



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 5th May 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) leads widespread reports that the RACGP has proposed a \$160 million Medicare-funded initiative to provide free annual, hour-long health assessments for all children until the age of five to support early intervention and long-term development. Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler stated that the Federal Government is currently considering a recommendation for a three-year-old health check to identify developmental needs early and provide support outside the NDIS.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 5) reports Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler has announced that the Federal Government intends to remove higher private health insurance rebates for individuals over the age of 65.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) and the **[Northern Territory News](#)** (online) report the NDIA has collaborated with the Fraud Fusion Taskforce to execute search warrants in Queensland, seizing cash and precious metals linked to a syndicate allegedly claiming millions for services never delivered.
- **[Channel 7](#)** featured an interview with NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister who stated the Federal Government has increased enforcement capability to 500 staff within the National Disability Insurance Agency to identify and remove fraudulent activity from the system. The Minister reported that the agency estimates fraud currently accounts for 8 per cent of total expenditure

and encouraged the public to report suspicious behaviour to the National Disability Insurance Scheme Fraud Reporting and Scam Helpline.

- **The Herald Sun** (page 7) reports the Federal Government has announced that the CAR-T cell therapy cilta-cel will be provided for free in public hospitals to assist multiple myeloma patients who have relapsed or exhausted options under the PBS.
- **The Australian** (page 7) reports researchers at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute are investigating the lung microbiome and new therapeutic methods to address childhood asthma, which currently affects 11 per cent of the Australian population.

MINISTER BUTLER

Economists offer ideas for budget savings

Australian Financial Review, General News, 05/05/2026, Lea Jurkovic, Page 6

With the federal budget not expected to return to surplus for another decade, Treasurer Jim Chalmers is under pressure to curb government spending that economists warn is crowding out the private sector.

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

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Check that will be priceless for our kids' health

Herald Sun, General News, 05/05/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 1

Stephanie De Campo lists continuity of care, cost-of-living pressures and lack of sleep that can impact the health of the whole family as some of the reasons she supports a proposal by GPs to offer free annual health checks for all children until the age of five. [...] He said the RACGP supported Health Minister Mark Butler's stance that children with severe and lifelong disability would not lose access to the NDIS.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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

Free kick for cancer hope

Herald Sun, General News, 05/05/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 7

A breakthrough \$200,000 plus cancer therapy will be available for free in public hospitals around Australia, in a long-awaited development for thousands of patients with multiple myeloma. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said access to new therapies like Carvykti "can make a real difference".

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Seniors to cop a \$1600 health cover hike

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05/05/2026, Julie Cross, Page 5

Older Australians are facing private health insurance price hikes of more than \$1600 from April next year, under the Albanese government' plan to scrap higher rebates for ver-65s. [...] Last month, Health Minister Mark Butler shocked many when he announced the government would remove the higher rebate or private health insurance for over-65s.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Albo's health hit on the aged

Herald Sun, Editorials, 05/05/2026, Page 24

The Albanese government has readily adopted 'intergenerational inequity' as a policy catchphrase but it must avoid politicising it. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has said the cuts to rebates for people aged

over 65 would generate \$3bn in savings that would be redirected to help fund aged care, including critical infrastructure like beds.

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The \$3b aged care funding 'isn't enough'

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/05/2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 23

Aged care providers are pleading with the government to "be humble" and listen to feedback, as delays push the new system to crisis point, while the lives of vulnerable Australians hang in the balance. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced a budget promise on April 22, \$3 billion in extra funding would be allocated for the troubled aged care system to improve care and build new aged care placements.

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When arguing for necessary reforms to the NDIS, don't undermine public faith in the scheme itself

ABC Online, Other, 04/05/2026, Jennifer Smith-Merry

The way major policies or political actions are known in the public imagination is integral to the ability of governments to fund them. [...] In outlining a new round of sweeping cuts to the NDIS, the current Minister for Health, Mark Butler, said: "This scheme was designed on trust, but that trust has been abused — by organised fraud, inflated invoices and far too many low-quality or unscrupulous providers."

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Bill Shorten's NDIS bombshell: How autism claims exploded after rule change - and why claims went unchecked for years

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/05/2026, Kylie Stevens

One of the architects of the National Disability Insurance Scheme has candidly revealed how a key rule change triggered an explosion in autism claims - and why loopholes left the system exposed for years. [...] The NDIS is now preparing for its biggest overhaul yet after federal minister Mark Butler announced 160,000 participants will be removed from the scheme, saving taxpayers \$15 billion by 2030.

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Family's plea after St Agnes boy's fourth neuroblastoma relapse confirmed in New York

Adelaide Now, Other, 04/05/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas

Half of the Pudovkin family flew to the US last month in a bid to save eight-year-old Xavier. [...] The federal Health Minister, Mark Butler has refused to commit the support saying "funding decisions are considered as part of the usual Budget process".

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

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Australia eliminates trachoma as a public health problem

Optometry Australia, Other, 04/05/2026, Anna Aldridge

The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed that Australia has become the 30th country to eliminate trachoma as a public health problem. [...] "The elimination of trachoma in Australia marks a major milestone for the eye health of our communities," said Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Ageing.

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Fraud Fusion Taskforce busts NDIS fraud, seizes millions in cash, gold, silver and other property

Sky News Australia, Other, 04/05/2026, Oscar Godsell

Australian Federal Police have announced the seizure of bucketloads of cash, gold and silver in a sweeping crackdown on an alleged NDIS fraud syndicate. [...] Mark Butler has a 'lot further to go' with

NDIS reforms Former NSW Liberal government minister Pru Goward claims Health Minister Mark Butler has got "some..."

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The federal government is considering capping specialists' fees. Is that constitutional?

The Conversation, Other, 04/05/2026, Luke Beck

Health Minister Mark Butler has said the government is considering capping specialists' fees to reduce the gap between what Medicare covers and what specialists charge patients. The Australian Medical Association strongly opposes the idea and is threatening legal action.

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Coalition accused of secretly giving big tobacco lobbyists private platform in parliament

The Guardian, Other, 04/05/2026, Tom Mcilroy

Anti-smoking campaigners have accused the Coalition of secretly giving tobacco giants access to a parliamentary inquiry, a move they say undermines more than 15 years of precedent to protect public health. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, wrote to Blyth on Friday last week, reminding the committee of Australia's obligations under a World Health Organization agreement on tobacco control, which requires public officials to protect health policy from interference from the tobacco industry and associated interests.

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Urgent care clinics to get \$1.8bn budget sugar hit

The Medical Republic, Other, 04/05/2026, Cate Swannell

The Albanese government will move to permanently embed Medicare Urgent Care Clinics into Australia's health system, announcing a major funding boost in next week's federal budget to secure the network's long-term future. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler said the move marked the next phase of a policy first introduced in 2023 as a trial.

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Bulk billing incentives disproportionately benefit male GPs – national poll

The Medical Republic, Other, 04/05/2026

Male GPs are nearly twice as likely as their female colleagues to say their personal income has significantly improved since changing to universal bulk billing – and they're also less likely to report that their income has worsened since making the shift. [...] Professor Louise Stone, a GP in Canberra and professor of general practice at Adelaide University, says that the rate GPs get paid per minute has been better for shorter consultations for the last 20 years – but it's actually gotten worse under the policies championed by Health Minister Mark Butler.

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2MCE, 18:00 National Radio News, 04/05/2026

The First Peoples Disability Network is calling for clarification from the Federal Government after Federal Health Minister Mark Butler made an announcement that the number of people on the National Disability Insurance Scheme will be reduced significantly by the end of the decade. The organisation is concerned the new changes will lead to less support for Indigenous people living with disabilities.

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Koori Radio, Blackchat, 04/05/2026, Lola Forester

Interview with First Peoples Disability Network Director of Policy Rhys Howard. Howard says there is a lot of concern about the changes that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced a couple of weeks ago, noting that there has been so much change without critical consultation, and it introduces uncertainty in the future, but they were pleased to see the measures announced to combat fraud within

the scheme. He also notes that First Nations people on the NDIS claim that the system is inaccessible due to language barriers and the complexity of access.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Drive, 04/05/2026, Ali Moore

Interview with Dr Stephen Alomes, Save Our Community Health. Moore says the Federal Government has announced a \$1.5m lifeline for cohealth last November 2025, and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler also announced a review of the service that cohealth provides, but there are concerns that the said review is being held back from public release. Alomes states that the review is looking at the provision of the medical and nursing practices, and it was meant to be released on the 28th of February, but there has been a problem with cohealth's governance, and there is growing evidence and genuine concern that cohealth is a very inefficient organisation.

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

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Labor's elderly abuse

Northern Territory News, General News, 05/05/2026, Julie Cross, Page 13

Pensioners suffer under health insurance changes Older Australians face private health insurance price rises of more than \$1600 from April under the Albanese government's plan to scrap higher rebates for over 65s. [...] Last month, Health Minister Mark Butler shocked many when he announced the government would remove the higher rebate for private health insurance for over 65s, justifying the current policy as "not fair between generations".

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Albo's elderly abuse

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/05/2026, Julie Cross, Page 3

Health premiums shock Older Australians face private health insurance price rises of more than \$1600 from April next year, under the Albanese government's plan to scrap higher rebates for over-65s. [...] Last month, Health Minister Mark Butler shocked many when he announced the government would remove the higher rebate for private health insurance for over-65s, justifying the current policy as "not fair between generations".

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Supposed NDIS fraudsters syndicate allegedly found with more than \$170,000 in cash, gold and silver

7News.com.au, Other, 04/05/2026

More than \$5 million in cash, gold, silver and cryptocurrency has been targeted as part of an ongoing investigation into a fraud syndicate accused of ripping off the NDIS. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said Australians would be shocked by the evidence emerging from the investigation.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 04/05/2026, Natalie Barr a& Matt Shirvington

Interview with NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister, on the latest AFP's Fraud Fusion Taskforce seizing close to \$200,000 in cash, cryptocurrency, gold, and silver during search warrants across Brisbane, Cairns, and Far North Queensland as part of a major crackdown on alleged NDIS fraud and syndicates. McAllister says the investigations are a direct result of the investments that the Federal Government is making in enforcement capability to remove fraud in the system, and kick out criminals for good. She states that the NDIS has been changing the lives of people with a disability, and the Federal Government will continue the crackdown because there is nothing lower than seeking to take money from a disabled person.

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MINISTER RAE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

How families can now unlock thousands in Medicare-rebated speech therapy

Tasmanian Examiner, Other, 04/05/2026, Lauren Richardson

A Tasmanian speech pathologist says recent federal funding could allow better access to services for parents and children. [...] Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White said access to speech pathology services through Medicare could change lives.

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Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 04/05/2026, Kim Millar

The Federal Government is expanding its Medicare subsidies, offering eligible patients rebates for up to eight assessments and 20 treatment sessions with allied health professionals. Federal Labor Minister Rebecca White says they are going to open up more opportunities for more children to be able to access a speech pathologist to get the support they need.

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DEPARTMENT

The \$3b aged care funding 'isn't enough'

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/05/2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 23

Aged care providers are pleading with the government to "be humble" and listen to feedback, as delays push the new system to crisis point, while the lives of vulnerable Australians hang in the balance. [...]

Health Minister Mark Butler announced a budget promise on April 22, \$3 billion in extra funding would be allocated for the troubled aged care system to improve care and build new aged care placements.

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Labor cuts public servants to rein in budget

Australian Financial Review, Other, 04/05/2026, John Kehoe

The Albanese government is seeking voluntary redundancies from thousands of public servants after

Labor went on a hiring spree that threatens to blow out the federal budget's \$31 billion wages bill.

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Feds open two consultations on PBS and HTA

Health Services Daily, Other, 04/05/2026

One wants to know what the sector thinks about how the government charges pharmas to list on the PBS, the other is seeking consumer engagement in the health technology assessment system. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has released its draft 2026–27 Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) , outlining the fees drug sponsors pay for everything from PBAC submissions to pricing negotiations and post-listing changes.

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Coalition accused of secretly giving big tobacco lobbyists private platform in parliament

The Guardian, Other, 04/05/2026, Tom Mcilroy

Anti-smoking campaigners have accused the Coalition of secretly giving tobacco giants access to a parliamentary inquiry, a move they say undermines more than 15 years of precedent to protect public health. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, wrote to Blyth on Friday last week, reminding the committee of Australia's obligations under a World Health Organization agreement on tobacco control, which requires public officials to protect health policy from interference from the tobacco industry and associated interests.

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TSANZ releases new national spirometry standards

The Medical Republic, Other, 04/05/2026, Lincoln Tracy

Earlier this month the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand released a new set of national spirometry standards. [...] Funding for the development of the standards was provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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Prevention is a fiscal problem, Dr Chalmers, so treat it like one

The Medical Republic, Other, 04/05/2026, Jeremy Knibbs

Prevention, as we currently define and deploy it, risks being one of the biggest unexamined failures in health system history. [...] In a recent conversation with a senior leader in the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing about getting out in front of AI, the leader said the government was going to need two speeds now: essentially core stuff still in play, and the AI stuff.

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'Nudge' tactics not always useful

The Medical Republic, Other, 04/05/2026, Holly Payne

The measure of success for compliance letter campaigns is often a reduction in prescribing volume, rather than appropriateness of care. [...] Although the study primarily looked at emergency departments, GPs have long been the primary target of so-called nudge letter compliance campaigns, wherein the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing sends out letters to a group of practitioners it has deemed as high-volume prescribers.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Daughter's tribute to mum benefits others

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 05/05/2026, Zachary Probert, Page 8

After losing her mother to Alzheimer's this year, Naomi Ferstera has endeavoured to make dementia

prevention research easily accessible for everyone. Naomi is an exercise physiologist, nutritionist, PhD candidate at the University of Queensland and runs a free program through a Facebook group called The Healthy Ageing Project.

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Why it's time to speak up

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/05/2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 23

As the government continues to be blasted over the new aged care system, the peak advocacy body says the more people who make a formal complaint the more pressure there will be for the government to fix it. "Speaking up and self-advocating not only puts older people in the driver's seat of their own lives, but it can also help others who may be experiencing the same issues," Samantha Edmonds of the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) told The Senior.

Also reported by: [The Senior - VIC \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Senior - QLD \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Aged care homes deny terminally ill access to voluntary assisted dying

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 04/05/2026, Henrietta Cook

Aged care residents are being transported to hospitals to undergo voluntary assisted dying, while doctors conduct assessments in carparks after being barred from nursing homes. In the past year, renal and general physician Margaret Fraenkel has treated two Melbourne patients who have been blocked from accessing voluntary assisted dying (VAD) in their aged care homes.

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

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Navigating the complex aged care system

Canberra Times, Other, 04/05/2026, Noel Whittaker

Aged care is fast becoming one of Australia's biggest industries, with an annual budget topping \$50 billion. The scale of the challenge was laid bare last week, with the Federal government set to spend \$1 billion just to fund basic support like showering, dressing and continence care.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Two serves of seafood a week could be your best defence against Alzheimer's

Your Life Choices, Other, 04/05/2026, Lexanne Garcia

That tin of sardines in the pantry or bag of frozen prawns in the freezer? They might be doing more for your brain than any crossword puzzle. A major new Australian review has found that eating seafood just twice a week could significantly lower the risk of Alzheimer's disease.

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Your health wish list: 4 major changes experts want in the May budget

The Senior, Other, 04/05/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Are cheaper dental care, longer GP appointments and better support to age well at home at the top of your federal budget health wish list? The Senior asked peak medical stakeholders what they want in the budget to be handed down on May 12 that would benefit over-60s.

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ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 04/05/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Go Gentle Australia CEO Dr Linda Swan, on aged care homes being accused of failing in their duties. Swan says people in aged care homes are being denied access to information about a legally available choice at the end of life, and they are calling it a lack of transparency because voluntary assisted dying has been legal for more than five years in WA. She also says it is not good enough if only 10% of the aged care facilities in Australia are providing good and clear information to people.

DISABILITY AND CARERS

GST spanner thrown into NDIS deal

Australian Financial Review, General News, 05/05/2026, Tom Rabe, Page 9

West Australian Treasurer Rita Saffioti has warned the government her state is reluctant to sign up to its plan to rein in the ballooning cost of the NDIS without securing long-term certainty about the multibillion-dollar carve-up of GST revenue.

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

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NDIS fraud raids net cash

The Australian, General News, 05/05/2026, Page 2

A multi-agency crackdown on alleged NDIS fraud has led to the seizure of cash, precious metals and cryptocurrency assets from across Queensland as part of a sweeping criminal probe into a suspected fraud syndicate. The Australian Government Fraud Fusion Taskforce seized \$176,000 in cash, silver and gold after executing five search warrants in Queensland.

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

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This is about lives, not just money

Canberra Times, General News, 05/05/2026, Zoe Wundenberg, Page 15

Linda Reynolds argues that reforming the National Disability Insurance Scheme is a "national obligation." On that point, she is right - but not in the way she intends.

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Channel 10, 10 News: Lunchtime, 04/05/2026, Angela Bishop

Cash, gold, silver, and cryptocurrency have been uncovered in Brisbane and Cairns as part of an ongoing investigation into a fraud syndicate accused of ripping off the NDIS. It comes as the Federal Government moves to impose reforms to tackle the billions of dollars lost to NDIS scams.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 04/05/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with SA Minister for Human Services, Women, and Ageing Katrine Hildyard, on the Federal Government's reforms on the NDIS. Hildyard says there is no doubt that the NDIS reforms are significant because they aim to return to the original purpose of the scheme, which is to ensure that people with a disability have a real choice and control over the supports and services they actively participate in. She also states that about 65000 people in SA have an NDIS plan or participate with NDIS services, and they are looking broadly as they continue the discussions about what the Federal Government, via the NDIS, needs to continue to provide.

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PRIMARY CARE

PET scanner operational soon

Shepparton News, General News, 05/05/2026, Bree Harding, Page 6

Goulburn Valley residents will have access to Positron Emission Tomography, or PET, scanning in

Shepparton for the first time ever early next year. The Victorian Government announced \$7.1 million funding on April 30 in the Victorian Budget 2026/27 to operationalise the scanner at Goulburn Valley Health, giving patients advanced cancer diagnostics closer to home.

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'The door has been shut': new telehealth rules block care for rural patients

Ballarat Courier, Other, 04/05/2026, Michelle Smith

A Haddon nurse practitioner has been forced to cut off many of her patients because a "stroke of the pen" introduced new telehealth regulations with unintended consequences. Elizabeth Kinnersly, a specialist diabetes nurse practitioner, helped patients from all over Australia to control their diabetes and improve their wellbeing via telehealth.

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Make advance care plans routine

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 05/05/2026, Nicole Mackee

Funding, training and regulation are needed to make advance care planning "core business" across all health care sectors, says a leading advocate of advance care planning. Associate Professor William Silvester, director of the Respecting Patient Choices program at Victoria's Austin Hospital, said advance care planning (ACP) and end-of-life care discussions need to be seen as an important part of normal clinical practice.

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POPULATION HEALTH

ALP doubts excise link to illicit smokes

The Australian, General News, 05/05/2026, Noah Yim, Page 2

The Albanese government maintains it is "sceptical" lowering the tobacco excise would cut the size of the black market that accounts for more than half the cigarette consumption in the country. Labor's hand-picked illicit tobacco and e-cigarette commissioner Amber Shuhyta on Monday told a Senate inquiry there was no "logical correlation between the size of the excise rates in different countries with the size of the illicit market".

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 04/05/2026, Tom Connell

Interview with Shadow Home Affairs and Immigration Minister Jonathon Duniam, on stakeholders giving evidence to a parliamentary inquiry into Australia's illegal tobacco crisis. Duniam says the illegal tobacco industry is an unintended consequence of increasing tobacco taxes, and it is now inflicting harm across the community. He says the committee inquiry will go through its process, and people are advocating for an excise cut, but it will achieve nothing as a standalone measure.

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2GB, Afternoons, 04/05/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with Chris Richardson, Australian Financial Review. Richardson says the Federal Government's decision to increase the tobacco excise made smoking more expensive, and people smoked less, but it only worked for a short time because organised crime moved in, and the bulk of the cigarette market in Australia is now a black market. He also says they would be collecting about \$15b a year in tobacco tax if the black market had not grown in size over the last five years, but they have had an absolute collapse in the tax take and the legal purchase of cigarettes in Australia instead.

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4BC, Afternoons, 04/05/2026, Carla Bignasca

Bignasca says vaping was meant to make cigarettes more expensive as a way to reduce smoking rates, but its impact on one's health is devastating, and more young people are now using them. She also states that some illegal vapes from China, including Double Happiness by the Shanghai Tobacco Group, are now turning up in Queensland, and police and industry sources have reported that Queensland users are buying such products through the black market, leading to higher nicotine consumption across the state.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Breathe easy, doctors getting to grips with asthma

The Australian, General News, 05/05/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 7

Gurnaaz Kooner was diagnosed with asthma just before her third birthday. [...] Researchers at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute are using new methods to understand asthma-related lung inflammation.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Breathing new life into asthma treatment

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/05/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 9

Vanessa McDonald remembers the days of having to stay home from school with a "terrible cough and breathlessness". "As a kid, they said I had bronchitis," said Professor McDonald who leads the breathing and lung health research program at Hunter Medical Research Institute.

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Time to talk about palliative care

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 05/05/2026, Karli Farrell, Page 7

Sometimes it's best to ask the hard questions before it's too late. [...] Marina Lloyd, the palliative care clinical coordinator at Sunraysia Community Health Services, said there were many misconceptions surrounding the subject, including when it can start and what it encompasses.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 04/05/2026, Alicia Loxley & Tom Steinfort

Research led by the Murdoch Children's Institute predicts half of Australian children and adolescents will be overweight or obese by 2050. Over the next 10 years, tens of thousands of kids will be tracked, and researchers will study their physical activity and track the impact of weight loss drugs for parents to see if the medications can break intergenerational cycles.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#).

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2GB, Drive, 04/05/2026, Clinton Maynard

Maynard is joined by Peter Ford. Maynard says tonight's episode of Australian Story will feature James Valentine, who died a few weeks ago. Ford says Valentine had the chance to take control of his destiny because he signed up for voluntary assisted dying.

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6PR, Drive, 04/05/2026, Jamie Burnett

Interview with Heart Foundation Healthcare Programs and Clinical Study Senior Manager Natalie Raffoul. Raffoul says the rates of deaths caused by heart diseases in Australia have been dramatically

reduced over the last 60 years. She states that 80% of heart disease is preventable, and she urges Australians to take care of their hearts and get checked regularly.

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

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 04/05/2026, Philip Clark

Interview with Macular Disease Foundation Australia Medical Committee Chair Professor Alex Hunyor, on macular disease. Hunyor says nearly two million Australians have macular degeneration, and the symptoms are felt once they are in the later stages of the disease, but people are becoming more aware of the condition. He states that wet macular degeneration is a highly effective treatment for people with macular disease.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 04/05/2026, Saskia Mabin

Mabin is joined by Australian Story Producer Jen Fleming, on tonight's Australian Story episode featuring James Valentine, who died through voluntary assisted dying. Fleming says she knew that Valentine was dying, and he signed up for voluntary assisted dying after his cancer diagnosis. She shares her memories of Valentine.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 04/05/2026, Thomas Oriti

Oriti is joined by Australian Story Producer Rebecca Latham, on tonight's Australian Story episode featuring James Valentine, who died through voluntary assisted dying. Oriti says viewers will get to know Valentine as he faced the last 12 months of his life after his cancer diagnosis. Latham says she started filming with Valentine a year ago, and he talked through the ups and downs of the process and shared his thoughts about voluntary assisted dying, which is special.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Workers looking for balance over bucks

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/05/2026, Page 4

Nearly three in five Australian workers (59 per cent) would accept lower pay for improved overall wellbeing, according to Real Insurance research. Mental health and work-life balance are increasingly outweighing income, becoming defining factors in career choices for 76 per cent of Australians.

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Sydney medical student wins global prize for app designed to tackle loneliness

The Australian, Other, 04/05/2026, Jared Lynch

Monaal Madan is in his final year of medical school and aspires to be a plastic surgeon, but he has already completed a groundbreaking operation. [...] Loneliness is obviously linked to really bad mental health outcomes, increased rates of suicide, and this is especially prominent among men in Australia.

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

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The mental health 'safety gap' causing decade-long delays for vulnerable Australians

SBS, Other, 04/05/2026, Cameron Carr & Veronica Lenard

People who were born overseas are more likely than those born in Australia to delay seeking support for their mental health by a decade or more, according to new research from the nation's peak body for

the mental health sector. The study, released by Mental Health Australia on Monday, shows that people who arrived in Australia more recently — along with younger people and women — are more likely to experience poorer mental health than their local peers.

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IMMUNISATION

4BC, Afternoons, 04/05/2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Australian Medical Association Queensland President Dr Nick Yim, on some pharmacies running out of flu jabs due to distribution delays, sparking concerns that it could become a barrier as flu infection rates start to surge in Queensland. Yim says it has been a slower flu season, but they have seen an uptick in immunisation rates, and they need to ensure that vaccine supplies are getting to the pharmacies when they are needed. He notes that parents can protect their children from the flu by administering the nasal spray, and the Federal Government has announced free RSV vaccinations for Australians over 75 from 16 May.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Is your health fund really worth it?

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/05/2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 9

More than a third of members from the Commonwealth Bank's private health fund have left the insurer over the past two years, with new data showing funds are struggling to retain customers as the cost of insurance is set to surge. CBHS Corporate, which offers private health insurance to employees of Commonwealth Bank, lost the highest percentage of members over the last two years, with 32.4 per cent cancelling their private hospital cover or moving to another fund, according to a new report from the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman.

Also reported by: [The Senior - QLD \(Brisbane\)](#)

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Bold plan to fight child obesity crisis

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 05/05/2026, Page 5

Heart health, diet, exercise and sleep will be targeted under a multi-pronged strategy by child health experts to address Australia's obesity crisis. GenHEART, spearheaded by Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), is a co-ordinated plan over 10 years to improve long-term wellbeing and reverse alarming obesity trends among children and their parents.

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

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Genetic study offers hope for vascular dementia

Aged Care Insite, Other, 04/05/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Australian researchers have identified several promising biological targets that could guide the development of future treatments for vascular dementia, a common but currently untreatable form of dementia affecting thousands of older Australians. The study, led by scientists at the University of NSW Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHEBA) and published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia: Translational*

Research & Clinical Interventions , used advanced genetic techniques to pinpoint genes that may play a causal role in the disease.

[Read More](#)

Goodbye joint pain? Bespoke hip replacements are on the way

The Senior, Other, 04/05/2026, Phoebe Loomes

Patients needing a hip replacement may also soon benefit from advancements in medical technology, with researchers from Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne developing personalised implants that are lighter and stronger. Currently, hip implants commonly lead to a loss of bone density, as patients carry their weight unevenly and put additional pressure on their joints, Associate Professor Kwong Ming Tse, lead researcher on the project, told The Senior.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 04/05/2026, Jayde Cotic

Researchers from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute will examine whether weight loss wonder drugs can help slow Australia's childhood obesity epidemic. The study will follow participants from childhood into adolescence over 10 years, and provide weight loss drugs such as Ozempic to some parents.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#)

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

\$2.46m boost to help First Nations mums quit smoking during pregnancy

National Indigenous Times, Other, 04/05/2026, Jackson Clark

A new push to reduce smoking and vaping during pregnancy among First Nations women is set to roll out across the country, backed by a significant funding boost and a focus on culturally safe care. Southern Cross University's SISTACARE program has received \$2.46 million from the National Health and Medical Research Council, allowing the initiative to expand its reach into more communities and health services nationwide.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

SA Health staff face surge in attacks as 'challenging behaviour' reports jump

Code Black calls and attacks at public health sites have soared in a year as the system deals with growing stress. More than 15,400 reports of "challenging behaviour" were received in 2023-24, latest data shows, which was "behaviour with the potential to physically or psychologically harm another person, self or property" – up 21 per cent in just one year.

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

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ANMF tells inquiry some shift-working nurses denied extra week of annual leave due to complex criteria

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 04/05/2026, Robert Fedele

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) has told a federal inquiry examining whether the National Employment Standards (NES) are fit for purpose that the current criteria employees must meet to be considered a shift worker is too narrow, meaning many nurses working irregular hours, such as night shifts, are missing out on an extra week of paid annual leave.

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Federal Budget: What nurses, midwives and care workers need to know

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 04/05/2026

Every year before the Federal Budget, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) sends a Pre-Budget Submission to the Australian Government. It may sound like a policy process happening far away in Canberra, but it plays an important role in shaping the funding and policies that affect your job, your patients and the health system you work in every day.

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This Mother's Day, let's spotlight mums delivering HMR care

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 04/05/2026, Jorgia Burke

Behind the flexible appeal of Home Medicines Reviews (HMRs) is a primarily female workforce – many of them mothers – delivering critical care while navigating increasing financial pressures. Women make up around 70% of the credentialed pharmacists who deliver HMRs, with two-thirds under the age of 40.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Speech support boost for youth

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/05/2026, Page 5

Families across Tasmania are set to benefit from expanded Medicare support for speech pathology, with thousands of children now able to access more subsidised therapy closer to home. About 8000 Tasmanians under 25 with severe speech and language disorders such as speech sound disorders and cleft lip and palate, are newly eligible for increased treatment support under the federal government changes.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Pressure point

Ballarat Courier, General News, 05/05/2026, Gwen Liu, Page 1

Sex workers seeking jobs in massage shops, customers asking for "special services", and a rise in sexualised ads have frustrated Ballarat massage shop owners, who say traditional operators are being caught in growing confusion. [...] Unlike doctors, dentists and other registered health professionals, massage therapists are not regulated by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

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

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Three dead as Atlantic cruise hit by rat virus

The Australian, International News, 05/05/2026, Gerald Imray, Page 8

A suspected outbreak of the rare hantavirus infection on a cruise ship in the Atlantic Ocean killed three people, including an elderly married couple, and left at least three others sick. The World Health Organisation said an investigation was under way but that at least one case of hantavirus had been confirmed.

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

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Cruise deaths evoke memories of early COVID

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/05/2026, Angus Delaney, Page 12

Three people have died and more have fallen ill after a suspected outbreak of the rare hantavirus on a cruise ship in the Atlantic Ocean. The deaths have conjured memories of COVID-19, when outbreaks turned cruise ships into floating superspreader sites.

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

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The rats and mice of hantavirus, how it spreads and the symptoms to watch out for

Age, General News, 05/05/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 12

A rare virus contracted through exposure to rodents or their faeces has been blamed for the deaths of several tourists on board an international cruise ship. The WHO has confirmed at least one case of hantavirus on board MV Hondius, sailing the Atlantic Ocean, with five additional suspected cases.

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

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WHO says risk to public is low after suspected hantavirus outbreak hits ship

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 04/05/2026, Olivia Le Poidevin, Toby Sterling, Anthony Deutsch & Charlotte Van Campenhout

Medics were working on Monday to evacuate two people with symptoms of the deadly hantavirus after a suspected outbreak on a luxury cruise ship held off West Africa carrying mostly British, American and Spanish passengers, officials said. Around 150 people were still stuck on the vessel after three people - a Dutch couple and a German national - died, and others fell ill, including a Briton who left the vessel and was being treated in South Africa, authorities added.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 04/05/2026, Leon Compton

Australians are being assured an acute respiratory illness that is believed to have led to the deaths of

three people has not been observed in humans here. The World Health Organisation has launched a coordinated international public health response after a suspected hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship off the Atlantic coast of South Africa.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

High THC products fuelling mental risks

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 05/05/2026, Page 9

More than half of all adverse events reported to Australia's medicines regulator involving medicinal cannabis were linked to products with higher THC (tetrahydrocannabinol). [...] The study examined 1124 adverse events from 614 reports made to the TGA involving medicinal cannabis between 2022 and 2025.

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'I've been trialling Go-To's new sleep products and here's my honest verdict.'

Mamamia, Other, 04/05/2026, Amy Clark

If you're reading this right now, there's a 127 per cent chance you're feeling tired. [...] A magnesium supplement listed as a medicine on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) the brand describes as "a pre-bed ritual for deep sleep, a relaxed mind and a relaxed body."

[Read More](#)

Herpes drugs safe in early pregnancy

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 04/05/2026

The largest trial to date has offered reassurance to women who require antiviral drugs to treat herpes infections in early pregnancy that the drugs do not cause birth defects. [...] The current Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration's B3 category means the drugs have been taken by a limited number of pregnant women without an increase in harm, but teratogenic effects have been seen in animal models, the significance of which is considered uncertain in humans.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Booze black market bombshell: 'Lives could be lost'

Herald Sun, General News, 05/05/2026, Regan Hodge, Page 5

Authorities need to dismantle the black market alcohol industry "right now" to avoid another deadly turf war in Melbourne, industry groups warn. Illicit alcohol has flooded the market but industry figures say it is likely only a matter of time before innocent lives are lost due to the potentially deadly substances used to create it.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Shares drop as a2 Milk recalls baby formula

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 05/05/2026, Sam Irvine, Page 13

The a2 Milk Company is recalling thousands of baby formula units exported to the US after finding

toxins that can cause serious illness in children, in a major blow to the company's reputation.

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

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AICIS

Lead may contaminate our clothes, but there's no requirement to test for it

ABC Online, Other, 04/05/2026

How did the leather in your shoes get so soft, or the colour in your shirt so vibrant? [...] Similarly, the ACCC spokesperson says that chemical management is a shared responsibility between the Commonwealth and states and territories, with the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS) regulating industrial chemicals.

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