



# TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 11th May 2026

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **West Australian** (page 1) leads coverage on the hantavirus reporting that four Australians stranded on the MV Hondius are expected to arrive in Perth on Tuesday, with a government spokesperson saying Communicable Diseases Network Australia had issued protocols to isolate and transfer passengers directly to quarantine facilities. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).*
- **SBS News** (online) reports aged care advocates are calling for more federal funding for aged care beds as facilities near capacity, with National Ageing Research Institute director Tracy Comans warning demand is outpacing supply and Health Minister Mark Butler last month saying the government's \$3 billion package would deliver more beds and support services. *Also reported by: [ABC Online](#)*
- **The Guardian** reports four CAR T-cell therapies for blood cancers approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration since 2018 are fuelling hopes the costly immunotherapy could become a major weapon against cancer, as researchers push for greater investment and access in Australia.
- The **Herald Sun** (page 1) reports a pregnant paramedic was punched while treating an overdose patient, prompting Ambulance Victoria chief Jordan Emery to back paramedics

leaving unsafe scenes and union secretary Danny Hill to urge workers to report all assaults to police.

- The **[Newcastle Herald](#)** (page 5) reports Hunter MP and Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi has intervened over staffing shortages causing unexpected closures at Cessnock's Medicare urgent-care clinic, with the Federal Government continuing efforts to recruit more regional GPs from overseas.
- The **[Toowoomba Chronicle](#)** (page 5) reports almost 100 people attended an NDIS protest rally in Drayton against proposed federal reforms, with advocate Alyce Nelligan warning the changes would harm disabled Australians and Health Minister Mark Butler in April saying the government aimed to reduce NDIS spending growth by 2030.
- **[The Guardian](#)** reports hidden coronial records show an average of 14 rough sleepers die in parks or countryside areas each year in Australia, with recent deaths including a WA mother who died of sepsis after homelessness as Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data showed worsening social housing waitlists and rising rough sleeping rates. *Also reported by: [The Guardian](#)*
- The **[West Australian](#)** (page 5) reports WA health experts are calling for a ban on outdoor smoking at licensed venues after Cancer Council figures showed 75 per cent of adults support smoke-free pub, club and bar areas.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports Tasmanian women have faced delays to breast screening appointments after technical failures on the state's only mobile screening buses, prompting concerns about access and delayed cancer detection in regional areas.
- The **[Herald Sun](#)** (page 12) reports former Iraqi refugee and West Gippsland specialist physician Asseel Yako has bulk-billed every patient at West Gippsland Hospital since resuming work in Australia, saying some patients stop seeing specialists because they cannot afford care.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 16) reports the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute has celebrated its 100th anniversary, with director Professor John Greenwood highlighting major medical breakthroughs and future research into heart disease, diabetes and obesity.

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## MINISTER BUTLER

### Protest against changes to NDIS

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 11/05/2026, Humaira Saeed & Kevin Farmer, Page 5

The NDIS National Day of Action Rally was held on Saturday for Toowoomba community members to protest against the proposed changes to the NDIS by the federal government. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced in April that the federal government would cut about \$22bn from the NDIS budget, throwing the disability community into a state of flux.

*Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).*

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### When is the 2026–27 federal budget? Here's what you need to know before tomorrow

ABC Online, Other, 11/05/2026

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers will hand down the Albanese government's fifth budget tomorrow night. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced \$15 billion would be cut from the 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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### Federal government has missed one idea to get housing back on track: build more homes

ABC Online, Other, 11/05/2026, Alan Kohler

If it's serious about improving intergenerational fairness and housing affordability in this week's budget, perhaps the government should just build some houses. [...] There will probably be additional savings measures announced on Tuesday night, but two days before Health Minister Mark Butler unveiled the NDIS reforms on April 22, Treasurer Jim Chalmers told a press conference: "It is easily the most important part of the savings package that we will present on budget night."

[Read More](#)

## The hidden crisis in aged care no budget can easily fix

SBS, Other, 10/05/2026, Cameron Carr

Aged care advocates are calling on the government to double its funding commitment for aged care beds, warning that homes are reaching capacity and leaving some older Australians at risk of homelessness. [...] In a press release last month, Health Minister Mark Butler said: "This \$3 billion investment builds on our commitment to deliver more beds, more packages and better care for older Australians, to ensure they get the support they deserve."

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## 5 ways churches can support people living with disability

Ultra 106.5FM, Other, 10/05/2026

NDIS funding changes are increasing pressure on families. Here are practical ways churches can support people with disability and their 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".

[Read More](#)

## Sky News Live, Sky News Special, 10/05/2026, Ross Greenwood

Panel Discussion with Infrastructure SA Chairman Tony Shepherd AO, One Nation MP Barnaby Joyce, EQ Economics Managing Director Warren Hogan, and Australian Council of Social Service CEO Cassandra Goldie, on Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's NDIS changes announcement. A clip of Federal Health Minister Mark Butler plays, where he stated that their initial modelling will see the number of NDIS participants reduced to around 600,000 by the end of the decade. Goldie says she is worried about the changes and cuts to the NDIS, because the organisations that represent the disability community were not consulted before the reforms were announced, and she is now urging Butler and the Federal Government to work closely with the disability community.

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## SBS News In Depth, Podcast, 09/05/2026, Tee Mitchell

Interview with People With Disability Australia CEO Jeremy Hope, on the disability community's concern about Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's latest NDIS announcement. Mitchell says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler flagged that the intention of the reforms is to divert around 160,000 people off the scheme by 2030. Hope notes that the Federal Government is aiming to fight fraud, stop the rorts, slow down cost increases, deliver quality services, and make clearer eligibility requirements, but members of the disability community are now anxious, scared, angry, and concerned because they do not know how the reforms will impact them.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### **The Zap: latest health and aged care news, and key consultations now open**

Croakey, Other, 10/05/2026, Melissa Sweet

Two recent surveys highlight worrying deterioration in the social determinants of health: data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show declining levels of trust in the community, while Suicide Prevention Australia says cost-of-living and financial pressures are contributing to elevated levels of distress. [...] Assistant Minister for Health Rebecca White held a media conference in Hobart following a speech in which she referred to a feasibility study on a ban on advertising junk food to children, and said "the report's just been received by the Government, it is published online and I encourage people to take a look at that".

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

### **Staff shortages shut urgent care clinic**

Newcastle Herald, General News, 11/05/2026, Simon McCarthy, Page 5

Hunter MP Dan Repacholi has intervened over staffing shortages at Cessnock's Medicare urgent care clinic that forced recent unexpected closures. [...] "There's certainly a great need to get GPs into rural and regional areas," Mr Repacholi, the Albanese government's special envoy for men's health, said.

*Also reported by:* [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Hunter Valley News \(Online\)](#).

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### **Saturday Magazine**

JOY 94.9, Other, 10/05/2026

Macca and Fiona are joined live on air by Ged Kearney, MP Cooper – Asst Min for Prevention of Family Violence, as they discuss the new policy initiative National Healthy Men Community Conversations. [...] The project will be led by the Assistant Minister for Social Services and the Prevention of Family Violence, Ged Kearney, and the Special Envoy for Men's Health, Dan Repacholi.

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## DEPARTMENT

### **The Zap: latest health and aged care news, and key consultations now open**

Croakey, Other, 10/05/2026, Melissa Sweet

Two recent surveys highlight worrying deterioration in the social determinants of health: data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show declining levels of trust in the community, while Suicide Prevention

Australia says cost-of-living and financial pressures are contributing to elevated levels of distress. [...] Assistant Minister for Health Rebecca White held a media conference in Hobart following a speech in which she referred to a feasibility study on a ban on advertising junk food to children, and said "the report's just been received by the Government, it is published online and I encourage people to take a look at that".

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## Hantavirus alert triggers national interest in bush medicine for first time in 237 years

Indigenous News Australia, Other, 10/05/2026, Dean Foley

A spike in hantavirus chatter has prompted what public health insiders are describing as a "remarkable surge" in non-Indigenous interest in Aboriginal traditional medicine. GP clinics report a 400 per cent increase in patients asking whether "the old people knew anything about this. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has announced an Information Campaign.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Aged care patients stranded in hospitals hits almost 3,300 as calls grow for further government action

ABC Online, Other, 11/05/2026, Stephanie Dalzell, Paige Cockburn & Rhiannon Hobbins

As she watched her mother languish in hospital despite being medically cleared to go home, Kathleen began to question how Australia treats its most vulnerable. "It's a humanitarian crisis ... they're people's mums and dads," she said.

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### ABC, ABC News (Sunday), 10/05/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

Report by ABC National Health Reporter Stephanie Dalzell. New figures reveal that more older people are being stranded in hospitals for an extended period of time, and the number of aged care patients in this situation has surged by more than 35% in less than a year. Despite new promises from the Federal Government to address the issue, there are concerns that measures will not be enough to solve it.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Tensions flare at NDIS rally in Melbourne

9News, Other, 10/05/2026, Sarah Swain

An elderly protester has been pushed to the ground as tensions flared at a disability funding rally in Melbourne. [...] The event was part of a national day of action against the federal government's plan to cut the NDIS.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Survivor mum's blood donor plea

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/05/2026, Georgia Palgan, Page 19

A Sydney mum who nearly bled to death during childbirth is urging Sydneysiders to donate blood as

NSW faces a critical shortage of type O blood the essential universal blood type used in emergencies. Emma Piccolotto, 38, from Oakville in the Hawkesbury region, required 15 units (about 7.5 litres) of blood after suffering a major haemorrhage at 32 weeks pregnant in March last year.

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## Refugee doc says thanks

Herald Sun, General News, 11/05/2026, Matt Johnston, Page 12

In the three years since Asseel Yako resumed his career as a specialist physician after fleeing Iraq, he has bulk-billed every patient treated. This means the former refugee, whose early training included treating soldiers who were fighting ISIS in a hospital the militant Islamic group eventually blew up, is charging lower rates so that his patients from West Gippsland Hospital get free care.

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

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## Savings and new targets

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 11/05/2026, Page 10

Strengthening the economy, tackling intergenerational inequity and boosting national resilience are among the key themes of the Albanese government's federal budget on Tuesday night. [...] The government has pledged \$1.8bn for Medicare urgent care clinics and announced reforms expected to cut \$15bn from the National Disability Insurance Scheme over the next four years.

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## Following the script: GPs want a better way

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 11/05/2026, Ali Davidson, Page 8

Australia's health system is very good at prescribing medicines. It is not as good at delivering cost-effective treatments that don't come in a packet.

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## Tasmanian government is delivering bulk-billing clinics

Launceston Examiner, General News, 11/05/2026, Bridget Archer, Page 5

For many Tasmanians, getting in to see a GP has become harder and more expensive than it should be. Tasmanians in regional communities say they are waiting too long for an appointment or being forced to travel far and wide in order to access care.

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## NBN Newcastle Hunter, NBN News (Sunday), 10/05/2026, Jane Goldsmith

Cessnock's Medicare Urgent Care Clinic is facing a backlog of appointments due to recent staff shortages, and Federal Member for Hunter Dan Repacholi is now urging nurses and healthcare practitioners to work in Cessnock's healthcare space. ForHealth states that work is underway to secure urgent backfill and ensure the clinic remains open, while the local Primary Healthcare Network was contacted for comment.

Also reported by: [NBN Central Coast \(Gosford\)](#), [NBN Tamworth \(Tamworth\)](#).

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Plenty of life still left in the abortion wars

Courier Mail, General News, 11/05/2026, Hayden Johnson, Taylah Fellows & Mikaela Mulveney , Page 4

Just when David Crisafulli thought he had finally escaped the abortion wars, the Christian Right is once again sharpening its pitchforks over a seemingly dry amendment to Queensland's medicines and poisons regulations due to hit Parliament. On paper, the changes are mostly bureaucratic

housekeeping ironing out the framework allowing trained nurses and midwives to prescribe MS-2 Step under laws already passed by the former Labor government.

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## Smoking doesn't pass the pub test

West Australian, General News, 11/05/2026, Caitlin Vinci, Page 5

WA health experts are demanding the State Government bans outdoor smoking at licensed venues, with new Cancer Council figures showing 75 per cent of adults believe these areas should be smoke free. Cancer Council WA Make Smoking History manager Libby Jardine said the findings sent a clear message that West Australians want to be protected from secondhand smoke.

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

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## Surrogacy reforms should take the stress out of a legal arrangement

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 10/05/2026

Today we celebrate Mother's Day with gifts, cards and family gatherings but some among us face difficulties becoming mothers – and some of them decide to turn to surrogacy. For some it is a positive experience – for others it is fraught with cost and difficulty

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## 'A sobering indictment': 14 homeless people die a year in public parks or countryside in Australia, analysis finds

The Guardian, Other, 10/05/2026, Christopher Knaus

Fourteen rough sleepers are dying in public parks or countryside areas each year on average in Australia, an analysis of hidden death reports reveals. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows the social housing waitlist for those in "greatest need" has continued to worsen each year since 2015, hitting record levels in June 2024.

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### As a graduate nurse, Zoe noticed one thing. It sparked her calls for menstrual leave

9News, Other, 10/05/2026, Emily McPherson

For Zoe Kapolos, the reality of endometriosis isn't just a personal battle, it's a recurring scene played out on the hospital ward where she works. The 21-year-old graduate nurse from Melbourne has spent years navigating the debilitating pain of the condition, but it was the sight of her own patients prioritising paperwork over their recovery that finally pushed her to act.

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### Ongoing breakdowns hamper mobile breast screening service in Tasmania, but government says fix on the way

ABC Online, Other, 10/05/2026, Georgia Hogge

Angie Bisset had a mammogram booked on what is currently Tasmania's only mobile breast screening bus. But the night before her long-awaited appointment, she received a call informing her the bus had "broken down" and would not be coming to Smithton in Tasmania's far north-west, where Ms Bisset lives.

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### Warning for all women this Mother's Day as fit mum of four rushed in for emergency heart surgery: 'Check your heart'

West Australian, Other, 10/05/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Australian women are being urged to check their hearts this Mother's Day, amid alarming warnings many are dying from heart disease without ever knowing they were at risk. [...] The Heart Foundation's Natalie Raffoul says complacency is a major problem, and that many women were unaware they even had risk factors.

Also reported by: [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#),

[Read More](#)

## 2GB, Healthy Living, 10/05/2026, Dr Ross Walker

Interview with preventative cardiologist and author Dr Stephen Fenton, on the increasing number of heart attacks in Australia. Fenton says early detection is key to reducing the risk factors of a heart attack or even preventing it from happening, and he also notes that the whole population needs to be tested and have their hearts checked. He states that heart disease, particularly coronary artery disease, is the leading cause of death among men and women globally.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Children suffer from domestic violence, too

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/05/2026, Amber Schultz, Page 1

Mackenzie Anderson's son was just 23 months old when he witnessed her murder. Anderson was stabbed 78 times by her expartner, Tyler Thompson, in a frenzied attack in suburban Newcastle in 2022. [...] Dealing with the traumatic loss of her daughter, Acret also fought an uphill battle to get her grandson mental health support.

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### Teens to receive care at home

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/05/2026, Page 5

Northern Tasmanian teenagers struggling with acute mental health issues will soon be able to receive hospital-level care without leaving their own bedrooms, under a major expansion of the state's Youth Mental Health Hospital in the Home program. The Tasmanian government has committed \$20m in the 2026-27 Budget to boost the service and roll it out across Northern Tasmania after a successful trial in the North West.

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### What's up bot?

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 11/05/2026, Mark Furler, Page 6

A teenager bullied online takes his own life, leaving family and friends asking the question that can never be fully answered: Why? A husband goes down a rabbit hole of internet conspiracy theories to the point where he no longer trusts anyone in a uniform.

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### Workers pay the price of burnout. Should employers cover the cost?

ABC Online, Other, 10/05/2026, Brigid Delaney

Hayley Hughes said yes to everything. She worked in health care at a Queensland medical centre, managing nine GPs and up to 18 staff, while overseeing a change of ownership.

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### Mental illness is pregnancy's No 1 complication. It's time to support those who suffer from it

The Guardian, Other, 11/05/2026, Edna Lekgabe

When Mia\* was referred to me, she was 32 weeks pregnant and had not slept properly in two months. Her GP had told her it was "just pregnancy insomnia".

## 2GB, Healthy Living, 10/05/2026, Dr Ross Walker

Interview with psychiatrist Tanveer Ahmed, on a new study revealing that teenagers and adults living with Bipolar 2 Disorder face a 60% higher risk of early death. Ahmed says depressive episodes are more pronounced than manic episodes for people living with Bipolar 2 Disorder, and they may be resistant to treatments. He also notes that they have always known that the risk of suicide is greater in Bipolar 2 Disorder, but it has been theorised that the reduced life expectancy is sometimes linked to poor nutrition and poor self-care.

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## IMMUNISATION

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### How a \$160bn hospital boom is fuelling the next property hotspots

NEWS.com.au, Other, 10/05/2026, Tim McIntyre

Residential construction is falling behind, but a boom in hospital infrastructure is driving growth in property markets across Australia, new research has revealed. Hotspotting's 'From Wards to Wealth' report, commissioned by Fresh Start Advisory, has delved into Australia's hospital and medical centre projects, pinpointing the next areas to benefit from growth thanks to the infrastructure that is planned or already underway.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### At its heart, a century of world-changing research

Age, General News, 11/05/2026, Carolyn Webb, Page 16

A scientist's work is never done, and staff at the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute have usually got quite enough on their (microscope) plates such as developing an mRNA vaccine to prevent heart attacks, or devising implantable artificial hearts. But on Friday, the team downed tools to sip champagne and eat cake baked in the shape of a heart.

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

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### How to cut your dementia risk with food

Age, General News, 11/05/2026, Emily Craig, Page 17

When planning our weekly food shop, we think about what we're in the mood to eat, what veg is in season and who we're feeding. Now, experts want us to add another consideration to that list which items in your basket will increase your risk of developing Alzheimer's?

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### The 8500 steps to keep weight off

Canberra Times, International News, 11/05/2026, Page 11

Dieters who want to keep the weight off should make sure they are walking 8500 steps per day, new research suggests. The research, being presented at the European Congress on Obesity in Istanbul, Turkey, will also be published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

*Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).*

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## **I have a vested interest in writing this. You do too**

Canberra Times, Other, 10/05/2026, Colleen Lewis

I have a vested interest in writing this, so too does every person reading it and even those who don't, for the message it contains affects the lives of every person in Australia, including state and federal members of parliament who possess the power to act on the message.

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

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## **FIRST NATIONS HEALTH**

### **Inexplicable matter of camps' millions**

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 11/05/2026, Liam Mendes & Christine Middap, Page 5

The Aboriginal corporation funded to support Alice Springs town camps and provide broader Indigenous safety and community programs spends more on employee costs than the entire Alice Springs council, which serves about 30,000 people in the Central Australian town. [...] Conditions across the estimated 16 town camps range from basic to unsanitary and some community leaders and residents are demanding to know where the \$27m in government grants to Tangentyere last financial year is being spent.

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### **Doctors warned Andrea could die without safe housing, then discharged her to sleep on the streets**

The Guardian, Other, 11/05/2026, Sarah Collard

The family of a homeless First Nations woman who is sick with septicemia fear she will die without a safe home, but advocates warn it could be years before she reaches the top of the public housing waiting list. Andrea Woodley has been in and out of hospital for weeks with sepsis, triggered by infected blisters on her feet after sleeping rough in inner city Perth.

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## **PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM**

### **Ambo ambush**

Herald Sun, General News, 11/05/2026, Shannon Deery, Page 1

A pregnant paramedic was punched in the face and stomach while saving a woman from a life-threatening drug overdose in the latest sickening attack on an emergency service worker. Now, ambos are being told to leave violent patients without care if they are attacked on the job.

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### **Delivering the goods at Grampians Health**

Ballarat Courier, General News, 11/05/2026, Michelle Smith, Page 7

Expectant mothers will have a new option for welcoming their babies to the world when Grampians Health starts offering water births later this year. A birthing pool is being built in the new Ballarat Base

Hospital clinical services tower, part of the \$655 million redevelopment, but from late 2026 the existing maternity ward will start offering water births in inflatable birthing pools.

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## Budget leaves gaping holes

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 11/05/2026, Neil Watkinson, Page 1

Kalgoorlie-Boulder's mayor says major infrastructure, housing and service gaps remain following this year's State Budget despite the region's significant contribution to the WA economy. [...] While broader regional health funding was welcomed, Mr Wilson noted the need for continued investment in the Kalgoorlie Health Campus.

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## Scandal's 'slum landlord'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 11/05/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

The private consortium behind the mould and maintenance scandal at the Calvary Mater Newcastle had been allowed to "behave like a slum landlord", a former academic has alleged. Howard Dick, of Toronto, accused the Novacare consortium of "collecting the rent but withholding repairs" without any regard for the welfare and lives of the hospital's patients.

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

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Budget to include \$2b for frontline public servants

Canberra Times, General News, 11/05/2026, Miriam Webber, Page 4

Labor will spend nearly \$2 billion to top up funding for thousands of front-line public servants who process Centrelink and other payments, heeding warnings that jobs were on the line. [...] Services Australia has 318 centres across the country, with staff supporting around 27 million Medicare customers, 8.9 million Centrelink customers and 1.1 million children whose parents pay child support.

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### How Medicare lets down rural patients

Central Western Daily, General News, 11/05/2026, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 5

After more than a decade balancing academia, art and motherhood in a capital city, Sandra moved to a picturesque alpine village for a fresh start. But once she settled in the rural outpost near the NSW-Victoria border, she found herself even more isolated by a controlling partner.

*Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).*

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### **Sydney paramedic Philip Van Heerden jailed over child abuse material find at Zetland home**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/05/2026, Shannon Tonkin

A veteran NSW paramedic busted with a cache of horrific child pornography at his Zetland home could walk free from custody on parole in as little as two months, but will be a registered child sex offender for the next 15 years. [...] He is currently listed as suspended on the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's register of health professionals.

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### **Virus flight set for Perth**

West Australian, General News, 11/05/2026, Niall Mcilroy, Page 1

A flight carrying four Australians stranded for weeks on a hantavirus infected cruise ship is expected to land in Perth on Tuesday. [...] A Government spokesperson said Communicable Diseases Network Australia had issued guidance on the health protocols to be observed by passengers and crew on the flight.

*Also reported by: [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#).*

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### **Precautions all above board**

West Australian, General News, 11/05/2026, Andrew Miller, Page 13

Some shipping news: the MV Hondius docked on Sunday, in Tenerife. Cruise ships are like paying to be imprisoned, but with a buffet and bar in case your sea sickness settles.

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

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### **'Empty and vapid' CDC finally responds to hantavirus outbreak. But experts say it's too little, too late**

The Guardian, Other, 10/05/2026, Edward Helmore

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed it is sending a team to Spain's Canary Islands, where the hantavirus-stricken cruise ship MV Hondius is expected to arrive on Sunday, and US passengers will be evacuated to an airbase in Nebraska. The CDC's limited role in responding to the hantavirus outbreak is raising questions, including whether it now has a diminished role in responding to health scares.

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### **'Not another Covid': WHO urges calm ahead of evacuation of**

## **hantavirus-hit cruise ship**

SBS, Other, 10/05/2026

Countries have prepared to evacuate their citizens from a luxury cruise ship hit by a deadly strain of hantavirus that is due to anchor near the Canary Islands, as health authorities said the risk of the virus spreading was low. The World Health Organization (WHO) briefed member states with nationals on board on Saturday on how to manage the process, advising active monitoring of passengers for 42 days from the last point of exposure.

Also reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#)

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## **ABC News, ABC Evening News (Weekend), 10/05/2026, Melissa Mackay**

The cruise ship impacted by a deadly hantavirus outbreak has arrived at the Port of Granadilla in Tenerife, allowing its 147 passengers and crew to disembark and undergo medical screening. Some residents of Tenerife have protested the Spanish Government's decision to accept the ship, but the World Health Organization maintains the virus will not spread.

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

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## **Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 10/05/2026, Georgie Tunny**

The hantavirus-riddled MV Hondius has arrived in Tenerife, and while the passengers are set to be evacuated once they disembark, the World Health Organization maintains that the risk to public health is low. Meanwhile, there is a hive of activity in Tenerife's airport and port in anticipation of the highly choreographed disembarkation, with four Australian passengers among those requiring repatriation.

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## **2GB, Healthy Living, 10/05/2026, Dr Ross Walker**

Interview with infectious diseases expert Dr Clay Golledge, on the hantavirus outbreak at MV Hondius. Walker says the World Health Organisation has maintained that the risk to the wider public remains very low, while Golledge states that human-to-human transmission is very uncommon, but the disease is deadly because it causes pulmonary oedema and haemorrhage. Golledge also notes that the disease is not considered highly transmissible, making the situation at MV Hondius unusual, but the World Health Organization is doing everything it can to contain it.

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## **THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION**

### **India embraces cheaper weight loss drugs but doctors are worried**

ABC Online, Other, 10/05/2026, Claire Campbell

Pankhuri Pareek wanted to return to a fit and healthy lifestyle after having her baby daughter but struggled to lose her pregnancy weight. [...] But the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said the new generic weight loss drugs from India would not be allowed to sell in Australia, where patents for Wegovy and Ozempic would not expire until October 2038.

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### **The emerging cancer treatment that's exciting scientists: 'We've just scratched the surface on what's possible'**

The Guardian, Other, 10/05/2026, Jackson Ryan

"Game-changer." That's how Prof Misty Jenkins, an immunologist at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, describes CAR T-cell therapy, an emerging but still costly cancer treatment that supercharges the body's immune system to fight disease. [...] Four CAR T-cell therapies have been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for use in Australia since 2018.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Bottle shop bootleg booze

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 11/05/2026, Mark Murray, Page 1

Bootleg alcohol is being openly sold in Geelong bottle shops, with researchers warning many legitimate retailers may be unknowingly stocking illicit spirits linked to tax evasion and organised crime. [...]

National Drug Research Institute researcher Nic Taylor told the Geelong Advertiser some products were appearing on shelves in Geelong at prices difficult to reconcile with Australia's alcohol excise regime.

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

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Don't cut out food safety

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/05/2026, Page 13

The Food Safety Information Council has urged Australians to ensure their health is not compromised by taking food-safety "short cuts" during the high cost-of-living crisis. Charity Foodbank says 3.5 million households have experienced food insecurity over the past 12 months, now made worse with increasing costs of fuel and food.

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No relevant coverage

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