



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 12th May 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) the Federal Government has announced a \$37.8 billion reduction in the projected cost of the National Disability Insurance Scheme as the primary savings measure in Tuesday's federal budget to ensure the NDIA can achieve a reduced growth rate and meet the planned savings targets by 2030.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports five Australians and one New Zealander from an Atlantic cruise ship will repatriate to the Bullsbrook Centre for National Resilience to undergo a three-week quarantine following a deadly hantavirus outbreak. Health Minister Mark Butler stated that the World Health Organisation and the Federal Government are working to manage concerns regarding the virus, while the Australian Health Protection Committee will oversee the quarantine and testing protocols to ensure community safety.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports the Fraud Fusion Taskforce is leading efforts to eliminate sophisticated rorting operations on the NDIS and veteran's support services.
- **[The Northern Territory News](#)** (page 1) reports St John NT has issued an urgent plea for community respect after paramedics were subjected to six separate incidents of violence and harassment over a single weekend, including physical assault at Royal Darwin Hospital and sexual harassment at Palmerston Regional Hospital.

- [ABC Online](#) reports the Victorian Ambulance Union and Ambulance Victoria have condemned the assault of a pregnant paramedic in Melbourne's north, noting that paramedics across the state experienced more than 1,000 hazardous incidents in the last financial year.

MINISTER BUTLER

Cruise evacuees facing three-week lockdown

The Australian, General News, 12/05/2026, Paul Garvey, Page 5

The five Australians and one New Zealander evacuated from the hantavirus-infected cruise ship off West Africa will be quarantined for at least three weeks at the long-idle Covid-era centre north of Perth. Health Minister Mark Butler on Monday said the six passengers from the MV Hondius would be flown from Tenerife in the Canary Islands to RAAF Base Pearce north of Perth in coming days.

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

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

NDIS savings of \$170bn as growth tipped to plummet

The Australian, General News, 12/05/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 6

State governments and economists are expecting Tuesday's budget to bake in an annual growth rate for the NDIS of just 1 per cent in the short term and save up to \$170bn over the decade, as questions are raised about discrepancies between funding for services outside the scheme across different jurisdictions. While NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler revealed last month that the government would seek to reduce the annual growth of the \$50bn-a-year scheme to 2 per cent over the forward estimates, economic experts pointed out the figure had been described as an "average" growth rate and that the number could be as low as 1 per cent in Tuesday's budget.

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

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Tax and spend: here's what we know so far

The Australian, General News, 12/05/2026, Thomas Henry, Page 7

Jim Chalmers is pitching a budget to deal with inflation and growth pressures driven by the Iran war, while delivering reforms to tackle "intergenerational inequity", and "rebalance" the tax treatment of labour income versus returns on capital. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler's overhaul of the NDIS is expected to deliver \$35bn in savings over the next four years by removing 160,000 Australians from the scheme.

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

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Returning cruisers face quarantine near Perth

Age, General News, 12/05/2026, Nick Newling & Rachel Rasker, Page 1

Five Australians and a New Zealander will be held in a COVID-era quarantine facility outside Perth for three weeks, after potentially coming into contact with a deadly hantavirus outbreak aboard a cruise ship in the Atlantic Ocean. [...] Addressing a press conference at Parliament House in Canberra, Health Minister Mark Butler said the quarantine period would cover half of the potential six-week incubation period associated with the virus.

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

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Everything we know so far about the budget

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/05/2026, Page 7

The PM announced \$10bn had been earmarked in the budget to bolster Australia's fuel security and resilience. [...] Some \$15bn will be cut from the NDIS over the next four years under sweeping reforms announced by NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler.

Aussies on way home from hantavirus ship

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/05/2026, Page 19

Four Australians are among nearly 150 passengers and crew being urgently repatriated after they were stuck on board a cruise ship that was hit by a deadly hantavirus outbreak which has claimed three lives. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Australians and a New Zealander will be flown to RAAF Base Pearce in Western Australia where they will be quarantined and tested for three weeks.

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Stint in Covid unit for Aussies

Courier Mail, General News, 12/05/2026, Ria Pandey, Ike Morris & Elodie Jakes, Page 5

A group of Australians including two Queenslanders being repatriated from the MV Hondius cruise ship linked to a deadly Hantavirus outbreak will spend a lengthy stint in quarantine at a facility in Perth. [...] Minister for Health Mark Butler said three NSW residents, two Queensland residents and a New Zealand resident would be quarantined at the Bullsbrook Centre for National Resilience in Perth's northeast for at least three weeks.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Put down the loo roll: No 'pandemic potential'

The Nightly, General News, 11/05/2026, Caitlyn Rintoul & Jessica Page, Page 12

Mark Butler says a hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship off Spain doesn't have "pandemic potential" and doctors have urged calm, as a repatriation flight of six passengers heads for Perth. [...] Australian Medical Association WA president Kyle Hoath said there's no cause for alarm.

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Government makes home care change after industry outcry

Village News, General News, 01/05/2026, Julia Mccarthy, Page 27

As I write this on Anzac Day, I find myself reflecting on the courage and sacrifice of all those who have served with deep gratitude. [...] Last week, Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler announced changes to aged care.

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Perth facility where Aussies and New Zealander will be quarantined after being stranded on hantavirus cruise ship

The Australian, Other, 11/05/2026, Emma Kirk

Six passengers from Australia and New Zealand will be quarantined at a facility in Perth after they were stranded on a cruise ship exposed to the deadly hantavirus. [...] Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler said an order would be made over the next 24 hours for the Australians and New Zealander to be quarantined at the Commonwealth owned centre, which will be operated by WA Health during the quarantine period.

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

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Uncertain times, but NDIS changes are necessary to protect the disability insurance scheme's future

Herald Sun, Other, 11/05/2026, Natasha Fyles

The National Disability Insurance Scheme, or NDIS as it is known, was established in 2013 after a grassroots advocacy campaign that fought for a fairer system for disability support recognising that 'Every Australian Counts'. [...] Minister Mark Butler recently outlined to the National Press Club the most significant changes in the way disability supports will be provided since the inception of the NDIS.

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

Hantavirus-hit cruise ship passengers to quarantine in Perth

ABC Online, Other, 11/05/2026, Caitlyn Gribbin

Australian passengers who were on board the hantavirus-hit cruise ship will be ordered to quarantine in Perth for at least three weeks, in what the federal government has declared a "precautionary approach" to keep the community safe. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said "national quarantine arrangements" would be enacted to allow the federal government to take control off the states for quarantine and return arrangements.

[Read More](#)

Australians from hantavirus cruise ship to be quarantined near Perth for three weeks

The Guardian, Other, 11/05/2026, Nick Visser & Tom McIlroy

Australian and New Zealand travellers caught up in the hantavirus outbreak will undergo three weeks' quarantine north-east of Perth, part of compulsory orders to be issued by the federal government. Health Minister Mark Butler said four Australian citizens and one permanent resident would be taken from Perth to the Bullsbrook quarantine facility, next to the Pearce airforce base.

[Read More](#)

Australians to be among final passengers evacuated from hantavirus-hit cruise ship

SBS, Other, 11/05/2026, Miles Proust

Health Minister Mark Butler says Australia's plan to isolate passengers from a hantavirus-hit cruise ship in a containment facility outside Perth for three weeks is among the strictest global responses to the rare virus. Four Australian citizens, one permanent resident and a New Zealand national are expected to depart Tenerife in the Canary Islands on an Australian government-supported charter flight at around 3am Tuesday AEST.

[Read More](#)

Health insurance industry to protest rebate changes as hospitals close

Michael West Media, Other, 11/05/2026, Claudia Weisenberger

The upcoming budget is expected to cause changes to the private health insurance rebates for older people. Last month, Health Minister Mark Butler announced the removal of higher rebate tiers for older Australians with private health insurance.

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'No apology': quarantine for Aussies on virus-hit ship

Michael West Media, Other, 11/05/2026, Michael Pascoe

Australians returning from a cruise afflicted by a rare and deadly virus will be required to quarantine for at least three weeks. [...] The federal government would then seek advice from chief health officers about any further arrangements, Health Minister Mark Butler said on Monday.

[Read More](#)

Bullsbrook open to hantavirus passengers from Canary Islands

Business News WA, Other, 11/05/2026, Gary Adshead

Australians and a New Zealander caught up in the fatal hantavirus cruise ship saga are expected to arrive in Perth tomorrow, ahead of a three-week quarantine lockdown in the Bullsbrook facility built at the back end of the Covid-19 pandemic. [...] "The Department of Foreign Affairs, health authorities and the new Australian Centre for Disease Control have been holding talks with those passengers," Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Australia's only daily Auslan news service by Deaf journalists to end

Your Life Choices, Other, 11/05/2026

Australia's only daily news service delivered in Australian Sign Language will go off air next month as its federal government funding comes to an end. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler was contacted for comment.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, The World, 11/05/2026, Manny Tsigas

A group of Australians who have been stranded on a hantavirus-hit cruise ship are expected to arrive in WA, and while they have not shown any symptoms of the virus, they will undergo several weeks of quarantine. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the passengers will have to come home in a small plane with a higher risk of transmission during transit.

Similar coverage reported by: [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC \(Perth\)](#), [ABC \(Darwin\)](#), [ABC \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC \(Adelaide\)](#), [SBS \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#), [SBS \(Sydney\)](#).

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Channel 10, 10 News+, 11/05/2026, Denham Hitchcock & Amelia Brace

Serious precautions are being taken as the Australian passengers of a hantavirus-stricken cruise ship prepare to return to Australia, where they will face at least three weeks in quarantine. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says it is their responsibility to keep the passengers protected from any risk, as well as keep the community safe and healthy.

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

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Channel 7, Seven News, 11/05/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings

Five Australians will be forced into strict quarantine when they return home this week in Perth after being stranded on a cruise ship off Africa, where a hantavirus outbreak killed three passengers. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says there is an incubation period of 42 days, and they will be monitoring advice about what should happen beyond those three weeks.

Also reported by: [Seven Sunshine Coast \(Sunshine Coast\)](#), [Seven Wagga Wagga \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Seven Cairns \(Cairns\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Seven Tasmania \(Hobart\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Channel 9, Nine News, 11/05/2026, Alicia Loxley & Tom Steinfort

A deadly hantavirus is forcing returning Australians into at least three weeks quarantine after being stranded on board a cruise ship in the Canary Islands. While Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stated that it is a complex operation that involves different countries, the World Health Organization is advising countries to implement a 42-day quarantine period for returning passengers.

Also reported by: [NBN Newcastle Hunter \(Newcastle\)](#), [NBN Lismore \(Lismore\)](#), [NBN Central Coast \(Gosford\)](#), [NBN Tamworth \(Tamworth\)](#), [NBN Coffs Harbour \(Coffs Harbour\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 11/05/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with West Australian Bureau Chief Katina Curtis. Curtis states that cuts to the NDIS have been announced, but they have not seen any of the modelling from Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. She says she will look at some of the details contained in the budget papers tomorrow.

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Artsound FM, 08:00 AIR News ACT Edition, 11/05/2026

Three new universally bulk-billing general practices are set to open their doors across Canberra by the end of June, marking a significant federal intervention into the ACT's struggling primary care market. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed this morning that the clinics, located in Gungahlin, South Tuggeranong, and Molonglo, are the centrepieces of a \$24 million package aimed at reversing the territory's status as the "most expensive place in Australia to see a doctor.

Gold 101.7, 18:00 News, 11/05/2026

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says hantavirus does not have pandemic potential. Meanwhile, five Australians exposed to the virus on a cruise ship are preparing to return home, where they will be facing a six-week quarantine.

Similar coverage reported by: [GOLD FM 104.3 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Triple M Gold Coast \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Triple M Townsville \(Townsville\)](#), [Hot FM 91.1 \(Sunshine Coast\)](#), [i98 FM \(Wollongong\)](#).

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2GB, 22:00 News, 11/05/2026

Five Australian citizens and a New Zealander have contracted hantavirus, and the Federal Government has now arranged a charter flight to transport them from the Canary Islands to Perth where they will quarantine for three weeks. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says a three-week isolation period will ensure the virus does not spread.

Also reported by: [6PR \(Perth\)](#), [6PR \(Perth\)](#), [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#), [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#), [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#), [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#), [2GB \(Sydney\)](#), [2GB \(Sydney\)](#), [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#), [6PR \(Perth\)](#).

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 11/05/2026, Samantha Donovan

Report by ABC reporter Kathleen O'Connor. A vaccine for Meningococcal B, a rare but potentially fatal bacterial infection, will soon be free for Year 10 students in Victoria, but it comes with an out-of-pocket cost of \$250,000 for some vulnerable groups. Back in December, Federal Health Mark Butler stated that he was looking into the issue, but he also says he cannot just add Meningococcal B to the National Immunisation Program.

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 11/05/2026, Samantha Donovan

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has outlined new quarantine measures for the Australian passengers who have been on board a hantavirus-stricken cruise ship. Four Australians, one permanent resident, and one New Zealand citizen will be quarantined for three weeks at a facility outside Perth.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [Triple J \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).

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Radio National, Health Report, 11/05/2026, Dr Preeya Alexander & Belinda Smith

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, on the Federal Government's decision to invest \$1.8b over five years to permanently embed Medicare Urgent Care Clinics into the health system. Butler says the interim evaluations have demonstrated that the model is an important addition to the healthcare system, and it will show some ideas about how they can tweak it rather than whether or not they should have it. He also says he sees this as part of primary care, and he deliberately designed the model to build out of general practise.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

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A welcome decision for dignity

Hinterland Times, General News, 01/05/2026, Page 26

The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Ageing and the Hon Sam Rae MP, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, recently announced that showering will move from the 'personal care' category, which attracts client contributions of between 5% and 50%, to the 'clinical care' category, which is contribution free. "We commend the Government for listening to the significant concerns of older people and providers," Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson said.

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Inspector-General of Aged Care Natalie Siegel Brown resigns

Aged Care Insite, Other, 11/05/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Inspector-General of Aged Care Natalie Siegel Brown has resigned and will be leaving the role on July 31, citing an expansion of her international responsibilities and the need to balance professional and family commitments. [...] She offered particular thanks to Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae and Health, and Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler for their leadership and commitment to a rights-based aged care system.

[Read More](#)

'Not working': Aged care leaders make budget plea to fix 8-month waits May 10 2026 - 10:30pm May 10 2026 - 10:30pm

The Senior, Other, 11/05/2026, Phoebe Loomes

As tens of thousands of vulnerable older Australians face wait times of up to eight months to receive aged care in their homes, advocates and business leaders are calling for the government will deliver relief at the upcoming budget. [...] Fees vary between providers, but can cost up to \$200 a day Recent reports that providers were charging extra fees for residents to have cooked breakfasts and access to a television were called "disgusting" by Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae, and referred to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

ABC Kimberley, Breakfast, 11/05/2026, Vanessa Mills

Compere says according to Assistant Federal Minister for Mental Health and Rural Regional Health, Emma McBride, the demand for mental health hub centres like what headspace is offering is in demand. She adds that the headspace Centre has been up and running in Broome since 2008 and the demand is steadily increasing.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Channel 9, Nine News, 11/05/2026, Alicia Loxley & Tom Steinfort

A Victorian woman has been given a second chance at life thanks to an organ donor. Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White says the Federal Government is strongly encouraging states and territories to reintroduce registration through driver's licences.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#)

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

New Palliative Care COP announced

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 11/05/2026, Page 1

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has marked National Palliative Care Week (10-16 May) with the launch of its new Palliative Care Community of Practice (COP) in collaboration with Palliative Care Australia, Ageing Australia and caring@home. [...] The Palliative Care COP is supported by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing through the Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology Commonwealth Funding.

Also reported by: [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [The Lismore App \(Online\)](#).

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Calls for input into dementia guidelines

Aged Care Insite, Other, 11/05/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Monash University has opened public consultation on the first major update to the national Dementia Clinical Practice Guidelines in more than a decade. [...] In 2024, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing committed to review and update clinical practice guidelines and principles of care for people living with dementia every three to five years as part of the government's National Dementia Action Plan.

[Read More](#)

NSW to launch review into delayed discharge

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 11/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The New South Wales Productivity and Equality Commission has launched a review to assess the costs and impact of older people remaining in hospital after being medically cleared for discharge due to a lack of beds in residential aged care. [...] But it is difficult to provide an exact number as there is no agreed definition on what constitutes delayed discharge, with each state measuring it differently – as noted by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing during Senate estimates for the Community Affairs Legislation Committee in December 2025.

[Read More](#)

National Families Week 2026

River 1467, Other, 11/05/2026, David Burrows

As families face growing social and financial pressures, Triple P - Positive Parenting Program experts are marking National Families Week (11–17 May) to highlight the vital role parents and carers play in supporting children's mental health and resilience, strengthening families, and contributing to healthier, more connected communities. [...] Delivery of the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program to parents and carers of children in Australia is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing under the Parenting Education and Support Program.

[Read More](#)

National LGBTQIA+ Survey Opens With Focus On Health, Discrimination, And Safety

Sydney Star Observer, Other, 11/05/2026, Patrick Lenton

Australia's longest-running national survey of LGBTQIA+ health and wellbeing has opened, with researchers calling on adults across the country to take part in the latest edition of the Private Lives

survey. Private Lives 4 is being led by the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University and is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Review of 'stranded' elderly patients

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 12/05/2026, Kate McIlwain, Page 6

A new inquiry will look into the cost and impacts of having hundreds of elderly patients stranded in public hospitals, with Australian health ministers also agreeing to establish an urgent interstate taskforce to deal with the growing issue. [...] This issue has plagued the Illawarra health system, with a critical aged care bed shortage meaning older people who cannot safely return home are stuck in wards designed for acute care.

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Australia is spending more on aged care than ever. So why are thousands of older people stuck in hospital?

HelloCare, Other, 11/05/2026, Jakob Neeland

The federal government has committed an extra \$3 billion to aged care, promising more beds, more home support and better dementia services. But across Australia, thousands of older people who are medically fit to leave hospital are still waiting for somewhere else to go.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 11/05/2026, Emma Reballato & James Glenday

The Federal Government has pledged a \$3 billion lifeline to the aged care sector as fresh data reveals a 35% surge in "stranded" hospital patients over the last six months. The funding, centrepiece in this week's Federal Budget, aims to deliver 5,000 new aged care beds annually by 2029 and establish a national taskforce to clear the hospital "bed block" gridlock.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 11/05/2026, Saskia Mabin

The number of aged care patients languishing in Australian hospitals has surged by more than 35% in around six months. It has prompted calls for the Federal Government to do more.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 11/05/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Geriatrician, Dr James Hardy. Compere says home and virtual care are now becoming increasingly common for elderly Australians, which is freeing up hospital beds while keeping patients more comfortable. Hardy discusses the Aged Care Rapid Response Team, which is a team of doctors, nurses, and physiotherapists. He adds that they have noticed for a long time that there have been increasing research showing that older people are at high-risk of coming into hospital.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

As Labor chases savings, NDIS cut a budget priority

Australian Financial Review, General News, 12/05/2026, Phillip Coorey & Lea Jurkovic, Page 1

Savings measures in Tuesday's federal budget, including a \$37.8 billion cut to the runaway cost of the NDIS, will help shave \$45 billion from the cumulative deficit over the next five years, but a surplus is a long way off.

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

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Crackdown on rampant support service rorting

Age, General News, 12/05/2026, Paul Sakkal, Page 1

Criminal gangs and swindlers rorting Australia's support services from veterans affairs to childcare and the NDIS will be targeted in today's federal budget as fears grow that debt will spiral due to a surge in dodgy payments. Finance Minister Katy Gallagher says the \$6.6 billion fund for veterans has turned into a free-for-all market "similar to the NDIS", with dodgy doctors and firms exaggerating ailments and skimming payments meant for retired defence personnel.

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

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What's happening to negative gearing, your tax and public services

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/05/2026, Nick Newling, Page 6

Contentious changes to negative gearing, capital gains tax, and a gutting of the National Disability Insurance Scheme are all on the table as the Albanese government prepares to hand down its fifth budget tonight. The government has called it its most ambitious, and Treasurer Jim Chalmers has flagged there will be \$64 billion in savings across the agenda.

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

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'Mushrooms growing' in homes, inquiry told

Canberra Times, General News, 12/05/2026, Lucy Arundell, Page 7

Mushrooms are growing in the public housing properties of some Canberrans living with disabilities as millions of dollars of funding sits unaccessed by Housing ACT, an inquiry has heard. One disability provider said there was "no reason why" the ACT government could not claim millions in National Disability Insurance Scheme funding to upgrade and repair public housing properties for tenants with disabilities as part of a specialised accommodation initiative.

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Court spares Adelaide NDIS fraudster Adrian Cameron Bembrick immediate jail for \$58,000 fraud while part of People Come First organisation

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/05/2026, Sean Fewster

While Paul Kevan Tilbury was siphoning his NDIS business to satisfy his greed, Adrian Cameron Bembrick was trying to keep the lights on. As People Come First's general manager, Bembrick struggled as his boss spent \$12,700 of NDIS funds on tobacconists, \$4700 on restaurants, \$7000 on booze, \$9600 on jewellery and \$2000 on a BDSM bench.

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

[Read More](#)

NDIS provider avoids jail for defrauding scheme in bid to keep business 'afloat'

ABC Online, Other, 11/05/2026, Olivia Mason

An Adelaide man who defrauded the NDIS out of more than \$58,000 has been spared jail for the offending, which happened "out of desperation" to keep the struggling business afloat, a court has heard. Adrian Cameron Bembrick, 41, appeared in Adelaide's District Court for sentencing on Monday.

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PRIMARY CARE

The govt isn't telling the whole truth on bulk-billing — yet another job for practices

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/05/2026

The Australian Government's recent advertising campaign promoting expanded support for bulk-billing has generated significant attention among patients and the broader community.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Beer killer? Rise of the vodka RTD

The Australian, Business News, 12/05/2026, Joseph Carbone, Page 17

Australians are drinking less, but when they do they are prioritising lower price points and low sugar options over traditional alcoholic beverages. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows per capita alcohol consumption is expected to decline almost 10 litres in the current financial year, with Roy Morgan statistics showing 64.9 per cent of Aussies drank alcohol in the 12 months to September 2025, down from 67.8 per cent the prior year.

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

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

Stronger enforcement is not enough to end tobacco wars

Herald Sun, General News, 12/05/2026, Regan Hodge, Page 8

Melbourne's raging hospitality and tobacco wars would continue to line the pockets of organised crime gangs if the federal government fails to change tack in Tuesday's budget, according to experts. Industry groups say splashing even more cash at federal enforcement would not properly address the issue that has led to a wave of deadly violence across Victoria in recent years.

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Fewer work hours may trim waistlines

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/05/2026, Page 5

Working fewer hours may be linked to lower obesity rates. After looking at data from 33 OECD countries over more than 30 years, The University of Queensland and CSIRO researchers found a 1 per cent drop in annual working hours was linked to a 0.16 per cent fall in obesity rates overall, with a bigger effect seen in men.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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Channel 7, Seven News, 11/05/2026, Tim McMillan & Angela Tsun

A new survey by the Cancer Council has found overwhelming support for a total ban on cigarettes and vaping at Perth pubs and clubs, but not everyone agrees. The survey also found 70% would like Rottneest Island made smoke-free, 74% want smoking banned in Kings Park and Yagan Square, 80% would like it banned at bus stops.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 11/05/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Australian Hotels Association WA President Bradley Woods, on the Cancer Council's survey revealing that 75% of people support making WA pubs completely smoke-free. Woods says the survey does not reflect the general views of people who patronise hotels, pubs, and bars. He also states it depends on the smokers if they want to smoke and vape, but pubs and hotels are still trying to provide hospitality for everybody.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) not linked to higher rate of abnormal ovarian cysts, study shows

ABC Online, Other, 12/05/2026, Lauren Roberts

Despite what the name suggests, women with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) do not have a higher rate of abnormal ovarian cysts than women without the condition. That's according to a new study of 1,235 Finnish women published today in JAMA Internal Medicine. PCOS is a lifelong, complex hormonal and metabolic disorder that affects about one in eight women and can lead to infertility and conditions such as type 2 diabetes.

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Channel 9, A Current Affair, 11/05/2026, Allison Langdon

Annalise Holland is dying from Autoimmune Autonomic Ganglionopathy, and at the age of 26, she has now made the decision to undergo voluntary assisted dying in Adelaide. She says she does not want to die, but she chose to undergo VAD because she does not want to suffer.

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SBS, World News Australia, 11/05/2026, Janice Petersen

A new research by the Garvin Institute is seeking to provide an understanding of why breast cancer can return after many years of successful treatment. Breast cancer affects one in eight women in their lifetime, while 30% of them experience reoccurrences.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

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IMMUNISATION

Justice for Levi with free vaccine

Herald Sun, General News, 12/05/2026, Lucy Callander, Page 10

Victorian teens will have access to free meningococcal vaccinations at school following the impassioned campaign by a mother who lost her son to the infection last September. Clyde North mum Norliah Syer started her campaign to make the meningococcal B vaccine free for Victorian teens the day after it claimed her Levi, 16, in 2025.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

FIVEAA, Mornings, 11/05/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Australian Medical Association Vice President Julian Rait. Rait says the AMA wants to see primary care through public hospitals and private health included in the Federal Budget. He also says they have seen the Federal Government invest in bulk billing incentives to get more patients bulk billed, but the Federal Government also needs to further reform the GP consultation items to better support patients who have chronic conditions.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Cancer relapse mapped

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/05/2026, Page 18

Australian researchers have mapped the drivers of breast cancer cells that resist therapy by growing extremely slowly rather than entering a dormant state. The Garvan Institute of Medical Research findings explain why breast cancer can return many years after a patient receives successful treatment.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, 11/05/2026, Joel Rheinberger

Patients in major Tasmanian hospitals waiting on a bed in an aged care facility have increased by more than 200%. Tasmanian Health Minister Bridget Archer says the Federal Government needs to prioritise the issue and reconsider changes to private health insurance rebates, which are adding pressure to the public health system.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Health board warns unregistered 'birth keeper's' advice may put lives at risk

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/05/2026, Chloe Grimshaw

A controversial Sunshine Coast "birth keeper" who previously labelled hospital births as "sanctioned systemic abuse" continues to encourage expectant mums to trust their instincts over medical advice. [...] The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia has warned lives are at risk from unregistered birth workers providing controversial advice.

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

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Patient bashes pregnant ambo

The Australian, General News, 12/05/2026, Jack Nivison & Emma Kirk, Page 9

A pregnant Victorian paramedic was punched repeatedly by a woman she was trying to save from a drug overdose, prompting outrage from the emergency service, who say a "persistent pattern of violence" directed towards paramedics is beginning to fester. [...] Ambulance Victoria chief executive Jordan Emery vowed paramedics would withdraw from care if they faced violence, were unsafe, or their lives were in danger.

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

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Ongoing probe of assault on ambo

Herald Sun, General News, 12/05/2026, Ryan Bourke, Page 10

Police have revealed they are yet to lay any charges for an assault against a pregnant paramedic who was trying to treat a patient last week. The Ambulance Victoria chief revealed it's just one of many horrific attacks to have been committed against his members since the stabbing of another paramedic two weeks ago, with the union warning current legislation is failing to deter spiralling levels of violence against first responders.

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

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Protect those who protect us

Herald Sun, Editorials, 12/05/2026, Page 22

Minimum mandatory sentences for assaulting frontline emergency services personnel must be tightened and prison sentences consistently imposed by the courts. At present, the message is just not getting through that attacks on ambulance officers, police or other first-responders will be met with mandatory-minimum stints in jail.

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Under attack

Northern Territory News, General News, 12/05/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 1

St John NT has issued another plea for action after paramedics suffered six attacks in just three days while trying to treat patients. From physical assaults to repeated sexual comments and threats of violence, paramedics are being forced to withdraw from scenes due to escalating violence and disrespect.

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

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Nurse retention crisis as 3600 quit WA health system in one year

West Australian, Edition Changes, 12/05/2026, Jessica Page, Page 11

A high workload is being blamed for a mass exodus of nurses in WA but the union says there are signs of improvement. The State Opposition has seized on figures tabled in State Parliament that show 3604 nurses left WA Health in 2024-25, up from 1848 in 2019-20.

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Plea for more paramedics as plans for new station unveiled

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/05/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 10

Construction is set to begin on an ambulance station at North Rothbury this year, an area badly in need of more paramedics. [...] However, union officials have called for the government to employ more paramedics in the area. Health data shows 3054 ambulance responses in the Lower Hunter

[Cessnock, Kurri, Branxton, Dungog and Singleton area] in the October-December quarter of 2015, compared to 5267 in the same quarter last year.

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

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Pregnant paramedic punched as attacks threaten care

West Australian, Other, 11/05/2026, Melissa Meehan & Callum Godde

A pregnant paramedic was punched in the face and stomach, prompting a warning from ambulance workers that they will withdraw care if they are in danger. Ambulance Victoria staff are now encouraged to withdraw from dangerous situations after a paramedic was traumatised while attending a life-threatening drug overdose.

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

[Read More](#)

Ambulance Victoria condemns assault on pregnant paramedic in Melbourne

ABC Online, Other, 11/05/2026

The Victorian Ambulance Union is condemning the assault of a pregnant paramedic by the patient whose life she saved in Melbourne's north. Union secretary Danny Hill said the person was treated for a drug overdose last week and became agitated after being taken to a CBD hospital.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

EMVision expands pivotal stroke scanner trial to include acute ischaemia detection

Adelaide Now, Other, 11/05/2026, Special Report

EMVision Medical Devices is preparing to add an acute ischaemia detection feature to the Pivotal Trial for its emu Brain Scanner in haemorrhagic stroke. EMVision will add an acute ischaemia detection feature to its pivotal FDA validation trial for the emu Brain Scanner

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Australians are among the last aboard deadly hantavirus-hit MV Hondius as 45-day quarantine looms

7News.com.au, Other, 11/05/2026, Aimee Edwards

Four Australians stranded aboard the deadly hantavirus-hit MV Hondius are set to become the final passengers evacuated from the vessel, before facing a lengthy 45-day quarantine back in Australia. Medical staff will accompany the Perth-bound flight, with the passengers from NSW and Queensland to be placed into quarantine on arrival despite currently showing no symptoms.

[Read More](#)

Doctors reveal how hantavirus spreads as Australian passengers leave the MV Hondius

7News.com.au, Other, 11/05/2026, Brenda Goodman

There was little known about the Andes strain of hantavirus before an outbreak at a birthday party eight years ago. The deadly strain is again under the magnifying glass after an outbreak on luxury cruise ship, the MV Hondius, infected eight people, killing three people and leaving a fourth person fighting for life.

[Read More](#)

Hantavirus: what happens to cruise ship passengers now and will they quarantine?

The Guardian, Other, 11/05/2026, Mark Saunokonoko

The complex operation to repatriate passengers and crew of the hantavirus-hit cruise ship, the MV Hondius, is almost complete. Up to 150 people have started flying home aboard military and government planes from Spain's Canary Islands, and the World Health Organization has recommended, but not mandated, a 42-day quarantine once they have landed.

[Read More](#)

Australians from hantavirus cruise ship to be assessed at Sydney's new biocontainment facility

The Guardian, Other, 11/05/2026, Nick Visser

Australian and New Zealand travellers caught up in the hantavirus outbreak will undergo three weeks' quarantine north-east of Perth, part of compulsory orders to be issued by the federal government. [...] When the charter flight leaves Tenerife, safety measures will be implemented in line with guidance from the Australian Centre for Disease Control.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 11/05/2026, Leon Delaney

Infectious disease Peter Collignon says the small number of hantavirus infections on board a virus-stricken cruise ship shows this is not the same as a covid or flu outbreak. The Federal Government-supported flight will bring six people who have been on board the MV Hondius from the Canary Islands to Perth.

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ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 11/05/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Dr Norman Swan, on the hantavirus outbreak that struck a cruise ship currently anchored in Tenerife, Spain. Macdonald says four Australians, one permanent resident of Australia, and a New Zealand citizen are due to board a charter flight at 5pm local time, and they are expected to arrive in Perth tomorrow. Swan discusses the origins of hantavirus, and he states that the human-to-human transmission of the disease has not been strongly documented, and it is not entirely known as infectious.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 11/05/2026, Hamish Macdonald

Interview with Dr Norman Swan, on the hantavirus outbreak that struck a cruise ship currently anchored in Tenerife, Spain. Macdonald says four Australians, one permanent resident of Australia, and a New Zealand citizen are due to board a charter flight at 5pm local time, and they are expected to arrive in Perth tomorrow. Swan discusses the origins of hantavirus, and he states that the human-to-

human transmission of the disease has not been strongly documented, and it is not entirely known as infectious.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Coke use at a high

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/05/2026, Ruby Kraner Tucci, Page 16

Australians are using cocaine to self-manage ADHD due to prescription drug shortages and delays in diagnoses, experts warn. Government data revealed treatment for cocaine use is at a 10-year high, with 3385 treatment episodes for cocaine and MDMA in 2025.

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

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Youth peptide craze alert

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 12/05/2026, Page 7

University of Queensland researchers say the country's regulatory and health systems are failing to keep up with a surge in illegal peptide use in young people a wellness craze fuelled by social media. [...] In Australia, most injectable peptides are classified as prescription-only medicines, and the Therapeutic Goods Administration recently issued an alert about the rise in illegal use.

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A shortage no more

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/05/2026, Chris Brooker

A forecast shortage of Catapres (clonidine) 150 mcg tablets is no longer expected to occur, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 11/05/2026, Kate Freebairn

Teenagers consumed by online trends are following the lead of influencers promoting an illegal wellness craze. However, doctors are warning there needs to be tougher regulation of peptides as its popularity surges.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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