



TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 14th 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](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) | [Australian CDC](#) |
[Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)
| [AICIS](#)

LINKS

[Click here to view full print articles in this report](#)

[Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [West Australian](#) (page 1) and [The ABC](#) (online) report that the Federal Government has acquired a plane suitable to transfer a group of hantavirus-exposed passengers to the Bullsbrook quarantine centre. Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed that their quarantine period may be extended beyond three weeks.
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) and [The Australian](#) (page 7) report that new waitlist data for Support at Home packages has found that it takes an average of 12 months to attain a package, with aged care beds placements taking an average of 396 days. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae received the data on April 28, releasing it to the public on Tuesday.
- [The Guardian](#) (online) reports that a new test for the National Disability Insurance Scheme would see Australians with disabilities required to exhaust “all appropriate” treatment options before becoming eligible, following Health Minister Mark Butler announcing major changes to the scheme last month.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 1) reports that Opposition Leader Angus Taylor will announce a policy tonight banning non-citizens from claiming the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Disability Support Pension and Age Pension.
- The [West Australian](#) (page 1) reports that new research has found that AI algorithms used in DEXA bone density scans for osteoporosis could also detect calcium build-ups in abdominal

aortas, offering early checks for heart disease risks.

- **The Age** (page 2) reports that two attacks on pregnant paramedics in Victoria, among a string of other assaults, have prompted calls for legislative changes to impose mandatory prison sentences for assaults on off-duty health workers.
- **The Australian** (page 3) and **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 5) leads widespread coverage reporting that an inquest into the death of aged care resident Clare Nowland, and any resulting systemic issues surrounding the treatment of dementia patients, has heard witness testimonies from a paramedic and Senior Constable; both expressed surprise that the taser was fired on the day.
- The **West Australian** (page 3) reports that new analysis published in JAMA Dermatology shows that Australia has the highest disability-adjusted life-year burden for malignant melanoma and basal cell carcinoma.
- The **Hobart Mercury** (page 3) reports that construction of the \$15 million Tasmanian Breast Care Centre in Hobart has now been completed, although calls remain for more bus screening services for regional Tasmanians.
- **The Australian** (page 5) reports that polycystic ovary syndrome, a chronic condition affecting 170 million women globally, has been renamed to polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome to reflect its diverse array of symptoms.
- **The Australian** (page 7) reports that the Federal Budget contains a measure to increase the funding released by the Medical Research Future Fund to \$1 billion per year by 2030-31, with some academics and researchers calling for an accelerated release of funds.
- **The Guardian** (online) and **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 15) report that NSW Health released a public health alert on Wednesday calling for patients of Sydney dentist Dr William Tam to receive testing for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV; up to 5000 patients may have been exposed.

MINISTER BUTLER

Virus flight set for Perth

West Australian, General News, 14/05/2026, Jessica Page, Page 1

A plane has finally been secured to transfer to Perth six cruise ship passengers exposed to a deadly virus, with their arrival expected later this week. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has confirmed the three-week quarantine may be extended, and defended Australia's stricter quarantine rules as a "precautionary" approach.

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

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

Pulling the reins on excessive specialists' fees

Canberra City News, General News, 14/05/2026, Page 27

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has declared reducing specialists' fees will be his next key focus of health policy reform. Doctors are currently free to set their own fees and many have rapidly increased them over the past 15 years.

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

Hundreds to be kicked off NDIS

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 14/05/2026, Tom Gillespie, Page 5

Hundreds of Toowoomba people will be kicked off the National Disability Insurance Scheme as a result of brutal cuts, in what activists have described as a "betrayal". [...] "The government has proposed cutting social and community funding, which sounds like the coffee and haircuts that Minister (Mark) Butler talked about, but this is going to the doctor, doing groceries, visiting their families and yes, going for a coffee with a friend.

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

And the budget winner is ... medical research

The Australian, Other, 13/05/2026, Tim Boreham

Medical research should benefit from a boost in grants funding and R&D tax changes. But pathology and radiology labs have dipped out again on Medicare indexation. [...] The pollies include health minister Mark Butler, who presumably lobbied himself.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Australia secures aircraft to bring passengers home from Hantavirus-hit cruise ship

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2026, Anna Cox

A suitable aircraft has been secured and is expected to bring home Australian and New Zealand passengers from the Hantavirus-hit cruise ship, MV Hondius, by the end of the week. It comes after Federal Health Minister Mark Butler labelled the mission "difficult", revealing the struggle to find a charter company and crew willing to operate the flight under strict quarantine requirements.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [OverSixty \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

What's in the federal budget for older Australians?

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2026, Lewis Wiseman

Labor has been clear that its federal budget is aimed at addressing "intergenerational equity", with Jim Chalmers finishing his speech by saying it fulfils obligations to future generations. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said older Australians would no longer get special treatment because the older system was "not fair between generations".

[Read More](#)

How Australians across generations feel about the budget

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2026, Ahmed Yussuf

About half of Arwen Nugteren's income goes to her rent. Once the 24-year-old's bills and essentials are settled, there's little left over. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the changes to private health rebates were needed because the current policy was "not fair between generations".

[Read More](#)

Global fears that 'third-generation' hantavirus could have 'mutated, spread'

NEWS.com.au, Other, 13/05/2026, Jasmine Kazlauskas

An expert's warning has sparked global fears that the hantavirus outbreak from an ill-fated cruise could spread around the world. [...] Australian cases Australians exposed to the deadly hantavirus will be subject to the "strongest quarantine arrangement anywhere in the world" when they land in Perth, Health Minister Mark Butler says as officials prepare for their arrival.

[Read More](#)

'Devastated' disability community reacts to federal budget

SBS, Other, 13/05/2026

Cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme are the largest source of savings in the federal budget, leaving many in the disability community angry and anxious about what's to come. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says around 160,000 people will be diverted from the scheme before 2030 as tighter eligibility rules come into play.

[Read More](#)

Australians will need to exhaust 'all appropriate' treatment options to access NDIS under proposed rules

Australians with a disability would first need to exhaust "all appropriate" treatment options for their impairment to be eligible for the national disability insurance scheme under strict entry criteria to help curb the program's soaring costs. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, last month outlined major changes to contain the scheme's costs, including new eligibility rules, standardised assessments of participants and mandatory registration for more categories of providers.

[Read More](#)

Govt to fund GP health checks for three-year-olds

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/05/2026

The government has pencilled in a sizeable \$674 million in savings over four years from reducing MBS and PBS fraud. Medicare will fund GP checks for three-year-olds to assess their health and development, and potentially refer them to the Thriving Kids program, the Federal Government says. Tuesday night's budget also committed millions of dollars to fund six new universal bulk-billing GP practices in regional NSW, but had little to say on restricting specialist fees, despite the sharp words on the topic from Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

Frustrated minister encourages an early negotiation of new agreements

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 14/05/2026

Health Minister Mark Butler has explicitly linked the negotiation of new industry agreements with the implementation of outcomes of the Health Technology Assessment Review.

[Read More](#)

SaH funding falls short, say stakeholders

Community Care Review, Other, 13/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The sector has expressed disappointment in the lack of additional SaH packages in the budget and the lack of investment into CHSP but welcomed the expansion of the end-of-life-pathway. [...] The news follows Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler's National Press Club address in April, where he first announced an extra \$3 billion for aged care.

[Read More](#)

World Health Organization calls for global solidarity on hantavirus outbreak

Croakey, Other, 13/05/2026, Alison Barrett

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization, has called for global solidarity in response to the hantavirus outbreak on the MV Hondius cruise ship. [...] Australian response Federal Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler announced this week that five Australian and one New Zealand passenger from the cruise – currently in the Netherlands awaiting repatriation flights – will be required to quarantine for at least three weeks at purpose-built Bullsbrook Centre for National Resilience in Perth.

[Read More](#)

The government wants disabled people to pay for AUKUS

Honi Soit, Other, 13/05/2026, Timothy Pudun

On the 22nd of April 2026, Mark Butler and the Albanese Government announced plans to cut spending for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), while the military budget is expected to inflate by 3 per cent. Citing the growing expenses and expected increase in disabled patrons getting on the scheme (of which 760,000 Australians are currently on), the cut hopes to curb the NDIS growth rate to a measly 2 per cent per year, from the annual 6 per cent measured from 2020 to 2024.

[Read More](#)

Bulk-billing funding should not be 'handouts for big corporate providers'

Newcastle Herald, Other, 13/05/2026, Damon Cronshaw

An Albanese government plan to fund six bulk-billing GP clinics in the Hunter-Central Coast region could be good if it helps disadvantaged people, Dr Max Mollenkopf says. However, Dr Mollenkopf said he was opposed to "corporate operators receiving free money to do usual care". [...] The move follows Health Minister Mark Butler's concerns about the Newcastle/Hunter area being a "bulk-billing desert". The government previously said the plan was "about fairness and making sure every family has access to affordable healthcare".

[Read More](#)

The government says NDIS cuts are crucial. Those who need it most say they will be devastating.

Newcastle Herald, Other, 13/05/2026, Simon McCarthy

Karley Moran was one of the best administration employees her sister Sarah had hired to help her run her Hunter-based neurodivergent speech pathology clinic. [...] During a National Press Club address last month, Health Minister Mark Butler described the NDIS as one of the country's great human rights achievements, but one that "costs too much and is growing too fast".

[Read More](#)

Funding To Eliminate HIV Transmission Thankfully Continues In This Year's Federal Budget

Sydney Star Observer, Other, 13/05/2026, Chloe Sargeant

Australia's push to virtually eliminate HIV transmission by 2030 will continue with the funding announced in the 2026-27 Federal Budget, with the Albanese Government maintaining key investments in prevention, treatment, and community-led HIV programs. [...] The organisations also acknowledged \$41.7 million over three years to continue community-led programs implementing recommendations from the National HIV Taskforce, chaired by Health Minister Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

Analysis of the Federal Budget

Team Dsc, Other, 13/05/2026

Last night's Federal Budget was a difficult one for NDIS participants and the sector, with \$37.8b less funding allocated to the Scheme over the next 4 years. [...] NDIS Minister Mark Butler is expected to table the Securing the NDIS for Future Generations Bill tomorrow.

[Read More](#)

Urgent care clinics, medicines and vaccines: what the budget means for Australians' health

The Conversation, Other, 13/05/2026, Peter Breadon and Mia Jessurun

Health was at the heart of last year's budget. [...] Although there's less new reform, there is new spending on prevention, and big changes in Health Minister Mark Butler's other portfolios of disability and aged care, with big NDIS cuts and moves to expand and improve aged care.

[Read More](#)

Specialist fees and Medicare fraud crackdown on agenda

The Limbic, Other, 13/05/2026, Emma Koehn

Housing and tax may have been the top-ticket item in the 2026 budget papers, but look closely and you'll find a suite of health measures that shed light on the federal government's priorities for the remainder of this term of government. [...] Details were thin on the ground on those issues – though there are signs Health Minister Mark Butler is pushing ahead with the focus on specialist affordability.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 13/05/2026, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Interview with Health Minister Mark Butler. Compere discusses that the centrepiece of the Federal budget was housing, capital gains tax, and trusts. Butler says the plan is to put 75,000 more people

into homes, and what that effectively does is a relief after a decade of housing supply decline that they have seen in the data. He adds that house prices have gone up by about 400% in the last 25 years.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

Elderly wait a year

The Australian, General News, 14/05/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 7

Aged-care advocates are "alarmed" about the lack of new Support at Home packages in the budget amid concerns more than 200,000 older Australians are waiting for care and new figures show the median wait time now sits at 12 months. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae on Wednesday clarified that an extra 32,000 Support at Home places would be allocated in 2026-27, along with the 83,000 previously announced for this financial year, "reflecting the significant investments our government has made over successive budgets to roll out even more places for older Australians".

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

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

Elderly wait an age for care

Herald Sun, General News, 14/05/2026, Julie Cross, Page 1

Older Victorians are languishing on waitlists, according to figures that show it takes more than a year to get a homecare package or aged-care bed. [...] He said Aged Care Minister Sam Rae received the data on April 28 but released them only on Tuesday two weeks later while journalists were offline in the budget lock-up.

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

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

\$3bn for aged care in budget

The Sentinel, General News, 13/05/2026, Page 18

The Federal Government announced it will invest \$3 billion to deliver more beds, more packages and better care for older Australians in the 2026 Budget. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, said when the Aged Care Act commenced, the Government promised it would "keep watching" how the reforms landed to make sure the system was strong and fair enough, to meet the moment.

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

SaH funding falls short, say stakeholders

Community Care Review, Other, 13/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The sector has expressed disappointment in the lack of additional SaH packages in the budget and the lack of investment into CHSP but welcomed the expansion of the end-of-life-pathway. [...] The news follows Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler's National Press Club address in April, where he first announced an extra \$3 billion for aged care.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

ABC Central Coast, Breakfast, 13/05/2026, Scott Levi

Interview with Member for Dobell Emma McBride, about bulk-billed clinics. Compere says two bulk-billed clinics are expected for the Central Coast. McBride points out that those plans will go through a tender process through the Primary Health Network, which covers the whole of the region. She adds that an announcement of six fully bulk-billed practises is expected due to the fact that they haven't seen the increase in bulk-billing practises in the Central Coast.

Also reported by: [ABC Central Coast \(Erina\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Leaving kids worse off

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/05/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 1

School-aged children are being left without the specialist support to develop speech, literacy and language competency, leaving parents frustrated. [...] Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White said access to speech pathology services through Medicare could change lives.

Also reported by: [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#).

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

LA FM, Breakfast, 13/05/2026, Belinda King

Interview with Federal Member for Lyons Rebecca White, about the recent Federal budget. White points out that the reason why the budget highlighted housing is that there's a big pressure, particularly for young people, to get into the market. She recalls discussing matters with different generations who are tending to their key priorities for the budget, and one of the key components for them is to have a fairer tax system.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Early intervention program for region

Port Augusta Transcontinental, General News, 14/05/2026, Jack O'Halloran, Page 11

A free early intervention program is being introduced in Whyalla and Port Pirie to support families with young children showing early differences in communication and social interaction. [...] The Inklings pilot will be running until 2027, with more information available at inklings.org.au/sa Inklings is jointly funded by the Government of South Australia and the Commonwealth Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

Also reported by: [Whyalla News \(Whyalla\)](#), [Port Pirie Recorder \(Port Pirie\)](#).

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

AIDH says Budget provides “consistency and continuity”

Pulse+IT, Other, 13/05/2026

The Australasian Institute of Digital Health (AIDH) says the Labor Government has delivered a "solid and progressive budget for healthcare and health consumers." [...] "The funding for the Department of

Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) and the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) for improving My Health Record is a significant investment that reinforces the trusted and safe development and use of digital health in Australia," AIDH stated.

[Read More](#)

Budget delivers toddler health checks, not much else

The Medical Republic, Other, 13/05/2026, Holly Payne

Last night's budget had winners and losers. GPs were mostly losers. [...] While there was limited information on what the child health check will entail and how it will be rebated, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing budget documents hinted that the assessment will be a way to identify children to be referred to the new program There was also \$25.3 million set aside to deliver six universal bulk billing GP clinics in New South Wales' Central Coast, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Hunter regions.

[Read More](#)

Medicare lifeline extended for non-VR doctors

The Medical Republic, Other, 13/05/2026

Non-vocationally registered doctors already enrolled in OMPEP will keep access to higher GP Medicare rebates until 2030 under a four-year extension. [...] New guidelines issued by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing have confirmed the program will continue from 1 July 2026 for practitioners who were actively enrolled in the OMPEP on 30 June 2026 and who continue to meet the requirements of their original legacy program.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 13/05/2026, Greg Jennett

The Federal Government has allocated \$30 million in the Federal Budget, with Finance Minister Katy Gallagher stating the budget also includes investment in Canberra's infrastructure, national institutions and the public service. Meanwhile, Community and Public Sector Union's Melissa Donnelly said job cuts are continuing in the Departments of Health, Home Affairs and Social Services.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Witness call on taser cop

The Australian, General News, 14/05/2026, Steve Zemek, Page 3

A paramedic who witnessed Clare Nowland being fatally tasered by a NSW police officer has told an inquest there was "no way I ever imagined" he was going to deploy the weapon against the 95-year-old greatgrandmother. Nowland, 95, was killed after she was tasered by Senior Constable Kristian White at an agedcare facility in Coomba in the state's south three years ago and her death is being probed by a coronial inquest that began on Wednesday.

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

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

Why we must not ignore those trapped in aged care

The Australian, General News, 14/05/2026, Geraldine Mellet, Page 14

When i look back now, it was an episode of violent unexplained knocking that signalled the start of our family's journey into the parallel world of aged care a giant wake-up call that would take years and enormous courage on the part of my parents and would also lead me to write a novel set in a nursing home, albeit with a twist. After aortic valve replacement surgery in her mid-80s, our tiny, fragile but razor-sharp mother (who insisted we call her that and never "mum") was spending a couple of weeks in respite at a residential facility that boasted excellent around-the-clock care.

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

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

Colleague of taser officer says use was not justified

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/05/2026, Clare Sibthorpe, Page 5

A police officer who witnessed her colleague fatally Taser a 95-year-old aged care resident has told a coronial inquest she felt the weapon's use was not justified. Senior Constable Jessica Pank's admission followed an apology by responding paramedic Anna Hofner to great-grandmother Clare Nowland's family.

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

Jewish care homes hire guards

Age, General News, 14/05/2026, Annika Smethurst and Grant McArthur, Page 1

Jewish aged care homes have hired armed guards to protect residents amid escalating security fears over antisemitic behaviour in Victoria. The Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion has heard that incidents across three homes, which care for 400 residents, included a bomb threat, constant hate mail and a man who stood outside one of the homes threatening to kill those inside.

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

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

Operator for aged care facility revealed

Newcastle Herald, General News, 14/05/2026, Jessica Belzycki, Page 15

The new operator of a Hunter aged care home struggling to stay open has been revealed. Jo Bailey Quality Care was chosen as the preferred provider set to run Gummun Place Hostel in Merriwa.

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

Art auction in aid of aged care

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 14/05/2026, Jessica Greenan, Page 1

With Warrnambool's shortfall of aged care beds set to nearly double, it's hoped one painting will do the lion's share of fundraising to ease the situation. A portrait of former Brisbane Lions' triple-premiership footballer and Warrnambool export Jonathan Brown by artist Dan Butterworth will be sold at auction as part of the 2026 Warrnibald Festival of Arts to raise funds for event host, Warrnambool and District Community Hospice.

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

Pause may have stopped grandmum's 'excessive' taser

Canberra Times, Other, 13/05/2026, Miklos Bolza

A paramedic has relived her disbelief while watching a police officer fatally taser a 95-year-old great-grandmother with dementia. Then-senior constable Kristian James Samuel White fired his weapon at 95-year-old Clare Nowland after being called to Yallabee Lodge nursing home at Cooma in southern NSW on May 17, 2023.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Budget cash for aged care inadequate, advocates say

Canberra Times, Other, 13/05/2026, Phoebe Loomes

Advocates for Australians in aged care have criticised the federal budget, saying an additional \$389 million is not enough to fix a troubled program which supports older people in their homes, creating the risk of a "national emergency". The federal budget outlined \$3.7 billion in funding for aged care, including \$389 million to speed up the delivery of Support at Home packages.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Support at Home content gap costing providers

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 13/05/2026, Matt Hodgson

On 1 November 2025, Support at Home replaced Home Care Packages as the primary framework for

government-funded in-home aged care in Australia. It is the most significant structural shift in home care in a decade. It defines how providers will be funded, how services will be classified, and how the 130,000 Australians currently waiting for a package at their approved level will understand and access care.

[Read More](#)

1 year wait for SaH, up to 14 months for resi

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 13/05/2026, Natasha Egan

The "Wait Times" report for the first five months of the new aged care Act show the median and average time from applying for aged care to starting a service is 10–12 months. The national median wait from when an older person applies to My Aged and commences an aged care service is 294 days (10 months), while the national average is 360 days (12 months), according to the Aged Care Act 2024 Wait Times Report: Residential care and Support at Home.

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

[Read More](#)

ANMF welcomes major Budget tax reforms to support nurses, midwives and carers

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 13/05/2026, Anmj Staff

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) says major Budget tax reforms focused on increasing fairness will support the next generation of nurses, midwives and carers, struggling to find secure, affordable housing and meet current costs of living. ANMF Federal Secretary, Annie Butler, said changes to the tax system, including new restrictions on negative gearing on investment properties, the winding back of capital gains tax discounts (CGT) and minimum tax rates on family trusts are 'long-overdue and will finally start to increase inter-generational fairness in the housing market'.

[Read More](#)

Home care can help address delayed discharge

Community Care Review, Other, 13/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

As the number of people waiting in hospital for appropriate aged care services rises, the sector needs to consider expanding home care and hospital in the home options. A growing number of older Australians have been left waiting in hospital after being medically cleared to return home due to long waits for Support at Home and a shortage of aged care beds.

[Read More](#)

Budget 2026 leaves aged care's biggest pressures unresolved, sector figures warn

HelloCare, Other, 13/05/2026, Jakob Neeland

When Treasurer Jim Chalmers delivered the 2026 Federal Budget on Tuesday night, the government made sure the headline number landed hard: \$3.7 billion for aged care. On paper, it is one of the most significant aged care investments in recent years. New residential beds, dementia care expansion, Support at Home refinements, and the removal of out-of-pocket costs for basic personal care services all gave the government strong talking points.

[Read More](#)

Budget hands down mixed results

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/05/2026

The 2026-27 Federal Budget announcements were a mixed bag for pharmacy, with peak bodies welcoming expanded vaccination services, increased public hospital spending and more investment in the PBS, while lamenting the ones that got away, particularly around medicine safety spending. The government has committed \$41.2 million to the expansion of the National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) Program, which will allow children under the age of five years to access free vaccination services in pharmacy - where permitted by state and territory regulation.

[Read More](#)

Welfare spending to top \$300 billion

The Mandarin, Other, 13/05/2026, Dan Holmes

Social security and welfare payments will continue to increase over the forward estimates as agencies have their administrative funding cut. [...] Payments to aged pensioners, veterans, people with disabilities, the unemployed, students and other welfare recipients will grow from \$297 billion to \$309 billion.

[Read More](#)

Number of hospital patients waiting for aged care rises 35% in six months

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/05/2026, Caroline Egan

There are now 3,300 older patients stranded in hospital as winter approaches. The revelation follows the recent announcement that the NSW Government's Productivity and Equality Commission will conduct a review of older patients stranded in hospitals, looking at ways to reduce discharge delays, improve access to aged care, and relieve pressure on hospitals.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 13/05/2026, Sharyn Ghidella

The coroner's court is investigating the death of Clare Nowland, 95, at Yallabee Lodge in Cooma after she was tased by former senior constable Kristian White. The investigation will include dementia-related first responder policies and will last three days. NSW Mental Health Minister Rose Jackson acknowledges that police officers are not always the best first responders.

Similar coverage reported by: [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#)

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 13/05/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Tom Symondson, CEO of Ageing Australia. Symondson says Ageing Australia is concerned the budget did not provide the level of home and community care funding needed, with about 200,000 older people waiting for home care and some approved recipients waiting up to a year for packages. He says older people are remaining in hospital because they cannot access home support or residential aged care.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 13/05/2026, Leon Compton

Interview with Brigid Wilkinson, Chief Executive, Council for the Ageing Tasmania. Compere says the government is looking to go ahead with scrapping the support for over-65s when it comes to paying for private health insurance. Wilkinson points out that they were not surprised that the government went for this, as the government had made it clear that they would fully continue to proceed with their plan to scrap this support. She states that the government also announced last night that there's going to be \$3.2m committed to consultation around private health care reforms overall, but they would need to wait for more details regarding that plan.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Labor has 'given up' on deficit problem

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/05/2026, John Kehoe, Page 1

Jim Chalmers' budget deficits totalling \$265 billion over five years show he has given up on responsible budget management when he should be delivering surpluses from strong tax revenue, two former Treasury bosses say.

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

Surge in disability claims sparks cuts

The Australian, General News, 14/05/2026, Natasha Bitá, Page 7

The federal Department of Education has blamed a startling surge in disability claims for its \$463m cut to schools' disability loadings over the next four years. [...] Ms Haythorpe said cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme which will exclude many children with autism would affect classrooms.

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

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

Budget doesn't prepare for the future

Age, Editorials, 14/05/2026, Page 22

In March 2025, inside the federal budget lock-up, Peter Dutton's Coalition colleagues fell into line behind him to oppose a \$17 billion Labor tax-cut package, vowing to repeal it if they won office. [...] Each of these issues bites into government's ability to provide the services the voting public expects, with the spotlight in this budget on the cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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

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

Migrant welfare ban

Courier Mail, General News, 14/05/2026, James Morrow, Page 1

New migrants to Australia would be barred from accessing welfare handouts until they became citizens under a landmark opposition plan to fight back against runaway migration. [...] Currently, non-citizens are eligible for at least 17 different welfare and benefit programs ranging from the Age Pension and Disability Support Pension to JobSeeker and Youth Allowance as well as the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

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

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

Business-friendly budget may not offset CGT hit

Australian Financial Review, Other, 13/05/2026, Amy Auster

Our treasurer is a distance runner and, true to form, he handed down a marathon of a budget on Tuesday. Budgets are only the starting gun of policy intention, with the long run of work on legislation and implementation to follow.

[Read More](#)

Labor faces parliament challenge to budget tax reform

Canberra Times, Other, 13/05/2026, Andrew Brown

The future of the government's signature policies in the federal budget remain unclear, with no guarantee of support through the parliament. [...] Savings to the budget through cuts to the NDIS will also require support from the parliament, with a tightening of eligibility for the scheme expected to save \$36 billion over the next four years.

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

[Read More](#)

Advocates and experts respond

The Mandarin, Other, 13/05/2026, Dan Holmes

Following Tuesday's lock-up, advocates, experts and the media have issued a litany of responses to the government's plans on tax, productivity and innovation, significant cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and welfare administration funds. Here's how the non-government sector is responding to last night's budget.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, The Kenny Report, 13/05/2026, Chris Kenny

Interview with Judith Sloan, contributing economics editor at The Australian. Sloan blames budget

mismismanagement on estimated savings based on implausible NDIS growth reductions from over 10 to 1 per cent and spending above 27 per cent of GDP. She also says that tax changes are a distraction from the larger budget situation, which she claims is not truly repairing public finances and is based on untrustworthy out-year assumptions.

[Play Now](#)

WIN Hobart, WIN News, 13/05/2026, Bruce Roberts

The federal budget, which was released yesterday, included a \$37.8 billion NDIS cut within \$63.8 billion in savings and reprioritisations, as well as Health Minister Mark Butler's proposed changes. These include a shift to functional capacity assessments starting in January 2028, an immediate rollout of plan restrictions and expanded provider registration in July 2026, a 669 NDIA staff reduction, and changes affecting around 160,000 projected participants by 2030. Greens Senator Jordon Steele-John, along with disability advocates, is concerned about the impact on supports, wait times, early intervention, and scheme accessibility.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Healthcare M&A winners, losers

The Australian, Business News, 14/05/2026, Bridget Carter, Page 16

The federal budget has created clear winners and losers in the healthcare mergers and acquisitions landscape. [...] In contrast, BGH Capital's ForHealth primary healthcare business appears well-positioned after the budget locked in \$1.8bn over five years for Medicare Urgent Care Clinics on an ongoing basis.

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

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

Premier admits to ambo crisis

Herald Sun, General News, 14/05/2026, Shannon Deery, Page 9

The Allan government has conceded the state's ambulance service is failing Victorians flagging more needs to be done to address flailing response times and patient care. In its formal response to a parliamentary inquiry into Ambulance Victoria, the government conceded more needed to be done to improve the service across the state.

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

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

Business 'lukewarm' on budget as key projects miss out

Newcastle Herald, General News, 14/05/2026, Matthew Kelly, Page 9

Business Hunter has given a "lukewarm" response to Tuesday's federal budget, which contained little in the way of key regional infrastructure project funding. [...] The government will also invest \$25.3 million for the establishment of six GP bulk-billing practices in the Hunter and Central Coast.

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

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

Scope expansion an antibiotic resistance risk

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/05/2026

Medical group describes moves to authorise pharmacist prescribing in the NT as a "third-world scenario" Changes to pharmacists' scope of practice in the Northern Territory are being described as "deeply concerning on a number of levels", by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

[Read More](#)

Virtually easing transitions of care

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 13/05/2026, Jorgia Burke

After patients are discharged from the hospital, their transition back into the community can be high-risk, with significant potential for medicine-related harm. These risks are amplified significantly for rural communities due to sparse healthcare facilities, fragmented continuity of care and workforce shortages.

[Read More](#)

Rural leaders see budget shortfalls for health, roads

West Australian, Other, 13/05/2026, Stephanie Gardiner

Australia's regions will benefit from funding to bolster fuel supplies and public hospitals, but investment in rural health reform, better connectivity and safer country roads continues to fall short, according to industry groups. [...] Permanent funding for 137 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics may not be the best investment for the 7.4 million Australians living outside the cities, rural health organisations warned.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Urgent care clinics become permanent – RACGP offers to write standards

Medical Forum, Other, 13/05/2026

An extra \$1.8 billion over five years from 2025/26 and \$580 million per year ongoing from 2030 was put down to make the clinics permanent. The funding comes on top of \$644 million last year alone to roll out dozens more clinics.

[Read More](#)

Slight increase in federal health spending but 'gaps' remain

Medical Forum, Other, 13/05/2026, Aleisha Orr

The federal government has set aside \$136.6 billion to be spent on health over the coming year as part of its \$833.2 billion budget spend. That is an additional \$5.1b – or an increase of 0.2% – of total government spend from the 2025/26 budget. Among the commitments made for health were Medicare funded three-year-old health checks, making urgent care clinics permanent and funding to cover new listings on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

[Read More](#)

'Meet people where they are': NSW's health pledge as cost of living pressures grow

NEWS.com.au, Other, 14/05/2026, Nathan Schmidt

Families in one Australian state could save up to \$1200 on healthcare as authorities seek to "meet people where they are". The NSW government has pledged to "meet people where they are" for healthcare ahead of the winter hospital surge, as both state and federal governments eye "critical" cost of living relief.

[Read More](#)

Five things for the NT in 26/27 Aust budget

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/05/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 7

As the Australian federal budget 2026-2027 was handed down on Tuesday, many Ter ritorians will be wondering what the pages hold in store for them. [...] Medicare Urgent Care Clinics were also strengthened in the budget, bulk billing was increased and an additional \$741 million in funding for Northern Territory public hospitals was included.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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

Hunter health data by Primary Health Network reveals rural-urban divide

New data has exposed the most stressed, obese, heaviest-drinking and top health-risk suburbs across the Hunter, with some communities facing double the state average for major health red flags. Newcastle has emerged as the health leader across the Hunter region boasting the lowest obesity and smoking rates, while Maitland has been seen as the regional growth engine, Muswellbrook the baby capital and Cessnock the most stressed.

[Read More](#)

NBN Tamworth, NBN News, 13/05/2026, Gavin Morris and Natasha Beyersdorf

The federal budget includes funding for six new bulk-billing clinics in regional NSW's Hunter and Central Coast regions, as well as the permanent establishment of Medicare urgent care centres. One Nation MP Barnaby Joyce criticised the approach, while MPs Dan Repacholi and Meryl Swanson addressed local healthcare needs in their electorates.

[Play Now](#)

MIX 104.9, 360, 13/05/2026, Katie Woolf

Interview with Dr John Zorbas, President of the AMA NT. Zorbas discusses the Federal Budget's health funding for the Northern Territory, including the additional \$47 million for remote primary care and ongoing concerns that NT hospital funding only "keeps the lights on". He also criticises the ongoing disputes between the Federal and Territory Governments over responsibility for maternity services, hospital infrastructure, and broader healthcare funding in the NT.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 13/05/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with ACT Treasurer Chris Steel. Steel says the federal budget included extra funding for ACT health services under the National Health Reform Agreement, recognising the higher costs of delivering healthcare in a smaller jurisdiction. He also says the federal government has strengthened Medicare, provided permanent funding for Medicare urgent care clinics, and included extra funding for youth mental health. Delaney notes that the Australian Medical Association said the budget fell short of addressing the pressures facing Canberra's health system and community care.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 13/05/2026, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter

Interview with Dr Michael Lumsden-Steel, President of the AMA Tasmania. Lumsden-Steel says the federal budget's reduction in the private health insurance rebate for Australians over 65 would push more patients into the public healthcare system. He also says the additional \$25 billion for public hospitals under the National Health Reform Agreement did not fund the system to meet demand, citing delays in pathology results, bed shortages, ramping and gaps between preventative healthcare, general practice and hospitals.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Melbourne, Drive, 13/05/2026, Ali Moore

Interview with Nicole Bartholomeusz, Chief Executive of cohealth. Bartholomeusz discusses the review into cohealth's general practice services, saying the organisation received \$1.5 million in federal government funding and would implement changes to governance, management, and a multidisciplinary model of care. She says policy and funding settings had prevented earlier reform.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Breakfast, 13/05/2026, Will Goodings and David Penberthy

Interview with Dr Peter Subramaniam, AMA SA. Subramaniam points out that one of the good things for SA regarding the budget is the recorded \$25b to top-up public hospitals, and it's definitely needed due to the ramping up of hospitals. He states that the RSV vaccine being listed to over 75s is also good news as it will keep South Australians out of hospital next winter.

POPULATION HEALTH

Counting the cost

Canberra Times, General News, 14/05/2026, Bageshri Savyasachi, Page 1

Attique Hassan was chatting to a mate and driving to pick up a customer when he reached over to the passenger's side of his car to look for a can of deodorant and caused a catastrophic crash moments later. "I could not find it in the big armrest so I had to bend down and I was not seeing the road for two seconds, maybe three," he says.

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

Minns calls for tobacco excise law overhaul

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/05/2026, Shane Wright, Page 9

NSW Premier Chris Minns has called for an overhaul of tobacco excise and policing of illicit cigarettes after the federal budget revealed a \$62 billion collapse in revenue from legal smokes in just five years. Minns said it was clear current laws were failing, given the explosion in organised crime links to illegal tobacco sales that was also punching a huge hole in the budget bottom line.

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

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

Aussies get palliative care

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/05/2026, Page 6

More Australians are receiving palliative care services. Hospital-based palliative care increased by 46 per cent from 2015-2016 to 2023-2024, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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

Bendigo food insecurity 'like never seen'

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 14/05/2026, Joseph Najjar, Page 2

"We've never seen anything quite like this." That's the view of Bendigo Foodshare chief executive officer Michelle Murphy who revealed the plight of food insecurity in Bendigo.

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

Smoke signals point to a policy disaster

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 14/05/2026, Alexander Downer, Page 29

Over the past few years, Australia has abandoned economic rationality for populist economic irrationality. There's no better example than the increases in tobacco excise. On the face of it that doesn't seem like a bad thing. Smoking is obviously a risk to your health and high taxes will have the effect of discouraging smoking.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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

Free omega-3 testing to be introduced in SA for pregnant women in a bid to prevent preterm birth

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2026

South Australian women in the early stages of pregnancy will now receive free omega-3 blood tests as part of a "world-first" initiative to prevent preterm births. The state government announced on Wednesday that SA Pathology and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) have collaborated to include the omega-3 test in routine blood tests taken by pregnant women.

Endometriosis clinics, paid parental leave, and domestic violence funding at heart of budget push

7News.com.au, Other, 13/05/2026, Aimee Edwards

Women are at the centre of the Albanese Government's 2026-27 federal budget , with investments committed to paid parental leave, childcare, domestic violence prevention, women's health and reforms aimed at improving long-term financial security.

[Read More](#)

HMR waitlists can stretch for months

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 13/05/2026, Jorgia Burke

HMR services remain a vital safeguard for improving health literacy among vulnerable Australians living with chronic illnesses, complex medicine regimens and mental health conditions. But pharmacists on the ground warn the model is increasingly unsustainable under current funding arrangements.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 13/05/2026, Sandra Sully

NSW Health has issued an urgent public health alert advising thousands of former patients of Dr William Tam to undergo blood tests for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV. It follows an audit of Dr Tam's Strathfield dental practice, which revealed sterilisation and cleaning deficiencies.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 13/05/2026, Leon Delaney

Research shows well over 2 million men aged 30 to 59 are drinking alcohol at risky levels, despite the National Alcohol Guidelines recommending no more than 10 standard drinks a week and no more than four on any one day. Flinders University researcher Dr Stefano Zaccagnini said risky drinking among middle-aged men was linked to the co-use of smoking, tobacco products, illicit or undescribed drugs, and residence in rural, remote, or outer regional locations.

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 13/05/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Theo Foukkare, CEO of AACS. Foukkare says tobacco excise policy and illegal tobacco enforcement are failing, criticising the federal budget for allocating only \$14 million to enforcement and calling for excise reductions and \$300 million for state and territory enforcement. He says the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's nicotine wastewater analysis showed nicotine consumption at all-time highs, while federal tobacco excise collections had fallen from more than \$16 billion to around \$3.5 billion.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

What's in a name? A big win for women

The Australian, General News, 14/05/2026, Bimini Plesser, Page 3

It's taken more than a decade of research and campaigning but now polycystic ovary syndrome a chronic condition that impacts more than 170 million women and girls worldwide has a new name. Now known as polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome, this disorder impacts one in eight women and girls, and carries risk of weight gain, diabetes, heart disease, endometrial cancer, acne, excess facial and body hair, weight gain, depression, anxiety, pregnancy complications, and infertility.

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

'Screening saved my life'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/05/2026, David Killick, Page 3

Breast cancer survivor Vicki Thompson says she is in no doubt that keeping up with regular breast cancer screening is the reason she is still alive. Touring Hobart's new \$15m Tasmanian Breast Care Centre, Ms Thompson rated it as world-class but said it was essential that people took full advantage of its free screening.

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

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

Australia ranks highest for skin cancers as worldwide crisis deepens

West Australian, General News, 14/05/2026, Kirsty Lichtenstein, Page 3

Australia has emerged as the global epicentre of skin cancer, with new international data warning the country is likely to remain at the forefront of a growing worldwide crisis through 2050. A major analysis published in JAMA Dermatology shows Australia is recording the world's highest disability-adjusted lifeyear burden for both malignant melanoma and basal cell carcinoma, while also ranking among the highest for squamous cell carcinoma.

Similar coverage reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#)

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

Specialist delays are leaving school-aged kids worse off

Burnie Advocate, General News, 14/05/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 2

School-aged children are being left without the specialist support to develop speech, literacy and language competency, leaving parents frustrated. [...] Sarah has received a chronic disease management plan through a GP, and will look into the recent expansion of support services for children and adults up to 25 years old through Medicare.

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

Regional Tasmanian women face further delays for lifesaving breast screening

The Mercury, Other, 13/05/2026, Elise Kaine

Regional women in Tasmania face further delays for life saving breast screening as the completion of a replacement bus is pushed out until December. Minister for Health Bridget Archer said the delivery of a replacement for the bus known as Luna, which was taken off the road in April 2025 due to water damage, is now expected in December.

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

[Read More](#)

Another day, another reminder that women's health has always been an afterthought.

Mamamia, Other, 13/05/2026, Gabrielle Oehlmann

More than 170 million women worldwide have a condition that was, until yesterday, called Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome or PCOS. But after 14 years of campaigning, the condition, which affects one in eight women, has been renamed to Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS).

[Read More](#)

Women encouraged to get checked for breast cancer

Shepparton News Online, Other, 13/05/2026, Hailey Wight

With half of eligible women not having regular breast screens, women over the age of 50 are being urged to take part in the free BreastScreen Victoria program. The program encourages women aged 50 to 74 to get a free mammogram every two years.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 13/05/2026, Natalie Forrest

Doctors at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital have treated more than 100 patients using a new robotic bronchoscope to diagnose and remove small lung cancer nodules more accurately and reduce the need for multiple invasive procedures. Surgeon Dr Dhaval Thakkar said the technology supports a faster pathway from detection of lung nodules to treatment.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 13/05/2026, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

Researchers at Edith Cowan University, with funding from the Heart Foundation, have utilised AI to analyse bone density scans for detecting abdominal aortic calcification, an early sign of heart disease. Professor Joshua Lewis found that nearly 20 per cent of middle-aged or older individuals exhibited moderate to high disease levels, significantly increasing their risk of heart attack or stroke within five years.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Male lives matter, too

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/05/2026, James O'Doherty, Page 9

NSW Liberal Leader Kellie Sloane would set targets for reducing male suicide and pledge to improve access to men's health services in outer suburbs and regional areas if elected next year. The Daily Telegraph can reveal that Ms Sloane would deliver a 10-year plan to improve the health of men and boys in NSW if she wins office, and bring together advocates and experts for a two-day Men's Health Summit.

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

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

Welfare strain a real toll on mental health

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/05/2026, Katrina Norris, Page 21

Recent reports that Australia's \$78.9bn income support system is "under strain" are not incorrect, but they are dangerously incomplete. [...] One of the most concerning trends is the age at which people are exiting the workforce due to mental illness.

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

'Opportunities missed'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 14/05/2026, Sean Ford, Page 3

Opportunities to interrupt a North-West man's trajectory to suicide were missed, a coroner has found. The man, who has not been named, died on November 28, 2023. Coroner Leigh Mackey said she was unable to find "that a more assertive approach to (the man's) discharge, psychiatric or community care, nor the maintenance or reinstatement of a treatment order under the MHA (Mental Health Act) contributed to his death".

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

[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

Family's nine-year battle turns tragedy into life-saving treatment

Canberra Times, Other, 13/05/2026, Nick Powell

Abby McGrath still waits for her daughter to walk through the front door. It has been nine years since Emma-Kate, a vibrant 19-year-old nursing student complained of flu-like symptoms. Within 15 hours, she had died from a strain of meningococcal her family didn't know existed.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat](#)

Budget boosts childhood vax access but pharmacists warn medicine safety remains underfunded

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 13/05/2026

The Federal Budget has delivered mixed results for Australia's pharmacy sector, with expanded access to childhood vaccines welcomed as a win for families, while concerns remain about stalled investment in medicine safety programs. Expanded childhood vaccine access The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed the government's decision to expand access to National Immunisation Program (NIP) vaccines for children up to 5 years of age through community pharmacies, saying the measure will improve convenience for parents and help vaccine rates.

[Read More](#)

Eligibility for free Japanese encephalitis vaccine has been simplified

Shepparton News Online, Other, 13/05/2026

The free Japanese encephalitis vaccine is now available for people aged two months or older who live or work in eligible high-risk local government areas in Victoria after an eligibility review. There are 24 LGAs in Victoria that are currently eligible for the free vaccine.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Texts boost heart health

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 14/05/2026, Page 7

Regular text messages encouraging healthy lifestyle choices could improve heart health in people seeking treatment for skin problems. Inflammatory skin condition psoriasis has been linked to a higher risk of cardiovascular disease-related death, so a University of Sydney team investigated a way to incorporate heart disease prevention into care for people seeking dermatology treatment for the condition.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

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

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Healius slashes earnings outlook, plans Agilex sale

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 14/05/2026, Michael Smith, Page 20

Healius has shocked investors by lowering its full-year earnings forecast by one-fifth, blaming a decline in demand for its pathology unit, while also revealing it intends selling its clinical trials business Agilex Biolabs.

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

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

Metis TechBio shares jump 185pc in latest hot HK debut

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 14/05/2026, Amber Tong, Page 25

Biotechnology Shares of Metis TechBio, a biotechnology company using artificial intelligence to deliver and formulate drugs, surged as much as 185 per cent in their Hong Kong debut, adding to a string of first-day pops in the city.

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

'Stop hoarding life-saving funds'

The Australian, General News, 14/05/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

Medical researchers say the federal government has not gone far enough to ensure greater access to funding for talented young scientists as the sector struggles with diminished resourcing. The budget contained a measure to release more money from the Medical Research Future Fund, which has grown to \$25bn.

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

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

Doubts over I-MED sale as top medico exits

The Australian, Business News, 14/05/2026, Bridget Carter, Page 16

Advisers to the sale of I-MED Radiology Network are working to widen the field of potential buyers, approaching private equity groups such as CVC a move that may signal concerns about achieving owner Permira's \$3bnplus price expectations. Adding to the uncertainty, DataRoom has learned that Dr Ron Shnier, the highly regarded radiologist who served as a nonexecutive director of I-MED, left last week after flagging his departure by August.

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

AI breakthrough in heart disease battle

West Australian, General News, 14/05/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 1

A game changer has been uncovered in the fight against one of Australia's biggest killers, with researchers using AI to detect subtle signs of heart disease from common bone scans. Edith Cowan University professor Joshua Lewis was among the global team who found that an artificial intelligence algorithm could be trained to find signs of heart problems in tests for osteoporosis.

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

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

On-the-spot tests a plus

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/05/2026, Page 3

Rapid, on-the-spot health tests may do more than deliver faster results they could also help people better understand their health and feel more confident managing long-term conditions such as diabetes and heart disease. A Flinders University study found that people who used point-of-care testing reported better understanding of their condition, increased confidence in selfmanagement, and greater motivation to improve diet or physical activity.

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

Australian researchers use artificial intelligence to detect heart disease years before heart attack

7News.com.au, Other, 13/05/2026, Elizabeth Creasy

A simple scan could save your life. Australian researchers have made a major breakthrough in the fight against heart disease , developing an artificial intelligence system that can detect the deadly condition years before it causes a heart attack.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 13/05/2026, Kate Freebairn

Research from the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAMRI), led by Dr Karen Best and based on a large clinical trial, found that pregnant women with low omega-3 levels are at a higher risk of early preterm birth, and that supplementation can reduce this risk by up to 77 per cent. From 1 June, omega-3 level testing will be added to routine blood work for all pregnant women through SAMRI and SA Pathology.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 13/05/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry

A national study of 3300 Australian families found that nearly 40 per cent of five-year-olds use

handheld devices in the bedroom, and one hour of screen time delays sleep by 23 minutes for three-year-olds and 30 minutes for two-year-olds. The lead researcher, Dr Cassandra Pattinson, associates these findings with "social jet lag" (a mismatch between body clock and schedules), links it to behavioural problems and obesity, and suggests limiting screen time. A follow-up national survey is planned in two years.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Investigation after man dies in prison

Cairns Post, General News, 14/05/2026, Emma Cam, Page 3

A 27-year-old First Nations prisoner has died at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre. Queensland Corrective Services confirmed the death occurred on May 1 and said it was assisting Queensland Police Service prepare a report for the coroner.

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

What's in the 2026 budget for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2026, Tahnee Jash and Stephanie Boltje

Despite \$1.2 billion announced for Closing the Gap measures, First Nations organisations have criticised the federal government's budget as a "missed opportunity" to create meaningful change for some of the most vulnerable. In yesterday's speech, Treasurer Jim Chalmers said the budget would build an economy that was "stronger, fairer" and gave more Australians "a stake in our success".

Similar coverage reported by: [SBS \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Proposed changes to NT child protection laws spark fears of 'generations' of harm

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2026, Jacqueline Breen

Indigenous groups have slammed proposed changes to Northern Territory child protection laws as a "race-based attempt" to blame Aboriginal families for conditions created by failures of government and policy. The amendments tabled in NT parliament today would override the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle, which is embedded in child protection legislation around the country.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Call for better conditions during hospital celebrations

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 14/05/2026, Tom Plevey, Page 3

Hunter New England Health celebrated International Nurses Day ahead of schedule, while a Tamworth nurse has used the day to call for better conditions for the region's nursing staff. May 12 was the birthday of the world's most famous nurse, Florence Nightingale, and has come to be the day that nurses are celebrated for their hard work and sacrifice in caring for their patients.

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

Five recommendations for hospital after baby dies in tragic birthing incident

Baby Lucy Campbell's death has prompted five major hospital recommendations after a coroner found critical delays in recognising birth complications may have been preventable. Townsville Health and Hospital Service has identified five recommendations as well as "additional training for clinicians" following the shock passing of a baby born in a rural North Queensland hospital, a coroner's investigation found.

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

[Read More](#)

'Duty of care': huge law firm investigating Mater mould infections and deaths

Newcastle Herald, Other, 14/05/2026, Damon Cronshaw

One of Australia's largest litigation firms has revealed it is investigating mould-related infections and deaths at the Calvary Mater Newcastle. The move comes as the NSW Opposition ramps up pressure on the Minns government over the hospital's mould and maintenance scandal

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 13/05/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

Financial analyst Alan Kohler reports that the federal budget's key health-related expenditure was hospital funding as part of the new National Health Reform Agreement with the states. He adds that savings were largely due to changes to the NDIS.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Western Australia launches first RN prescribing course

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 13/05/2026, Natalie Dragon

Western Australia has taken a landmark step in strengthening its healthcare workforce, launching the state's first Registered Nurse (RN) prescribing course on International Nurses' Day. [...] On completion, graduates will be eligible to apply to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia for endorsement as a Registered Nurse Prescriber before completing a six-month mentored practice period.

Similar coverage reported by: [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Assaults force two pregnant paramedics off the road

Age, General News, 14/05/2026, Isabel McMillan, Page 2

When she was 12 weeks pregnant, Ambulance Victoria paramedic Elena Ciavarella was punched in the head and stomach by a woman she was trying to save. The patient, who had suffered a heroin overdose, lashed out as she was being offloaded in hospital.

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

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

'Light-bulb moments' inspiring next gen

Border Mail, General News, 14/05/2026, Hana Humboldt, Page 12

The next generation have been given a glimpse of a career in healthcare right here on the Border. The eighth year of the Albury and Wodonga Student Health Careers Forum was held at La Trobe University on May 1, inspiring the next generation of much-needed health workers in our region.

Donations for RFDS to be doubled by partners

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 14/05/2026, Isabella Davis, Page 3

The Royal Flying Doctor Service in WA will celebrate 98 years since its first flight with a fundraising campaign aiming to raise \$1.6 million. The State branch will celebrate Flying Doctor Day on Thursday, and every donation made on the day will be doubled by generous giving partners.

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

Junior doctors experience Pilbara healthcare first-hand in rural workforce push

West Australian, Other, 13/05/2026, Phoebe Solon

Six junior doctors have completed a week-long immersion program in the Pilbara, gaining first-hand exposure to rural and remote healthcare as WA continues to face ongoing workforce shortages in regional areas. The Junior Doctors Pilbara Immersion Program, delivered by Rural Health West, ran from May 3 to 10 and introduced early-career doctors to clinical practice, community health services, and everyday life in one of Australia's most remote regions.

[Read More](#)

Victorian emergency department nurse faces deportation due to son's condition

ABC Online, Other, 13/05/2026, Anna McGuinness

Between night shifts in a busy emergency department in regional Victoria, registered nurse Christin Das tries to keep a brave face for her young children. But she is facing a rapidly approaching deadline, May 29, when her family's bridging visas expire.

[Read More](#)

Budget a missed opportunity for pharmacy

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/05/2026

Government's investment in medicines access and Medicare is a positive, but a union warns the failure to address workforce issues will drive unsafe conditions for pharmacists and patients Professional Pharmacists Australia has welcomed the government's healthcare commitments announced in Tuesday's budget to support improved access to medicines and services.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Optimistic forecasts questioned

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/05/2026, Lea Jurkovic, Page 1

Treasury's expectation that living standards will improve and real wage growth will return next year is predicated on inflation forecasts that are more optimistic than those published by the Reserve Bank of Australia.

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

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

Bullock left to carry the load on inflation

The Australian, General News, 14/05/2026, Jack Quail, Page 6

The Reserve Bank's efforts to curb inflation are unlikely to be helped by a fresh round of cost-of-living relief from state governments and billions of dollars in new federal spending unveiled in Tuesday's budget, economists say. Despite warnings that public spending is fuelling price pressures, Jim Chalmers' budget will inject an additional \$18bn into the economy in the next financial year, with billions of dollars more for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, defence and hospitals.

Is PBS spending set to stall?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/05/2026, Kate Cowling

Despite headline figures, a peak body says PBS expenditure will slow as a share of GDP - and it could have implications for patients. Future investment in the pharmaceutical benefits scheme (PBS) is set to decline as a share of economic growth, despite global headwinds, according to Medicines Australia.

[Read More](#)

PSA welcomes NT expanded scope

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/05/2026

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed yesterday's announcement by the NT Government to expand scope of practice for pharmacists in the territory (The 2025 PSA Symbion Pharmacist of the Year, Jaimee Anderson (pictured), who lives and works in Katherine, said the initiative has potential to streamline services and provide access, particularly during the tourist season when primary health services are under pressure.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

Another viral nightmare

The Australian, General News, 14/05/2026, Matthew Condon, Page 14

They're back. Strapped once again to the noggins of people on buses, in trains, at supermarkets, even on parents cheering (albeit muffled) from the bleachers of kids' sporting events on a Saturday morning. They are of course the dreaded blue-and-white surgical masks, those portents of doom during the global Covid-19 disaster that made us all look like trainee medics or amateur bank robbers.

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

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

Dentist's patients urged to test for viruses

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/05/2026, Kate Aubusson, Page 15

Up to 5000 patients of a Sydney dentist may have been exposed to blood-borne viruses, but a lack of patient records means health authorities are struggling to identify and alert them. NSW Health is urging all patients treated by Dr William Tam, who practised at Suite B, 2 Albert Road, Strathfield, to see their GP or healthcare provider to undergo testing for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV as a precaution.

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

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

Calm response to virus ship gives confidence

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 14/05/2026, Page 22

The fever ship was a constant dread in the days when Australia was only reachable by sea. The yellow flag warning people to stay away was flown many times over the 152-year history of the North Head Quarantine Station. Some 600 people who died from epidemics of smallpox, bubonic plague, Spanish influenza and typhus are buried there.

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

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

Dentist could have exposed patients to HIV

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/05/2026, Tileah Dobson and Hannah Farrow, Page 18

Patients of a retired Sydney dentist are being urged to get tested for HIV and hepatitis after being potentially exposed to bloodborne viruses at his Strathfield practice. While the risk is low, NSW Health advises those who saw William Tam over the past 25 years be tested for hepatitis B, C and HIV because of poor infection control and patient records at the Albert Road practice.

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

Dentist may have exposed patients

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 14/05/2026, Tom Wark, Page 13

Health authorities are scrambling to find thousands of patients who may have been exposed to serious bloodborne diseases by a dodgy dentist. Patients of former dentist William Tam, who practised at Strathfield in Sydney's inner west for more than 25 years, are being urged to test for hepatitis B and C and HIV.

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

Health alert issued urging thousands of patients of retired Sydney dentist to get tested for HIV and hepatitis

The Guardian, Other, 13/05/2026, Melissa Davey

Patients of a retired Sydney dentist who practised for more than 25 years have been urged to get tested for blood-borne viruses. [...] Blood-borne viruses spread when infected blood or other bodily fluids are passed from one person to another, including through contaminated needles or splashes and spatter of contaminated blood or saliva.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 13/05/2026, Yvonne Yong

News Mieta Adams, abc News, Karratha Patients of a retired dentist in Sydney's inner west have been told to get tested for blood-borne viruses. New South Wales Health has warned thousands of patients who saw Dr William Tam at his Albert Road clinic in Strathfield could be at a low risk of hiv as well as hepatitis b and c.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 13/05/2026, Laura Jayes

The WHO has issued a warning that more Hantavirus cases may emerge, citing 11 confirmed or suspected cases worldwide, including three deaths on the cruise ship MV Hondius. Four Australian citizens, one permanent resident, and one New Zealand citizen are currently quarantined for 48 hours and are expected to be transferred to Perth's Bullsbrook Centre for National Resilience later this week.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Peptides Games risk

West Australian, Sport, 14/05/2026, Page 49

Australian anti-doping officials are warning about the use of peptides ahead of the world's first sports event without drug testing. Australian swimmer James Magnussen is among athletes to compete at the inaugural Enhanced Games in Las Vegas on May 24.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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

Canberra embraces AI data crunch for medicines to tax

West Australian, Other, 13/05/2026, Jennifer Dudley-Nicholson

Artificial intelligence will be deployed across the federal government for everything from evaluating medicines to identifying tax fraud in a bid to boost the nation's productivity. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration, for example, will use AI to evaluate medicines approved for use by similar regulators overseas.

[Read More](#)

Govt refuses to publish clinical advice behind decision to let pharmacists initiate the Pill

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/05/2026

Opposition health spokeswoman Georgie Crozier said there was no justification for keeping the advice secret. [...] But the RACGP has denounced it as an attack on the authority of the TGA — which has repeatedly said the pill should remain S4 — that risks women's safety.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 13/05/2026, Peter Overton

At the European Congress on Obesity in Istanbul, new research revealed that switching from injectable obesity medications, Wegovy and Mounjaro, to a daily pill known as 'Orforglipron' improved weight loss maintenance when compared to a placebo. Dr Louis Aronne from Weill Cornell Medicine and Ken Custer from Eli Lilly discussed the findings and access plans, with Lilly noting that Orforglipron has been submitted for registration in Australia and launched in the US under the name "Foundayo" at a lower price than injectable medications.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Murray River Smokehouse 150g Turkey Bacon removed from shelves over undeclared allergen

West Australian, Other, 13/05/2026, Chloe Maher

A popular meat product has been removed from supermarket shelves after the food safety watchdog raised the alarm over undeclared allergen fears. [...] Food Standards Australia and New Zealand issued the recall warning for 150g packages of the item marked with all use by dates up to and including May 28, 2026.

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

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Rex rescue will return airline to profit

The Australian, Business News, 14/05/2026, Colin Packham, Page 17

Collapsed regional carrier Rex Airways will return to profit in 2028 and deliver a modest \$4m back to the government's coffers. [...] The spate of aviation funding announcements came as departmental officials identified a number of sites in Australia potentially contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contained in firefighting foams.

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

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)