



# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 15th May 2026

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) leads widespread coverage reporting that Health Minister Mark Butler has introduced a bill which would legislate extensive reforms to eligibility guidelines and standards for individuals seeking to access NDIS funding. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#), [Australian Financial Review](#), [ABC Online](#), [ABC News](#)*
- **[ABC Online](#)** (online) reports that a spokesperson for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has stated that the Federal Government have adhered to legal standards under the Aged Care Act in releasing a report on average wait times for individuals accessing aged care services. *Also reported by: [West Australian](#)*
- The **[Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 11) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has stated that six individuals returning to Australia, after evacuating a cruise ship suffering a hantavirus outbreak, have all tested negative for the virus, with the the individuals to undergo three weeks of quarantine upon their return. *Also reported by: [ABC Online](#), [The Guardian](#), [West Australian](#)*
- The **[West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that a study into the introduction of a cost-free RSV vaccine has found the policy led to a 43.8 per cent reduction in hospital admissions for the disease in children aged under three months, with hospitalisation data drawn from 13 hospitals across Australia.

- The [Australian Financial Review](#) (page 1) reports that Federal Opposition Leader, Angus Taylor, has delivered a response to the Federal Budget in which he advocated a policy position which would restrict access to NDIS funding for non-citizens. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#), [ABC Online](#), [West Australian](#)*
- [ABC Online](#) (online) reports that a NSW Ambulance representative has informed an inquest into the death of a 95-year-old woman, who was tasered in an aged care facility, that emergency responders failed to demonstrate optimal patience when dealing with the deceased woman's dementia-related aggression. *Also reported by: [West Australian](#)*
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 12) reports that an Australian-led study into treatment procedures for individuals suffering heart failure has found that certain long-held treatment methods provide no beneficial health impact, with the results potentially eliminating unnecessary procedures.
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 1) reports that maternal health expert, Dr Jennifer Ayton, has expressed optimism that the publication of the Giving Voice to Women report, which followed an extensive parliamentary inquiry, will initiate a revision of existing paternalistic attitudes in the public health system. *Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury](#)*

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Family support to be considered before NDIS funds granted

The Australian, General News, 15/05/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 4

People seeking access to the NDIS will need to "undertake all appropriate treatments" for a condition before it's considered permanent, as part of landmark legislation that will put financial sustainability at the heart of funding decisions and consider someone's family supports and access to other services before giving them an NDIS plan. [...] NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler on Thursday morning introduced the legislation, known as the "securing the NDIS for future generations bill", which he said was critical for the survival of the scheme.

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

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### Shake-up gives Butler powers to cut NDIS

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/05/2026, Michael Smith, Page 6

Health Minister Mark Butler will have sweeping powers to make broad cuts to certain sections of the National Disability Insurance Scheme under new legislation designed to slash \$38 billion in costs from the runaway program in four years.

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

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### Sweeping powers to limit NDIS spending

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/05/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 1

Labor's new laws to limit who can access the National Disability Insurance Scheme will give the responsible minister sweeping powers to make mass cuts to budgets or therapies and enable automated decision-making, in efforts to cut spending by \$38 billion in four years. Health Minister Mark Butler's bill to restrict who can join the \$56 billion NDIS, introduced yesterday, will require people to have exhausted all other treatment options before they are considered permanently impaired to enter the scheme.

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

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### Cruise ship Aussies test negative to virus

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/05/2026, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer, Page 11

Health authorities are "pretty confident" Australian cruise passengers potentially exposed to the deadly hantavirus are not infected, but the returnees will be decked out in full personal protective equipment

for good measure as they make the flight to Australia from the Netherlands. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the returnees had taken a "pre-flight test" and all "tested negative".

*Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#)*

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## Mission to save Aussie cruisers

Courier Mail, General News, 15/05/2026, Page 13

Australian passengers from the hantavirus-hit cruise ship have finally boarded a plane home after the federal government hit snags securing a charter flight. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said those on the charter flight to Australia were symptom-free.

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## Short-sighted politics the real malady here

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/05/2026, John Pauley, Page 24

Every time Health Minister Mark Butler invokes "intergenerational equity" to justify removing the higher private health insurance rebate for older Australians, he is flying in the face of reality. The phrase sounds reasonable in a press release but collapses the moment it is tested against the evidence. After more than four decades working in public policy and aged care, I have rarely seen a decision so poorly reasoned attract so little scrutiny.

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## Budget short on home support package deals

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/05/2026, Julie Cross, Page 6

[...] Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler after the Albanese government's budget released on Tuesday. It contained no new measures to help Support at Home packages. [...] He said the Aged Care Minister Sam Rae received the wait times on April 28, but only released them on Tuesday - more than two weeks later and while journalists were offline in the federal budget lock-up.

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

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## Community call for access to patient records, after closure

Border Watch, General News, 15/05/2026, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 3

Community members from across Mount Gambier/Berrin have banded together to gain access to their medical records. [...] "I have contacted a few phone numbers in the health department and they kept directing me to a different phone number every time," Ms Malcolm said.

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## Regional Australians Paying the Price for Labor's Health Failures

Sea Lake & Wycheproof Times Ensign, General News, 14/05/2026, Page 7

The Coalition is calling out the Albanese Labor Government for failing rural and regional Australians after 12 leading nursing and healthcare organisations have warned that Medicare is no longer delivering for communities in the bush. Shadow Minister for Health, Anne Ruston, said the powerful joint submission to the Senate inquiry into regional healthcare should finally act as a wake-up call for Health Minister Mark Butler.

*Also reported by: [North West Express \(Quyen\)](#)*

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## Hantavirus outbreak: What countries are doing and how concerned we should be

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/05/2026, Freya Parsons

A luxury cruise that began as a dream holiday has become an international health emergency. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said it was initially quite "difficult" to find an aircraft to charter for the mission.

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

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## Hantavirus cruise evacuees secure flight to Australia

West Australian, Other, 14/05/2026, Samantha Lock

Six passengers from a cruise ship at the centre of a deadly hantavirus outbreak will soon return to Australia, after the government confirmed a flight has been secured for the evacuees. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade had secured a suitable aircraft and crew to transport the group, due to land in the Netherlands at 4pm Sydney time and then take off about 90 minutes later.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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## NDIS bill creates funding cut powers, civil penalties and stricter test for access

ABC Online, Other, 14/05/2026, Jake Evans

Powers to automate some decisions in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), a new civil penalty scheme and a wider test to require participants to exhaust "all other options" before gaining access will form part of the overhauled NDIS. [...] Under legislation introduced this morning by NDIS Minister Mark Butler, that test will now also apply to the cohort that was previously granted automatic access, and will clarify that alternative treatments will have to be "exhausted" before the disability is deemed permanent.

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## Six passengers from hantavirus-hit cruise ship due to arrive in Perth tomorrow

ABC Online, Other, 14/05/2026, Cason Ho

Six passengers from a cruise ship at the centre of a deadly hantavirus outbreak are due to arrive at an air base in Perth late tomorrow morning before being transferred to a quarantine facility. The passengers are symptom-free, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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## NDIS cuts could leave some participants with a funding gap. How will the changes affect you?

The Guardian, Other, 15/05/2026, Sarah Basford Canales

Funding for some services within the National Disability Insurance Scheme will be slashed – even in cases where participants could be left with a funding gap – as part of a sweeping proposal to drastically curb the scheme's annual growth. The proposed changes, revealed on Thursday, will also grant the health minister, Mark Butler, god-like powers to reduce overall funding for support categories, determine pricing guides and caps for services and support, and the ability to change NDIS rules without state and territory approval for the first 12 months.

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## Australians from hantavirus cruise ship fly out of Netherlands in full PPE after plane and crew secured

The Guardian, Other, 14/05/2026, Nick Visser & Cait Kelly

Four Australian citizens who were aboard the MV Hondius, the cruise ship at the centre of the hantavirus outbreak, will soon be home after the government secured a suitable aircraft and crew for the journey. The health minister, Mark Butler, said the citizens, along with a permanent resident and a New Zealand citizen, were due to take off from the Netherlands on Thursday and land in Perth on Friday local time.

[Read More](#)

## 'Stronger approach': Update in mission to return Australians who were on hantavirus-hit ship

SBS, Other, 14/05/2026

Health Minister Mark Butler has revealed new details about Australia's mission to bring home citizens who had been onboard a cruise ship hit by a deadly hantavirus outbreak. Four Australian citizens, one permanent resident, and a New Zealand national who had been on the Dutch MV Hondius ship are currently in quarantine in the Netherlands.

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## Australians on hantavirus cruise ship to land in Perth on Friday before weeks-long quarantine

7News.com.au, Other, 14/05/2026, Bryce Luff

Six passengers from a cruise ship at the centre of the deadly hantavirus outbreak are Australia-bound. [...] "Foreign Affairs and Trade have also secured all of the necessary clearances and approvals to travel from the Netherlands to Perth," Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said on Thursday.

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## Australian passengers rescued from Hantavirus-stricken cruise ship to land in Perth tomorrow

9News, Other, 14/05/2026

A group of Australian passengers who were aboard the Hantavirus-infected MV Hondius cruise ship are finally en route home. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler could not confirm where the plane would stop for fuel.

[Read More](#)

## President's update: Budget wins and missed opportunities

Australian Medical Association, Other, 14/05/2026, Danielle McMullen

Canberra (well at least the Parliamentary region) really did have a buzz about it this week, with all the lobby groups in town, ready to react to the federal budget. [...] The budget touched on non-GP specialist fees, something Minister Mark Butler has been vocal about in the media.

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## Government to introduce strict entry criteria for NDIS

CathNews, Other, 14/05/2026, Rebecca Comini

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. [...] 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.

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## Group of six passengers from hantavirus-plagued cruise ship have left the Netherlands are on their way to Australia to quarantine in Covid facility

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/05/2026, Ashley Nickel

Six passengers from a cruise ship at the centre of an outbreak of the deadly hantavirus have departed the Netherlands and are bound for Perth. [...] 'I can also indicate they are all symptom-free,' Health Minister Mark Butler told reporters on Thursday.

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## Hantavirus Brit is flown to Australian military base in full protective gear as part of 'the strongest quarantine arrangements in the world'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/05/2026, Eliana Silver

A British passenger who sailed on a hantavirus-affected cruise will fly to Australia from the Netherlands

on Thursday while dressed in full protective gear, the Australian government said. [...] The six passengers were in 'good health', showed no symptoms, and recently tested negative for the virus, Health Minister Mark Butler told a news conference in Canberra.

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## **Australians rescued from hantavirus-riddled cruise liner will wear full PPE on the flight home**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/05/2026, Caitlin Powell

Australians potentially exposed to the deadly hantavirus will wear full PPE on a flight to Perth, where they will remain in a quarantine facility for at least three weeks. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said six people, who will travel in full PPE, are in good health and have so far tested negative for the virus.

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## **Hantavirus cruise passengers to quarantine in Bullsbrook**

Echo News, Other, 14/05/2026, Guanhao Cheng

Bullsbrook's long inactive quarantine facility will soon be put to use for six passengers who were onboard the MV Hondius cruise ship during a hantavirus outbreak. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said on Tuesday although there were other facilities around the country, Perth was always going to be the first port of call for the returning flight for the passengers.

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

HealthTimes, Other, 14/05/2026

A government-supported charter flight will carry four Australian citizens, one permanent resident and a New Zealand citizen to Australia from Tenerife, in the Canary Islands, after their voyage was marred by a hantavirus outbreak. [...] The federal government would then seek advice from chief health officers about any further arrangements, Health Minister Mark Butler said on Monday.

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## **One million Australians will have dementia by 2065. Is this budget enough to get ahead of the crisis?**

Hello Leaders Australia, Other, 14/05/2026, Marion Piper

The Federal Government has committed more than \$224 million to dementia-specific initiatives in its 2026-27 Budget, a move welcomed by Dementia Australia – though the peak body is calling on Canberra to go further and fully fund the ten-year National Dementia Action Plan [...] Health Minister Mark Butler framed the broader aged care package – a \$3 billion commitment spanning beds, home care and dementia supports – in unambiguous terms.

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## **6.5 million Australians face obesity crisis**

Melbourne Insider, Other, 14/05/2026, Daniel Rolph

Australia faces a significant obesity crisis, with approximately 6.5 million adults affected. The Public Health Association of Australia has called for immediate government action in response to the government's 2024 parliamentary inquiry into diabetes. [...] Adjunct Professor Slevin acknowledges that since the inquiry finished, both Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White have led efforts to help address obesity. "Some work is underway and is very welcome," Slevin says.

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## **'Strongest quarantine response in the world': Aussies evacuated from hantavirus-hit cruise ship en route to Australia before three-week quarantine**

Sky News Australia, Other, 14/05/2026, Matt Hampson

A group of Aussies evacuated from the hantavirus-stricken MV Hondius and now en route to Perth will be subject to the "strongest quarantine response in the world". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on

Thursday said the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade had secured a suitable aircraft to transport the four Australian citizens, one permanent resident and one New Zealander from the Netherlands to Australia.

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## **Nurses: use us or lose us**

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/05/2026, Holly Payne

The federal health minister has recommitted to increasing registered nurse scope of practice, just as the peak body for practice nurses warns that nurses who feel underutilised are more likely to leave the workforce. According to the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association workforce report, released on Thursday, nurses who rarely worked to what they felt was the top of their scope of practice were 59% more likely than their peers to report high levels of burnout.

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

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## **How can Cohealth be transparent about secret requirements?**

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/05/2026, Cate Swannell & Caitlin Wright

Advocacy groups and doctor representatives have questioned how troubled community health hub Cohealth can be held accountable for the additional \$1.5 million given to it if the report which prompted the bailout is not made public. Last Friday, federal health minister Mark Butler announced the additional funds while referencing an as yet unreleased report from the Stephen Duckett-led review into Cohealth.

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## **Disability advocates condemn \$37bn NDIS cuts as 'cruellest act' of the Albanese Government**

The Point Australia, Other, 14/05/2026

Changes to eligibility requirements will see 160,000 participants cut from the scheme over the next four years, as the government looks to cap annual growth at 8 per cent by 2028. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler will introduce legislation this week to begin the overhaul.

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## **Govt cagey on Support at Home package release**

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/05/2026, Caroline Egan

In his address at the National Press Club last month, Health Minister Mark Butler made what was thought a telling statement. He said the Government would "accelerate the release" of Support at Home packages, with further details to be released in the Budget.

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## **Dave Hughes: Comedian ruthlessly rips into Australian Government on social media**

7News.com.au, Other, 14/05/2026, Ava Martin

Comedian Dave Hughes has taken to social media to voice his dismay at the Australian Government for letting "criminals" take over the country. [...] The controversial NDIS overhaul handed down in Tuesday's Budget is designed to target "grifters, fraudsters and crooks" using the scheme as an "ATM", according to Health Minister Mark Butler.

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

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## **Specialist doctors are charging too much. 4 options to rein in excessive fees**

Your Life Choices, Other, 14/05/2026

Australia's 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.

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

Your Life Choices, Other, 14/05/2026, Peter Breadon & Mia Jessurun

Health was at the heart of last year's budget. [...] There is also \$2 million for external advice to help the health department on how to tackle surging specialist fees – a top priority for Health Minister Mark Butler.

Also reported by: [National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation \(NACCHO\), \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#).

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## **ABC News, ABC News at Noon, 14/05/2026, Johanna Nicholson**

Press Conference with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler explains the government is pushing ahead with reforms to the NDIS Act and wants the legislation passed before the winter break, noting bipartisan cooperation in sending the bill to a Senate inquiry. He also provides updates on the Hantavirus outbreak linked to MV Hondius, confirming 11 cases and three deaths while stressing human-to-human transmission remains very rare.

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## **Channel 10, 10 News, 14/05/2026, Sandra Sully**

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade authorities has organised a repatriation flight for passengers from the MV Hondius cruise ship after a Hantavirus outbreak, with five Australians and one New Zealand citizen onboard. Health Minister Mark Butler says strict flight, landing, and quarantine measures at Bullsbrook ensure the passengers return safely and pose no risk to the public.

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 14/05/2026, Max Futcher and Katrina Blowers**

A major biosecurity operation sends five Australians home from the Netherlands after they were exposed to a virus-riddled cruise ship, with all passengers testing negative for Hantavirus and showing no symptoms before departure. Health Minister Mark Butler says authorities are confident they can board the flight without the virus, but they still face strict quarantine and testing on arrival in Australia.

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## **Channel 9, Nine News, 14/05/2026, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort**

Five Australians and one New Zealand citizen are preparing to return home from the Netherlands after exposure to a Hantavirus outbreak, with the repatriation flight expected to land at RAAF Base Pearce tomorrow. Health Minister Mark Butler says strict quarantine measures make the response one of the strongest in the world for managing the outbreak.

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## **Seven Tamworth, Seven Local News, 14/05/2026, Nick Hose and Madelaine Collignon**

NDIS changes have been introduced to Parliament, aiming to save about \$36.2b over four years while tightening eligibility and reducing participant numbers to around 600,000. Health Minister Mark Butler says the reforms secure the scheme's future by refocusing it on lifelong disability support rather than replacing health, rehabilitation, or preventative treatment services.

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## **ABC Radio Melbourne, 13:00 News, 14/05/2026**

Four Australian citizens, one permanent resident, and one New Zealand citizen from the MV Hondius cruise ship, which is at the centre of a deadly Hantavirus outbreak, will arrive in Perth tomorrow. Health Minister Mark Butler says that the group will leave the Netherlands today under a repatriation flight, and they will fly directly to RAAF Base Pearce, northeast of Perth.

## ABC Radio Sydney, 17:00 News, 14/05/2026

Health Minister Mark Butler introduces legislation to cut more than \$37b from the NDIS and sends the bill to a Senate inquiry for review. He says the changes ensure the scheme continues to support people with direct disability needs, while separate health conditions should be managed through the broader health system.

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## ABC Riverland SA, 07:30 News, 14/05/2026

Some Riverland residents say the federal government's decision to reduce private health insurance rebates for Australians over 65 is unfair, arguing it will increase annual costs by around \$240. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says aligning rebates across age groups is appropriate.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

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## MINISTER RAE

### Budget short on home support package deals

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/05/2026, Julie Cross, Page 6

[...] Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler after the Albanese government's budget released on Tuesday. It contained no new measures to help Support at Home packages. [...] He said the Aged Care Minister Sam Rae received the wait times on April 28, but only released them on Tuesday - more than two weeks later and while journalists were offline in the federal budget lock-up.

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

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### Aged care budget cold comfort as families resort to crowdfunding for care

Canberra Times, Other, 14/05/2026, Phoebe Loomes

While the federal budget allocated \$3.7 billion to improve care for vulnerable ageing Australians, the cash boost is cold comfort to desperate families, as some turn to crowdfunding to support their ailing parents. [...] The day after the budget was announced, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said the investment boost would improve outcomes for people in aged care.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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### Australians 'literally dying' as average wait times for aged care blow out to more than 365 days

ABC Online, Other, 14/05/2026, Stephanie Dalzell & Paige Cockburn

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has conceded the state of aged care in Australia "is not good enough" after a new report revealed patients were waiting an average of a year for services. [...] A spokesperson for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the government "published the report in line with its legal obligations under the Aged Care Act".

Also reported by: [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

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## Aged care sector leaders react to Budget 2026-27

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/05/2026, Caroline Egan

The aged care sector has welcomed the Federal Government's additional \$3.7 billion, but say the funding is well short of what is needed and many have commented on the lack of detail in the announcements. [...] Though Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has clarified an extra 32,000 Support at Home packages will be allocated in 2026-27, Moore said the new system is "more complex and costly to run" and "care on the ground is getting harder to deliver".

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## SBS, World News Australia, 14/05/2026, Janice Petersen

PM Anthony Albanese admits Australia's aged care system still falls short as new government data shows people wait an average of a year to access funded aged care services. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae says the government will add 32,000 Support at Home places between 2026 and 2027, noting that the new Aged Care Act requires regular public reporting of wait times every three months.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, 06:00 News, 14/05/2026

The Older Persons Advocacy Network reveals that Australians wait an average of 12 months to access appropriate aged care support, warning that the delays can seriously harm health outcomes. The Aged Care Minister Sam Rae's office says the government invested over \$3b to improve services and expand home care packages to reduce waiting times.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### ARAFMI celebrates 50 years

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 14/05/2026, Page 29

Central Coast arafmi celebrated 50 years of unwavering support to families and carers in the region at a special event on April 30. [...] ARAFMI Service Manager Rhonda Wilson and Central Coast Mayor Lawrie McKinna embraced the Mad Hatter theme; Guests included Federal Member for Dobell Emma McBride (left) and State Member for Gosford Liesl Tesch.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### 6.5 million Australians face obesity crisis

Melbourne Insider, Other, 14/05/2026, Daniel Rolph

Australia faces a significant obesity crisis, with approximately 6.5 million adults affected. The Public Health Association of Australia has called for immediate government action in response to the government's 2024 parliamentary inquiry into diabetes. [...] Adjunct Professor Slevin acknowledges that since the inquiry finished, both Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White have led efforts to help address obesity. "Some work is underway and is very welcome," Slevin says.

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

## DEPARTMENT

### **Community call for access to patient records, after closure**

Border Watch, General News, 15/05/2026, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 3

Community members from across Mount Gambier/Berrin have banded together to gain access to their medical records. [...] "I have contacted a few phone numbers in the health department and they kept directing me to a different phone number every time," Ms Malcolm said.

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### **Karcultaby gets digital**

Eyre Peninsula Advocate, General News, 14/05/2026, Page 20

Through the Telstra Being Digital program, Karcultaby School Community Library, along with the Ceduna, Wudinna and Streaky Bay libraries, recently hosted information sessions to support people seeking online information. [...] Coordinated by Natasha Pickburn from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, a number of speakers also shared information about their agencies and how they can help.

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### **National families week highlights importance of everyday family connection**

Northern Rivers Times, General News, 14/05/2026, Robert Heyward, Page 4

Families across Australia are being encouraged to focus on simple everyday connections during National Families Week as experts warn growing financial and social pressures are impacting household wellbeing. [...] Triple P says free online parenting support remains available for Australian families through its evidence-based parenting programs, supported by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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### **Budget 2026: Federal agency ups and downs**

The Mandarin, Other, 14/05/2026, Melissa Coade

Budget paper no. 4 offers a rundown of the resourcing decisions for this financial year, including which new government agencies have been set up and which ones have been rolled. [...] Reflecting a MOG last year, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has been revised down to an ASL of 6,883 (190 fewer roles).

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### **Money for bulk billing practices raises eyebrows**

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/05/2026, Holly Payne

The federal government has directed \$25.3 million to boost bulk billing in a region which has fairly average bulk billing rates already. [...] One of the few surprises to come out of Tuesday night's budget was an announcement that the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing would be setting up six new, fully bulk billing clinics in the Newcastle, Central Coast, Lake Macquarie and Lower Hunter regions of New South Wales.

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

Your Life Choices, Other, 14/05/2026, Peter Breadon & Mia Jessurun

Health was at the heart of last year's budget. [...] There is also \$2 million for external advice to help the health department on how to tackle surging specialist fees – a top priority for Health Minister Mark

Butler.

Also reported by: [National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation \(NACCHO\)](#), [\(Online\)](#), [HelloCare](#) [\(Online\)](#).

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## AI Accelerator initiative and Digital ID development win big in 2026-27 federal budget

techpartner.news, Other, 14/05/2026, Jason Pollock

The 2026-27 federal budget has introduced the expansion of support for private sector adoption of AI by making up to \$70 million of funding available through 'AI Accelerator' rounds of the Cooperative Research Centres program. [...] Outside of Digital ID, My Health Record received close to \$600 million over two years; the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing was granted over \$250 million for the sustainment of aged care ICT systems; and Services Australia landed just over \$160 million over four years for a cyber security uplift program.

[Read More](#)

## WIN Wollongong, WIN News, 14/05/2026, Jared Constable

Mother Viviane Irving fears living three hours from the nearest major city will limit access to NDIS services and specialists for her 9yo daughter Ava, whose funding faces cuts from the federal budget. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing was contacted for comment.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### ALP attempt to duck scrutiny on nursing home blowouts really one for the ages

West Australian, General News, 15/05/2026, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 8

Labor has been accused of trying to hide blowouts in wait times for aged-care services by releasing a report while journalists were in the Federal Budget lock-up. The figures which show that Australians wait a year on average for home-care packages had to be published for the first time on Tuesday after the reporting was made mandatory in the new Aged Care Act.

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

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### Labor's budget masks bad news drop

Canberra Times, Editorials, 15/05/2026, Page 16

What does a politically savvy left-wing government do on a day when it knows the media will be preoccupied with the litany of lies and broken promises that underpin the most talked about budget in years? [...] The other bucket of ordure discreetly pushed out on Tuesday was the first of the quarterly reports on waiting times the government must make public under the terms of the new Aged Care Act.

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### Beds now open for dementia patients

Border Watch, General News, 15/05/2026, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

A major dementia support initiative has officially been opened at Boandik Lodge. The aged care facility's \$3.5m investment into dementia care was officially launched this week showcasing 11 specified bedrooms.

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### Staff housing opened in Fitzroy Crossing to address acute housing shortage

West Australian, Other, 14/05/2026, Phoebe Solon

ged care provider Juniper has celebrated the opening of 11 permanent staff homes in Fitzroy Crossing. The accommodation, located next to the Guwardi Ngadu Residential Aged Care Home, is aimed at addressing acute housing shortages and strengthening aged care services in the West Kimberley by providing secure housing for staff.

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

[Read More](#)

## Police shun dementia training after woman's Taser death

West Australian, Other, 14/05/2026, Miklos Bolza

More police could train about how to deal with patients with dementia after a great-grandmother was fatally tasered in an aged care facility. 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.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Former company behind labour hire firm Prodigy Health Solutions in administration owing \$6m

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/05/2026, Sarah Perillo

After racking up more than \$6m in debts, the former company behind a Melbourne labour hire business has collapsed, leaving administrators to investigate a \$4m-plus loan allegedly advanced to its director. Prodigy Health Solutions launched in June 2022 to supply nurses and healthcare staff to hospitals and aged care facilities.

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

[Read More](#)

## NSW Ambulance experts quizzed at Clare Nowland taser-death inquest

ABC Online, Other, 14/05/2026, Adriane Reardon & Isla Evans

A senior NSW Ambulance officer has told an inquest into the death of Clare Nowland that emergency services could have taken more time when responding to the 95-year-old's dementia-related aggression. The great-grandmother was tasered by then-NSW Police senior constable Kristian White on May 17, 2023 and died a week later from associated injuries.

[Read More](#)

## Australia's budget has 'emerging tensions'. How does it compare to other countries?

SBS, Other, 14/05/2026, Cameron Carr

From housing affordability to healthcare and defence, Australia's budget priorities reveal the issues weighing most heavily on the nation. [...] Duncan and Gannon said that Australia's ageing population will continue to shape future budgets as demand for aged care and health services increases.

[Read More](#)

## Preferred provider for struggling Upper Hunter aged care facility revealed

Newcastle Herald, Other, 14/05/2026, Jessica Belzycki

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 More](#)

## Aged care budget cold comfort as families resort to crowdfunding for care

Daily Liberal, Other, 14/05/2026, Phoebe Loomes

While the federal budget allocated \$3.7 billion to improve care for vulnerable ageing Australians, the cash boost is cold comfort to desperate families, as some turn to crowdfunding to support their ailing parents. [...] The day after the budget was announced, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said the investment boost would improve outcomes for people in aged care.

[Read More](#)

## Major gaps remain in aged care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 14/05/2026

The federal budget has injected funding into aged care, health system reform and cost-of-living relief, drawing mixed reactions from sector peak bodies. Although they recognise the significance of the investment, many have responded by reiterating that major gaps remain for older Australians and people living with dementia.

[Read More](#)

## Seniors waiting 12 months or more as aged care system buckles under demand

HelloCare, Other, 14/05/2026, Jakob Neeland & Bianca Iovino

Australia's aged care system is facing mounting pressure, with tens of thousands of older people now stuck in a growing queue for care as wait times for both home support and residential aged care continue to blow out. New government data has revealed that thousands of older Australians are waiting not just for care, but in many cases waiting simply to be assessed for the care they need.

[Read More](#)

## Coronial Inquest into Clare Nowland's death in aged care home begins

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/05/2026, Caroline Egan

Almost exactly three years after Clare Nowland was Tasered in her aged care home in Cooma, 114km south of Canberra, a Coronial Inquest into her death is underway. In May 2023, Nowland, a resident of Yallabee Lodge aged care facility, fell and suffered a brain injury after being Tasered by then Police Officer Kristian White.

[Read More](#)

## Survey comments reveal inadequacy of Support at Home

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/05/2026, Caroline Egan

In Part 1 of a survey of 300 home care operators, operators' comments reveal the reality of the Albanese Government's Support at Home program. Enkindle Consulting will publish the results of the survey in five parts, with this first part looking at providers' experience of last year's reforms and the outlook for the home care sector.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, News Breakfast, 14/05/2026, Emma Reballato and James Glenday

Interview with Clare O'Neil, Minister for Housing. O'Neil says the government inherited a failing aged care system described by the Royal Commission as neglect and committed to rebuilding it through major investment and reform. She says wait time data shows ongoing problems but highlights progress, including more staffing in nursing homes and increased support for older Australians.

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## Channel 10, 10 News, 14/05/2026, Sandra Sully

Police used a taser on 95yo Cooma nursing home resident Clare Nowland within minutes of arriving at the facility, with an inquest examining the circumstances surrounding her death in 2023. The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission says the case highlights the importance of dementia training and de-escalation skills in residential aged care, where many residents live with cognitive impairment.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 14/05/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Clare Grieveson, CEO of Southern Cross Care WA, about migrant labour in aged care. Grieveson says the sector depends heavily on migrant workers, with around 40% of her organisation's staff on temporary visas, and warns aged care will need about 400,000 more workers by 2050.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#).

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## 2CC, Breakfast, 14/05/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Anne Ruston, Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care, about federal budget impacts on older Australians' health care. Ruston argues that the recent changes unfairly target both younger Australians' wealth-building opportunities and older Australians' access to affordable care. She says funding shifts for aged care and private health insurance reforms worsen pressure on hospitals and force more older Australians into already strained public health systems.

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## FIVEAA, Mornings, 14/05/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Anne Ruston, Shadow Minister of Aged Care, about changes to private health insurance rebates for older Australians. Ruston says the government misrepresents the policy as intergenerational fairness and argues it will push more older Australians out of private cover and increase pressure on the public hospital system.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Taylor's \$22.5b election pitch

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/05/2026, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

Workers would be \$1000 a year better off at the end of the first term of a Coalition government under a \$22.5 billion pledge by Angus Taylor to index tax brackets to inflation.

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

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### Budget twist as both major parties see their salvation

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/05/2026, Phillip Coorey, Page 3

In the annals of Coalition infamy, there is a special place reserved for page 7 of the summary document of the 2014 budget, the first to be handed down by the Abbott government.

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### \$20b public service cost blowout whacks savings

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/05/2026, Luke Kinsella, Page 3

The cost of running the Albanese government's public service has blown out by \$19.6 billion over the next four years.

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

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

### Indexation puts Liberals back in the reform game

The Australian, Editorials, 15/05/2026, Page 14

Angus Taylor must capitalise on strong criticism of Labor budget. The battle lines have been drawn with Angus Taylor's pledge to index tax thresholds to rescue wage earners from bracket creep. The Opposition Leader used his budget reply speech to pledge to put more control and money back into the hands of individuals.

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

## Labor's Renovation Republic abandons the ambitious young

The Australian, General News, 15/05/2026, Adam Creighton, Page 15

If we had become a banana republic as Paul Keating warned 40 years ago, at least we could have proudly specialised in something useful to the world. Alas, the risk after the government's latest budget is on the path to becoming a Renovation Republic, a sclerotic nation obsessed with buying and renovating principal residences on credit to harvest limitless tax-free capital gains.

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## Taylor must toil to thread this needle

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/05/2026, James Massola, Page 27

Angus Taylor's budget reply speech was the opposition leader's best, and last, chance to make an enduring impression on Australian voters who aren't paying much attention to politics, most of the time. [...] Those include blocking non-citizen residents from access to 17 welfare and benefit programs, including the NDIS, and linking the number of migrants allowed in to Australia to the number of new houses built.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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## Angry Angus

West Australian, General News, 15/05/2026, Katina Curtis, Page 1

Fired-up Opposition leader outlines dramatic policies to challenge Labor and win over One Nation voters Angus Taylor will slash migration, ban non-citizens from welfare, abandon net zero and immediately repeal Anthony Albanese's broken promises tax hikes as part of a bold recalibration of Opposition policy to challenge Labor and woo back voters flirting with One Nation.

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

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## Taylor pledges bracket breaks

Herald Sun, General News, 15/05/2026, Ellen Ransley, Page 10

Angus Taylor has pledged to return bracket creep and eventually give taxpayers a cut of \$1000 a year, in a bold fightback against One Nation and a play to win back voters. In his first budget-in-reply the Opposition Leader laid out his plan for a "fairer, freer and better Australia" and announced his ambitious plan to index income tax rates.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Welfare done the right way

Herald Sun, Editorials, 15/05/2026, Page 24

Many Australians are likely to agree with the premise that welfare support should be fully available only to citizens. There are, of course, a range of circumstances relating to people arriving in Australia via humanitarian intakes and cases involving child protection services and domestic violence where government-funded support should be available.

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

## Taylor: No welfare for migrants

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/05/2026, Page 18

Angus Taylor has pledged to ban migrants from welfare programs in a move the opposition leader said was about "putting Australians first". [...] The ban would apply to 17 welfare programs, including the ballooning National Disability Insurance Scheme and paid parental leave.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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## Hanson accuses Coalition of copying plan to limit migration

Daily Liberal, General News, 15/05/2026, Zac De Silva & Tess Ikonomou, Page 7

Opposition Leader Angus Taylor was to deliver his first budget reply speech last night, unveiling a proposal to dramatically cut the number of people allowed into the country. [...] Speaking ahead of his budget address, Mr Taylor said the Coalition would claw back billions of dollars in savings by cutting welfare for non-citizens. The National Disability Insurance Scheme would be for Australian citizens only, he said.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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## There's lot to like in budget. But not the inflationary spending

Australian Financial Review, Other, 14/05/2026, Chris Richardson

There's a lot to like in this budget.

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## Angus Taylor eye's 'generational' change, but Pauline claims he's seeing orange

The Australian, Other, 14/05/2026, Nathan Schmidt & Ike Morris

Pauline Hanson has been sensationally cut off in the Senate during her own response to Angus Taylor's budget reply, after the Opposition Leader unveiled major tax plans and a cap on net overseas migration. Mr Taylor addressed the House of Representatives shortly after 7.30pm on Thursday for the customary budget reply.

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

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## 'Australians first': Angus Taylor echoes Trump in migrant welfare vow

The Australian, Other, 14/05/2026, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer

Angus Taylor has channelled US President Donald Trump in a pledge to ban migrants from welfare programs. Unveiling the Coalition's new policy on Thursday, the Opposition Leader said the move was about "putting Australians first".

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Budget 2026: Cut 'top heavy' roles to meet public service pay projections, former APSC boss says

The Australian, Other, 14/05/2026, Jack Quail

A former public service chief has urged the government to slash 'top-heavy' senior roles after budget forecasts revealed the wages bill will barely grow. [...] "The thing that's driving public service numbers isn't empire building by public service department heads, it's community demand – if people want more health programs, social welfare programs, a National Disability Insurance Scheme, someone's got to run it."

[Read More](#)

## Hughesy unleashes on NDIS, illicit tobacco crisis

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/05/2026, Adrian Zorzut

Comedian David Hughes has unleashed on the NDIS and the illegal tobacco crisis in a tense Instagram reel tirade aimed squarely at the government. Hughesy claimed the country has been "taken over" by criminal cartels who were running the NDIS like "a cash machine".

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

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## Disability watchdog bans Michael Barry, Thornton, issues notices to George Anim, East Maitland and Newy Care, Fletcher

Adelaide Now, Other, 14/05/2026, Toni Moon

The national disability watchdog has banned a Thornton man permanently and issued compliance notices to two other Hunter providers. The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, has banned Michael John Barry permanently, preventing him from providing services that involve "contact with NDIS participants" or accessing their personal or financial information.

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

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## Coalition to propose permanent end to tax bracket creep

ABC Online, Other, 14/05/2026, Clare Armstrong

The Coalition will make a bold play to win back voters with a plan to automatically index income tax brackets to keep up with inflation. [...] Mr Taylor is also planning to announce plans to tie immigration to housing and block access to payments like the pension, paid parental leave, and the NDIS for anyone who is not an Australian citizen.

[Read More](#)

## Coalition to bar non-citizens from welfare, NDIS under fresh migration policy

ABC Online, Other, 14/05/2026, Nicole Asher

Non-citizens, including permanent residents, will be barred from accessing welfare under a updated migration crackdown promised by the Coalition. The Coalition proposes to restrict access to more than a dozen social services including the NDIS, parental leave and carers allowance.

[Read More](#)

## Autistic teenager 'Thomas Carrick' due to be sentenced over terror-related offences

ABC Online, Other, 14/05/2026, Antonia O'Flaherty

A years-long saga that began with an autistic 13-year-old being "radicalised" during a covert police operation is set to escalate to a Federal Court battle, as it emerges he has admitted to new terror-related offences. The now 18-year-old, known by the court pseudonym Thomas Carrick, was first charged with terrorism offences in 2021, but the case was thrown out after a magistrate found the Australian Federal Police (AFP) had "groomed" him and "encouraged" his fixation on ISIS.

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## Angus Taylor vows to index tax brackets to inflation in \$22.5bn budget reply measure

The Guardian, Other, 14/05/2026, Tom McIlroy

Angus Taylor will impose a fiscal straitjacket on a future Coalition government, promising to tackle bracket creep and invest the majority of all commodity windfalls into a new fund for future generations to pay down debt. Taylor used his first budget reply speech as opposition leader on Thursday night to announce plans to index Australia's tax brackets to inflation from 2028-29, expected to cost \$22.5bn.

[Read More](#)

## Angus Taylor's plan to bar migrants from welfare payments undermines our quest for belonging

The Guardian, Other, 14/05/2026, Shadi Khan

The proposed changes draw a clearer line between those who are fully entitled and those who are not. A few years ago, during the turmoil in Afghanistan, a friend of mine and his family were offered a humanitarian pathway to Australia by the Coalition government. They arrived carrying trauma, uncertainty, and a fragile hope that safety might eventually become stability.

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## 'My biggest fear is he won't wake up': the cost to save two-year-old

## Malakai

Ballarat Courier, Other, 14/05/2026, Nick Powell

Two-year-old Malakai is a "beautiful, inquisitive kid" who loves the bush, horses, and sharing his toys. Login or signup to continue reading But behind his quick smile is a world of intense medical trauma, a single mother who hasn't slept more than four hours a night in two years, and a healthcare system that is failing him.

[Read More](#)

## Leah Taaffe leaves a legacy of leadership

Shepparton News Online, Other, 14/05/2026, Lua Ikenasio

When Community Living and Respite Services chief executive Leah Taaffe stepped off a plane in Australia 14 years ago, she had no idea where life would take her next. Six weeks later, she secured a role at CLRS, where she initially worked for two years before leaving and returning two years later.

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## Greens Senator David Shoebridge says permanent residents should get citizen treatment, rebukes Coalition's welfare plan

Sky News Australia, Other, 14/05/2026, Laurence Karacsony

Greens Senator David Shoebridge has claimed there should be no difference between Australian citizens and permanent residents in a fiery rebuke of the Coalition's welfare plan. Speaking to Sky News on Thursday, Mr Shoebridge said permanent residents living in Australia should be treated the same as citizens, calling it nothing more than a technicality.

[Read More](#)

## 'Privileges of an Australian citizen': Coalition to block non-citizens from welfare under migration shake-up, Angus Taylor reveals

Sky News Australia, Other, 14/05/2026, Max Aldred

Non-citizens would lose access to 17 welfare programs under a sweeping Coalition proposal aimed at curbing migration and easing housing pressure. Angus Taylor has unveiled a new plan to restrict certain welfare payments to Australian citizens ahead of tonight's budget-in-reply.

[Read More](#)

## Grattan on Friday: Taylor's bold budget reply is a mix of sound and dubious policy commitments

The Conversation, Other, 14/05/2026, Michelle Grattan

Angus Taylor might have reckoned he and the opposition are in such deep doo-doo that he might as well throw everything at Thursday night's budget reply. The result was a mixed bag.

[Read More](#)

## Angus Taylor promises to index income tax to inflation in big tax gamble

The Conversation, Other, 14/05/2026, Michelle Grattan

Opposition Leader Angus Taylor has committed a Coalition government to phase in income tax indexation under a "tax back guarantee" that he says "will fully protect all taxpayers from inflation". In his budget reply on Thursday night, Taylor described the plan, which would cost \$22.

[Read More](#)

## The government wants to save \$463m by tightening disability support to school students. What's going on?

The Conversation, Other, 14/05/2026, Catherine Smith

The federal government has announced a new "safeguard" around how funding is spent to support school students with disabilities. The budget papers say there is an issue with "inaccurate claiming" by schools and new controls are needed to prevent "fraud and non-compliance".

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## A Coalition government would restrict access to welfare payments to Australian citizens

The Conversation, Other, 14/05/2026, Michelle Grattan

Opposition Leader Angus Taylor says a Coalition government would restrict access to welfare benefits to Australian citizens. Taylor will include the controversial policy in his Thursday night budget reply.

[Read More](#)

## As the definition of autism expands, are we losing sight of those with the greatest needs?

The Conversation, Other, 14/05/2026, Andrew Whitehouse

Thinking about autism has evolved. Just three decades ago, autism was a relatively rare and clearly defined condition, diagnosed in people with limited verbal language and highly repetitive behaviour.

[Read More](#)

## Sky News Live, The Kenny Report, 14/05/2026, Chris Kenny

Interview with Mark Woodland, CEO of Kismet, about implementing digital invoicing reforms in the NDIS. Woodland says the current invoicing process remains chaotic, with handwritten and unclear claims slowing checks and increasing the risk of incorrect or fraudulent payments. He says a fully digitised system with stronger verification would improve transparency, reduce errors, and make NDIS spending more accountable to taxpayers.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 14/05/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Nicole Rogerson, CEO of Autism Awareness Australia, about the federal government's NDIS reforms. Rogerson says families in the disability community feel nervous and uncertain as the government pushes major NDIS changes, including moving some children with mild to moderate autism out of the scheme. She warns the new state-run system may not be ready or strong enough to deliver evidence-based early intervention.

*Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#).*

[Play Now](#)

## ABC South East NSW, Breakfast, 14/05/2026, Eddie Williams

Interview with Mark Brantingham, CEO of Yumaro, about the impact of the government's proposed NDIS reforms. Brantingham says many people with disability and their families feel anxious and blame themselves due to the tone of debate around the scheme changes, even though reform aims to ensure long-term sustainability. He warns that changes must come with clear implementation plans and stronger regulation of unregistered providers before cuts affect services.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### 'Irresponsible': Vets' fury over health cuts

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/05/2026, Jessica Wang, Page 8

Diggers have raged over Labor's decision to quietly cap access to psychology sessions, physiotherapy and other allied health services to \$5000 a year. Retired Special Forces Major Heston Russell slammed the move as "broken promises and back-peddalling".

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

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### Smoking, cancer rates higher in the Hunter

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/05/2026, Sage Swinton, Page 4

Almost all Hunter council areas have higher smoking rates than the NSW average, while the overall cancer incidence in the region was greater than the state average. The Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network has released its 2026 population health profiles, which provide a high-level snapshot of health access, health outcomes and population demographics in the region using the most recent data.

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

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## Improved medical access

Border Watch, General News, 15/05/2026, Page 1

Moves have been made to help fill another gap in the health system in Mount Gambier/ Berrin, with a new nurse practitioner moving into a local pharmacy. Nurse practitioner Leith Aitchison recently started consulting out of UFS Chemist on Commercial St East.

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## Keogh defends budget spend

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 15/05/2026, Nikita Mcguire, Page 4

Veterans' Affairs Minister Matt Keogh has defended a multimillion-dollar budget injection for the nation's ex-service personnel, despite claims from advocates that families remain trapped in a policy vacuum dating back to 1986. In a statement, Mr Keogh said the government used the 2026-27 budget to commit \$169.7m to increase fees for allied health providers, marking the largest investment in the sector in more than 20 years.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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## Why Dubbo dentists say an urgent care clinic is now a critical need

Daily Liberal, Other, 14/05/2026, Ciara Bastow

The Australian Dental Association NSW (ADA NSW) has backed calls for a Medicare-funded urgent care clinic in Dubbo. ADA NSW Board Member and Dubbo dentist, Dr Sophie Halpin, said communities across Western NSW are seeing growing demand for urgent healthcare services as patients delay treatment due to rising living costs and limited access to care.

[Read More](#)

## Dental funding in this week's budget is just tinkering around the edges. We need so much more

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 14/05/2026, Matt Hopcroft

This week's federal budget was meant to help tackle the cost-of-living crisis. But Treasurer Jim Chalmers has done little to address a big out-of-pocket health cost millions of Australians face – dental care.

[Read More](#)

## Bulk-billing rebates not enough? Second bailout for clinic caring for those on struggle street

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/05/2026, Jamie Thanoo

Cohealth, the troubled Medicare-funded health centre with some 60 doctors and nurses, will survive for another year, with governments stepping in to provide another \$1.5 million bailout. Last year, cohealth announced it would have to shut down three health clinics in inner Melbourne because of spiralling costs.

[Read More](#)

## Guild not giving up on PBS co-pay freeze

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/05/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Campaign to keep the PBS general co-payment at \$25 for the remainder of the 2020s to continue, despite the budget-night setback With seven months to go until the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) general co-payment is set for an increase.

## Q&A with RACGP Vice President and WA Chair Dr Ramya Raman

Medical Forum, Other, 14/05/2026

There have been big changes in general practice in recent times, with moves to boost GP numbers and a shake up of bulk billing. Medical Forum checked in with a GP at the forefront of general practice in Western Australia, Dr Ramya Raman, a specialist general practitioner and practice owner who is also the RACGP Vice President and WA Chair.

[Read More](#)

## The 2026-27 Federal Budget marks a significant milestone in efforts to expand access to biologic medicines

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 14/05/2026

Aligned with the Government's focus on boosting productivity, strengthening economic resilience, and ensuring budget sustainability, the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) has welcomed the commitment to advancing biosimilar policy reform as a meaningful step forward for patients. These life-changing medicines play an important role in improving access and supporting the long-term sustainability of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

[Read More](#)

## Rapid results and long-term gain: The benefits of PoCT

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 14/05/2026, Karen Burge

Point-of-care testing (PoCT) delivers more than just fast results, with a new study showing it can have longer-term gains for patients. Published in BMC Public Health, the study analysed evidence from 13 studies globally, involving more than 21,000 people, to examine whether PoCT improves overall health literacy.

[Read More](#)

## RACGP unveils new telehealth-only guidance

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 14/05/2026, Morgan Liotta

Amid escalating concerns about telehealth-only services and their rapid growth, a new RACGP position statement warns they must not become a substitute for comprehensive general practice care. Released on Thursday, it follows sustained RACGP warnings that the model could undermine the relationship between a patient and their usual GP, fragment care, and put patient safety at risk.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 14/05/2026, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

Families are being reminded of free healthcare options ahead of winter, including urgent care, virtual services, and bulk-billing GPs. The NSW government says a family of four with two young children could save nearly \$1200 a year while also easing pressure on hospital emergency departments.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### States attack tobacco funding

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/05/2026, Rory Williams, Page 8

State ministers have attacked the federal government over its "manifestly inadequate" response to the booming illicit tobacco black market. Police Minister Yasmin Catley and Health Minister Ryan Park took aim at Canberra's budget allocation of \$14m for enforcement - shared between all states and territories over four years - while NSW alone has committed \$46m over the same period.

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

## Hospital stays while in care

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/05/2026, Page 6

Palliative care hospitalisations in Australia increased by 46 per cent between 2015-16 and 2023-24. In that time, palliative care-related hospitalisations increased at an annual rate of 4.9 per cent, double that of hospitalisations for all reasons, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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## Pain relief leads palliative care scripts

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/05/2026, Sheshtyn Paola

Over one million palliative care-related prescriptions were dispensed in 2024-25, according to a new AIHW report.

[Read More](#)

## 2GB, Breakfast, 14/05/2026, Ben Fordham

Interview with Ryan Park, Minister for Health in NSW, about the enforcement of illegal tobacco shutdowns. Park says the closure orders against illegal retailers work but require repeated inspections and escalating penalties because some operators continue reopening despite enforcement action. He says escalating penalties apply to repeat offenders, but enforcement challenges persist due to the large price gap between legal and illegal cigarettes.

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# CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

## Senator sets stage for faction fight

The Australian, General News, 15/05/2026, Jack Quail, Page 9

Independent Tasmanian senator Tammy Tyrrell has joined Labor's ranks, delivering Anthony Albanese a second crossbench recruit and setting up a potential factional stoush over the ALP's Senate ticket ahead of the 2028 election. [...] She is known for her conservative positions on a host of social issues, including euthanasia and gay marriage.

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

## Five questions every adult needs to ask their parents

Age, General News, 15/05/2026, Kate Aubusson, Page 16

Kerry Milligan didn't just plan for her mother Emmie Silbery's death, they joked about it. [...] Just 14 per cent of people over 65 have advance care directives.

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

## For me and my family, this cancer fight is deeply personal

Age, General News, 15/05/2026, Wayne Swan, Page 22

Australia stands at a crossroads in the fight against prostate cancer. [...] Each year, nearly 29,000 Australian men are diagnosed with prostate cancer and close to 4000 die.

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

## Public memorial for Valentine

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/05/2026, Kayla Olaya & Garry Maddox, Page 2

A public memorial will be held at Sydney Town Hall on May 29 for musician, author and ABC Sydney radio presenter James Valentine, who died last month aged 64. [...] It sparked days of warm tributes by

fellow broadcasters and ABC radio listeners and prompted discussions about his decision to hold a living wake and choose voluntary assisted dying (VAD).

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

## He did it for us

Herald Sun, General News, 15/05/2026, Jon Ralph & Glenn McFarlane, Page 1

Robert Walls hated hospitals with his entire being. [...] He would end his life in the manner and at the timing of his own choosing, through voluntary assisted dying (VAD).

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

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

## Meeting Dr Miracle

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/05/2026, Elle Halliwell, Page 1

In terms of anniversaries, there's one I approached recently that might not sound like the type of milestone worth blowing the balloons up for. [...] Blood cancers, which include leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma, are collectively the third-most common cancer group in Australia.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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## Grants for community groups

Border Watch, General News, 15/05/2026, Page 1

More than \$100,000 has been awarded to community groups across the Limestone Coast. Stand Like Stone Foundation has granted funds to 16 community projects across the Limestone Coast through its 2026 grant round, supporting local health and wellbeing initiatives, education, food relief, arts and culture and community spaces.

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

## Name change for PCOS explained

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/05/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 3

A condition that affects up to one in eight women has a new name, with experts saying that its former name contributed to delayed diagnoses, inadequate treatment and poor awareness. Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) will become known as polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS) to better reflect its nature as a long-term hormonal or endocrine disorder.

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## A final wish is granted

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 15/05/2026, Jack Dyson Evans, Page 6

While some people wish for helicopter rides and football tickets, Toowoomba woman Roma just wanted one thing ... to visit her late husband's grave one last time before she joined him. [...] Beginning on Monday, the theme for this year's National Palliative Care week is 'Getting to the heart of it: Big Questions. Real Answers' and focuses on encouraging people to have conversations about serious illness and their plan for end of life.

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

## Public memorial for 702 ABC Sydney presenter James Valentine to be held in Sydney

ABC Online, Other, 14/05/2026, Declan Bowring

A public memorial for beloved ABC presenter and musician James Valentine will be held on May 29 at Sydney Town Hall. Valentine died aged 64 last month using voluntary assisted dying, two years after being diagnosed with cancer.

[Read More](#)

## Anna's Walk returns to Tamworth to break the silence on bladder

## cancer

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 14/05/2026, Tom Plevy

"Blood in your pee? See your GP." That's the slogan of Beat Bladder Cancer Australia, and while bladder cancer might not be the most common type of cancer around, that does not mean it's not devastating for those who live with it.

[Read More](#)

## Buzzing noise keeping neighbours awake at night highlights new reality in Aussie suburb: 'Wish we hadn't bought here'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 14/05/2026, Michael Dahlstrom

Residents in a 'tight-knit' Aussie community say the persistent buzz from a towering data centre that's being built at the end of their street is keeping them awake at night. [...] At over 50 per cent above the state average, the local government area has the highest rate of childhood asthma in the state.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, News Breakfast, 14/05/2026, Emma Reballato and James Glenday

Interview with Wayne Swan, former Deputy Prime Minister, about a national effort to eliminate prostate cancer deaths. Swan calls for stronger awareness campaigns and routine testing, arguing that around one million Australian men remain unaware of their risk, especially those with a first-degree relative affected.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 14/05/2026, Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca

Interview with Jay Allen, CEO of the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation, about free skin checks at Magic Round. Allen says mobile clinics at major sporting events detect suspicious lesions, including melanomas, by offering quick full-body checks using advanced 3D scanning technology. He says expanding these services nationwide could improve early detection and shift Australia's health focus from treatment to prevention.

[Play Now](#)

## 4BC, Drive, 14/05/2026, Gary Hardgrave

Interview with Wayne Swan, former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, about launching a national push to eliminate prostate cancer deaths. Swan says the new cross-party committee aims to improve awareness and encourage earlier testing, especially for men with a family history of prostate cancer who face a significantly higher risk. He stresses that regular PSA testing and proactive GP screening can detect cancer early and save lives.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Family warns of gambling havoc after Kyle's death

Age, General News, 15/05/2026, Melissa Cunningham, Page 2

In the months after Kyle Hudson's suicide, his older brother Ryan said his family were left grief stricken and confused as to how something so devastating could have happened. "We all tortured ourselves," Ryan Hudson said.

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

### First two weeks critical for new mums

West Australian, General News, 15/05/2026, Maeve Bannister, Page 18

New mothers are most at risk of major postnatal depression in the first two weeks after giving birth, with calls mounting for greater screening, prevention and treatment to ensure they feel supported. Midwife and neonatal intensive care nurse Megan Ryan said it was common to see parents navigate mental health challenges following the birth of their baby.

*Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).*

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

## Small STEPS can help protect lives

Shepparton News Online, Other, 14/05/2026

A key campaign for the Deniliquin Mental Health Awareness Group in 2026 is Sticky Topics. Eye-catching stickers which link you to important health messages have been provided throughout the community.

[Read More](#)

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## IMMUNISATION

### Baby vaccine a job well done

West Australian, General News, 15/05/2026, Francesca De Nuccio, Page 1

A new RSV immunisation program has cut hospital admissions for Australia's youngest babies by almost half in its first year. Nine-month-old Hugo is one of those lucky infants.

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

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### 'It makes sense': NIPVIP investment applauded

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/05/2026

Pharmacy and medicines groups support the budget's plan to further fund childhood vaccinations. The Federal Budget's allocation of more than \$40m to address childhood vaccination rates by expanding the National Immunisation Program Vaccination in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) program has been broadly welcomed by the profession.

[Read More](#)

### Channel 9, Nine News, 14/05/2026, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

New research led by RMIT University investigates why pregnant women face a higher risk of severe flu complications and how infection spreads beyond the respiratory system into the bloodstream. Animal studies show a viral sensor, toll-like receptor 7, becomes overactive during pregnancy, triggering excessive inflammation that may worsen disease severity.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### APHA slams budget

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/05/2026

The Australian Private Hospitals Association (APHA) says the recent Federal Budget does little to address hospital costs, driven by inflation and higher delivery costs due to fuel hikes.

[Read More](#)

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## SA superheroes who save or make lives better

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 15/05/2026, Page 24

Professor Timothy Hughes is a superhero, answering calls for help and saving lives. Ten years ago, the softly-spoken pioneering haematologist sat across the table from a sick and scared young woman and devised a plan to save her life, and the future of her unborn baby.

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

## Heart op not required

Herald Sun, General News, 15/05/2026, Ruby Kraner-Tucci, Page 12

A routine procedure in people with heart failure is unnecessary and not beneficial for patients, according to new Australian-led research. Cardiologist Prash Sanders said the results of his global CAAN-AF trial were so clear that he halted the study early.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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## Nightly soap opera's such a wash

Herald Sun, General News, 15/05/2026, Mary Papadakis, Page 13

For some parents and their children, the nightly bath is a time of fun and bonding. But for others it's a chore leading to a loud and messy standoff. The nightly bath has long been the centre of children's routines, but dermatologists and parenting experts say there is no need to do it daily.

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

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## Budget boost to medical research good news for regions

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/05/2026, Frances Kay, Page 16

When most people think about medical research they picture scientists in laboratories searching for the next breakthrough. What they may not see is how deeply medical research is connected to everyday life here in the Hunter New England region.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### More bad news for deadbeat dads

Canberra Times, General News, 15/05/2026, Jenna Price, Page 26

I think my very favourite action taken against deadbeat dads is this - they get to the international airport with a planned trip to Bali with the latest squeeze. [...] Antoinette Braybrook, the co-chair of Change the Record, Australia's only national First Nations led justice coalition of legal, health and family violence prevention experts, says increased funding for Aboriginal health services is welcome.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#).

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### Bone scan database a first

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 15/05/2026, Isabella Davis, Page 1

A research project by a Kalgoorlie-Boulder medical service will scan the bones of Indigenous Australians to address disparities in their bone health. A new bone scanner at Spartan First Imaging will create the first-ever musculoskeletal reference database for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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

## Vigil held in Mount Gambier for Kumanjayi Little Baby

Border Watch, General News, 15/05/2026, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 6

A large crowd gathered under the Mount Gambier Library verandah last week to remember a five-year-old Aboriginal girl, Kumanjayi Little Baby. [...] Mental health advocate Tracey Wanganeen noted there was "no right or wrong way" to grieve.

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

## Traditional owners lash WA Labor for taking iron ore miner's side over heritage site carnage

The Australian, Other, 14/05/2026, Brad Thompson

Traditional owners on the frontline of a high-stakes legal battle with Andrew Forrest-led Fortescue are likely to lodge an appeal against a court's awarded damages. [...] Mr Woodley said the Yindjibarndis' ambition was self-determination through economic strength that would allow the community to invest in job creation, community services, education, health and aged care.

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

[Read More](#)

## Kendenup rehabilitation centre proposal sparks community debate over safety, staffing and location concerns

West Australian, Other, 14/05/2026, Amy Towers

A proposal for a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in Kendenup has sparked debate in the community, with experts highlighting the need for the service while residents raise concerns about safety. The Southern Aboriginal Corporation, in partnership with Cyrenian House, has put forward a proposal for a Great Southern drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre at the existing Kendenup Cottages and Lodge site on Moorilup Road, about 7km from the Kendenup townsite.

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

[Read More](#)

## Indigenous Cookbook Earth To Table launched, showcasing Jambinu-rich cultural foods

West Australian, Other, 15/05/2026, Sienna Seychell

A new cookbook full of Jambinu-rich cultural foods has been created alongside Yamatji elders, Aboriginal community members, and local organisations in Geraldton/Jambinu. Earth To Table was released on May 12, bringing together cultural foods, nutritional knowledge and personal stories, alongside a collection of recipes shared between community members and student dietitians.

[Read More](#)

## Full breakdown on the Far North's share of federal budget spending

Northern Territory News, Other, 14/05/2026, Samuel Davis

Federal budget fears for the Far North have eased with big ticket items marked off advocacy groups' checklists as a cash splash revived hopes that an \$826m marine precinct development is still alive. [...] \$1.1m will go towards the Cape and Torres Health Commissioning Ltd to provide access to culturally appropriate health care services for First Nations people

[Read More](#)

## How will the NT amend child protection laws? Will the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle change?

ABC Online, Other, 14/05/2026, Grace Atta

The Northern Territory government has introduced new child protection legislation into parliament, which it says will prioritise safety "above all other considerations". But legal services and Aboriginal peak bodies have voiced concerns the changes would dilute Indigenous concepts of kinship, and limit the NT courts' abilities to act in the best interest of children.

[Read More](#)

## Bringing healthcare home: A culturally responsive model of care in the Pilbara

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/05/2026, Reece Harley

In Port Hedland, access to healthcare has never been straightforward. Distances are vast, services are stretched, and for many Aboriginal families, the health system itself can feel unfamiliar and difficult to navigate.

[Read More](#)

## Flying Doctor program supports bowel cancer prevention in far north South Australia

National Indigenous Times, Other, 14/05/2026

The Flying Doctor recently delivered a three-day health camp in the remote community of Kingoonya, helping local men learn more about prevention and early screening. The program was hosted by the RFDS and Preventive Health SA last month, with a Rural Generalist, Mental Health Clinician, Dietitian and Community Health Nurse delivering health education activities.

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Mum's the word

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/05/2026, Rob Inglis, Page 1

The most senior maternal health researcher in Tasmania, Dr Jennifer Ayton, is hopeful the public health system can finally address the "paternalistic" attitudes said to be fuelling the state's maternity crisis. In the wake of an exhaustive parliamentary inquiry into reproductive, maternal and pediatric services, Dr Ayton, who is a senior lecturer in public health at the University of Tasmania (UTAS), said it was a culture of condescension that resulted in women's health not being prioritised.

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

### Inquiry told of trauma

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/05/2026, Rob Inglis, Page 7

A three-year inquiry into maternal health services across Tasmania heard harrowing stories of birth trauma, nonconsensual medical interventions, and bureaucratic coverups, but the state government is yet to confirm whether it will adopt all of the recommendations emerging from the review. The House of Assembly Select Committee on Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric Health Services in Tasmania, chaired by Labor MP Ella Haddad, published its final report in March after a lengthy public inquiry.

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### State Budget is big on spin but fails to address our needs

West Australian, General News, 15/05/2026, Basil Zempilas, Page 13

Here is an excerpt of my State Budget in reply speech. [...] t is a big-spending Budget built around catching up on housing shortages, on hospital capacity, on workforce shortages, on cost-of-living pressures.

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### Lack of funding for local RFDS base labelled a disgrace by Kirrilee Warr, State Budget fails to provide more

West Australian, Other, 15/05/2026, Imogen Wilson

Geraldton's RFDS base, which is set to be up and running within the next two years, has received only \$47.5 million in funding from the State Government — an amount MLA Kirrilee Warr believes will be inadequate. After the release of the State Budget, Ms Warr asked Health Minister Meredith Hammat about the lack of funding allocated to the Royal Flying Doctor Service base in Geraldton during parliamentary Question Time on Wednesday.

## **Busselton's housing, health and transport needs not addressed in State Budget**

West Australian, Other, 14/05/2026, Madelin Hayes

Community leaders have labelled the State Budget a “disappointment” for Busselton, claiming the rapidly growing city has missed out on critical investment again. Vasse MLA Libby Mettam said the Cook Labor Government had failed to respond adequately to mounting pressure on services in one of the fastest-growing regions outside Perth.

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

[Read More](#)

## **Government responds after call for Centrelink boost goes unheard in Budget**

7News.com.au, Other, 14/05/2026, Freddy Pawle

A plea for welfare payments to be raised to deal with the cost-of-living crisis has gone unheard in this year’s federal budget. [...] “The budget also includes five tax cuts, \$60 million to support vulnerable young people on Youth Allowance and Abstudy into stable housing, \$183 million to help more kids get the child support they are owed, \$25 billion for public hospitals and much more to help Australians with the cost of living.”

[Read More](#)

## **‘Meet people where they are’: NSW’s health pledge as cost of living pressures grow**

West Australian, Other, 14/05/2026, Nathan Schmidt

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. Pressures on Australian families were high on the agenda on Tuesday evening when Treasurer Jim Chalmers handed down the Albanese government’s fifth budget.

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

[Read More](#)

## **Channel 9, Nine News, 14/05/2026, Peter Overton**

NSW Premier Chris Minns has requested that families avoid emergency departments if they don't require emergency medical attention. One in ten patients who present to hospitals admit their condition could have been treated by a GP instead.

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## **CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE**

### **Hitting the ceiling: When “Top of Scope” meets governance reality**

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 14/05/2026, Bronwyn Coulton

“Nurses working to top of scope” – it is a phrase frequently invoked by nursing executives to describe the future of the profession - one associated with empowerment, innovation, and improved care delivery. [...] Nurse Practitioners are regulated by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia; however, local credentialing processes are commonly overseen by non-NP clinicians, in contrast to the profession-specific, peer-led models applied in medicine.

[Read More](#)

### **ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 14/05/2026, Mark Gibson**

Interview with Prof Karen Strickland, Executive Dean of Nursing and Midwifery at Edith Cowan

University, about the evolution and modern challenges of nursing. Strickland says nursing in Australia has deep historical roots, including Aboriginal healers, and credits Florence Nightingale with transforming the profession through data use, infection control, and formal education systems.

*Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#).*

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Hire firm directors on hook

Herald Sun, General News, 15/05/2026, Sarah Perillo, Page 18

After racking up more than \$6m in debts, the company behind a Melbourne labour hire business has collapsed, leaving administrators to investigate a \$4m-plus loan allegedly advanced to its director. Prodigy Health Solutions launched in June 2022 to supply nurses and healthcare staff to hospitals and aged care facilities.

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### Outback nurse crowned our best

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/05/2026, Fia Walsh, Page 3

Northern Territory diabetes educator Helen Lamech has been named Australia's nurse of the year at the national industry awards. Ms Lamech took home the top honour at the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Awards event in Melbourne on Thursday evening.

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### New role to help sick

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/05/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 15

Cancer patients and their families in Alice Springs are about to receive a boost in care and support as the community gains a new nurse in time for International Nurses Day. The McGrath Foundation has appointed Pauline Otieno, a nurse with more than 30 years of experience, as the first dedicated McGrath Cancer Care Nurse supporting people with all cancer types in Alice Springs.

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### Returned to duty

Border Mail, General News, 15/05/2026, Hana Humboldt, Page 1

A Border nurse has been reinstated to his previous position at Albury hospital after three months. The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) confirmed its union representative Geoff Hudson resumed his role as a nurse at Albury hospital on Monday, May 11, with his first shift on Thursday, May 14.

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

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### University project breaks ground

Border Watch, General News, 15/05/2026, Page 10

A new medical school training centre has commenced construction. The \$13 million Mount Gambier Flinders University medical school training centre aims to deliver more doctors for the regions while also strengthening access to healthcare for local communities.

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### Nurses turning down extra shifts over 'indefensible' hospital parking costs

Cairns Post, Other, 14/05/2026, Kelsey Reid

Nurses and midwives are turning down extra shifts due to parking fees costing \$2,600 per year, saying they are being treated like a "revenue stream". President of the Nurse Professional Association of

Queensland, Kara Thomas, said full-time staff at major facilities like the Sunshine Coast University Hospital were paying “more than \$100 per fortnight for parking”.

Also reported by: [Sunshine Coast Daily \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Angus Taylor's bold plan to put NIMBYs in charge of immigration policy

Crikey, Other, 14/05/2026, Bernard Keane

To the extent that there's any coherence to Angus Taylor's plan to exhume the corpse of the Liberal Party and parade it around, Weekend At Bernie's style, until the next election, it's about being as similar to One Nation as possible without Taylor turning up to the House of Reps in a red wig and burqa. [...] That inevitably means higher inflation, higher interest rates and lower standards of living as key occupations — health, aged care, childcare, professional services — go begging for workers.

[Read More](#)

## Budget welcomed, but hospital workforce needs support: AdPha

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/05/2026

"Making medicines more affordable... means little if medicines are unavailable when patients need them most", hospital pharmacists' group warns. Investments aimed at curbing cost-of-living pressures and improving timely access to healthcare announced in the Federal Budget are being welcomed by Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha).

[Read More](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News, 14/05/2026, Kate Freebairn

Nurses and midwives threaten to restart 24-hour rolling stoppages in three weeks, starting at Lyell McEwin Hospital, as negotiations with the SA government over their enterprise agreement remain deadlocked. Union representatives say months of talks leave them feeling disrespected and without a nationally competitive offer, despite covering both wages and conditions.

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## ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 14/05/2026, Mark Gibson

Interview with Judith Barker, CEO of Royal Flying Doctor Service WA, about emergency care across remote WA. Barker explains the service moves around 10,500 patients a year and also delivers primary care through clinics and outreach across vast distances. She says new aircraft arriving over the next 12–18 months require extensive training for pilots, doctors, nurses, and engineers, and fundraising supports that critical training.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Radio National, Life Matters, 14/05/2026, Tegan Taylor

Panel discussion with Prof Anthony Scott, Director of the Centre of Health Economics at Monash University, Dr Danielle McMullen, President of the Australian Medical Association, and Gabriella Kelly-Davies, Chair of the Consumer Advisory Group at Painaustralia, about rising specialist healthcare costs and access barriers in Australia. McMullen explains that specialists face increasing business costs, including wages, rent, equipment, and insurance, which drive up fees needed to sustain medical

practices. She says patient out-of-pocket costs rise as specialist fees track wage growth while Medicare rebates fail to keep pace.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Doctor's warning over bail

Courier Mail, General News, 15/05/2026, Greg Stolz, Page 7

The medical regulator has taken no public action against former premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's partner, prominent Brisbane obesity surgeon Reza Adib, despite him being hit with multiple rape and sexual assault charges. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency register showed no conditions, undertakings or reprimands on the 65-year-old surgeon.

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### Palaszczuk's partner has first court hearing for rape case

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 14/05/2026, Cloe Read

Prominent surgeon Dr Reza Adib, the partner of former Queensland premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, is accused of detaining a woman against her will in his Gold Coast apartment, where he allegedly raped and sexually assaulted her. Court documents, which reveal the details of the allegations, were released on Thursday after Adib's case was heard for the first time in the Southport Magistrates Court.

[Read More](#)

### Channel 7, Sunrise, 14/05/2026, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Thousands of patients of retired Sydney dentist Dr William Tam face urgent testing after authorities allege he worked for 25 years in unhygienic conditions that may have exposed them to blood-borne viruses. Around 5000 people are prompted to get tested for HIV and hepatitis following a complaint to the Dental Council that triggered an investigation into his practice in Strathfield.

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Hantavirus cruise ship passengers to arrive in Perth on Friday from the Netherlands, three weeks quarantine

West Australian, Other, 14/05/2026, Caitlyn Rintoul

Six passengers from the hantavirus-stricken MV Hondius will board a flight bound for Australia on Thursday evening after the Albanese Government secured a plane and flight crew willing to quarantine in Perth. Their return after disembarking the cruise ship in the Canary Islands had been delayed while Australian authorities scrambled to find a crew and a country which would accommodate a refuelling stop on their way home.

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

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Defibrillator manufacturer responds

Central Western Daily, General News, 15/05/2026, Riley Krause, Page 3

The company entrusted with providing life-saving devices across Orange has issued a response as the

city's streets continue to be left bare. [...] According to the Australian Government's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the manufacturer Stryker was conducting the urgent recall of certain serial numbers of the HeartSine Defibrillators - otherwise known as PAD AED devices.

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

## Anger over OCP prescribing obstruction

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/05/2026

The Victorian Government has declined to make public the advice leading to its decision to allow pharmacists to initiate the oral contraceptive pill, leading MPs to cry foul. [...] Behind Crozier's request was concern over the implementation of the initiative against the advice of the relevant medical colleges and the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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## FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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## AICIS

No relevant coverage

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