plans to kick 160,000 people off the NDIS by tightening eligibility, a majority doubt the cuts will be achieved.

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

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### Channel 9, Today on Saturday, 02/05/2026, Lizzie Pearl & Michael Atkinson

Interview with Shadow Minister for the NDIS Melissa McIntosh, on revelations that \$3.6b has been lost to fraud within the NDIS. McIntosh says the NDIS had good intentions when it was created, but its structure has been opened up for schemers and criminals. She states that she would like the Federal Government to be focused on removing fraud in the system, and the whole scheme needs to be reset because Australians do not want their money to be wasted on rorters and fraudsters.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Budget will take scalpel to wait lists

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 03/05/2026, Shannon Deery, Page 7

The Allan government will pump almost \$135m into the state's embattled health system to fast-track treatment and decrease ballooning delays. [...] Hospitals to benefit include the Royal Children's Hospital, Western Health, Monash Health, Barwon Health and Bendigo Health, with extra operating theatre capacity expected to be ramped up during school holidays.

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### \$40m boost for publicly funded IVF

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 03/05/2026, Page 7

The state government has announced \$40m will be committed to continue a public IVF and fertility service for the next two years. The news, the latest pre-budget sweetener ahead of its release on Tuesday, was revealed on Saturday morning at the Royal Women's Hospital, which has led the service since it opened in 2022.

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

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### 'ICU of the future' beds help ease patients' trauma

Radical new hospital wards with lighting that mimics the sun and floating clouds will be rolled out in Queensland to help patients in intensive care. A staggering 80 per cent of ICU patients are leaving hospitals with devastating physical, cognitive, and psychological trauma, much of it caused by blinding artificial lights, deafening monitor alarms and sleep deprivation.

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## State's first comprehensive cancer centre on the way for WA

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/05/2026, Rebecca Peppiatt

Western Australia will soon be able to provide state-of-the-art care to cancer patients after the announcement that a comprehensive centre will soon be built at the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre in Nedlands. The news was delivered on Saturday, revealing that world-leading research will now be available in the state in the same way that it is at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse in Sydney and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne which integrate cancer treatment, world-class cancer research and clinical trial capacity in one place.

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## Here's how a city as big as Canberra forms GPs deserts

Canberra Times, Other, 02/05/2026, Molly Chapman & Peter Breadon

A Senate inquiry is looking into rural healthcare. The biggest problem it should tackle is "GP deserts" - communities in the bottom 5 per cent of the country for GP services per person.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Specific leave for women can ease complaint

Sun Herald, Editorials, 03/05/2026, Page 30

Last year, the Herald set out to collect women's experiences of "medical misogyny": the phenomenon whereby women are consciously or unconsciously treated differently in the health system, due to a historical lack of research on women's conditions and practitioner bias. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimates that one Australian woman in seven suffers from endometriosis, while one in five has adenomyosis.

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### Wake-up call on sleep

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 03/05/2026, Page 25

Nearly one-third of Australian adults are getting less than the recommended seven hours of sleep. Young adults (aged 18-34) are the most sleep deprived and most affected by the consequences of poor sleep, according to a new study by Flinders University and the Sleep Health Foundation.

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### Well guess it's time to step to it then folks!

Sunday Times, General News, 03/05/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 23

A person's age is the most important factor in how many steps they need to see physical and mental health benefits, according to experts. While it was originally thought 10,000 steps a day was the golden number for everyone, how old they are plays a huge part in how far people should walk to meet daily activity guidelines.

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### Can anything be done about my painful leg cramps in the night? And could they be an early sign of a terrible and deadly disorder?

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/05/2026, Ellie Cannon

I've suffered from terrible calf cramps during the night for most of my adult life. No doctor has ever been able to help.

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### Cracking way to avoid dementia

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 03/05/2026, Page 7

Having an egg for breakfast may help reduce your dementia risk. Research has found people who eat an egg twice a week may be at lower risk of developing Alzheimer's disease compared to those who opted against the breakfast favourite.

*Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).*

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### Liver longer on fruit, nut

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 03/05/2026, Page 11

Eating fruit and nuts can help protect against nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). About one in every three Australians has NAFLD, which can lead to serious problems such as liver failure or liver cancer.

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### Pre-eclampsia trial's blood-filter advance

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 03/05/2026, Page 31

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

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### How cutting salt intake could protect your body and your brain

The Australian, Other, 02/05/2026, Peta Bee

We all know by now that too much salt in our diets is bad news for our blood pressure. But recent studies have warned that excess salt may be worse for our health than we think, raising the risk of everything from skin problems and poor sleep to low mood and aching joints.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### ABC News, ABC Evening News (Weekend), 02/05/2026, Lorna Dunkley

The number of Tasmania Police officers on mental health leave has doubled in the last five years. In 2023, a Tasmanian coroner examined the suicides of four police officers and recommended that Tasmania Police conduct mandatory monthly wellbeing screenings of all officers for PTSD, but Tasmania Police says these checks are not being conducted.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Going to sleep is a real pain for some

Sunday Times, General News, 03/05/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 2

Shooting pains in the feet and burning or tingling sensations in the body felt by people with diabetes at night are caused by changes in the brain or spinal cord, a breakthrough West Australian study has found. Researchers at Murdoch University have found impacts to the central nervous system can be a key reason for painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy.

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### How science turned back the clock of human development to create a miracle blood stem cell

The Australian, Other, 02/05/2026, Natasha Robinson

Scientist Elizabeth Ng is clutching a small flask with a clear mixture inside it that she's just retrieved from inside a bioreactor. [...] This is the incredible story of how three Australian scientists, working together over more than 25 years, achieved what has been described as one of the holy grails of stem cell science: creating a human blood stem cell.

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

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### Murdoch University research hopes finding cause of diabetes pain leads to future treatments

West Australian, Other, 02/05/2026, Claire Sadler

West Australian research has found changes within the central nervous system, including the brain and spinal cord, can be a key reason for pain felt by people with diabetes. Murdoch University researchers reviewed studies between September 2021 and February 2026 that looked into painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy — nerve damage caused by long-term high blood sugar.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### 'Insulting': Union hits back at Premier's gibe

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 03/05/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 2

As paramedics step up industrial action in a long-running battle for better pay and conditions, the Premier says it is "irresponsible" and puts patient safety at risk. Paramedics are now taking all triple-0 patients to hospital, banning contract work at public events, such as horse racing, and next week will enforce a ban on overtime and hold stop-work meetings.

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### Praise for staff at hospital

Sunday Territorian, General News, 03/05/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 5

A day after Alice Springs Hospital was engulfed in riots targeting suspected child-killer Jefferson Lewis, who was being treated there, staff have addressed the "challenging and intense" night. [...] But when nearly 400 people took to the streets, injuring emergency service personnel, damaging property, trashing a service station and trying to force their way into the hospital, he was evacuated to Royal Darwin Hospital in the early hours of Friday.

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### Expert warns sonographer shortage puts Cairns mothers and babies at risk

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/05/2026, Emma Cam

Desperate women are being forced to travel by plane and even bus just to access vital antenatal scans, with doctors warning it was putting the health of unborn babies at risk. [...] A severe shortage of sonographers has pushed Cairns into a new women's health imaging crisis, with wait times for pregnancy and gynaecological scans now stretching to four weeks and beyond.

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

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 02/05/2026, Fauziah Ibrahim & Johanna Nicholson

Interview with infectious diseases specialist Kudzai Kanhutu, on the strain of poliovirus that has been detected in WA. Kanhutu says a strain of polio vaccine has been detected through standard wastewater treatment and surveillance, and there is speculation that somebody from overseas travelled with the type of vaccine that is not routinely used in Australia. She notes that polio has been considered eliminated since about 2000, and they have not had any cases originating from within Australia, but there is a minor chance that such a vaccine strain could mutate or replicate and cause person-to-person transmission.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Bought a 'miracle' drug? but weight!

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 03/05/2026, Ashleigh Gleeson & Sarah Booth, Page 30

Doctors say they are alarmed by the number of patients they see injecting themselves with an experimental weight-loss drug being sold on unregulated peptide websites. [...] The nation's medicine watchdog, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, this month issued a warning about just how prolific and dangerous the promotion of peptides had become.

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

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### Concerns over nicotine patches

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 03/05/2026, Cameron Micallef, Page 19

Health experts have sounded the alarm over nicotine patches, urging the government to step in or risk a repeat of the vaping epidemic. In a submission to the Therapeutics Goods Administration about the regulation of nicotine patches, the Australian Medical Association urges the Albanese government to close current loopholes that are allowing unapproved nicotine products to enter the local market.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Times \(Perth\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### The sport with muscles, blood, grit and maybe peptides

The Australian, Other, 02/05/2026, Penny Timms

Luke Parsons is a mountain of a man. [...] Amid the popularity [of peptides], the Therapeutic Goods Administration is urging caution.

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### Addiction to over-the-counter item leaves 31yo partially paralysed

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/05/2026, Bianca Soldani

A 31-year-old woman has described how her addiction to an easy to access product left her partially paralysed. [...] Despite the risks, the canisters are frequently obtained online through a variety of kitchen retailers and specialty sellers as the sale of nitrous oxide products are not regulated, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) told news.com.au last year.

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

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Fears black-market booze could be the next illicit tobacco

Sunday Times, General News, 03/05/2026, Page 9

A spate of fire bombings could be just the beginning as concerns mount the tax system is driving a burgeoning alcohol black market, putting lives and the budget bottom line at risk. [...] The experience of the tobacco market was a "cautionary tale", industry body Spirits and Cocktails Australia chief executive Steven Fanner said.

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